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Midway Como

Monitor



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Minnesota United announces Midway is the chosen stadium site

By JANE MCCLURE

It's official: soccer is coming to the former Midway "bus barn" site. The announcement in October by Mayor Chris Coleman and Minnesota United FC owner Bill McGuire has launched a flurry of community planning, as well as a continued debate over the pros and cons of pro soccer here.

One thing is for certain. Soccer will bring change to a part of the Midway that has been eyed for redevelopment since the 1980s. The 10-acre bus barn site and about 25 acres of land owned by Midway Center owner RK Midway/RD Management make up the "superblock" bounded by Pascal St. and St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues. Almost a dozen different ideas have been vetted for all or parts of the site, ranging from hotels and movie theaters to a home improvement retailer.

Applications closed in early November for a community task force that will spend the next several months debating issues around stadium development. Recommendations need to be in place before an anticipated May 2016 groundbreaking. Games would start in 2018.

Dozens of soccer fans packed an Oct. 23 press conference for the announcement, as McGuire and Coleman announced that they will work together to build an 18,500-seat stadium by 2018. Fans erupted into chants and cheers, lined up behind the mayor, McGuire, and elected officials.

"This is a very exciting opportunity to bring the world's game to the state of Minnesota," said Coleman. "I will guarantee you that there will be no better place for soccer than the Twin Cities, on this site."

McGuire praised the site's location and the potential for redevelopment there, citing its proximity to Green Line light rail and the proposed A Line Metro Transit bus line. He also cited its convenient freeway access.

RD Management will work with United Properties of Bloomington to work on redevelopment plans for its properties. While this isn't formally part of the stadium plan, the two developers and soccer team are expected to work together. Shopping center ownership and United Properties representatives said they expect to announce a master plan in three to six months.

Several business owners were at the press conference, including the Applebaum family, owners of Big Top Liquors; MidPointe Event Center owner Marcy McHenry



Serious work now begins on bringing a soccer stadium to the long unused "bus barn" site.

and several members of Midway Chamber. The Chamber, which recently passed a resolution in support of a stadium, has stated it "seeks to help engage the community throughout the design and development process to engage the community to ensure the voices of Midway businesses and residents are heard."

For Big Top, redevelopment will mean working to make sure a new liquor store would meet

the city's separation requirements from other liquor stores. Other existing Midway Center businesses don't face the same types or restrictions, but there is much speculation as to whether or not they will stay or go.

Area residents' reactions range from excitement about soccer to concerns about noise, spillover parking into the neighborhood and losing businesses they use. The site is in the Union Park Dis-

trict Council (UPDC) area. That group has had a task force looking at Midway Center and bus barn development for several months. Eric Mohlo, who chairs the UPDC task force, said that while there is a lot of excitement about redevelopment, "we have a lot of issues that are unknowns. We don't know what this will do to traffic and parking, and we don't know about other long-term issues."

Not everyone at the press conference was cheering. Former Ward Four City Council candidate Tom Goldstein handed out a 2007 Securities and Exchange Commission press release describing the \$468 million settlement by McGuire of civil fraud charges related to a stock options backdating scheme. Others from the St. Paul Strong group, which is advocating for change and openness at City Hall, were also on hands to raise concerns about the proposal.

McGuire said the \$120 million stadium would be built with private funds. The city, St. Paul Port Authority and bus barn site owner (Metropolitan Council) recently approved a pact to work together on a lease agreement for the property. City officials have said it's likely the soccer stadium would be

turned over to the city once it is built.

McGuire described the site as "ideal" and "iconic." Details of what a stadium would look like haven't been released.

While the team owners would cover stadium construction and any cost overruns, the city would be responsible for infrastructure such as streets and sewers.

One huge question mark is whether the 2016 Minnesota Legislature will sign off on the tax exemption the stadium needs. At a recent legislative forum, some state lawmakers said they don't want to see the city lose out of its other needs, such as Local Government Aid or bonding requests if the tax exemption goes through.

There is also a need for the Federal Transit Administration to sign off on the new use for the 10-acre parcel, because of funds it provided years ago for the bus barn.

Another wrinkle is timing for Major League Soccer. The team is currently in the North American Soccer League, and would transition into the higher league. But if that happens before the 2017 season, the team would have to find an interim space.

HU president discusses residential teardowns and priorities

A university-community advisory group is being formed to bridge community and HU

By JANE MCCLURE

New Hamline University President Fayneese Miller is telling campus neighbors and the activist group Historic Hamline Village to work together with her administration on the controversial issues of residential teardowns and campus expansion. But her message to "let it go" got a decidedly mixed reaction from a crowd of more than 125 people Oct. 14 at Hamline Church United Methodist.

With a self-imposed one-year moratorium on demolitions ending soon, many campus neighbors want to know what the new president has planned.

Miller's message? "We are not ready to demolish a bunch of homes," she said.

That message was welcomed by neighbors who are still unhappy about the sudden demolition several months ago of homes along Hewitt Ave., and the destruction of the White House, the former on-campus president's home, a Greek Revival mansion. The university has a 2008 master plan that shows the demolition of 27 prop-



New Hamline president wants community and University to work together.

erties, mainly homes outside of the city-approved campus boundary. The recent loss of homes, as well as a citywide focus against residential teardowns, has galvanized the Historic Hamline Village group.

One focus was 1549 Minnehaha Ave., a home some neighbors want to be saved. Miller said

there had been no offers yet on the property. It has been toured by interested parties. University staff has made sure the house is weather-proofed, and work has been done on the home's exterior, but Miller has made no promises about the property's future.

Miller repeatedly stressed her

responsibilities for looking out for the university's finances and economic health, noting that Hamline University is not a wealthy school. She defended the decision to tear down the White House by noting that it needed extensive work.

And while emphasizing that she wants to have a clean slate with neighbors and wants to do things differently than preceding administrations, Miller also made it clear that neighborhood preservation isn't her top priority. Neighbors said they understood that but want it to be a priority. There were also some mixed feelings about being told to "let go" of what has been a hard-fought issue.

Miller also noted that one looming challenge is what to do with the university's law school facilities when a planned merger with William Mitchell School of Law is completed.

Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark noted that while the request for a fresh start is understood, "The slate isn't clean be-

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Hamline Station: Project for Pride in Living project nears completion

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

One of the major redevelopment projects along the Green Line is in full swing: the Hamline Station Apartments at the corner of Hamline and University avenues. Two new buildings, containing 51 and 57 units respectively, are well into construction.

Owned and managed by the Project for Pride in Living (PPL), Hamline Station will have studio, one, two and three bedroom apartments available to qualifying tenants.

According to Paul Williams, President and CEO of PPL, "The four-story buildings will contain what we call work force housing. That means quality housing for 'worker bees.' We believe that our location on the Green Line will give tenants unparalleled access to their jobs along this transit corridor."

"Our vision for this project is to meet the needs of folks with dependable income," Wil-



Initial drawing of Hamline Station provided by Elness Swenson Graham Architects.

liams said. "To qualify for tenancy, an individual must show proof of annual income between \$17,500-35,000. A fam-

ily of four must show proof of annual income between \$25,000-50,000. The calculation used to define affordability in

the case of Hamline Station is that households earn between

Continued on page 14

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And check us out on the web at:
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Declare candidacy by Nov. 15

Hamline Midway Coalition is seeking candidates for its Board of Directors. Anyone age 16 or older that resides within, owns property within, or owns a business that is headquartered and principally operates within Hamline Midway is eligible to run AND vote in the board election! If you're interested in working with an informed and engaged group of neighbors to focus on local issues around transportation, development, sustainability and more, consider running for the board. We work with the understanding that big change begins at the local level, and only by working together, can we ensure a successful future for the entire community.

Anyone interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors must return a completed application to the Executive Director no later than 8pm, Sun., Nov. 15. To request an application—or for more information about serving on the HMC Board of Directors, please contact Michael Jon Olson at 651-494-7682 or michaeljon@hamlinemidway.org.

Learn more about available seats and board member roles at <http://hamlinemidway.org/elections2015>

HMC voting information

This year neighbors will have the opportunity to vote either in person or through an online platform that will be posted at www.hamlinemidway.org/elections

News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Represent your neighborhood, run for District 11 Board of Directors

following the candidate application deadline. Full candidate profiles and questionnaires will be posted to the HMC website. The online polls will be open from Thur., Nov. 19 until the end of the day Mon., Dec. 14.

In-person voting will be held Thur., Dec. 3, 4-8pm, and Tue., Dec. 8, 4-8pm, both at the Hamline Midway Coalition Office on the ground floor of the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. If you would like to make arrangements for in-person voting outside of those time frames, feel free to contact Michael Jon Olson at michaeljon@hamlinemidway.org or 651-494-7683.

Ready & Resilient

What makes a community ready and resilient? How can we better prepare to rise to the occasion in the face of extreme weather events or other points of adversity? "Ready & Resilient Hamline Midway," is a new project that seeks to bring neighbors of all ages and backgrounds together for an interactive exploration of ways we can better prepare for climate-related adversity in our community.

Join your neighbors to explore answers to these questions and to begin building a Ready & Resilient Hamline Midway, on Tues., Nov. 17, 6:30-8pm at Snelling Café, 638 Snelling Ave. N.

New committee to focus on sustainability

If you're passionate about the environment and are interested in working on a wide-range of environmental issues at the community-level, consider joining the newly-forming Environment Committee of the Hamline Midway Coalition. In the coming year, St. Paul will be addressing several significant environment-related issues, including looking organized trash collection and negotiating recycling contracts. We think it's important for Hamline Midway to have a strong voice about these issues.

The Environment Committee will work on a broad range of city-wide and community-related initiatives, with an eye towards long-term sustainability of the neighborhood. In addition to making recommendations to the City on municipal policies like trash collection and recycling, the Environment Committee will

also focus on high-level neighborhood sustainability initiatives like community solar, watershed stewardship, reducing our collective waste and whatever else committee members have an interest in pursuing.

The Environment Committee will begin meeting in January of 2016. If you're interested in joining or would like to learn more, contact Kyle Mianulli at kyle@hamlinemidway.org or 651-494-7683.

Midway Holiday Pop-up Shop

Start checking off your holiday shopping list with gifts that have a Midway twist. This year, it's easier than ever to shop locally for the holidays. The Midway Holiday Pop-up Shop will be held on Small Business Sat., Nov. 28, at The Celtic Junction, 836 Prior Ave, from noon to 6pm.

You'll find dozens of local businesses, crafters, artisans, and artists—all from in and around the Midway area—selling a wide range of local goods and gifts for everyone on your shopping list. Santa Clause himself will be showing his support for local businesses, too. He'll be dropping in between 2-4pm. So, bring

the kids to share their wishes, and enjoy live music and carols, ornament decorating, holiday stories, holiday baked goods and more—all while you support our local businesses and fill your holiday list with gifts from close to home.

Want to be included in the Midway Holiday Pop-up shop as a vendor? Submit an application at <http://hamlinemidway.org/holidayshop> by Nov. 15. There is a \$15 fee for approved vendors. Space is limited.

Hamline U Advisory Committee

Members of the Hamline Midway community are invited to apply to serve on the newly formed Hamline University Neighborhood Advisory Committee (HUNAC). Other Advisory Committee members will include representatives from Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC), Historic Hamline Village (HHV), and Hamline Church United Methodist (HCUM), Hamline University, and a representative of the City from St. Paul Ward 4.

Please submit applications to Mariah Levinson, Minnesota State Officer for Collaboration and Dispute Resolution no later than Nov. 15. Applications may be submitted via email to mariah.levinson@state.mn.us, or mailed to 1380 Energy Lane, Suite Two, St. Paul, MN 55108. Advisory Committee Members will be announced by Dec. 15.

Learn more and download the short application at <http://hamlinemidway.org/hunac>.

Hamline University

Continued from page 1

cause there is history," Stark said Miller's attending the meeting was a chance to move forward.

Stark said he is looking for a funding source for a historic survey of the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. A survey could be used in the future if neighbors decide they want to seek conservation district status.

Historic Hamline Village spokespersons Robin Hemenway and Roy Neal reviewed their work over the past several months, restating their goals of saving homes and having a better relationship with the university. They outlined a list of priorities including asking

that 1549 Minnehaha be saved and that a new campus master plan be considered.

Neal said that until Miller arrived, Hamline University didn't see adjacent properties as historic. "They saw them as vacant lots," he said. Neal, Hemenway and audience members said it's important that the university considers creative solutions, such as selling back some homes, and using some homes as student houses for students learning a language or wanting to live with others who share their values and lifestyle.

Historic Hamline Village representatives also said they'd like better communications and ways to address what they see as inconsistencies between what the university is doing, and the district

council and citywide comprehensive plan. One point repeatedly noted is that the neighborhood and city plans call for the preservation of homes.

Questions and comments from audience members were mixed. Some students spoke for more housing opportunities. Neighbors said they want better communication with the university. Some faculty members also criticized past school actions and said they hope a new administration is bringing positive change.

The group also reviewed an ongoing, citywide campus boundary study that is still being reviewed by the Planning Commission. A current recommendation that would affect the university is that if a lot's primary structure is torn down within ten years, a college or university cannot add that property to its campus.

The meeting was also used to announce the formation of a university-community advisory group, the Hamline University Neighborhood Advisory Committee or HUNAC. It will include a representative from the University,

Historic Hamline Village, HHV, Hamline Church United Methodist, neighbors, Hamline Midway Coalition, and the city. Neighbors can apply for committee spots as well. Deadline is Nov. 15. Submit applications to Mariah Levinson, Minnesota State Officer for Collaboration and Dispute Res-

olution. Applications may be submitted via email to Mariah. Levinson@state.mn.us, or mailed to 1380 Energy Lane, Suite Two, St. Paul, MN 55108. Levinson can send applicants a form. Committee members will be announced by Dec. 15.

Letters to the Editor

Proposed tobacco ordinance should pass

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my appreciation to the St. Paul City Council for considering measures to protect our youth from the harms of tobacco. I fully support the proposed ordinance that would restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops.



Flavored tobacco products are designed and marketed to appeal to youth. The flavoring masks the harshness of the tobacco, leading youth to believe these

products are not as harmful as non-flavored tobacco.

Youth often shop in corner stores and gas stations where bubble gum, chocolate, and sweet razz flavored tobacco products are sold. These brightly packaged and candy flavored tobacco products are appealing to them.

By taking these products out of the stores youth visit, the St. Paul City Council will help prevent many youth from starting a lifelong, deadly addiction. I urge your readers to contact their City Council representatives and urge them to support the proposed ordinance that would restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops too.

Sincerely,
Kizzy Downie
Como resident



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• The Academy of Finance (AOF) held its second annual Career Fair at school on Oct. 20. Over 50 professionals came to spend the morning speaking with the 218 AOF students in small group settings. Many ELL students also participated in the Career Fair, with many students being exposed to opportunities in finance, business and technology they were not aware of previously. It was a successful event enjoyed by both the adults who shared their experiences, and the students who are creating paths toward higher education and employment.

• French College in the Schools (CIS) students from Como Park went to the University of Minnesota Field Day last month. They spent the day with 350 fellow French students from around the Twin Cities interviewing professionals who use French in their careers, Francophone U of M staff and professors, and U of M students. They also participated in a "French Fun Facts" scavenger hunt across the campus. Madame Patricia Teefy said, "a great, enriching experience was had by all."

• Keith Eicher has added another prestigious award to accompany his National Merit Scholarship Finalist status. Keith was recently named a finalist for the National QuestBridge Scholarship. This is a scholarship for high achieving, low-income students that provides students with full ride tuition, room/board, and books. Only a select few in the country are deemed finalists for this scholarship. Keith's competitive application has been submitted as he continues onto next steps in the finalist round.

• The fall musical "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was performed on the evenings of Nov. 5-6 in the Como Auditorium. The cast and choir also performed a dress rehearsal for Murray students that took a field trip to Como to see the production. Leading roles were played by seniors Angel Khang and Erianna Jiles, juniors Madeline Moody, and Chimeng Lor, and sophomores Kou Lee, Anthony Phelps and Heather Rogers.

• The annual Close Up trip to Washington D.C. is slated for the first week of March, but fundraising is already in full swing. Students from AP Government classes will be bagging groceries for customers at the Roseville Cub Foods on Larpenteur from 4-8pm on Tue., Nov. 24 before Thanksgiving. Cub customers generously support the effort of the students with donations that help defray the expense of the educational adventure. Three other full days of grocery bagging for the Close Up students are also scheduled for December during winter break.

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GROW YOUR BACKYARD HOMESTEAD

News from Como Park High

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher



The Como Park Boys' Soccer team earned the Section 4A Championship with a 3-0 at Mounds Park Academy, advancing to the State Tournament for the fourth consecutive year. (Photo submitted)



The Como Park Ultimate Frisbee team made its annual trek to Canada over MEA weekend, staying with host families in Winnipeg and playing in "Hold Back The Snow" tournament. (Photo submitted)

• For the fourth consecutive year, the Como Boys' Soccer Team won the Section Championship and qualified for the State Tournament. After a very challenging regular season, the team persevered through the Section 4A Tournament to claim a berth in State. The Cougars knocked off the #1 seed Mahtomedi in the semi-finals before proceeding to dominate Mounds Park Academy in a 3-0 victory in the champion-

ship game.

Entering the State Tournament with a record of 9-6-5, the Cougars were unseeded and placed in the bracket against #2 seed Orono, who entered the tournament with a record of 19-1. Snow covered the field for the game on Oct. 28, but Como played tremendously before eventually falling in overtime by a score of 2-1. Coach Jonah Fields said the team going to

State was "a special reward for their hard work and determination." (see photo)

• The brother and sister cross country running duo of Innocent Murwanashyaka and Florence Uwajenza are the St. Paul City Champions, each crossing the finish line first in their respective races at the Como Golf Course on Oct. 20. Senior captain Mary Miles finished in 2nd place, while senior Geleto Roba finished 6th on the boys' side. Innocent followed up his City Championship on Oct. 28 with a 3rd place finish in the Section Meet, qualifying for the State Meet at St. Olaf College on Nov. 7.

• Como's Volleyball team won the St. Paul City title for the 2nd time in 3 years. The Lady Cougars wrapped up the conference crown at home in the Como Gym on Oct. 22 with a 3-0 win over Central. The team posted an overall record of 19-6 (11-1 in the conference), before falling to Holy Angles in the section tournament.

• Como's Ultimate Frisbee Team once again traveled to Winnipeg, Canada during MEA weekend to participate in the annual "Hold Back The Snow" tournament. This unique tournament is co-ed, with boys and girls playing on the field at the same time, against international competition. The Como Ultimate players stayed with host families in Winnipeg, building international relationships with peers from the St. John's Ravenscourt School. Como's longtime Ultimate Frisbee advisor and coach Ross Savage describes the tournament as "spirited, fun, and sportsmanlike." Seventeen student-athletes on the team experienced that spirit last month, as have hun-

dreds of Como alumni who also played the role of international ambassadors through their dedication to Ultimate Frisbee. (see photo)

• Give to the Max Day is Nov. 12! Please consider an online donation to the Como Booster Club now and help support the extracurricular activities, athletics and clubs that expand student opportunities and experiences at Como. Last year the Booster Club provided supplemental support to the school's diverse cultural clubs, athletic teams, art and music programs and sponsored the following activities: Homecoming, Taste of Como, and the Senior All Night Party.

To donate, please go to <https://givemn.org/organization/comoparkboosterclub>

Donations of \$100 or more received on or before November 12th will be entered into a drawing to win a Power Cougar Jacket and other great prizes. Your donation, large or small, directly benefits Como students.

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For more information contact Dave Dominick at 651-646-4557.
Christmas tree sales start Friday, Nov. 27 at noon.

Midway-based TU Dance to perform at O'Shaughnessy

Midway-based TU Dance, the acclaimed Minnesota-based dance company led by Toni Pierce-Sands and Uri Sands, returns to The O'Shaughnessy on Fri.-Sat., Nov. 20-21 at 8pm, and Sun., Nov. 22 at 2pm, as part of its 12th annual performance season. The dance concert features a world premiere work by celebrated Italian-Canadian artist and 2015 McKnight International Choreographer Gioconda Barbuto, a debut of a compelling new piece choreographed by Sands, and a reprise of the company's highly-regarded "January."

Pierce-Sands and Barbuto are well acquainted, having previously danced together with Minnesota Dance Theatre. "Gioconda's choreographic philosophy and talents around dance making is both mesmerizing and inspiring, it's a true gift to have her creating work here in our community, for our com-



TU Dance will continue their 12th annual performance season on Nov. 20-22 at The O'Shaughnessy Auditorium. You can purchase tickets through the ticket office at 651-690-6700. (Photo submitted)

munity." Said Pierce-Sands.

Barbuto explains, "My work is created in collaboration with the [TU Dance company mem-

bers]. I like to create an environment in which the dancers are motivated in exploring collectively, the endless possibili-

ties of movement invention.

"This often develops and feeds into a complex orchestration of interactions of meeting, letting go and 'leaving a little bit of you behind,'" she continued. "It's a little bit like traffic, of distinct personalities, coming together, intersecting, meeting and letting 'someone go by' but ultimately, in passing we meet."

The work is driven by the inspiring and provocative music of Gabriel Prokofiev, an innovative London-based composer, who is the grandson of Sergei Prokofiev, the famed Russian composer.

"It's a huge honor for me to be selected as this year's McKnight International Choreographer and to be working with Toni and Uri. To be a part of their vision and to work with these amazingly talented artists in the studio is fulfilling and boundless, each day I look forward to seeing where the next

creative journey might take us," says Barbuto.

TU Dance will also premiere a new work choreographed by Sands, which will be set to music by Charles Mingus. In addition, the full company will perform Sands' "January," which examines perpetual states of transition, exploring life at the crossroads of earth and sky, with eyes on both yesterday and tomorrow.

Tickets are \$18, \$25 and \$31 with discounts for students, seniors, military, MPR, TPT and groups of 10 and more. For more information and tickets, contact The O'Shaughnessy Ticket Office at 651-690-6700; business hours are Mon.-Sat. 12-6pm; ticket office is located on the main campus of St. Catherine University at 2004 Randolph Ave., Saint Paul. Tickets can also be purchased online 24/7 at oshag.stkate.edu/event/tu-dance.

Monitor In A Minute

Como Community district plan moves ahead

The District 10 Como Community Plan, which has been in the works for about two years, heads to the St. Paul Planning Commission for a public hearing at 8:30am Fri., Nov. 13 at City Hall. The Planning Commission set the public hearing date on the recommendation of its Neighborhood Planning Committee.

The plan acknowledges potential future changes in the community and presents strategies for addressing issues. It draws on a land use plan completed in 2007 as well as the Midway Pkwy. plan of the 1990s and the planning done by a group that looked at the Lexington/Larpenteur area about five years ago.

District plans are used to guide future land use in a community. The plans are also used to shape investments in infrastructure including parks, streets, transit, trails, and bike lanes. Plans are used when funding is sought for projects in the city's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget. Some district councils have used plans to shape future programs and activities.

Como's proposed plan calls for maintaining the community's largely residential character and making sure that new development is complementary to the neighborhood. Some infrastructure needs are raised, ranging from street improvements to restoration of several features at Como Park. Some areas, such as Lexington/Larpenteur and Como/Dale/Front, are cited for

additional attention.

All of St. Paul's 17 district councils are required to prepare district plans. The plans are to be redone every decade. City staff offer some assistance in preparing plans, but much of the heavy lifting is done by district council volunteers and staff.

After the public hearing the plan goes back for committee review before the Planning Commission takes action. The commission then sends the plan to the City Council for a final vote. District plans become part of the city's comprehensive plan.

District councils honored

St. Paul's 17 district councils don't just get a special day in their honor—they got an entire month. The St. Paul City Council and Mayor Chris Coleman declared October to be District Council Month, in recognition of the district council system's 40th anniversary. The councils will celebrate with an awards event in January.

The council passed the resolution, with more than three dozen district council members present. Also present was former Mayor Larry Cohen, who was mayor when the district council system was created.

Cohen recalled that in the 1970s, the council chambers were often filled with citizens raising questions and objections to things going on in their neighborhoods. While the city had many informal neighborhood associations in those days, there was no set citizen participation system. It took many months and

many meetings, but the system was put into place in October 1975.

Cohen congratulated those present for their service, as well as thanking those who have served on district councils in the past.

At one time, the city had as many as 19 district councils. There have been changes over the years. Highland and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods were once one large council, called Southwest Area District Council. The most recent change occurred almost a decade ago when Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, and Lexington-Hamline councils merged to form Union Park District Council.

Several of the current City Council members and Coleman have district council experience on their resumes. District councils do a number of tasks, making recommendations on zoning changes and licenses. From time to time the councils gather citizen input on ordinance and city policy changes, as well as citywide land use, transportation, and parks and recreation plans. The councils do comprehensive planning for their neighborhoods and work to get capital improvement budget projects passed. Councils oversee blocks clubs and crime prevention efforts.

Councils also help operate the city's curbside recycling program and have overseen neighborhood cleanups. Projects differ from council to council, with some running community gar-

dens, festivals, organics recycling programs and other events.

Councils have some paid staff but operate largely with volunteers. It's estimated that the city currently has more than 2,000 volunteers on councils and their various committees.

Liquor law changes to be reviewed

St. Paul's proposed changes to its liquor laws are en route to the city's Charter Commission. The St. Paul City Council Oct. 14 passed it unanimously and without comment.

The council is asking the Charter Commission to review a proposed ordinance that would exempt restaurants with on-sale liquor licenses from citywide and ward license limits. If adopted, the change would mean that restaurants in area neighborhoods that have waited years for liquor licenses could seek them. After Charter Commission review, the City Council will hold a public hearing on the issue, most likely in this month.

The City Council can change the charter if it has a unanimous vote of approval. If council support is not unanimous, the measure would be in the hands of the city's voters—on the 2016 ballot at the earliest.

The change is sought by Ward Three Council Member Chris Tolbert, at the behest of Highland District Council and current and prospective restaurant owners in his ward. Ward Three has only seven on-sale liquor licenses available, so restaurant owners must often wait years for a license to become available. Ward Four, which includes much of the Monitor coverage area, is also in the position of having only one license available at this time.

City Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) staff held a series of meetings around St. Paul this year to discuss the change and met little opposition.

If the changes don't pass, prospective restaurants along Green Line light rail may still

have the option of seeking full liquor licenses under a proposed commercial development district in the works along University Ave. and the West Midway area.

Pool owners may face sanctions

Owners of abandoned swimming pools in St. Paul face sanctions as a result of a new city ordinance adopted in October by the St. Paul City Council. Regulatory changes were brought forward after a Memorial Day weekend incident when two children fell into a water- and garbage-filled, abandoned pool in the city's North End. Seven-year-old Sher Kpor died in June, a few weeks after he fell into the pool. He and his brother were able to get through a locked fence to the pool area.

That pool has been removed and its site filled in, but city officials said more needed to be done with abandoned pools. The Minnesota Department of Health took over licensing and inspection of pools in 2013. But many private pools behind homes and apartment buildings aren't licensed. State officials said those pools aren't their responsibility.

The St. Paul Fire Department has drained abandoned pools at property owners' requests.

City Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) staff worked on the new regulations. The city will require fencing around all outdoor swimming pools that are at least 24 inches deep with a surface area of 150 square feet. Previously only pools holding more than 5,000 gallons of water had to be fenced.

The city also set maintenance criteria for outdoor pools out of service for one year. Those pools need to be fenced and be free of stagnant water. Pools out of service for two or more years, with stagnant water or lacking fencing, can be classified as nuisance pools. Property owners either have to bring pools into compliance or the city will do the work for them, at the property owner's expense.



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In with the new, in with the old

Four new school board winners will make up majority; council incumbents stay

By JAN WILLMS

The results are in, and St. Paul voters made it known that they want to see a completely new slate on the school board. The four candidates who were selected to run with the backing of Caucus for Change, a movement supported by the St. Paul Federation of Teachers and comprised mostly of parents and teachers, easily won Tuesday's election. The four winners also had the blessings of the city DFL endorsement.

Mary Vanderwert, 64, was the leader with 17,777 votes that translated to 20.27 percent of the votes in a 10-candidate race. She had stated that her 25-year career in early childhood education, both in the classroom and in administration, would be unique to the school board.

Coming in at second with 15,290 votes or 17.44 percent was Zuki Ellis, 41, a parent trainer for St. Paul Federation of Teachers' Parent Teacher Home Visit Project. Ellis had said that she hoped to leverage her community ties in working with educators, students and families to keep the district communicating better with the community. That

lack of communication was one of the major faults the Caucus for Change cited against the present school board.

With 14,652 votes, at 16.71 percent, Jon Schumacher, 63, came in third. He has been the executive director of the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation since 1999. He called on his experience serving on school site councils and committees, his experience with board management, mediation and community building to strengthen his position as a school board member.

Steve Marchese, 48, a Pro Bono Director at the Minnesota State Bar Association, was the fourth candidate elected with 14,524 (16.56 percent) of the votes. Marchese emphasized the need for a more inclusive, transparent and effective district, one with clear goals, objectives and strategies for improving achievement.

The incumbent in the race, Keith Hardy, 52, had decided to run even though he was not endorsed by the DFL. Hardy, who has been the only African-American on the board for the past eight years, said he helped create the racial equity

policy and anti-bullying policy in the school district and cited his practice of observing learning and authentically listening to principals, students, teachers and staff.

But that was not enough for voters who seemed to be in an anti-incumbent mood, and Hardy earned 8,548 votes, or 9.75 percent, to come in fifth in the election.

Following him were Linda Freeman, at 5,914 votes (6.74 percent); Greg Copeland, 4,468 votes (5.10 percent); Scott Raskiewicz, 2,810 votes (3.20 percent); and Aaron Benner, who had dropped out of the race but received 2,660 votes, or 3.03 percent. Rashad Turner had staged a write-in campaign, but it was not determined how many of the 1,047 (1.19 percent) write-in votes were for him.

City Council results

In the City Council races in the Monitor's readership areas, the incumbents prevailed. Ward 1 saw Dai Thao, 40, running for re-election, earning 2,503 votes or 84.19 percent. His opponent, Trahern Crews, received

416 votes for 13.99 percent. The number of votes for write-in candidate Mohamed Said was not available, but there was a total of 54 votes for write-ins, which was 1.82 percent.

Thao, who had earlier been elected as the first Hmong-American council member when he replaced Melvin Carter III, said during his two-year experience he had focused on social justice, affordable housing, road and pedestrian safety, parks and green spaces.

Crews, a spokesman for Black Lives Matter in St. Paul, had also been promoting social justice issues.

In Ward 4, incumbent Russ Stark, 42, won re-election with 3,293 votes (61.36 percent). His opponent, Tom Goldstein, 58, a lawyer by training, got 2,039 votes (37.99 percent). Write-in votes were 35 (.65 percent).

Stark noted among his accomplishments support of the Green Line high-quality streetscape and maintaining high-quality services despite flat or shrinking budgets. Goldstein had taken an opposite view, criticizing Stark for doing little to prevent the light rail from harming existing businesses

along University Ave.

Amy Brendmoen, 45, succeeded in her re-election bid in Ward 5, with 2,202 votes at 56.23 percent. David Glass received 1,485 votes for 37.92 percent, and David Sullivan-Nightengale, 41, had 215 votes for 5.49 percent. Write-ins accounted for 14 votes (.36 percent).

Brendmoen stressed her accessibility to the community, ability to get a district council boundary change, increase of services and programming at the Como Lakeside Pavilion and increase in jobs were among the strengths she brought to the table.

Glass, who had been in a dispute with Brendmoen over his former restaurant in Como Park, stressed the fact that residents felt they had been left out of the city's decision-making process. He expressed concern about the lack of equipment in recreation centers and advocated holding neighborhood meetings.

Sullivan-Nightengale, a safety engineer, had raised concerns about safety issues in the neighborhood and the city.

Capital projects to be approved next month

Several capital improvement projects are headed for approval at year's end as part of the 2016 city budget. But proponents of projects left out are still making their case for funding. That includes the boosters of the Victoria Theater in Frogtown, who filled a city budget meeting room in October to ask that \$200,000 previously allocated be restored.

City Council members said they are seeking money to restore the old theater near University and Victoria, but that they need to find the funding it is eligible for. One possible source is sales tax dollars. The Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) recommended funding for Victoria Theater, but city staff said it isn't eligible for the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds suggested.

Mayor Chris Coleman also cut funding recommended for the Model Cities Central Exchange mixed-use development near University and Victoria to reallocate funds and balance the capital budget. He also dropped funding for work on the long-planned Pierce Butler Route expansion. That was shelved because city officials are concerned about project costs and want to see a sustainable source of long-term money identified before a multi-million dollar project moves ahead.

Ward One Council Member Dai Thao said he wanted to see funds restored for the projects. He is especially concerned that the theater restoration project will lose momentum. He is also unhappy that area residents who have waited for Pierce Butler Route reconstruction must continue to wait.

Several area projects are still in the running for city dollars, including Hamline-Midway neigh-

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Proponents plead for projects left out of capital improvement funding

borhood's May Park improvements, relocation of Fire Station 20 in the Cretin-Vandalia area, Frogtown's Scheffer Recreation Center design, and work on Frogtown Farm Park on Minnehaha Ave. But, unless there is change, other projects including additional work at Dickerman Park at University and Fairview, and completion of the Charles Avenue Bicycle Boulevard, will languish.

The committee and its citizen task forces spent several months reviewing more than 130 projects and city programs. Requests totaled more than \$166 million, far more than was available. For 2016-2017, the committee allocated \$22 million in capital improvement bonds, \$14.8 million in municipal-state aid (MSA) and \$8 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars.

Funding site cleanup

Two Midway area redevelopment sites are vying for regional funding. The St. Paul City Council Oct. 28 unanimously approved several applications for funding. The city's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) will seek contamination cleanup and investigation grants for the former Sholom Home site at N. Snelling Ave. and Midway Pkwy. and the former Lexington Branch Library at 1080 University Ave. They are seeking the grant funds from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and Metropolitan Council Tax Base Revitalization Account Program.

Both sets of applications were due Nov. 1. West Side and Highland neighborhood projects are also vying for funding.

Both sources of funding are

frequently tapped by the city for cleanup and site redevelopment. Several redevelopment sites along Green Line light rail have reaped the benefits of the funding.

In the case of each type of grant, the city typically applies in conjunction with developers and acts as an administrator the grants if they are obtained.

The city is a participant in the Metropolitan Council's Livable Communities Grant Program, which allows it to apply for grants including the tax base grant project.

A decision on the grants is expected by year's end or early 2016.

Development project is still vacant, city says

One of University Avenue's many redevelopment projects hit a road bump Oct. 21. The

St. Paul City Council voted to assess a \$2,025 vacant building fee on the developers of the former Old Home Dairy building at University and Western avenues.

A partnership of Sand Companies and Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation is working together as Old Home Plaza LLC to redevelop the former dairy building into mixed-use development. New housing is under construction behind the building. The project will create 60 units of housing. Total cost is \$16.9 million.

The original dairy building is considered historic and is more than 100 years old.

The developers and city officials have been debating the building's status since March. City building officials contended that the original Old Home structure needed to be re-registered as a vacant building. The developers objected, noting that they have pulled the required permits needed to renovate the building and are working with city officials on redevelopment. They questioned whether they should continue to pay the vacant building fee. But developers didn't attend public hearings to contest the fee.

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From paper warehouse to a community hub

Living Word Church transforms warehouse into home for diverse businesses and organizations aimed at families

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

An old paper warehouse in the heart of the Midway is being transformed into a hub of community-oriented businesses.

The vision of Living Word Church and World Outreach Ministries is in the beginning stages, but church members, community residents, and business owners are excited by what's happening at the old Banta Corp. building at 655 Fairview Ave. N.

The 329,000-square-foot facility currently houses the 400-member church (with its door off N. Prior Ave.) in 50,000 square feet, with plenty of room left over for community-oriented organizations. The six organizations currently housed there in 60,000 square feet include Network for the Development of Children of African Descent (see page 10), Spirit Taekwondo, Element Boxing and Fitness (see page 8), West Bank Music School, St. Paul Ballet (see page 9) and R.E.A.D After School & Summer Development Center.

The vision of senior pastor Lesley Ford, Jr. and his wife, lead assistant pastor Rosella Ford, is a place in the city where the church can reach out and touch people within the community.

EDITOR'S NOTE: When it came to our attention what a resource 655 Fairview Ave. N. was, we knew we needed to let the community take a peek at all of the amazing things that are going on in this building. Each of the organizations that occupy this fairly nondescript commercial warehouse building deserve to have stories of their own. So, we are going to do a story on each. However, there is too much going on there to accomplish it in one issue! So, we will start in this issue of the Monitor, and look for a continuation next month! This month we will tell you about Living Word Church (below), the owners of the building and the originators of the building's community concept. We will continue with stories on Element Boxing and Fitness (page 8), the St. Paul Ballet (page 9) and the Network for the Development of Children of African Descent (page 10).

"Eventually, it will be the City of Hope, having anything that anyone in the city could need," explained Living Word Church Administrative Assistant Sharon Ford, who is the pastors' daughter. They envision a place that serves the community from birth to death.

"The space at 655 Fairview is rapidly becoming a model; a space for community building and communities," remarked Network for the Development of Children of African Descent Executive Director Gevonee Ford, who is the son of Lesley and Rosella and the first tenant of the building.

Over the past three years, he's watched additional organizations move in and bring their own energy and traffic. "They're really connected to the community," he remarked, "and it's the community building community." Gevonee is particularly excited to see adults modeling community building for children.



Inset photo: Living Word Church and World Outreach Ministries pastors Lesley Ford, Jr. and Rosella Ford envision a City of Hope within their facility, one that provides for the various needs of their surrounding community members. With its entrance off N. Prior Ave., Living Word Church uses up about 50,000 square feet of the old paper warehouse. The rest is available to lease. (Photos submitted)

"I love the fact that all these businesses not only work toward the betterment of the individual, but also our surrounding communities," observed Agnes Espino of Spirit Taekwondo. "Our businesses are in full support of each other while remaining independent."

"We all serve young people in different ways to supplement their academic education and give them creative and physical enrichment," remarked Lori Gleason of St. Paul Ballet.

"The synergy that I see and feel within my own business and other organizations here is one of those unexplainable beauties," said Dalton Outlaw of Element Boxing and Fitness. "It's everything that you would want from a community facility run by community people."

Church moved in 2006

Living Word Church purchased the block-long facility in 2005 and moved in the next year.

The church had outgrown its home once again.

It had started in 1983 with seven people meeting in a backyard. As it grew, it went from a community center to a small

church facility at 205 Otis, and then later into the gymnasium next door. When they outgrew that, they sold that property and the parking lot across the street to purchase the large Banta paper warehouse.

Two other tenants include Murphy Warehouse and Plush Pumpkins.

The church's Crocheting for a Cause group meets each Wednesday from 12:30-2:30pm. Members crochet blankets for vets, sew caps for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and give blankets to the Episcopal Home down the street. You can find out more at <http://lwcwom.com>.

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St. Paul Ballet offers 'unplugged' experience

Three-in-one organization offers preprofessional dance training, dance classes for community members and professional dance company

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The vision of St. Paul Ballet (SPB) is to lift the human spirit through the art of ballet.

SPB is a company of professional dancers, a pre-professional training program and a place for all members of the community to take dance classes.

It was established in 2002 when the St. Anthony School of Dance merged with the St. Anthony Performing Arts Guild located in the historic Grand Ave. "studios above the hardware store" where ballet has been taught for well over 60 years. In 2012, SPB was restructured under an artist-led business model. In 2014, SPB added the studios at 655 Fairview Ave. to more than double space for classes and rehearsals, according to St. Paul Ballet Executive Director Lori Gleason.

The 655 Fairview Ave. location also enables SPB to address socio-economic constraints and lack of cultural exposure to the arts by broadening its reach.

"I first walked into the Grand Ave. studio of the Andahazy School of Classical Ballet in 1978 (our current Grand location), and have stayed involved ever since serving in various ways including as a managing director, a student, a dancer, a parent and a board member," said Gleason.

One of SPB's board members was a foster child and credits the classes given to her by the Andahazy's many years ago with

giving her the passion and tools to create a successful, happy and fulfilling life. Now she would like to see others benefit from the same.

"Parents of young children tell us the dance classroom offers their children a place to experiment and be themselves without a right or wrong way to do things. It also is completely 'unplugged'—no phones, television, video or other distractions."

—Lori Gleason

"Parents of young children tell us the dance classroom offers their children a place to experiment and be themselves without a right or wrong way to do things," said Gleason. "It also is completely 'unplugged'—no phones, television, video or other distractions."

Benefits of ballet

Ballet is often the basis for many genres of dance. "Besides the obvious benefit of exercise it de-



St. Paul Ballet is a company of professional dancers, a pre-professional training program and a place for all members of the community to take dance classes. SPB offers classes at two studio locations in St. Paul, one on Grand Ave. and one at 655 Fairview. (Photo submitted)

velops coordination, balance, self-confidence and more," said Gleason.

Children learn to follow instructions, work in groups and perform before an audience. They gain a sense of their bodies and how to control them in motion.

"We have live accompani-

ment in all ballet and modern classes which is a must for training," said Gleason.

Many of the SPB students are top academic students, and credit the focus and demands of ballet for their tenacity and capacity to take on difficult work.

"Ballet classes can also be a stress reliever. The concerns

of the day drop away because it is nearly impossible to think of anything but the class," remarked Gleason. "The exercise of the body reduces stress as the mind is consumed with the art."

"And who wouldn't want to exercise to beautiful live music?"

Continued on page 11

HOLIDAY events at HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION

Kick off the holiday season with hot cocoa, holiday cookies, and carols! Join Hamline students, faculty, staff, and community members at the bishop statue on Hewitt Avenue to light the tree.

- 4:30 p.m. Thursday, December 3
- Hamline University
1536 Hewitt Avenue, Saint Paul

HAMLINE WINDS CONCERT

Hamline students will perform holiday music and other pieces.

- 2 p.m. Saturday, December 5
- Sundin Music Hall
1531 Hewitt Avenue, Saint Paul

A CAPPELLA CHOIR PERFORMANCE

The Hamline A Cappella Choir presents its annual Christmas concert, an afternoon of festive music perfect for the whole family.

- 4 p.m. Sunday, December 6
- Hamline Church United Methodist
1514 Englewood Avenue, Saint Paul

WOMEN'S CHORALE CONCERT

The Women's Chorale will perform holiday music and other pieces.

- 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 11
- Sundin Music Hall
1531 Hewitt Avenue, Saint Paul

HAMLINE ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Hamline Orchestra will perform a concert of symphonic compositions.

- 2 p.m. Saturday, December 12
- Sundin Music Hall
1531 Hewitt Avenue, Saint Paul

JAZZ ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Music performed by Hamline students.

- 4 p.m. Sunday, December 13
- Anne Simley Theatre
1530 Taylor Avenue, Saint Paul



Non-profit encourages African American children and parents to connect with culture to build self-confidence needed for academic success

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

When children feel strongly connected to their culture, they do better in school, pointed out Gevonee Ford, whose 18-year-old non-profit provides a range of holistic services for children and families with the goal of connecting them to their African heritage and building towards academic success.

The Network for the Development of Children of African Descent (NdCAD) at 655 Fairview Ave. is a place where the African spirit is nurtured and renewed.

It is a place where African people come together to learn of and from themselves.

It is a place where people come to learn from their elders and children.

It is a place where they affirm their global family.

Family education center

The family education center in the Midway neighborhood offers a variety of literacy programs with a cultural component that leads to academic success and lifelong learning, according to Ford.

Since its inception, NdCAD has asked: "How do we heal, repair and strengthen the village so that the village can raise every child?"

Ford pointed out that research has shown that if children believe that they can learn, and if they understand the connection between literacy and culture, they will do better in school.

In 2012, Ford and NdCAD were recognized as a White House Champion of Change. The organization has also received the MLK Drum Majors of Service Award.

The vision for NdCAD emerged out of grassroots community organizing effort that took place from 1995 to 1997. Cultural Beginnings, a project of the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral Network, identified the need for building and strengthening connections within the black community. NdCAD was created to address the need for networking and community building.

Founder Gevonee Ford remains the executive director, and has overseen the organization first in South Minneapolis, then North Minneapolis, and now the Como Midway. NdCAD was the first tenant in 2006 in the former paper warehouse owned by Living Word Church where Ford is a member.

"At each stage of NdCAD's development," Ford said, "the community has been involved in helping us to heal, learn



Kindergarten to third graders participate in the Sankofa Reading Program offered at the NdCAD Educational Center in the Midway neighborhood. (Photo submitted)



Sankofa and Parent Power participants celebrate their achievements during a graduation. The community is invited to attend these events. Call 651.209.3355 for more information (Photo submitted)

and grow."

The most important message NdCAD wants to share is that each person involved is "a part of a community that values and cares for them, and has expectations for them," said Ford.

Since its inception, NdCAD has asked: "How do we heal, repair and strengthen the village so that the village can raise every child?"

Ford strongly believes that "each of us as community members have an opportunity to educate and develop our young people."

Supporters include the Greater Twin Cities United Way, Saint Paul Children's Collaborative, Ramsey County Workforce Solutions and St. Paul Promise Neighborhood, as well as individual donors. "Generous support from individuals and groups like these help make it possible for us to positively impact the lives of children and families," said Ford.

Sankofa Reading Program

NdCAD offers a nine-week

after-school program for struggling readers. The holistic approach of the Sankofa Reading Program "helps children make connections between knowledge of self and literacy," said Ford.

The approach is working. Participants have been going up 2-5 reading levels.

"Most importantly, there is increased confidence in their ability to learn which trans-

lates into better school performance," remarked Ford.

Last year, the program served 180 students throughout the metro area.

Parent power

Concurrently with each Sankofa session is a nine- or four-week Parent Power program. The program "helps parents make literacy and cultur-

al identity connections," said Ford. The group also talks about how parents can work with teachers and schools.

Parent Power is built on the principle that parents are a child's first, primary, and lifelong teacher. Everything parents do at home to advance literacy has long-term effects on preparing children for success

Continued on page 11

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Network for Development of Children of African American Decent (NdCAD)

Continued from page 10

in school and life.

Through Parent Power, participants begin to challenge self-doubt and begin to think critically about how they view themselves through the eyes of others; they recognize how their self-concept impacts how they parent and teach their children. Participants also begin to deconstruct myths about themselves, African people, and their community, making invisible systems of oppression visible. Together, parents gain a deeper understanding of their innate power to bring about change in themselves, schools, and community.

Parent Power graduates stay in frequent contact with

each other through NdCAD Nia Gatherings, which include monthly activities for parents and children. Through the gatherings, families build community together, parent-to-parent and family-to-family.

Uhuru Youth Scholars

The Uhuru Youth Scholars Program offers high school students two full semesters of exploratory research experience, as well as the opportunity to earn high school and college credits.

Last year, the group focused on how the media and colonization impact how African American youth view themselves.

Students first design the project, conduct research, analyze results and present solutions. Learning these helpful skills translate into improved academic performance, and also provide students with skills for college.

"The idea is for them to take on the identity of scholars and researchers," observed Ford.



Children select free, cultural books to keep during the NdCAD Saturday Book Giving Program that runs every Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. (Photo submitted)

Last year, students held focus groups in beauty salons, set up interviews with adults and youth and conducted research at several high schools.

Educator workshops

In addition to teaching,

Children participate in NdCAD's annual summer literacy and cultural enrichment camp where children build reading skills and cultural awareness/knowledge. For example, children learn how African/African Americans have contributed to society and the world through science and technological invention, as well as other intellectual and cultural contributions. (Photo submitted)

NdCAD never forgets that it is a learning organization. What it learns, it then shares with others.

NdCAD offers professional workshops for educators and others, with the goal of broadening the impact of what it has learned to increase children's success.

Free books

Each Saturday, noon-2pm, NdCAD gives away new and gently used children's books that focus on African culture, such as President Barack Obama's, "Of Thee I Sing."

Since 2001, they have put a half million books into the homes of children.

Many assume that all children have books in their homes, but that isn't always true, pointed out Ford. Books are expensive.

"There's nothing like when a child can pick a book, write his or her name in that book and say, 'This is my book,'" remarked Ford. "It sends a profound message on the value the community places on children."

Anyone who would like to donate books may drop them off at the NdCAD office between 10am-7pm Monday to Wednesday, 10am-5pm on Thursday and Friday, and noon-2pm on Saturday.



St. Paul Ballet

Continued from page 9

Dance classes for professionals and community

SPB offers two programs that attract students of all ages, all levels of dance experience and body types.

More than 100 students participate in the pre-professional program that runs for a school year. There are six levels of training in the progressive ballet curriculum that builds the foundation for college-level programs, conservatory or a professional dance career.

The drop-in program serves another 200 students of all ages through classes in music and movement for ages 4-6, beginning ballet for ages 7-11 and beginning and open ballet classes for teens and adults.

The unique "Take Back the Tutu" initiative promotes the ballet dancer as athlete and celebrates the unique body types of individuals. "You don't have to look just one way to wear the tutu," observed Gleason. Free, public, monthly conversations are led by health professionals on topics about healthy bodies and dance.

The school has the advantage of a close affiliation with the SPB Company members, and advanced students have opportunities to perform in productions with the professional dancers.

The School of SPB holds a residency for Great River School



"I believe any story can be told through dance, but only successfully if the eyes are present to complete the puzzle. The beauty of dance truly lies in the details. That's real artistry," said St. Paul Ballet Company dancer Nicole Brown. (Photo submitted)

(1326 Energy Park Dr.), including two, 12-week sessions in fall and spring with on-site classes culminating in a performance of student work and SPB Company excerpts.

Professional company works full-time

The St. Paul Ballet Company is experiencing a rebirth under Artistic Director Zoé Emilie Henrot, with

the guidance of Artistic Advisor Christina Onusko.

The Company includes ten professional dancers, plus four apprentices. They perform a repertoire of classical and contemporary works, ranging from story ballets to works by local and national choreographers that explore new directions for ballet.

St. Paul Ballet recently performed at The O'Shaughnessy

for the first time with its new Company, and the organization was happy to read the following review in the *Star Tribune*: "The October performance 'hit all the right marks, weaving an enchanting tale with a sense of wonder."

"It is quite rewarding after all of the hard work over the last three years to revive the organization," Gleason observed.

SPB utilizes an artist-led orga-

nizational model for ballet companies. Now in its ninth year, this artist-led model gives Company dancers opportunities within the infrastructure of SPB to broaden their voice and build their careers in the arts.

"One of our apprentices to the company was told as a child that she would never be a dancer. At SPB she has been able to pursue her dreams and has excelled," remarked Gleason.

The Company dancers rehearse and perform for audiences four times a year; participate in outreach activities such as Ballet Tuesdays; take professional classes and rehearse during the day, Monday to Friday for five hours, September to May; and work 3-6 hours a week on their administrative duties. Some of the dancers also teach classes in the school several times a week. All Company classes and rehearsals take place at 655 Fairview.

Holiday show planned

The third holiday production of "Clara's Dream," an abbreviated version of the classic "Nutcracker" created and premiered in 2013, will be performed at the Janet Wallace Mainstage Theater at Macalester College Dec. 17-20. This year's extended run will feature enhanced costumes and new backdrops from scenic designer Anne Henly, funded by an Arts Activities grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. Tickets are on sale now at spballet.org.

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 and enter your information in the online Event Calendar

Central craft fair scheduled Nov. 14

Central Lutheran School, 775 N. Lexington, is hosting their 3rd annual craft fair on Sat., Nov. 14, 9am-3pm. Local vendors will be there selling creative gifts, and refreshments will be available. Please come and join them for a fun shopping event.

Tech dump day planned Nov. 14

Tech Dump, a leader in responsible electronic waste recycling, reuse, and refurbishment, is hosting a public America Recycles Day event on Sat., Nov. 14, 9am-noon. Tech Dump's St. Paul warehouse (698 Prior Ave. N.) will be open and accepting cell phones, electronics, and almost anything with a cord. Most items can be dropped off for free or for a small fee.

This America Recycles Day event provides an opportunity for people to clean out their closets and drawers, safely get rid of unwanted items, and help two nonprofit social enterprises meet their missions.

Tech Dump responsibly recycles or refurbishes almost anything electronic with a cable, cord or battery that isn't a home appliance. A division of the nonprofit Jobs Foundation, Tech Dump provides safe and secure R2 certified electronic waste hauling and recycling services, largely for free, throughout the metro area and at its facilities in St. Paul and Golden Valley. For more info: www.techdump.org.

St. Columba hosts dinner and bingo

St. Columba Church, 1330 Blair Ave., is planning Turkey Bingo, Nov. 14, 6:30pm. Adult tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door and include a Turkey buffet dinner with beverage plus two Bingo cards for each game. Bingo play runs about 2 hours with chances to win turkeys as well as special prizes and drawings. Doors open after mass at 5:30pm with dinner and bingo starting at 6:30pm. For more info or tickets call 651-646-4419 or the parish office 651-645-9179.

Local youth in concert Nov. 15

Join the Minnesota Youth Symphonies (MYS) at Benson Great Hall located at Bethel University (3900 Bethel Dr., Arden Hills) on Sun., Nov. 15, at 2pm for a concert showcasing all four MYS orchestras.

The program will include Wagner's "Rienzi Overture," Enescu's "Romanian Rhapsody No. 1," Elgar's "Pomp and Cir-

Taste on the Line celebrates 3 years



Lunch on the Line was started three years ago by the Midway Chamber of Commerce to help support restaurants on the Green Line that were impacted by the construction. The name was changed to Taste on the Line, but the idea of supporting places to eat along the Green Line continued.

Recently the Chamber held the 124th Lunch on the Avenue. Jason DeRusha from Chanel 4 was the MC to share in food from 15 different restaurants that the Chamber visited this year. Jason spoke about all the great places to eat in St. Paul and that he lives in St. Paul, so he gets a chance to try all kinds ethnic foods.

In the photo, DeRusha poses with Tom Melton and Mitchell Lallier.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Culinary Arts students serve the lunch for the second year to 80 persons from the Chamber. Jeff Fenske said that without the help of the students from Job Corps this would not be possible. The lunch gives the students a chance to meet and get to know some of the leaders in our business community.

cumstance No. 1," Smetana's "The Moldau," Gould's "American Salute," selections from the "Nutcracker" by Tchaikovsky, and more.

Monitor area youth involved in the concert and symphonies are Leo Milne/violin; Nathaniel Alden/horn; William Benjamin/cello; Maija Johnson/violin; Natalie Ketelsen/violin; Happy-Sarah Kim/oboe; Marybelle Kim/horn; Isaac Lewis/cello; Giovanna Mandarano/violin; Matthew Maxam/cello; Alex Qin/bassoon; Daniel Stein/violin; Clara Stein/violin; Matteo Vera/violin; Sebastian Williamson/bass; and Henry Zietlow/violin.

Tickets for the Fall Concert are on sale through the Bethel Box Office and may be purchased over the phone by calling 651-638-6333 or visiting www.bethel.edu/events/arts/box-office.

Co-ed Drum Circle planned Nov. 27

The Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., will present a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., Nov. 27, 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored. The cost is \$10 at the door. All experience levels are welcome, and drums are provided. Info and registration can be found at womensdrumcenter.org.

Family support group meets twice monthly

NAMI Minnesota (National Alli-

ance on Mental Illness) sponsors free support groups for families who have a relative with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets in Roseville on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:30pm, at Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 Co. Rd. C-2 West. For information, call Anne Mae at 651-484-0599.

Learn about T'ai-Chi free on Nov. 16

The Twin Cities T'ai-Chi Ch'uan Studio (2242 University Ave. W.) invites the public to explore what T'ai-Chi is and why it is so beneficial and fun to practice. You will be guided by their main instructor through T'ai-Chi basics so you can experience this art of movement and relaxation in a comfortable way geared towards the beginner. This free event is planned for Mon., Nov. 16, 6-7:30pm.

T'ai-Chi has been found to be helpful for strengthening the body, developing better balance, improving flexibility and mobility, calming the mind, and managing stress among other benefits. It is a calming practice that leaves you with a sense of accumulated energy. T'ai-Chi helps coordinate body and breath with gentle flowing movements that are done in a comfortable stand-

ing position. Is it exercise? Is it meditation? It's both!

Give Tai Chi a try, get your questions answered, and learn about a local resource. Sign up through their website tctaichi.org and click on the Event Brite link from the home page. The event is free.

HME plans programs

The Hamline Midway Elders (HME) have several programs of interest in the next month.

Wednesdays at 1—HME partnering again with the Hamline Midway Library for another series that will be held at the library (1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.) and feature guest presenters on a wide variety of topics. See the Hamline Midway Public Library column for details on upcoming programs.

Caregiver Support Group—Open to anyone caring for older adults or persons of any age with special needs, this group is facilitated by HME's Monica Gallagher and trained volunteers. The group meets on the second Thursday of each month at Hamline Church United Methodist (1514 Englewood Ave.). There is no cost, and new attendees are always welcome.

Monthly Luncheons—The popular "Second Tuesday" luncheons are held at 1514 Englewood Ave. (Hamline Church United Methodist). Transportation can be provided for neighborhood seniors. Free blood pressure checks provided. Lunch is served at 11:30am and the guest speaker/performer presents from 12:15-1pm. Join HME on Dec. 8 when the North Suburban Chorus (composed of area seniors) returns to perform a wide variety of seasonal and holiday songs.

Volunteers Wanted—Hamline Midway Elders operates with only two part-time staff. The majority of their services to neighborhood elders is provided by some wonderful volunteers, and they could use more. They have a variety of volunteer needs ranging from driving folks to/from medical appointments to providing chore services to friendly visiting, to helping out at program events. Please consider helping this program help neighborhood elders.

For more information on any of the above items please contact Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or info@hmelders.org

Fall craft and bake sale set for Nov. 21

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., will hold its annual fall craft and bake sale on Sat., Nov. 21, from 9am to 1pm. Crafts, bakery, raffle, and recycled Christmas decorations will be for sale. Cookies and coffee will be for sale throughout, and a

lunch for \$4 will be served from 11-12:30. For additional information call 651-645-0851.

Alkire Symposium scheduled Dec. 3

The Alkire Symposium on International Business and Economics will be held at Hamline University Sundin Music Hall on Thur., Dec. 3, 11:30am-12:30pm. Topic for this symposium is "Developing a Global Mindset: As Dorothy said, 'We're not in Kansas anymore.'" The event is free and open to the public.

A global mindset is a key to success when marketing products outside the United States or working with individuals or leading a team from other countries or regions. Michael Podolinsky, class of '77, Certified Speaking Professional (CSP), will help us broaden our current mindset as Minnesotans who come from the second most ethnocentric country in the world. We will also examine the B.E.S.T. approach to culture and how to work in harmony with people from different countries speaking thousands of languages and dialects.

Debut concert scheduled Nov. 21

Katrina Mundinger presents Sâmbra Oilor, the first Romanian music ensemble in Minnesota, in a concert and dance on Nov. 21 at The Celtic Junction. This debut performance, complete with a rare Eastern European instrument called a taragot, will feature music and dance tunes from the Banat region of Romania. To encourage audience participation, simple dance steps will be taught by John Omorean, artistic director of Izvorul Romanian Dance Ensemble. Joining Mundinger are Sydney Lefevre (violin), Matt Miller (bass), Natalie Nowytski (voice), Jim Parker (kontra and guitar), Eric Ray (accordion), and Jenny Schultz (cimbalom). Dance instruction starts at 7:30pm, live music starts at 8:15pm. Admission is \$15 at the door. \$12 advance tickets are available at thecelticjunction.com or by calling 612-874-8892. The Celtic Junction is located at 836 Prior Ave. N.

Keystone offers senior programs

The Keystone Senior Center, located in the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave., offers a variety of programs for seniors in the community. Here are a few ongoing events along with some others starting soon. (Unless noted otherwise, these programs meet at the Merriam Park Community Center. Call 651-645-7424 for more information!)

Holiday readings by *Highland Village* author Roger Barr. Start your holiday season with author Roger Barr, who will read from his collection of stories, "Getting Ready for Christmas and Other Christmas Stories" on Mon., Nov. 16, 11:15am-noon. Call 651-645-7424 to register. There's no fee, but donations will be accepted.

An AARP Smart Driver four-hour refresher course will be held on Wed., Nov. 18 from 9:30am-1:30pm. Cost is \$18. Call 651-645-7424 to reserve a spot.

Health insurance counseling is available the third Thursday of every month. Next session is Thur., Nov. 19. Call 651-645-7424 to make an appointment for a one-on-one session.

A 3-session Qigong classes for everyone will start Thur., Nov. 19, 1-2:30pm. Attend one or all three. Cost is \$6 per session. Qigong focuses on movement and meditation.

Silver and Fit—"Fit and Fabulous" exercise class will be held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 to 11:30am. Drop by and try it out!

Enjoy Line Dancing on Mondays from 1-2:30pm. The fee is \$6 per class. Please register by calling 651-645-7424.

Advanced beginners / intermediate bridge is held on Thursdays beginning at 12:30pm. Free.

Half-hour appointments for foot care are available the first Monday of the month. Call 651-645-7424 to schedule appointments. Cost is \$20.

Meals on Wheels—fresh, hot, cold, or frozen meals delivered to your home. Available to all who need nutritious food in their lives. Cost is based on a sliding fee scale. Call 651-545-7424 to register.

Make a mosaic ornament Nov. 27

Let's talk about Plaid Friday—it's like Black Friday, but for small businesses. Mosaic on a Stick (1564 Lafond Ave.) will really be getting into it this year on Fri., Nov. 27 from 10am to 4pm when they will share a free day at the stick. Each person that comes in will get to make a stained glass mosaic ornament for free! The neighborhood is invited to this fun event.

"Any road might take you there..." featuring the art of Julie Reeve and Sandra Muzzy will be opening on Fri., Nov. 20 from 7-9pm. There is always great food and lovely people to meet at the

openings, so everyone is invited to come and enjoy the art and the company.

Price sculptures on display at HU

Hamline University is hosting "A Legacy in Bronze," an exhibition of the work of celebrated sculptor Michael Price, through Dec. 11 in Hamline's Soeffker Gallery.

Price, a celebrated bronze sculptor and former faculty member at Hamline University, is best known for his sculptures of F. Scott Fitzgerald, installed in 1996 in Rice Park to commemorate Fitzgerald's 100th birthday, and Archbishop John Ireland.

This current exhibition features some of his other work and is also an opportunity to see his iconic Bishop Leonidas Hamline sculpture that has been a focal point of Hamline's St. Paul campus for decades. For more information, call 651-523-2296 or go to the Soeffker Gallery's website: <http://bit.ly/1Lu6LOM> for more information and for the hours the gallery is open.

Art and Craft Fair scheduled Dec. 5

For more than 15 years, St. Paul landmark GINKGO coffee-house (721 N. Snelling Ave.) has hosted an art and craft fair for local artists. The 2015 fair is planned for Sat., Dec. 5, 9am-4:30pm.

This shopping opportunity showcases 15 local artists, with unique, high-quality items at reasonable prices. The products include handmade glass beads, knit and felted items, quilted products, wooden items, metal sculptures, chain maille and other types of jewelry, and much more.

For more information or to find out about participating in this year's fair, call 651-645-2647 or email kathy@ginkgocoffee.com.

Registration open for upcoming events

Register now for what's coming at the local recreation centers:

Northwest Como, 1550 Hamline Ave N., 651-298-5813

—How The Grinch Stole Christmas Art Class, ages 4-9, on Dec 23 from 12:30-2:30pm. Fee: \$26.
—Tae Kwon Do, ages 6 and up

(Ongoing)
—Senior Gamers, ages 50 and up (Ongoing)

Langford, 30 Langford Park, 651-298-5765

—Special Event: Dinner With Mr. and Mrs. Claus on Dec. 4 from 5:30-7pm. Join Mr. and Mrs. Claus for a spaghetti dinner. Bring your camera to take pictures as they roam from table to table. Activities include dinner, craft, decorate your own cookie, and face painting. Note: Maximum cost per family is \$25. Children under the age of 2 are FREE.

—Winter Break Blast: Pre-register for these days of no school fun. Space is limited, and registration is taken on a first come first serve. Staff will lead activities in the gym and outside, so dress appropriately. Bring your own snack and beverage.

—Holiday Ornament Making, ages 2-4, on Dec. 17 from 10:30-11:30am. Fee: \$18.

—Babysitting Training on Dec. 23, ages 11-17, on Dec 23 from 8am-3pm. Fee: \$60.

—Soo Bahk Do, ages 5 and up
—Pilates and Badminton for adults (Ongoing)

North Dale, 1414 St Albans St. N., 651-558-2329

—Lego Minecraft Art Class, ages 5-12, on Dec. 23 from 1:30-3:30pm. Fee: \$25.

—No School Days: Dec. 28-29-30: activities will vary each day. Please bring a lunch and beverage, snacks are provided. Space is limited. Deadline to register is one week in advance or until the program is full. Fee \$10.

—Adults/Seniors: Laughter Yoga, Pilates, Senior Fitness, Square Dance and Yoga (Ongoing)

—Tae Kwon Do: all ages (Ongoing)

—Special Event: Ho Ho Ho Down on Thur., Dec. 10, from 5:30-7:30pm. Fee: free. Celebrate a country/western holiday party. There will be food, square dancing and other activities which include a visit with Santa.

Annual sale now through December

Nettie and Friends 12th Annual Sale of the Season is open daily in December from breakfast through 2pm, at Egg and I, 2550 University Ave. W. (University and Hwy. 280). The sale features creative, hand-crafted gifts, with the benefits going to benefit Maxwell School.

Talk on Syrian refugees scheduled

Daniel Wordsworth, president of the American Refugee Committee (ARC), will speak about the European and Syrian Refugee Crisis from 6:30 to 7:30pm, Wed., Nov. 18 at Olivet Congregational Church, 1850 Iglehart Ave.

Before joining ARC, Wordsworth worked for 12 years with the Christian Children's Fund (CCF) as Vice President of the Asia region in Thailand. He established the CCF's emergency response programs in Afghanistan, East Timor, India, Northern Uganda, and Sierra Leone. You may have heard him speak on MPR or heard him at the Augsburg's Nobel Peace Conference.

"In the 20 years that I've been working in humanitarian aid, this is the most catastrophic disaster I've seen. Millions of Syrians are living on the brink of human need, pushed to the edge," Wordsworth said.

For more information, contact Olivet Congregational Church at 651-646-1478 or visit www.olivetucc.net.

NAMI support group meets weekly

A NAMI Connection peer support group for adults recovering from mental illness meets in St. Paul. The free group is sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota. Trained facilitators who are also in recovery lead NAMI Connection groups. The group meets on Mondays, at 6:30pm, at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., Room 123. For more information, contact Mary at 612-387-6730 or call NAMI at 651-645-2948.

Holiday craft fair planned Dec. 5-6

The 12th annual Holiday Craft Fair will be Dec. 5-6, at Roseville City Hall. Spread out over two levels, more than 70 local crafters and artists will be selling their all-handmade wares. Items include soaps and balms; natural stone, fused glass, beaded and other fine jewelry; photography; pottery; knitted items; fairy and bird houses; paintings; fine chocolates and delicious canned jams; and so much more. And once again the annual Bake Sale

by the Friends of Roseville Parks (FOR Parks) will be onsite, Saturday only, raising money to support all the parks in our city.

After a bit of shopping, take a break and sit down with a cup of coffee and a bite to eat. Coffee and food will be served up by Dunn Brothers (Fairview Ave. location).

Sale hours are 10am-4pm on Sat., 12-4pm on Sunday. There's no admission charge and free parking. Roseville City Hall is located at 2660 Civic Center Dr.

The Holiday Craft Fair is put on by volunteers from the Harriet Alexander Nature Center (HANC); all vendor fees go to HANC to support environmental education programs. For more information about the event, including a list of participating crafters and a gallery of some of their work, go to HolidayCraftFair.com.

La Leche Group scheduled Dec. 8

The next meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tue., Dec. 8. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers to discuss breastfeeding and mothering issues. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Anxiety support group meets

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota sponsors free support groups for persons with anxiety disorders. The groups help individuals develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. An Open Door Anxiety and Panic support group meets from 6:30-8pm, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, at Goodwill-Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., in Room 123. For information call NAMI at 651-645-2948.

Craft, art, and bake sale planned Nov. 21

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., is planning their annual Craft, Art, and Bake Sale for Nov. 21 (9am-3pm) and Nov. 22 (10am-3pm). In addition, Kim Tann, the pastor's wife, will stop your cravings for stir fried rice and egg rolls; to go, or to eat while you shop.

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Hamline Station

Continued from page 2

30-60% of the area median income."

Barbara McCormick, Senior Vice President of Housing with Services for PPL, said, "We've already had 500-600 inquiries, and we're just starting to accept written applications at a trailer on-site at Hamline Station."

"We're very aware of how many people are interested in living at Hamline Station," McCormick said. "Our eligibility workers now have to do the hard work of finding the right tenant-fit. Applications are being taken on a first-come, first-serve basis, and people holding Section 8 Housing Vouchers are welcome to apply."

Across the two buildings, 14 units will be set aside for individuals and families who have recently experienced homelessness. These tenants will continue to receive support services from the Guild Inc. and Clare Housing, who've been providing case management to ease the transition to stable housing.

Hamline Station is representative of what is called mixed use design. That means that residential and commercial spaces co-exist. In this case, there will 13,000 square feet of retail space on the first floor.

According to Williams, "The traffic count at Hamline and University avenues is very high—probably not far behind Snelling and University, which is considered the busiest intersection in the state. Once Hamline Station is fully occupied, the increased residential density should really benefit the local businesses."

PPL is no stranger to property management. The non-profit organization got its start as an affordable housing developer in 1972, and over the last 43 years has become a robust, multi-service

agency. Their mission is to empower lower-income people to achieve self-sufficiency through stable housing, employment training, support services and education.

PPL currently owns and manages some 1,200 rental units across the Twin Cities. Their holdings include a broad mix of housing stock including single family homes, duplexes, and apartment buildings. According to McCormick, "The high impact-high density housing model at Hamline Station guarantees the best quality option. We will be able to pay attention to what our tenants need and want."

"We believe that this re-development project will be a great fit for the neighborhood," Williams said. "I bought a used car at the dealership that used to be on this block, and that dealership went out of business years ago. Sometimes re-development gets a bad rap because it's associated with displacing people. But we aren't displacing anybody with Hamline Station—we're welcoming people in."

Elness Swenson Graham Architects is the firm behind the project design. Based in Minneapolis, ESG recently won national recognition for innovation in urban, residential, mixed-use design, and has earned a reputation for strong leadership in re-development projects.

"Since the ground breaking in late August," Williams said, "we've been basically on track with construction. The \$28 million project is expected to be completed in two phases. Move-in for the east building is planned for late December of this year, and move-in for the west building is planned for late February 2016."

To learn more about units costs and eligibility, visit www.hamlinestation.org or call 651-846-9810.

News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

Theater, science, literature, movies, yoga, and more on tap at library

The Hamline Midway Library will be featuring a wide array of activities in November and December, giving library patrons opportunities to explore theater, science, literature, movies, yoga, and more.

The library features Preschool Storytime on Fridays from 10:30-11am, with upcoming storytimes on Nov. 13, 20, 27, and Dec. 4 and 11. Storytimes feature stories, songs, puppets, and more. Preschool storytimes teach social skills, listening comprehension, letter and number recognition, and vocabulary. Enjoy time with your child while building a foundation for reading success. Children of all activity levels are welcome.

The Hamline Midway Elders hosts Seated Chair Yoga on Thur., Nov. 12 and 19, 10:30-11:30am. Chair yoga focuses on a range of movement, alignment, stretching, strengthening, awareness, breathing, and relaxation. All movement is done while seated or standing using the chair for balance. Taught by Nancy Giguere. This is a free event co-sponsored by Hamline Midway Library and Hamline Midway Elders. Contact Tom at tom@hmelers.org or 651-209-6542 for more information.

Second Saturday Science Club happens on Sat., Nov. 14 from 1:30-3pm, and this month the theme is BIG and tiny. Peter Hoh and Jackie Lannin guide children (ages 6 and up) and their families through hands-on science and art experiences. This month the activities will include building a BIG tower and other creations that will show proportion and size differences. On Sat., Dec. 12, 1:30-3pm, the Second Saturday Science Club theme will be Crystals and Light. Walk-ins are always welcome!

Also on Sat., Nov. 14, 3-4pm, the Teens Reading Bravely group will meet in the library's teen area. Teens in the group read and discuss books that fall under the "Read Brave" genre. Recommended for ages 14 and up, 9th grade and up. The group's December meeting will be on Sat., Dec. 12, also 3-4pm in the teen area.

On Mon., Nov. 16, 7-8pm, join The Friends and Park Square Theatre for an evening with actors from the upcoming production "My Children! My Africa!" In 1984, in a segregated township in South Africa, an idealistic teacher believes education—and poetry—can create a better future for his students. Amid anti-apartheid rioting, Mr. M hopes to offer reconciliation by forming a debate club between his black school and the local white school. But as neighborhood tensions escalate, students and teacher find themselves along the blurry line between revolution and terrorism. The shocking conclusion is a timely reminder that one person's tragedy and a community's deep sense of loss are inextricably linked.

The library's ongoing Wednesdays at 1 series continues Wed., Nov. 18, 1-2:30pm with "Be Wise, Be Informed, Be Empowered." Gary Johnson from the Better Business Bureau will explain how individuals can protect themselves in today's marketplace. The Wednesdays at 1 programs are a partnership between the Hamline Midway Elders and the Hamline Midway Library.

On Wed., Dec. 2, 1-2:30pm, the series will feature the program Wind Songs: Native American Style Flute. Cynthia Unowsky and Deborah Magnuson play traditional, contemporary, and original songs

on numerous hand-crafted wooden flutes. On Wed., Dec. 9, 1-2:30pm, Eleanor Ostman, longtime food writer for the Pioneer Press, presents Confessions of a Professional Eater, sharing experiences from her life in food. She will also sign and sell copies of her new book, "Always on Sunday Revisited," which will be available for purchase for \$20. Wed., Dec. 16, 1-2:30pm, Jody Huber returns with another thought-provoking movie with Jody's Matinee. She'll lead a group discussion after the showing.

The library will be closed on Thanksgiving, Thur., Nov. 26.

The Kids Book Clubs will meet Sat., Dec. 5 to learn more about nominees for the annual Maud Hart Lovelace Award through games and activities and to get ready to vote for their favorite books. Division I (grades 3-5) meets 1:30-2:15pm and Division II (grades 6-8) meets 2:30-3:15pm.

Fans of silent slapstick star Buster Keaton will have two great opportunities to see his films at the Hamline Midway Library in December. On Thur., Dec. 17, 7-8 pm, the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library present Keaton's comedic masterpiece "The General" with live accompaniment from the accordion and saw duo Dreamland Faces. The movie tells the story of a Confederate train engineer whose beloved locomotive is hijacked by Union soldiers with the woman he loves onboard. The library will feature more silent movie fun with a family-friendly matinee on Wed., Dec. 30, 2-3:30pm featuring two short Buster Keaton comedies, "The Scarecrow" and "The Goat." Free popcorn and cider will be served. This event is presented by the Hamline Midway Library Association.

Classifieds

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Want ads must be received by the Monitor by Nov. 30 for the Dec. 10 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

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor before Nov. 30 for the Dec. 10 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to 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

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From tutor to teacher with a lot of dedication

By RHONDA SIMONSON,
Hamline Kindergarten teacher

Due to some last-minute staffing changes at Hamline Elementary this fall, Hamline was able to hire a familiar face. Liz Casperson was hired as a fourth-grade teacher. Casperson graduated from Hamline University last spring with degrees in Elementary Education, Psychology, and Anthropology. Casperson had served in the tutoring program that connects elementary stu-

dents with college students for all four years of her college career.

"I saw how Hamline tutors impact lives," Casperson said. "I worked with kindergarten, first and ELL students. I know I made a difference in their learning. It is also what interested me in education as a major."

Carol Schjei, the kindergarten teacher who hosted Casperson for all four years, said "I could not operate without my Hamline tutors. I honestly do

not know how teachers at other schools could meet the needs of all the students without these extra hands. We can be a very academic kindergarten due to the extra help....but also can get work done promptly so we can have recess and play. Five-year-olds love to play board games with a grown up. The tutors are just another teacher in the kids' eyes. School goes better with lots of teachers caring about your needs."



Schjei was the one who encouraged the principal to call Casperson and interview her for the job. Truthfully, it is helpful for a new hire to an SPPS position to have an "in"—for Casperson, tutoring at the school was her in.

Casperson has been mentored by Barb Hvidhyld since workshop week began. Hvidhyld has been able to give tips...but she reports that Casperson has taught her some new ideas too. She commented how Casperson puts in long hours, shows she cares and is very interested in making the jump from just being the tutor to being the person in charge of learning in the classroom.

At Hamline Elementary, all the children start the year by explaining their Hopes and Dreams. Casperson had her

Liz Casperson (right) and Barb Hvidhyld planning next week's lessons. Casperson has been mentored by Hvidhyld. Hvidhyld has been able to give tips...but she reports that Casperson has taught her some new ideas too. (Photo submitted)

dream come true. She walked across the street for four years and received tutor pay. Now she is a professional beginning what everyone hopes is a long career with the Hamline community as a classroom teacher.

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