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Midway
Como
North End

Monitor



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Meeting draws 170 residents, exceeding expectations...

Como, North End discuss possible district council boundary changes

By JAN WILLMS

The organizers ran out of name tags at the Jan. 9 public meeting to discuss possible changes to District boundaries 6 and 10. The gathering attracted about 170 people, exceeding expectations and demonstrating how important an issue this appears to be to residents.

The District Councils were established in 1975 as a citywide citizen participation process, according to the City of Saint Paul. There are currently 17 of them, based on neighborhoods and not on population.

"Various groups of South Como residents have attempted to be redistricted into the Como Park (District 10) planning council over the past 20 years," said Amy Brendmoen, Ward 5 councilmember.

South Como lies west of

Dale Street, south of Maryland Avenue and Lake Como, east of Lexington Avenue and north of the BNSF Railroad, and it is part of Planning District 6.

Brendmoen said she has heard the request for a boundary change from an overwhelming majority of South Como constituents who have contacted her office, although a few have expressed opposition to the change.

Those numbers seemed to be reflected at the public meeting, as one resident after another spoke up for changing the boundaries. The meeting, hosted by the City's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) in cooperation with District 10 and District 6, was set up to hear public concerns.

Both District Councils have voted against making the bound-

ary changes. Kim Moon, a District 10 board member, read a letter sent by the district to Brendmoen's office.

"While we are concerned about how we will adequately serve 30% more constituents without additional City funds, of greater importance to us are the following reasons for our opposition to the proposed boundary change.

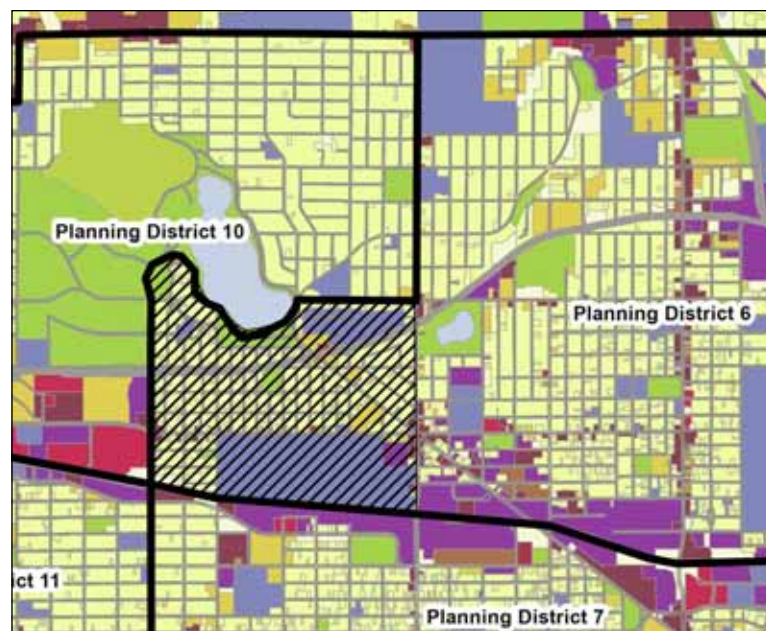
"The Council has heard limited opposition from the community to the current boundaries and does not feel there is a clear and defined reason or need for changes. This appears to us to be a top-down proposal being imposed on district councils, rather than a genuine grassroots effort."

"In our opinion, the proposal limits citizen participation and seems counter-productive to the mission of promoting broad-based community input. The current boundaries offer a broader and more diverse perspective, allowing residents from across District 10 and District 6 to influence decisions affecting Como Regional Park."

"The proposal shifts the focus of District 10's activities away from representing all residents towards becoming a venue primarily for those concerned by the park. Residents, for whom the park is not a sole issue, will be further marginalized."

"We currently enjoy a positive working relationship with the District 6 Planning Council, and support them," Moon concluded.

He was followed by one resident after another citing their rea-



The District Councils were established in 1975 as a citywide citizen participation process, according to the City of Saint Paul. There are currently 17 of them, based on neighborhoods and not on population.



The organizers ran out of name tags at the Jan. 9 public meeting to discuss possible changes to District boundaries 6 and 10. The gathering attracted about 170 people, exceeding expectations and demonstrating how important an issue this appears to be to residents. (Photo by Jan Willms)

sons for wanting a district boundary change.

"My daily life is more impacted by Como Park than by Rice Street," one District 6 resident said.

"The swimming pool is across from my house," claimed Art Oglesby. "Como Park has a huge influence. District 10 addresses dozens of issues related to the park, and District 6 does not address those issues."

"I can smell Como Park and live close enough I can throw a baseball and hit its fields, but people on Maryland Avenue have more control over the area," related a resident who has lived in

South Como since 1964. He claimed that people have been trying to get the boundaries changed for a long time.

Another resident, asking for a show of hands at the meeting of those in favor of a boundary change, pointed to the evident overwhelming support. "You just saw social justice," he said, citing St. Paul as a city of neighborhoods.

Resident Mary Wawro said she lives where she can look at the park. "I don't blame District 6, but I look to District 10 for information," she said.

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Monitor In A Minute



The Love Doctor has its variance for a new projecting sign, but the Hamline Midway Coalition has appealed that decision. The St. Paul City Council will hear the appeal at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16 at City Hall.

Love Doctor receives new sign variance

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Jan. 16 at City Hall.

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) voted 4-1 December 10, awarding the adult novelty store a smaller sign variance than its owner had requested. The vote finalized action the board took late last month to overturn a city staff recommendation of denial.

Troy DeCorsey, owner of The Love Doctor, said the modified sign variance might be too small to meet the store's need to be more visible. He sought a projecting sign of 25 square feet; the BZA approved a variance for a sign of 20.5 square feet.

City staff was contacted by neighbors after the initial November 26 vote, with an inquiry about an appeal. But an appeal could not be filed until after the December 10 vote. Hamline Midway Coalition opposed the variance and could file an appeal.

DeCorsey contends the variance and new sign would help his business. The Love Doctor has lost 58 percent of its business during construction of the Central Corridor light rail line. The store has also lost on-street parking as a result of rail construction. Eastbound University Avenue motorists can only see the business thanks to a rooftop sign. Otherwise, the Snelling station blocks the storefront from view.

Council denies site plan appeal

A lengthy dispute over a gas station/convenience store/ restaurant at Rice and Maryland ended Dec. 9 with St. Paul City Council action formally denying a site plan appeal by Raymond and Susan Cantu. The council did agree to refund the couple's appeal fees.

In November the council heard the site plan appeal. At issue is the site plan for Rice Street Market, 1200 Rice St., and the relocation of gas pumps there. The market lost property when the Rice and Maryland intersection was rebuilt and had to relocate its gas pumps.

The market owner had planned a new building, which won community support and site plan approval, but then decided to keep the existing building and relocate the gas pumps. Neighborhood residents and District 6 Planning Council questioned

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Some residents share concerns...

New Walgreens store at Lexington and Larpenteur almost complete

By DEBORAH BROTZ

With the new Walgreens store at Lexington and Larpenteur Avenues almost complete, neighborhood residents have recently voiced some concerns to the District 10 Land Use Committee.

Several neighbors objected to the fence built on the west and south borders of the property.

"When we were negotiating with John Kohler, they agreed to put in a fence more substantial than wood," said Kim Moon, chair of the District 10 Land Use Committee. "They put in plastic. This is not what we wanted."

On Dec. 4, John Kohler, an architect at Semper Development who designed the Walgreens store, met with City Councilmember Amy Brendmoen, Moon, and District 10 Land Use Committee member Linda Hinderseith to talk about the fence. A solution Kohler suggested was to install shrubs that would grow to about 15 feet tall and would fill in to hide the fence altogether.

Neighbors would not be sat-

isfied with a plastic fence.

"This is not what we were promised," said Moon. "We asked to have changes made. One suggestion he had was to put up shrubs that would mask the fence. He would have to go back to the developer to see if he could make the change."

Other residents objected to the sparse greenery on the east side of the building. At the December meeting, they spoke about adding some native grasses and plants to create a rain garden.

"We want to add landscaping to the east side of the building," said Moon. "The plans he showed us at the Land Use Committee showed a lot of vegetation there. What we got was three little trees. We suggested adding some native grasses that could be turned into a rain garden. He will go back to developers and ask if they can put in more vegetation for a rain garden."

Another concern brought up was about the lights on the back of the building being clearly visi-

ble in neighboring homes. Kohler suggested installing extenders on the side of the light boxes to mask the direct light from the bulbs.

"We're going to see if we can put some small pieces up on the lights," said Kohler. "It's like a shade. It will cut off that view of the fixture. The shade is similar to a lamp shade. When you put on a lamp shade, you can't see the bulb. But, the light still comes out the bottom of the lamp."

They also talked about filling the false window areas on the north and east sides of the building with scenes of Como Park.

"We'll talk to Walgreens about that," said Kohler. "We'll see if we can get things to apply to the windows. This is something we'll see if Walgreens has some ideas on."

It's important to address these concerns of nearby residents even though the building is basically complete.

"Mainly because they're community concerns," said Moon.



With the new Walgreens store at Lexington and Larpenteur Avenues almost complete, neighborhood residents have recently voiced some concerns to the District 10 Land Use Committee. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

"Several people in the area emailed us. The fence was not what we were promised. What are we going to do? Our response was to see if we can get some changes made."

Moon feels the neighbor-

hood is getting the Walgreens store they wanted.

"Absolutely," he said. "Some concerns like the fence, landscaping and lighting were discussed in our negotiations with John. We'll see. We hope for the best."

In a minute

Continued from page 2

that and raised concerns about how vehicles would safely access the gas pumps.

The Planning Commission upheld city staff site plan approval, which prompted an appeal to City Council. The council could not find error on city staff or the Planning Commission's part and denied the second appeal. Work on the gas pump relocation was completed in the fall.

Snelling social hall fined for alcohol

A Snelling Avenue social hall has again been fined for allowing consumption of alcohol and smoking. The St. Paul City Council fined social hall owner Jonah Ogamien for a recent gross misdemeanor conviction of operating a disorderly house. Ogamien was found guilty in October 2012 for a

party in December 2011. At the party at 508 N. Snelling, police found people drinking and smoking from 14 hookahs or water pipes.

Because this was the third offense in 12 months, the City Council imposed a fine of \$2,000 and a 10-day license suspension. The rental hall owner has had past run-ins with city licensing staff and police for consumption of alcohol, smoking and patron behavior.

Wilebski's gets OK for longtime parking lot

Wilebski's Blues Saloon can continue to use a longtime parking lot at California and Camelot, the St. Paul Planning Commission decided Dec. 28. That decision, which has the support of District 6 Planning Council, is final unless it is appealed to the City Council within 10 days. As of early January no appeal had been filed.

The lot is zoned for residential use but has been used for parking

by various nightclub building occupants since at least the 1980s.

City staff recommended denial of the request for establishment of nonconforming use for parking, noting that the property could be used to build multi-family housing on and that parking has never been a formally allowed use on the site.

But without the lot, the nightclub would not have enough legally required parking. Wilebski's recently lost its lease for parking across Rice Street and needs the roughly 40 spaces in the California and Camelot lot to meet its parking needs. Planning Commission members agreed, saying that if the lot is repaved, striped and landscaped, it could meet the nightclub's needs adequately.

Construction underway at West Midway site

Construction is getting underway

at a controversial West Midway industrial site. Building permits were issued last month for Industrial Equities' warehouse at Pelham Boulevard and Wabash Street. The St. Paul Port Authority also announced that it has finally sold the 5.2-acre site to Industrial Equities.

The developer, which owns and manages light industrial, and warehouse properties around the region, is building a \$3 million, 68,000 square foot warehouse. The new Meridian Business Center is expected to bring in at least 68 new jobs. Depending on the firms that lease space, as many as 200 new jobs could be there.

The building will be complete in spring 2013.

The property was at the center of a lengthy dispute between the Union Park District Council, Desnoyer Park residents and the city. Developer John Allen only needed site plan approval for the project as the site is zoned for industrial use. But neighborhood

residents and community groups wanted mixed-use, transit-oriented development and took their fight to the St. Paul City Council. The council upheld an appeal last year, prompting developer John Allen to take the city to court. A Ramsey County District Court judge ruled in Allen's favor this fall.

"This project's success will attract other redevelopment," Allen said in a Port Authority press release. He said there is pent-up demand for the type of space he is building. Port Authority President Louis Jambois said the planned building is in an ideal location, calling it "a perfect structure in a perfect location for early stage technology companies." He cited its location near area universities, where research is underway.

The Port spent about \$2.3 million preparing the site, a former trucking company, for redevelopment.

-Compiled by Jane McClure

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New city budget gains some last-minute additions

By JANE MCCLURE

Thanks to unanticipated changes, St. Paul's 2013 city budget got some last-minute additions December 12. The City Council unanimously adopted a budget that includes restoration of Central Library's Monday hours, six more food safety inspectors, a delay in closing McDonough and Conway Recreation Centers and \$1 million for the troubled Police Department crime lab. That reflects a total \$2.9 million shift in spending.

The proposed 2013 city budget was \$502.86 million, down slightly from the \$503.408 million budget approved for 2012. Add in libraries and debt service, and the budget total for 2013 was \$563.860 million, as compared to \$564.160 in 2012.

The budget is supported with a 1.9 percent increase in the property tax levy. The property tax dollars needed to support the proposed 2013 budget total \$99.396 million, up \$1.587 million from the \$97.809 million levied for 2012. That will cover city general government and libraries.

The St. Paul Port Authority levy for 2013 is proposed at \$1.811 million, up from \$1.511 million in 2012, an increase of \$300,000.

The total amount levied in 2013 would be \$101,207,852, as compared to \$99,320,758 for 2012.

The levy will have varying effects, depending on property value and the type of property. Many home owners whose property values have dropped will see a tax decrease next year. Those whose values have held the line or risen

will see increases, as will many owners of larger apartment buildings, commercial and industrial properties.

Council President Kathy Lantry and council members thanked city administration, budget staff and department heads for a smooth budget review process. The review, which began in August, lacked the drama of past years' battles over proposed cuts.

"This was a good process," said Lantry. "We were able to work through a lot of issues and identify topics we need to study before the 2014 budget process."

In a statement, Mayor Chris Coleman said. One of the most important factors in setting a budget is creating a plan that is stable and sustainable for years to come. This budget understands the needs of our city and our residents while maintaining the quality of services that our residents have come to expect. The mayor also said that the budget meets his goal of structural balance for the fifth straight year.

The loss of Monday library hours and potential closing of Conway and McDonough recreation centers generated the most public protests. Keeping Central Library open Mondays and Monday evenings means adding about \$200,000 to the budget.

Downtown residents objected to the closing, saying that Monday is the only evening the library is open.

Another \$250,000 will be used to keep McDonough and Conway recreation centers open and conduct a community process about their future use. The Department of Parks and Recreation proposed repartnering the centers with nonprofit groups, as it has in other neighborhoods.

Since Coleman unveiled his budget proposal in August, savings were found in several areas, said Office of Financial Services Director Todd Hurley. The city and Ramsey County had planned to share in a fiber optics program. The county dropped out of that program this fall, which will save about \$1 million. That was dropped, freeing up about \$1 million. Other savings came from renegotiated health care contracts, which saved about \$4 million, and additional \$400,000 in tax increment financing (TIF) revenues.

What had been shaping up to be a major budget battle was averted when the budget was introduced. The mayor and the Firefighters Local 21 union were at odds over a budget proposal that would have eliminated one of three rescue squads. But Rescue Squad Two was spared after a compromise was reached. According to a memorandum of understanding the union will allow four rather than five firefighters on one of the rescue squads when the daily firefighter ranks drop below 114 people. This change will be in place through 2014. The union had previously indicated it would allow the four-person squads only through 2013.

The adopted budget includes money to hire new seven police officers. Filling these vacancies will get the Police department back to its full strength of 610 officers. It adds seven food safety inspectors and saves an animal control officer position that had

been slated for cuts.

In his announcement, Coleman praised the inclusion of \$200,000 for an expansion of the St. Paul Public Schools' "Parent Academies." These are a school-city effort to provide a free seven-week program to help parents be more involved in their children's education.

Among Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) proposals, it includes funding to build the Hamline Avenue Bridge, renovate the Highland and Sun-Ray libraries, build the Lowertown ballpark, and convert the former Wilder Foundation main campus in Frogtown into a park and urban agriculture center.

Some budget issues will come back before the City Council for review and approval in 2013. One is a study of the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI), at a cost of \$200,000.

The biggest looming issue may be the fate of the police department crime lab. The \$1 million will be held in contingency until more is known about next steps.

The crime lab funding will be placed in contingency and released by City Council action next year. The crime lab has been under scrutiny for allegedly poor practices. It is under review by independent consultants, with a report due soon. Concerns raised about the lab include oversight of evidence handling and documentation of testing procedures. The lab had done work for St. Paul, Ramsey and Dakota counties. The county attorneys are currently forwarding their drug cases to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal

Apprehension (BCA).

Problems at the crime lab emerged in Dakota County court testimony this summer. Two public defenders are challenging the lab's work in eight drug cases in Dakota County.

The council December 12 also adopted a number of fees and charges for 2013. Of the fees one of the biggest increases is needed to cover the cost of vacant building monitoring, which will increase from \$1,100 to \$1,400.

Most single-family home owners in St. Paul pay the same set of fees and charges. The right-of-way fees would go up by 2.7 percent or \$5.90 on a typical city home, from \$221 in 2012 to \$227 in 2013. These fees cover the cost of snow plowing, street sweeping, tree trimming, sidewalk repair, street lighting and other types of street maintenance. These fees vary with the highest paid for downtown commercial streets and the lowest paid for unimproved alleys.

Sanitary sewer charges would stay flat at \$296, as would storm sewer charges at \$80.

Water rates will change from strictly volume-based fees to a base and a volume charge. For the average home owner that would bring an increase of about 3.7 percent, from \$217 to \$242.

What would increase in 2013 are recycling fees, from \$36.12 to \$38.72. This doesn't reflect a proposal for residential curbside composting, more plastics recycling and single-sort recycling. Those are ideas that service provider Eureka Recycling brought forward earlier this year. Coleman and council members said the proposal needs more study.

Boundaries

Continued from page 1

But there were some dissenting voices. One District 6 board member said he was encouraged by the turnout at this meeting,

but that he had not seen this number of people at District 6 meetings. "And this discourages me," he said.

Lee Helgen, who was the former Ward 5 councilmember, suggested the decision to change boundaries should be weighed very carefully. "Neighborhoods

get a real impact on making decisions. Having one neighborhood involved is not as good as having two." He also expressed concern about District 6 losing funding, without funding being added to District 10.

Kim O'Brien, legislative aide to Brendmoen, said the funding

formula for district councils is based primarily on population. If a district does not meet a certain population level, it receives a minimum threshold of funding from the city. District 10 receives that minimum threshold because it is so small.

The boundary changes

would put more people into District 10 but not enough to raise its funding levels. And District 6 would lose some funding.

According to Kerry Antrim of the District 6 Planning Council, District 6 would only lose \$3800 if the changes were adopted. "Funding was not one of the criteria District 6 looked at when we made our decision (to not support changes)," Antrim said.

Brendmoen said in an earlier interview that since the district councils were established in 1975, at least two other boundary lines have been redrawn at the request of a neighborhood group.

She said that following the Jan. 9 meeting, PED will consider testimony from the meeting, letters sent to her office, statements from an online forum and input from the two District Councils involved, and make a recommendation.

According to Michele Beaulieu, a PED representative, a recommendation will be made by Jan. 25. The City Council will make the final decision.

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By JANE MCCLURE

With about 50 commercial, retail and housing developments in various stages of development along the Central Corridor light line, it appears that the promised transit-oriented development is well underway. How that continues to unfold could affect area neighborhoods almost as much as the past few years of rail construction have.

The projects are expected to bring new buildings, new jobs and more than 5,100 housing units. The Central Corridor Management Committee reviewed the projects in December. Projects discussed are either completed, under construction or in the planning stages.

St. Paul Planning Director Donna Drummond said the city positioned itself for redevelopment with the Central Corridor Development Strategy, a comprehensive plan for future land uses all along University Avenue. That plan was followed by a zoning study, which was implemented in 2011.

"We did a lot to prepare for redevelopment and that has paid off," Drummond said. The strategy and many of the zoning changes it led to are meant to promote transit-oriented mixed use development. Areas around transit stations are a key focus of the plan.

"Transit-oriented development is a major focus of the Metropolitan Council. We're pleased that the new projects along the Central Corridor rail line are providing residential and commercial opportunities up and down the line so that individuals can live and work on Central Corridor," said Metropolitan Council Chair

Central Corridor related redevelopment well underway



A plan was announced in December for American Bank to sell its building at University and Snelling to Minneapolis-based Semper Development, which develops stores for Walgreens. With about 50 commercial, retail and housing developments in various stages of development along the Central Corridor light line, it appears that the promised transit-oriented development is well underway. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

Susan Haigh. One goal for redevelopment is to increase population density along the rail line.

"It's exciting to see projects take shape," said Metropolitan Council Member Jon Commers. He chaired the Planning Commission during much of its work on Central Corridor-related zoning and land use planning.

Most of the developments thus far haven't encountered staunch community opposition. Most have gone forward with support from area district councils and business advocacy groups including Midway and St. Paul Area

Chambers of Commerce.

"I think what we're seeing is positive and has met a good response from the community," said Anne White, chair of Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee. That neighborhood is seeing redevelopment including the new 25,000 square foot Habitat for Humanity headquarters at the southeast corner of University and Prior avenues, and the expansion of the Episcopal Homes campus at University and Fairview avenues.

But there are a few red flags. In Hamline-Midway neighbor-

hood, some residents were unhappy with the Midway Commons development on University north of Midway Center, saying they wanted to see a larger, mixed-use development. It includes a Culver's restaurant, which opened last year, and a 10,000 square foot office/retail building that is still being renovated.

A more recent concern is a plan announced in December for American Bank to sell its building at University and Snelling to Minneapolis-based Semper Development, which develops stores for

Walgreens.

Another issue being raised is how all of the new development benefits the property tax base. Jack McCann, president of University Avenue Business Association (UABA), said some of his group's members question the amount of nonprofit development proposed along University. "Redevelopment is great and in some places it is needed, but we have to ask what that does to the tax base and how those costs are spread out among the other property owners."

Frogtown Neighborhood Association Executive Director Tait Danielson-Castillo said there are concerns in his neighborhood about a focus on affordable housing. Some residents welcome the idea of new affordable units right on University, convenient to transit, jobs and shopping. But others question whether Frogtown, Summit-University and Aurora-St. Anthony already have their share of affordable units.

"In some ways that's a balancing act," said Danielson-Castillo. Residents in that neighborhood are also concerned about so many nonprofit developers and the tax base implications.

The number of nonprofit developers, especially east of Lexington Parkway, is something city officials are mindful of, Drummond said. That may be a function of where clients for programs and service live.

City officials expect overall that Central Corridor-related economic development will be a boon to the property tax base. Corridor management committee

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to be remembered during Jan. 22 event

Hamline University invites the public to a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life, philosophy, and legacy on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 4 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall (1531 Hewitt Ave.). This year's event will reflect on Dr. King's 1963 "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

The commemoration will feature President Linda N. Hanson as well as student, faculty, and staff speakers, musical selections from the Hamline University Gospel Choir, a performance from local dancer Alanna Morris (TU Dance), and a charge to the university community delivered by Keyonis Johnson ('14), vice-president of Hamline's student group PRIDE Black Student Alliance.

This annual celebration is sponsored by Hamline's Hedgeman Center for Student Diversity Initiatives and Programs. The Hedgeman Center helps create and sustain an inclusive community that appreciates, celebrates, and advances student and campus

diversity at Hamline University. The center supports, empowers, and promotes the success of all students with particular attention to U.S. students of color, queer students, and others from historically marginalized backgrounds.

Creativity and innovation in teaching and learning are the hallmark of Hamline University—home to more than 5,000 undergraduate, graduate, and law students. At Hamline, students collaborate with professors invested in their success. They are challenged in and out of the classroom to create and apply knowledge in local and global contexts, while cultivating an ethic of civic responsibility, social justice, and inclusive leadership and service.

Hamline is the top-ranked university of its class in Minnesota, according to U.S. News & World Report. Founded in 1854, Hamline also is Minnesota's first university and among the first co-educational institutions in the nation.



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By JAN WILLMS

It's been a bumpy road towards employment for St. Paul residents the past few years, and that pathway to jobs still has a few potholes before smooth pavement prevails.

As with the rest of the country, there has been a lack of jobs or well-paying jobs that has made earning a living a daily struggle. Whether a worker with lots of experience who has been laid off, a college graduate with training but a lack of experience or an entry level worker who is trying to support himself or herself, the past few years have been difficult.

In November 2012, the Saint Paul unemployment rate was 5.6 per cent, compared to a national rate of 7.7 per cent. The number of people living in St. Paul who are unemployed has dropped from 11,611 in June of 2010 to its current number of 8,210 in the statistics from November 2012 from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

These numbers show promise for individuals seeking employment, and they are reflected in some of the comments offered by agencies trying to help people find jobs.

"Things are definitely looking up, and the trend has been that way," said Terry Middendorf, director of Career Development at Hamline University.

The university employment

services are available for Hamline students and graduates.

"From the last couple of years until now, job postings at our site have doubled," Middendorf stated. "There are a lot more opportunities coming in."

He said his department has seen more inquiries and more positive response from employers.

"We do a lot of outreach," Middendorf explained, "and

people have been responding. Employers are calling in, and there is more activity happening."

He said the National Association of Colleges and Employers performs an annual survey, and this year showed a 13 per cent increase in hiring from July through September.

Middendorf noted that in a broad sense, retail seems to be an area that is rebounding, and

Job market still a bumpy experience for St. Paul job seekers



As with the rest of the country, there has been a lack of jobs or well-paying jobs that has made earning a living a daily struggle. In November 2012, the Saint Paul unemployment rate was 5.6 per cent, compared to a national rate of 7.7 per cent. (Photo by Bruce Silcox)

he considered that the business field in general is improving.

He also cited computer science, IT systems, health care and financial services as career fields that are offering more opportunities.

"Boom, and everything is back—that's not going to happen," Middendorf claimed. "It's going to be a gradual increase in employment. You see a decrease, then it's neutral and now it's a positive outlook, and that's good news. But it will happen slowly."

He added that from a student perspective, people are finding a chance to engage and do things.

"They are actively seeking and seeing more positive results," Middendorf said.

Although Andrea Pendleton, director of employer services at Twin Cities RISE! (TCR!), sees things from a slightly different perspective, she, too, sees a hopeful trend in the employment outlook.

TCR!, with locations in St. Paul and Minneapolis, was developed in 1993 by Steve Rothschild, former executive vice president at General Mills, to help low-income workers, particularly people of color, to find employment.

"Our program is a long-term job skills training program, with a high focus on Personal Empowerment," Pendleton said. "We don't teach just the skills to get a job, but also the skills to keep a job."

She said TCR! works with entry-level employees. "We have a market-driven focus placed on employer input to ensure our students are as competitive in today's market as possible," Pendleton stated.

The agency has an 81 per cent retention rate of people remaining on their jobs for the first year, and a 70 per cent retention rate for the second year. These rates have continued throughout the economic downturn.

"We attribute these rates to our Personal Empowerment training and coaching model, with a heavy emphasis on employment and how to be successful in the marketplace," Pendleton explained.

She said each student works one-on-one with a coach from the time they walk through the door through the first year of employment, and even into the second year.

"The definition of employment for us is a permanent job that pays \$20,000 a year or more," Pendleton said. "And we like benefits. Our jobs are not seasonal or temporary or minimum wage jobs."

She explained that students enter the program earning an average of \$5,880 per year, and the average salary of the job they take is \$26,788 per year.

"That is a 355 per cent increase in their income," Pendleton claimed.

She said that TCR! serves adults with the most barriers to employment and partners with employers who provide internships and volunteer opportunities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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Job market

Continued from page 6

"The students get job experience, an updated resume and new references," she said.

Pendleton noted that employers know what a rigorous training program is offered through TCR! and understand the participants are most likely to be successful workers. Thirty-three different classes are available, ranging from forklift certification, writing, Personal Empowerment, career development and customer service to computer classes.

TCR! assists with resumes and cover letters and helps people prepare for interviews. Pendleton stressed that although TCR! gives students the tools, they make their own successes and learn to transform their lives.

Attracting businesses that do

provide a living wage and benefits is a goal of the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative. Chris Ferguson, a business owner with Bywater Business Solutions and a chair of one of the working groups of the Collaborative, said his group is in the Thrive portion of its mission.

"We want to help expand and attract new businesses into the area," he said. "We're working with the Neighborhood Development Center on a plan to create a strategy to provide additional financial tools for businesses to grow."

Ferguson said the Collaborative is made up of nonprofits, business owners, the Midway Chamber and the City, all groups working together to bring in new businesses, not just to the Central Corridor but focusing on an area from Snelling Avenue to Energy Park Drive and from the Capitol to the University campus.



Twin Cities RISE! has an 81 per cent retention rate of people remaining on their jobs for the first year, and a 70 per cent retention rate for the second year. These rates have continued throughout the economic downturn. (Photo by Ryan Pederson)

He said attracting more living wage jobs to the area is the group's focus. "We're looking at retail, but it's also a real challenge getting

manufacturing companies to come in," he said.

Trying to meet the immediate needs of businesses and work

"We want to help expand and attract new businesses into the area. We're working with the Neighborhood Development Center on a plan to create a strategy to provide additional financial tools for businesses to grow."

Chris Ferguson,
Bywater Business Solutions

closely with residents who are unemployed or underemployed are the goals of Corridors to Careers, a program funded by HUD and entering its third year.

"We try to help residents build up their skills and employability," said Janet Guthrie, project manager. "And we encourage them to think beyond just that next job. We help them network and offer community learning sessions."

The construction for light rail along the Central Corridor has had a definite effect on businesses along University Avenue.

Courtney Henry, who has eight McDonald's franchises, three of them along University Avenue, has been affected by the light rail construction.

"We're starting to come back, but not to where we were before construction started," he said. He said the three McDonalds on University have had a more difficult time through the economic downturn than the other locations.

"But traffic's coming back a little, and we definitely will be hiring," Henry said.

For Steve Johnson, business loan officer for the Park Midway Bank and incoming chair of the Midway Chamber, businesses are generally showing a slow but steady growth.

"I would like to say more revenues are causing that, but I think it's more because of reduced expenses and tightening the belt," he said. Johnson said that although the construction along the Central Corridor took its toll, more businesses are stabilizing and he is hoping there will be business development opportunities along the Corridor in the future.



Thirty-three different classes are available through Twin Cities RISE!, ranging from forklift certification, writing, Personal Empowerment, career development and customer service to computer classes. (Photo by Ryan Pederson)

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What's Cookin'...

By COLETTE MULLENMASTER

Kathy Vaughan and Staffers with Hampden Park Co-op



Kathy Vaughan

CM: How and where did Hampden Park Co-op get its start and how did it come to this location on Raymond Ave?

KV: Hampden Park Co-op was a little neighborhood grocery store called Green Grass Grocery in 1977. It was run by neighborhood volunteers who were making an effort

to have it become a natural foods store. Up in North St. Anthony Park, St. Anthony Park Foods (SAP Foods) was reaching its peak of success as an established natural foods store, operating like a co-op with volunteer workers. Because it was so busy up there, SAP Foods bought out Green Grass and renamed it St. Anthony Park Foods Too (SAP Too) in 1978. For over a decade, both stores ran as one, with SAP Too's fortunes becoming better, but with SAP 1, because of new parking laws and increased rent, its fortunes waned. In the early 1990's, SAP 2 became its own entity, Hampden Park Co-op and a legal co-op under the state of Minnesota laws.

CM: What is it that Hampden Park Co-op considers as the best thing about doing business in this community?

KV: HPC is open to all shoppers and wants to promote natural, sustainable products including organic vegetables, dairy and meat. The folks in the neighborhood and in the Twin Cities in general have been very supportive of our effort. Subsequently, we have a very diverse group of shoppers, some members, some not. Yet they have a dedication to locally owned businesses and HPC in particular. We have often heard that the sense of community that is felt at HPC is priceless.

CM: I know that co-op's have a long history in our culture and that some things have changed and some things remain the same. Could you talk about that a bit?

KV: The value given to natural foods and in particular (for many) the value of organic and "green" packaging, continues to be a hallmark of co-op shopping. In a way, these values have become second nature. What has changed for us has been our neighborhood. When we were first here, it was very industrial with just the pocket of South St. Anthony homes. Over the years, University and Raymond has become a center for the arts, has seen great restaurants come in and the biggest change has been the number of residents who have taken up residency in the lofts that have been developed all along University Avenue! I would never have guessed this transformation in warehouses in a million years! And now we have the light rail soon to be finished. Who knows what that will bring us?

Hampden Park Co-op

928 Raymond Avenue St Paul MN 55114 • www.hampdenparkcoop.com



TIP!

From the Produce Manager,
Thea Guenther

- #1 **To lengthen the life of your apple,** put the apples in a plastic bag, sprinkle a few drops of water on the apples, leave a small opening in the bag for some air flow, and store them in your crisper. It really works!
- #2 **Eating a Kiwi.** Never a fan of peeling kiwi fruit, I recently discovered that you can, and in fact should, eat the skin of the kiwi, where most of the nutrients are stored.
- #3 **Prepping bell peppers.** The white, fibrous, material found on the inside of a bell pepper, which is often discarded as waste, may not be the tastiest part of the pepper, but is very high in bioflavonoids and Vitamin C.

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— Chad Liston
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In Our Community

Monitor

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Como Park Elementary Open House January 31

Como Park Elementary has served the Como neighborhood since 1917. With the start of the 2012-2013 school year, we are excited to once again welcome our neighborhood families to register for their Area E community school. On Thursday, January 31, from 5:30-7 p.m. we invite you to come tour the school with a student ambassador, talk with the teachers and meet other neighborhood parents. We will answer any questions you may have about enrolling your Pre-K thru Fifth grade child for next school year. With a highly trained staff and a never ending focus on academic achievement, Como students succeed!

Presentation on sugar February 12

"The Effects of Sugar on the Body," will be the topic at a luncheon at a luncheon on Feb. 12, 11:30 at 1514 Englewood Avenue. Geriatric Nurse Practitioner & Geriatric Clinical Nurse Specialist Sue Bikkie will address the dangers of tempting sweets such as developing diabetes, neuropathy, heart disease, cancer, etc. A free will donation is requested for the meal. There is no charge for the presentation which begins at 12:15 p.m. Call Hamline Midway Elders, (651) 209-6542 to make reservations and/or request free transportation.

Come to the Hamline cabaret

Hamline Church United Methodist Women host CABARET, an Italian Dinner and Talent Show, 5:30-8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 at Hamline Church Fireside Room, 1514 Englewood Avenue, St. Paul. Enjoy dinner and the talents of the congregation while helping support UMW activities. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 12 and younger. No tickets will be sold at the door, so contact UMW to purchase in advance. Or make purchases at Groundswell Coffee, Hamline and Thomas, during regular business hours. To order or if you have questions, call 651-645-0667 or 651-646-3473.

St. Paul Library presents Winter Jackets in February

Saint Paul Public Library will present a month-long celebration of reading February 1-March 1. During Winter Jackets, adult library customers will have opportunities to read to win a prize, reduce their library fines by read-

ing in the library, get reading suggestions via Facebook, and join a book club or attend an author reading.

The Community Book Review will take place Feb. 1-March 1. Library customers can read a book during the month of February, share their thoughts on a bookmark review form available at any Saint Paul Public Library, and receive a Winter Jackets coffee mug and bookmark when they return the completed form (one mug and bookmark per customer while supplies last). Each library location will display customer reviews to help other library customers discover new books to read.

Find a book on Facebook! on 1:30-4:30 p.m., Friday, February 8. Library customers can visit Saint Paul Public Library's Facebook page, share the last three books they enjoyed, and library staff will suggest another book they might enjoy. Visitors to Saint Paul Public Library's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/stpaulpubliclibrary, also can see what other library customers are reading.

Read Down Library Fines takes place the week of February 22 to March 1, and allows library customers 18 years of age and older with unpaid library fines to read down their fines. To participate, adults can simply stop by their local Saint Paul Public Library, check in at the information desk, and read in the library. For every 15 minutes they read, the library will take \$1 off their fines (fees from rental books and DVDs are not eligible).

Library customers also can explore new reading activities during Winter Jackets — such as attending an author reading or joining a library book club. Author readings include the Fireside Reading Series, with Hans Weyandt, Wednesday, February 6, 7 p.m., and Wendy Webb, Wednesday, February 13, 7 p.m., at Saint Paul Public Library — Hamline Midway (1558 W. Minnehaha Ave, 651-642-0293). Also, Gayla Marty, author of *Memory of Trees*, will read on Monday, February 25, 7 p.m., at Saint Paul Public Library — Saint Anthony Park (2245 Como Ave., 651-642-0411). A.S. King, author



Author readings include the Fireside Reading Series, with Wendy Webb, Wednesday, February 13, 7 p.m.



A.S. King, author of "How To Be a Superhero" will read as part of the Read Brave Series at 6 p.m., on Wednesday, February 27.

of How To Be a Superhero will read as part of the Read Brave Series at 6 p.m., on Wednesday, February 27, Saint Paul Public Library — Merriam Park (1831 Marshall Ave., 651-642-0385).

Saint Paul Public Library book clubs meet at the following Saint Paul Public Library locations: Central, Hamline Midway, Hayden Heights, Highland Park, Merriam Park, Rice Street, Riverview, Saint Anthony Park, and Sun Ray. Visit www.sppl.org/books/book-clubs for more information.

Hamline U hosts baseball camp

Hamline University is hosting a six week baseball camp starting January 12. Hamline head coach Jim Weyandt will direct the program in conjunction with U.S. Baseball Academy. Classes are available for players in grades 1-12 and are limited to six players per coach. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching, catching, fielding and baserunning at a cost as low as \$99 for six weeks. Proceeds from the program will benefit amateur baseball in the St. Paul area. Space is limited. Registration is now under way. For more information, visit www.USBBaseballAcademy.com, or call toll-free 866-622-4487.

Love stories presented at Dreamland Arts

"Bartholomew Looks at Love," a romantic evening of story reading, music, video and aphrodisiacal food will be presented at Dreamland Arts Theater on Friday, February 15, 7 p.m.

Creator of The Book of Bartholomew, Mark Granlund, will read three stories: Bartholomew & Geraldine, What Will Be Will Be, and Someone to Call Home. Three different stories that explore three different relationships and questions, like: What attracts us to our partners? What is it that makes a lasting relationship? How do we know if we have met the one?

Songs of love and woe will be provided by Thea Ennen & Dave Peterson, Kelly Jo Roth & Dustin Haug. With videos by Mark

Granlund and Nate Lindstrom featuring Hamline-Midway residents.

Tickets are \$15 and available through Dreamland Arts at 651-645-5506.

Caregivers Support Group meets Thursdays

Caregivers Support Group Thursdays 6:30-8:00 p.m., Feb. 14, Mar. 14, 1514 Englewood Avenue, St Paul, MN and continuing second Thursdays. Sponsored by Hamline Midway Elders. Lots to think about after holidays with loved ones? This group is open to anyone caring for older adults or persons any age with special needs and will be facilitated by HME staff and trained volunteers. Free, refreshments provided. Pre-registration is encouraged. For more info or to RSVP: monica@hmelders.org or (651) 209-6542.

Chili Feed at Zion Lutheran Church

A Chili Feed is planned at Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., on Saturday, February 23rd, from 4 to 6 p.m. Free will offering, proceeds to benefit special projects.

Jehovah Church's "Little 90ths"

As Jehovah Lutheran Church, corner of Snelling and Thomas Avenue, approaches its 90th anniversary it is unrolling a series of "little 90th" care projects. With their on-going food collection for Keystone and Concordia University (CSP) food shelves, the goal is at least 90 items of food per month plus dollar gifts. So far the goal has been well exceeded. Likewise, a STOP MALARIA project, with a goal of 90 mosquito nets to be sent to Africa through Lutheran relief groups, shot past the 90 mark to 96, each net costing \$10.

For January a new "90th" goal supports LifeHaven home for teen mothers and their children by aiming to gather at least 90 items needed to welcome the 16-17 year old moms and their children to the transitional home, LifeHaven, sponsored by Lutheran Social Services. When the youth arrive they receive a Welcome Basket filled with items which give them a little kick-start as they walk their road to life stability.

The church's 90th anniversary will be celebrated in March with various events. More information also at www.jehovahlutheran.org.

Recreation Center plans activities

Family Open Gym is every Sunday at Northwest Como Recreation Center thru March 24th from 3-5 p.m. Mens Soccer is every Sunday from 5-6:30 p.m. for a weekly fee of \$5. Womens Basketball is every Sunday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for a weekly fee of \$4.

Register now for: Basketball Clinic on Tues, Jan 22nd from 9 a.m.-noon for ages 7-12 for a fee of \$20. Volleyball Clinic on Tues, Jan 22nd from 1-4 p.m. for ages 7-12 for a fee of \$20.

Tae Kwon Do, Archery and Cardio Kickboxing for Adults.

Free Family Skating Party on Sat., Jan 19th from 1-3 p.m.

Food Shelf Teen Dance on Fri., Feb 1 from 7-9:30 p.m. with a fee of \$5. Wear your home made food costume and show your support to the food shelf by bringing a nonperishable food item. Prizes given for best food costume, hoola hooper and hokey pokey winter.

Teen Camping How To instructed by the Boy Scouts of America begins Thur, Feb 7 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for grades 6-9 is free and runs for 10 sessions.

City secures funding to renovate Griggs Playground

The City of Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation has secured funding to renovate the Griggs Play Area and related site improvements such as walkways, benches, and landscaping. Construction is projected to start in the spring of 2013.

There are three ways you can provide ideas for this process (details below):

Complete a brief online survey; Attend the community meeting; Volunteer for the Design Advisory Task Force

Online Survey: To help guide the design process, we encourage you to take [<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/griggsplayarea>] this brief survey. Your responses will help design staff understand how the park is currently being experienced and provide a starting point for our upcoming community meetings.

There will be a Griggs Play Area Community Meeting on Wednesday, January 23, from 6-7:30 p.m., at the Griggs Recreation Center (Leonardo's Basement), 1188 Hubbard Ave.

Design Advisory Task Force - Residents are needed to participate in a community process by serving on a design advisory task force which will meet 2-3 times over the next few months. If interested, please contact Bryan Murphy: 651-266-6411 or email Bryan.Murphy@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Do you ever walk around Como Lake and wonder about what affects the water quality or about the plants that ring the shoreline? As the new light rail system is rapidly taking shape in Saint Paul, do vestiges of the historic trolley line in Como Park spark your curiosity about the role of streetcars in this neighborhood a century ago? And, does the white winter landscape have you dreaming about new possibilities for your yard and gardens when warm weather returns? If so, the District 10 Environment Committee's upcoming second annual Sunday Series of free public talks will supply some answers. Mark your calendar now for the following informative events.

The first, "Como Lake: Past, Present, and Future," will be held on Sunday, February 17th, from 2 to 3:30, at North Dale Recreation Center on St. Albans just east of Arlington Avenue. A panel, includ-



Como Community Council Corner

JON KNOX, BOARD CHAIR OF THE DISTRICT 10 COMO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Upcoming Sunday afternoon lecture series

ing staff from the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) and St. Paul Parks & Recreation's Environmental Services Division, along with two neighborhood residents involved with lake issues, will provide a comprehensive program on maintenance of the lake. Beginning with the poor condition of the lake twenty years ago, they will discuss formation of the CRWD, a subsequent year-long study that resulted in a Strategic Management Plan for the lake, and measures that the CRWD and City have taken – and plan to im-

plement – to improve the lake water quality, as well as ways that residents can be involved. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

The original beautifully restored Historic Streetcar Station on the corner of Horton and Lexington Avenues is the perfect venue (and home to the District 10 office!) for the second talk "All About Old-time Trolleys" on Sunday, March 24th, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Two experts on the topic, Pat Bjorklund and John Diers, will present a program on an earlier

era of public transportation in the Como area and Twin Cities region as a whole. In addition, we may receive an update on St. Paul's ongoing Streetcar Study.

Finally, as spring approaches and we are all eager to get our hands back into the dirt, St. Timothy Lutheran Church on the corner of Victoria and Nevada Avenues will be the setting for the third lecture, "Creative Gardening for Urban Spaces," on Sunday, April 14th, also 2 - 3:30 p.m. A panel of skilled local avid gardeners with different specialties will

offer ideas for a variety of approaches, such as "square-foot" and container gardening, xeriscaping, and adding fruit trees to your vegetative repertoire. Come glean some new elements for your own landscape!

(Jon Knox, elected in 2009, is the board chair of the District 10 Como Community Council. The Como Community Council serves an important role in advising the City about issues that directly affect residents in the Como Park neighborhood. The Council works with residents and community partners to promote public safety, maintain good housing, improve environmental quality, foster a healthy business climate and maintain a desirable neighborhood. Board Members are residents, business owners and volunteers who dedicate their time to education and outreach in the community. For more information, visit www.district10comopark.org.)

Central Corridor

Continued from page 5

members said that is a trend that bears watching.

Committee members are also interested in tracking the number of development-related construction jobs, as well as permanent jobs created through redevelopment.

Another issue being watched is how redevelopment is financed. The Metropolitan Council has awarded nearly \$8 million in various grants to help with site design and acquisition, environmental investigation and cleanup, demolition or public improvements.

The grants have been in the form of Livable Community Development Account (LCDA) grants and Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) grants.

Jim Stolpestad, chairman of Exeter Realty, said light rail is the reason his company is developing the Chittenden & Eastman building near the Raymond Avenue Station. The building, which was constructed in 1917 as a furniture warehouse and store, will become the C&E Lofts historic apartments. The market-rate apartment building project has been recommended for \$128,000 in TBRA funding to assist with asbestos and lead-based paint removal abatement. The Met Council will vote Jan. 11 on the grant.

"We would not be there trying to do something with that property had it not been for the light rail line," Stolpestad said.

Funding for many of the proposed projects is an ongoing challenge city officials acknowledge. While Metropolitan Council can offer grants, city of St. Paul assistance is limited largely to tax increment financing (TIF), Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) and other grants. The city

has an affordable housing trust fund, but at most that could provide only several hundred thousand or even \$1 or \$1 million toward a project.

"For the size of projects we're talking about, all of which are good and worthwhile projects, this would just be a drop in the bucket," said Council President Kathy Lantry.

Yet another issue, raised by the development group University UNITED, is to not ignore the need to preserve the city's industrial land base. "All of the development we've seen happen so far is positive but we can't forget the need for manufacturing, especially green (environmentally friendly) manufacturing and jobs," said UNITED Executive Director Brian McMahon. "It's often been said that St. Paul can't become a city of condos and coffee shops. We need to remember how important it is to promote job creation, especially in areas with good transit access."

Of the projects recently tout-

ed in a Metropolitan Council press release, not all can be ascribed directly to the light rail line. One listed project that raised eyebrows was the newly opened Regions Hospital mental health facility, a \$63 million, 100-room hospital addition.

Some of the downtown St. Paul housing projects, for example, probably owe as much to former Mayor Randy Kelly's Housing 5,000 initiative as they do to light rail. For example, what is now the market-rate, 58-unit Lofts at Farmers Market apartment building at Fifth and Wall streets was discussed for many years before the site was developed. While the apartments have been quickly snapped up, its 3,500 square feet of commercial space is vacant. This project received \$361,000 in LCDA funds.

Other renovated or new downtown St. Paul mixed-use buildings near the rail line include the Minnesota Building, Renaissance Box, the Penfield and

Commerce Apartments.

One developer with two projects along University is Episcopal Homes. The senior housing and services provider was a partner in Frogtown Square/Kings Crossing at Dale Street and University. This building has 11,000 square feet of retail and 50 units of senior housing. Episcopal Homes is also planning to expand its University and Fairview campus, building on the former Porky's restaurant site.

Other projects are in the planning stages. Project for Pride in Living plans to build about 120 units of housing and 13,000 square feet of retail on the former Midway Chevrolet site at University and Hamline. This project was awarded \$750,000 in LCDA funds in December. Redevelopment of the former Old Home Dairy site at the southeast corner of Western and University is also on the drawing board, with new housing and commercial development.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Free children's and young adult author readings

Free public readings by some of the best authors of literature for young people are offered January 11-20, 2013, at Hamline University. This includes readings by guest authors and faculty in Hamline's Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Children & Young Adults program. Unless noted, all readings are at Hamline University's Saint Paul campus in Giddens Learning Center, Room 100E, 1556 Hewitt Avenue.

Friday, January 11: Readings by authors Marsha Qualey, Phyllis Root, Liza Ketchum, 6:45 p.m.

Saturday, January 12: Readings by authors Claire Rudolf Murphy, Emily Jenkins, Laura Ruby, Marsha Chall, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 14: Readings by authors Kelly Easton, Jackie Briggs Martin, Swati Avasthi, and Anne Ursu, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 17: Reading by visiting author Nancy Carlson, 2-2:30 p.m.

Friday, January 18: Grad Assistant Readings with Cheryl Bardoe, Ricki Thompson, Molly Burnham, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 19: Grad readings with Alicia Williams and Melanie Heuiser-Hill, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 20: Reading by author Jon Scieszka, 1 p.m.

Sunday, January 20: Graduation Recognition Ceremony (open to public) Keynote address by author Jon Scieszka, 3:30 p.m., Anne Simley Theater, 1551 Hewitt Avenue

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Monitor

Want ads must be in the Monitor before February 4 for the February 14 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitors website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

Monitor Want Ads are now \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to denisw@aplacetoremember.com. Want ads must be in the Monitor before February 4 for the February 14 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitors website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com 9-12

AIR CONDITIONERS

Recycling discarded air conditioners. Free pick-up. No charge! Roger 612-210-3529. 8-13

ANTIQUES

For Sale: Vintage 1900-1949 lights, house hardware, doors, tubs, radiators, etc. Also furniture hardware. 651-644-9270. 20% off with ad. B-12

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Interior/exterior painting, enameling, plaster patching, free estimates. Bob. 651-633-5565. 12-13

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Visual Communications Inc., adds new designer

Visual Communications, Inc. (VCI), 475 Cleveland Avenue North, is pleased to announce the recent hiring of their newest graphic designer, Noah Vetsch. With 10 years of design experience under his belt, VCI looks for him to make an immediate impact on their long list of environmental signage projects.

Most recently, Vetsch served as the Print Manager and Lead Graphic Designer for OfficeMax in Burnsville for four years.

The Ordway Gardens, a new wing to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, officially unveiled April 19 in Como Park

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory announces April 19, as the official opening for The Ordway Gardens, a new wing to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. This \$2.8 million building and landscape addition will feature the Conservatory's Bonsai collection and Charlotte Partridge Ordway Japanese Garden as a year-round experience.

The Ordway Gardens will include 2,267 square feet of glass-enclosed interpretative exhibit and display space, and a 2,850 square foot outdoor terrace. The new wing will enable the Conservatory's nationally-acclaimed Bonsai collection to be exhibited year-round. Both the pavilion and terrace will provide year-round views into the Japanese Garden.

The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory cultivates one of North America's top 10 public collections of Bonsai, but has never had adequate space to properly

display these valued plants. The new wing includes interior display space that will highlight dozens of Bonsai year-round along with an outdoor terrace that will more than double the opportunities to see these elegant trees during the summer season. The new space will also provide additional programming space and rental opportunities.

Como's Japanese Garden has roots that go back more than 80 years. But when the garden re-opens April 19, 2013 with the unveiling of The Ordway Gardens wing it will reveal vistas no visitor has ever seen before. "This project is going to have very big impact with our visitors," says Como Park Zoo and Conservatory director Michelle Furrer. "The Japanese garden has been one of our best kept secrets, and many of our day-to-day guests may never have seen it, or else they have no idea the extent of our Bonsai collection. This new wing

will immerse visitors in both collections in a way that's very exciting."

The Ordway Gardens is a \$2.8 million improvement funded entirely by private contributions to Como Friends, the non-profit organization dedicated to supporting, preserving and enhancing Como Park Zoo and Conservatory "This is a project that simply wouldn't have been possible without contributions from a community that really wanted to make this happen," says Como Friends president Jackie Sticha. Financed as part of The Campaign for Como, the \$18.8 million capital improvement effort that also paid for Polar Bear Odyssey, the tough economic climate forced Como to postpone construction of the wing for one year before the project's full funding could be secured. "Though it was a challenge, the extra time made this an even better project, with some

very thoughtful design elements and landscaping improvements that visitors are really going to appreciate," says Como Park Zoo and Conservatory director Michelle Furrer.

For those wanting an early

look at The Ordway Gardens, Como Friends is offering a special sneak peek before the public opening to all those who contribute \$25 or more to Como Friends through the GiveMN website.

Central Corridor

Continued from page 10

Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota area also have more than 20 housing and commercial developments along

Central Corridor, including several warehouse to housing conversions.

Opus Development Corp. has more than \$125 million in new development on the light rail corridor with the Stadium Village Flats near Stadium Village Station at the University of Minnesota and Nicollet Residences at Nicollet Mall Station in downtown Minneapolis.

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'Music Under Glass' returns to Conservatory

Free six week music series kicks off February 24 at Como

Beat the "winter-blahs" with some blues, bluegrass, and ballads in the tropical Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. For the second year in a row, Como Park Zoo & Conservatory presents "Music Under Glass," a free concert series inside the Conservatory's two-acres of tropical gardens. Featuring a perfect blend of musical styling, "Music Under Glass" will showcase live, local musicians from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. beginning Sunday, February 24, and again every Sunday through March 31. Beer and wine will be available to purchase.

February 24 – Café Accordion Orchestra - "Berets and Bongos" describes the Café Accordion Orchestra experience – a loungy, eclectic mix, full of French flare, Latin heat and Bohemian attitude. The heart of the Café Accordion repertoire is the romantic, gypsy-influenced valse-musette. The group complements the musettes with swing, ballads, tangos, chachas, rumbas, and cumbias to create a wonderfully varied show. They inject their music with good humor and expressive abandon. Their high level of musicianship and passion for performance makes them an entertaining concert act as well as a great dance band.

March 3 – treVeld - An acoustic music trio that delivers a wonderful blend of instrumental song and sound – playful, deep, and joyous, with original works inspired by the folk music of America, Europe, and beyond. Their music draws inspiration from several musical sources and traditions including Gypsy, Swing, Old Time, Celtic, Bluegrass, Blues, Chamber, and Nordic Roots, resulting in a unique and compelling merging of these diverse elements into a body of works that has affectionately become known as "treVeldian".

March 10 – Anthony Ihrig's Almost Acoustic Ensemble - Anthony Ihrig, a former rock-and-roll drummer turned bluegrass banjo player and performing songwriter, brings together musical past and present to create something altogether new. Combining traditional bluegrass instruments (banjo, fiddle, mandolin, and dobro) with pedal steel guitar and percussion, he creates a unique sound that cuts across a diverse Americana landscape of folk, bluegrass, and alt-country music. His live performances can only be described as "an amalgam of his gritty rock legacy, accomplished bluegrass pedigree, and the spirit of a natural showman whose wit and soul engage and enliven each gig that he plays."

March 17 – Musicians from The Center for Irish Music – Known for "singing and dancing just for the sheer joy of it," Irish traditional music is brought to life by this community of artists dedicated to handing down traditional music and song to the next generation of musicians. Celebrate a St. Patrick's Day pint with the best student ensembles from the Center for Irish Music, a Saint Paul-based community music school.

March 24 – Chastity Brown Trio

Throw all the genres and hyphenates together you want to describe her – gospel, roots & soul, jazz, blues & country – they are all right, and also not enough. Coming from Tennessee to Minnesota, touring the country, she has had half her own lifetime and million lifetimes gone before to concoct her powerful sound. The emotional improv at the heart of Chastity's storytelling, combined with her band's electrifying performances, has garnered attention from fans across the country.

March 31 – Dustin Lee Band – Dustin Lee is an American singer-songwriter hailing from Fort

Madison, Iowa. Currently living in Minneapolis, Dustin's material draws from a blue-collar upbringing and extensive touring across the Midwest. What results is music that embodies the history and working-class ethos that make the places and people of the heartland great. With help from a band of seasoned local musicians, Dustin's music continues to be pushed towards new levels of passion and honesty that can be felt in every chord strummed and every note sung. It is storytelling through music—and there is no doubt that what you hear is genuine and from the heart.



As part of "Music Under Glass" on February 24 at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory check out Café Accordion Orchestra - "Berets and Bongos" describes the Café Accordion Orchestra experience – a loungy, eclectic mix, full of French flare, Latin heat and Bohemian attitude. The heart of the Café Accordion repertoire is the romantic, gypsy influenced valse-musette.

Meet Dr. Heidi Dalzell

Hometown: Maple Grove, MN

Specialties/focus: Internal medicine

Best part of my work: Getting to know patients and helping them achieve their health care goals.

What I tell my friends and family:

Maintain a healthy weight – it is one of the best things you can do. You will live longer and feel better overall.

How I spend my free time:

Bike riding, spending time outdoors and with my family.

What patients say about me: I am

a good listener and genuinely interested in them.

Why I became a physician:

I enjoy working with people and am fascinated by how the human body works.



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