



*Como couple celebrates home's 100 years*



"You need to know where you're coming from to know where you're going," points out Emily Busta, shown here with her husband Jesse. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

## Happy centennial, GROTTO HOUSE

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Seven years to the day they bought the house at 1012 Grotto St., Emily and Jesse and their 10-pound Chihuahua Buster Busta held a party.

Their home - which they lovingly call the Grotto House - is 100 years old.

And that's something to celebrate.

**Know where you're coming from**

The Bustas bought the house on July 27, six weeks before they were in 2012.

They met at age 14 while growing up in the east metro, graduated from Tartan High in Oakdale in 2007, and started dating in 2008. They attended school in St. Paul (he at Hamline Law School and she at Bethel University), and decided they wanted to stay in the city.

GROTTO HOUSE >> 2

## Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival coming to town

*12 murals being created on the spot during event Sept. 7-14*

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

For eight days in September, St. Paul's Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ), and partner Burlesque of North America, will host something that has never been done before in Minnesota.

The Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival is a week-long event that will showcase the creation of 12 large outdoor murals, as well as community partner events within the CEZ.

The murals will be produced, more or less, on the spot. While there is no connecting theme between the 12 murals, the content will be "family friendly."

The CEZ is a coalition of organizations, businesses and individuals working together to make its neighborhood a destination for creative enterprise. This cultural hub is centered around Raymond and University avenues, with its 300+ artist studios and maker spaces extending into the neighborhood in all directions.

Chroma Zone Music & Art Festival board chair Catherine Reid Day, said, "Mural-making has become a global movement



Members of the Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival team have worked long hours to create Minnesota's first-ever event of this kind. Happening in Midway's Creative Enterprise Zone September 7-14, the eight day festival will celebrate the artistry, community, and commercial viability of this vibrant neighborhood. Pictured left to right are Angela Casselton, Liz Foster, Catherine Reid Day, and Jill Pavlak (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

because it generates so much community engagement. This kind of large scale public art creates a strong dialogue between the artist and the community. And it gives everyone a chance to live with art nearby."

Just under 100 mural artists submitted proposals for the competition. The 12 winners were announced at the Urban Growler Brewing Company on June 18, with city officials, community

members, event hosts, and sponsors in the audience. Half of the finalists are from the Twin Cities; the others are from CA, NY, and as far away as Norway and Brazil.

Twelve commercial buildings have been selected as mural sites.

Reid Day said, "The Chroma Zone Festival team approached owners of properties we felt would make great canvases -

CHROMO ZONE >> 9

## Neighbors mourn 'senseless destruction' of former Saint Andrew's

### *Twin Cities German Immersion school to demolish church for three-story addition*

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

"This is a day we hoped would never come," stated Tom Goldstein during a rally on the steps of the former St. Andrew's Church on Sunday, July 21, 2019.

While the group fighting to save the landmark from destruction received a temporary restraining order to block demolition from Ramsey County District Court Judge Jennifer L. Frisch on July 15, she also ordered the grassroots neighborhood group to come up with a \$1.9 million bond by Monday, July 22 to compensate property owner Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) for

what it says would be its damages associated with a construction delay.

The public charter school intends to erect a \$7.4 million building on the site of the former church and its parking lot to accommodate additional students. Friends of Warrendale/Save Historic Saint Andrews (SHSA) argued that the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act prevents the destruction of historical resources.

A ruling on July 23 from the Minnesota Court of Appeals left the district court order standing.

SHSA was not able to raise the bond money - which preser-

vationists termed "insurmountable" - and the city issued a demolition permit.

In protest, about 100 historic preservation supporters gathered on a Sunday afternoon outside the 92-year-old Romanesque building designed by the city's first architect, Charles A. Hausler. Many of those there were former members at the church which was closed in 2011 and sold to TCGIS in 2013.

"I got involved because I think it's a tragedy for elected officials to take so little interest in preserving history," said Goldstein.

He added, "We have demon-

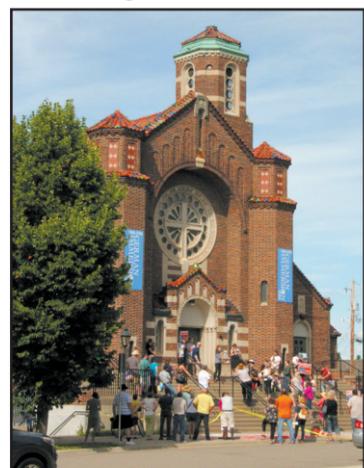
strated that this church can be re-purposed."

The school originally bought bonds of \$8.5 million to renovate the buildings on site, including the former church sanctuary which it calls the AULA, and still owes most of the funds.

**Demolition being funded by taxpayer money**

"Demolition of St. Andrew's will reverberate through the Como Warrendale community for many years to come," observed preservationists in a statement released by SHSA, which

NEIGHBORS MOURN >> 9



People rally to save Historic Saint Andrews on July 21, 2019. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Get to know what drives writer Margie O'Loughlin

PAGE 4



Citizens work to do something about a green Como Lake

PAGE 7



Tired of your flip-flop falling off? So was this St. Paul man.

PAGE 12

# Happy centennial, GROTTO HOUSE

GROTTO HOUSE >> from 1

Emily fostered a love of old houses while growing up inside an 1888-era home in Highwood Hills by Pigs Eye Lake.

"You need to know where you're coming from to know where you're going," Emily stated.

"Emily turned me on to old houses and I love them now," remarked Jesse.

His dad, Brent Katzemaier, who grew up near Como Lake, found the foreclosure along Grotto St. They had looked through about five houses before

touring this one, and had been looking for an affordable price as Jesse was still in school.

"We saw it and we knew," Emily recalled.

"I love the character - it's not a cookie cutter [house]," observed Emily. "No one else has something like this. It's cozy and not huge."

They're not entirely sure of the size of the two-story house, as written reports vary from 900 to 1,200 square feet. There's an unfinished basement, with main level living room, kitchen, dining

room, small bedroom/study and mud room, and two bedrooms with ample walk-in closets and a bathroom upstairs.

The purchase required patience, as the process with the bank took seven months. At one point, they discovered water pooled on the dining room floor. A leak from the second story bathroom trickled down and damaged the ceiling, wall and floor in their dining room. It cost \$5,000 to fix, but was covered by the bank.

One of their first steps was gutting and redoing the one bathroom in the house. They worked to match the house's period and style, but did add the convenience of a heated floor.

Upstairs windows were replaced with new wooden Pella ones. New lights resemble antique ones.

"We tried our hardest to keep original features and the character of the house," said Jesse.

They ripped the carpet and asbestos tile off the upstairs floors to reveal oak beneath, which they refinished. Unfortunately, they weren't able to remove the carpet and tile in the living room to reveal the wood there so they settled for new carpet. But just in time for the Centennial, they redid the fir floors in the main level bedroom that had been added to the house at a later time.

"Otherwise it was in pretty good shape," said Jesse.

The original buffet and plate rail in the dining room stayed, and they didn't need to make changes to the kitchen.

## A big move in 1966

A home inspector clued them in on the fact that their 1919 house had a cinder block foundation, which meant it hadn't always been at 1012 Grotto.

Last fall they began researching the history of their home's move. They checked out property tax records, and learned it had been moved from Snelling and Randolph in 1966, and the property transitioned from residential to commercial. It used to sit at what is now the busy intersection of Snelling and University at 475 S. Snelling. The Bustas don't know what was at 1012 Grotto before their house was moved in.

They do know that the woman, Mary Ann Kester, who moved their home also moved in the house directly south of them. It

had originally been at 1510 St. Clair.

From the building permit, they discovered that the house cost \$3,000 to construct. Another document from the time of the move showed costs at \$1,200 for concrete block, \$2,000 for the movers, \$750 for electric, and \$1,000 for the plumbers.

Since they bought the house for \$88,000, the property value has doubled. "We were in the right place at the right time," said Emily.

## A starter home for many

"I like knowing who came before us in the house," stated Jesse.

They've learned that their house has mostly been a starter home for the families that came before them.

Property tax records through the house's move in the 1940s show that the longest anyone lived at 1012 Grotto was twelve years. "We appear to be the eighth family that has lived here at this site," said Jesse. They do not have the titles from the time the house was on Snelling Ave.

It was public housing for 13 years after Kester sold the house to the St. Paul Urban Housing and Redevelopment Authority for \$1 in 1969.

About five years ago, a car stopped and a woman told them she grew up in their house in the 1970s. She left before they could get any more details. The Bustas hope to learn more about the history of their house, and hope past residents share information with them.

## 'They're not as scary as you think'

Jesse now works for Progressive Insurance in New Brighton, and Emily recently took a job with the state of Minnesota's education office at Bandana Square. They've sold their second car, and Emily enjoys biking to work.

They're planning to become the longest living family at this address.

"We hope people can grow an appreciation for old houses and keep them in the neighborhood," said Jesse. "And keep old churches too," Emily added.

"They're not as scary as you think they are."

"They definitely take more work to maintain but it's worth it in the end," said Jesse. "The charm wins out."

~ Contact the editor via email at [tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com](mailto:tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com).

## BECOME AN OWNER OF SEWARD CO-OP



NEIGHBORHOOD GROCER OFFERING LOCAL MEAT, PRODUCE & BAKED GOODS

**Seward**  
COMMUNITY CO-OP

2823 E. Franklin Ave., MPLS  
& 317 E. 38th St., MPLS  
[www.seward.coop](http://www.seward.coop)

## HAMLINE HEADLINES

sharing campus events with the neighboring community

### See you at the fair

Visit Hamline's booth at the Minnesota State Fair for giveaways, conversation, and more!

**When:** Thursday, August 22, through Monday, September 2

**Where:** Education Building, 1321 Snelling Ave. N., Falcon Heights

### Music on campus

Live concerts are coming back to Sundin Music Hall in September. See the Artaria String Quartet's season debut

**When:** Sunday, September 15, 3 p.m.

**Where:** Sundin Music Hall

**Cost:** \$20 adult tickets, students free

Call **651-523-2459** or visit [hamline.edu/Artaria1920](http://hamline.edu/Artaria1920) for ticket information.

[hamline.edu](http://hamline.edu) • [facebook.com/hamline](https://facebook.com/hamline)  
[twitter.com/HamlineU](https://twitter.com/HamlineU) • [HUNAC@hamline.edu](mailto:HUNAC@hamline.edu)

**HAMLINE UNIVERSITY**

**A partner in a healthy relationship responds to problems by talking.**

The partner should not turn to controlling or abusive behavior. You have a right to be treated with respect by your partner.

First Call  
612-874-7063

**YOU'RE NOT ALONE.**



domestic abuse project

**D A P**

## your Lutheran Church on the

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:30 ~ Worship  
10:45 ~ Bible Study

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

FREE ACTIVITIES ~ LIVE MUSIC  
AUGUST 6TH ~ 5-8:00 P.M.  
STOP BY THE GIVEAWAY TABLE FOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, CLOTHING, CHILDREN'S ITEMS AND MORE!



C  
o  
r  
n  
e  
r

**Jehovah LUTHERAN at Thomas and Snelling**

[www.jehovahlutheran.org](http://www.jehovahlutheran.org) • 651-644-1421  
Pastor Ted Andrada

## Alatus plans meet mixed response

Two redevelopment plans for a vacant lot near Lexington Parkway and University Ave. would offer a six-story mixed-use building with a grocery store and east-west bicycle-pedestrian connection through the structure.

But Alatus LLC's plans drew objections July 15 during a sometimes raucous meeting of the Union Park District Council (UPDC) land use committee. Several people criticized the project for a lack of affordable and family-friendly housing, saying it adds to the problems already seen due to gentrification.

Both plans call for a building where Lexington and Fuller Ave. intersect. Both plans offer about 21,000 square feet of space for a grocery store. The number of apartments, ranging from efficiencies to four-bedroom units, would be about 226. There would be about 180 parking spaces, underground and on the main level. Both plans also call for the building to have two outdoor amenity decks.

One plan calls for all market-rate apartments, as well as 5,000 square feet space for smaller community coworking or a business incubator space.

The second plan calls for what Alatus representatives describe as privately subsidized/affordable units, with six to 12 units allocated to people who meet income restrictions. But that plan calls for eliminating building features including the 5,000 square feet of community space, dropping energy-efficiency and technology features, eliminating resident transit passes and increasing rent for parking spaces.

About two dozen area residents attended the meeting, raising a range of objections to the project. Worries were voiced about increased traffic and parking demand, and potential home structural damage due to new construction. But most objections were about the proposed rents and the project's lack of affordable housing.

But how much input district councils and neighborhood res-

# Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

## Alatus plans at Lexington and University, TCGIS, Met Council funds



Alatus plans to construct a six-story mixed used building with a grocery store at Lexington and University on a lot that is currently vacant.

idents can have is limited. The project meets its underlying zoning and doesn't need any variances. Nor is Alatus seeking any public subsidy. The developers hope to go through city site plan review during the third quarter of this year and start construction early in 2020. The district council could ask for a site plan review public hearing before the Planning Commission, but affordable housing isn't an issue the commission can address under current city zoning regulations.

The development site is zoned for Traditional Neighborhoods 4 use, which is intended to provide for high-density, transit-oriented, pedestrian-friendly mixed-use development. The zoning was changed when property all along University was rezoned several years ago in anticipation of redevelopment spurred by Green Line light rail.

Chris Osmundson, director of development for Alatus, said the developers have struggled with balancing project costs and the wide range of issues neighbors have raised over the past few months. If the developers sought

bonding or other types of affordable housing subsidies, that would push the project back at least one year. The site at 411 Lexington Parkway has been for sale for a decade, and at least three other proposed projects have failed.

Neighbors weren't mollified, saying that too many projects are being built for newcomers and not for people who want to stay in the area. Some want senior housing, with others wanting to see units that are larger, yet affordable for families. Others asked why another grocery store is needed, when an Aldi store is nearby.

One red flag for UPDC committee members is how the market-rate rents would be structured, with the three and four-bedroom units rented by the bedroom rather than as a total unit. That's more akin to student-oriented housing, instead of housing for families. Affordable family housing has been raised as an issue during the past three project meetings.

A four-bedroom unit would be \$3,432 per month, with three

bedrooms renting for \$2,829. Two-bedroom units are \$1,900 to \$1,930, with efficiencies listed between \$1,000 to \$1,030.

### Met Council awards funds

The Metropolitan Council July 24 awarded \$3 million in grants that promote redevelopment and economic opportunity to five cities, through its Livable Communities program.

Pollution investigation and cleanup, and redevelopment grants were awarded.

Funds were awarded to five cities for 14 projects this funding round. The grant awards will help clean 27 acres, increasing the net tax base by \$1.9 million, and encourage millions more in private investment.

"These grants will help create 1,000 jobs and support the development of more than 800 new homes, including 160 affordable homes, at a time when housing is so desperately needed in the region," said Council Chair Nora Slawik.

441-453 Snelling Ave. is in line for \$199,700 for environmental investigation, asbestos abatement, and soil remediation at a 0.6-acre site with three vacant buildings. The site will be redeveloped to include 134 market-rate apartments, three affordable apartments, and 7,000 square feet of retail space. Scannell Companies is the developer.

A Seeding Equitable Environmental Development (SEED) grant to promote redevelopment went to 1433 University Ave. The grant of \$19,300 is for environmental assessment and related environmental oversight on a 0.4-acre site that's being leased to nearby businesses for surface parking.

### TCGIS receives bonding nod

The planned new Twin Cities German Immersion School, which has been the subject of a pitched battle over historic preservation, got a financial boost from the St. Paul City Council July 24. The council, acting \$9 million in conduit lease revenue bonds.

The bonds will be used to build a new school at 1031 Como Ave. School officials and community members have clashed as to whether or not the historic St. Andrew's Church there should be torn down or remain in place. Demolition was to start the first week of August.

The school currently serves grade K through 8 with projected enrollment for fall 2019 of 593. In 2013, they acquired their current site at 1031 Como Ave. Planned is a three-story, 23,500 square foot addition for classrooms, special education instructional spaces, administrative offices, a gymnasium and cafeteria. The site plan also includes an expanded play area and underground infrastructure to manage storm water run-off from the building addition. The site plan is predicated on the removal of the existing church (St. Andrew's) and east surface parking lot. The project is estimated to cost \$7.41 million, and the current estimated bond principal amount is \$6.455 million.

Construction of the project will commence immediately following the closing on the financing and will be completed late summer of 2020.

This is the second time that TCGIS has sought city assistance. In 2013, the HRA issued bonds for the school in the amount of \$8.545 million, with \$8.135 million still outstanding. The 2013 bonds were issued to finance the acquisition and construction/renovation of the school's current facility and former church building.

The vote was 4-2, with council members Amy Brendmoen, Mitra Jalali Nelson, Dai Thao and Chris Tolbert in support, and Kassim Buseri and Jane Prince against.

## PEOPLE WANT MORE

MORE ACCOUNTABILITY  
MORE TRUST  
MORE NEWS

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER DELIVERS

What do you love about your community newspaper? What stories would you like to see more of? Got a story tip?

Email your answers to new Monitor owner Tesha M. Christensen today! [tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com](mailto:tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com)

Send your press releases to [news@MonitorSaintPaul.com](mailto:news@MonitorSaintPaul.com)



ampersand families

belonging · dignity · hope

### UNIQUE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Adopting a teen from foster care is hard. We're looking for buddy families to provide support.

Upcoming Training/Info Session:  
9.23.19 | 6-9PM | St. Paul

Learn more at [www.ampersandfamilies.org](http://www.ampersandfamilies.org)  
[info@ampersandfamilies.org](mailto:info@ampersandfamilies.org) 612.605.1904



Ampersand families recruits and supports permanent families for older youth, and champions practices in adoption and permanency that restore belonging, dignity & hope.

**BE MORE MINNESOTA**

Tutor students in reading or math, and **be the difference!**

Learn more at [ReadingAndMath.net](http://ReadingAndMath.net)

# The Motley Conversation

**Monitor**

Join the conversation, and let us know your diverse and varied thoughts on the issues that affect your neighborhood. Send letters and guest commentaries to [news@MonitorSaintPaul.com](mailto:news@MonitorSaintPaul.com) or call 651-917-4183.

I've worked as a reporter for the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger* and *Midway Como Monitor* since 2015. I came into the job with a fledgling interest in community activism, a 20+ year career as a photographer, and a life-long love affair with newspapers.

As the years have passed, one topic has grown in importance for me as a reporter. I'm grateful that our new owner/publisher, Tesha Christensen, has let me take ownership of a few pages in each issue of both papers – and dedicate them to environmental stories happening close to home. We've dubbed these pages RRR, which stands for Rebuild, Repair, and Recycle, and we hope they'll keep you informed about ways your neighbors are taking action.

Minnesota is one of the more aggressive states nationwide in its efforts to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, and many other initiatives. In this time of growing concern over the climate crisis, we want our newspapers to be an intelligent, clear-thinking, and practical resource. Are you trying out a new idea or product in your home that you think our readers might want to hear about? Let us know!



guest columnist

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

## Writing about environmental issues

I've gone on two public tours recently that have strengthened my commitment to writing about environmental issues: at Eureka Recycling in Northeast Minneapolis, and the Hennepin County Energy Recovery Center in Downtown Minneapolis. Seeing mountains of recyclable materials and waste in these facilities was convicting, to say the least. I stopped thinking in a theoretical way about the amount of waste my own small household produces, and vowed to make better choices for the environment. Both tours are open to the public, with a little advance planning, and are offered free of charge. Check out these websites to learn more or to sign up:

- [www.eurekarecycling.org/tours](http://www.eurekarecycling.org/tours)

- [www.hennepin.us/your-government/facilities/herc-tour-request-form](http://www.hennepin.us/your-government/facilities/herc-tour-request-form)

I just completed the Climate Reality Leadership Training held at the Minneapolis Convention Center Aug. 2-4, hosted by founder and former vice president Al Gore. There were 1,400 people in attendance from 32 countries around the world. Participants ranged in age from 13-86, and we've now joined the ranks of more than 20,000 trained Climate Reality leaders worldwide.

Within one year of completing the training, graduates are required to perform 10 acts of climate leadership. These acts can be anything from giving a formal presentation, to writing a blog post, to submitting a letter to the

editor, to organizing a climate action campaign, to meeting with local community leaders.

My main act of leadership in 2019 will be working as an artist-in-residence at Eureka Recycling this fall. I'm offering a quilting workshop there on Nov. 2, and will create three wall hangings for Eureka's education space – with the help of 15 community participants. The cost of admission to the workshop is one cotton garment that would otherwise be destined for the trash. We'll talk about the growing problem of textiles in the waste stream, due to fast fashion (on the production side) and over-consumption (on the consumer side.)

This summer, my husband and I are trying to live plastic

free, which has been eye-opening and, in some ways, kind of fun. I've discovered the best milk I've ever tasted, produced by Autumn Wood Farms of Forest Lake. It's available in half gallon glass bottles at Oxendale's Market in East Nokomis, and the Mississippi Market Co-op in St. Paul. My husband came home from PetCo in Highland Park last week, proudly carrying a re-fillable 30-pound plastic pail of cat litter. We're learning about all kinds of new products, including tooth powder from the bulk bin at Tare Market (to avoid tooth paste packaged in non-recyclable tubes.) Who knew?

If there's one thing I came away from the Climate Reality training with, it's this. Dr. Jonathan Doyle, founder and CEO of the non-profit Project Drawdown, said, "We have to solve the climate crisis with our heads and with our hearts. But, especially, we have to solve it with our hands." I believe there's a way for every one of us to make a positive contribution to this movement, according to our circumstances.

I look forward to sharing what I learn along the way.

Before the Green Line opened in 2014, supporters of the transit line said it could take you "around the world in 11 miles" – a reference to the distance of the Green Line, spanning downtown Saint Paul to downtown Minneapolis by way of University Ave., and to the many different types of cuisine found along the way.

Have you ever noticed how many great restaurants we have in or close to the Midway? And how many different cultures are represented in the dishes at those restaurants? At the Midway Chamber, we hold an annual event where 15-20 restaurants give samples of a popular dish – a great way to try something new without much commitment. Cuisine from different parts



## Building a Stronger Midway

By CHAD KULAS, Midway Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

### Go 'Around the World' in the Midway

of the globe along University Ave. include Greek (The Best Steak House, The Naughty Greek), Ethiopian (Bole, Demera, Fasika), Mexican (Homi, Los Ocampo) and Italian (Caffe Biaggio). But the most common cuisines are represented by several Asian cultures – Cambodian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai and Vietnamese are all represented. If you're looking for a fun food-related contest, sample the pho

from different Vietnamese restaurants and see which you like best. Or wontons. Or spring rolls.

A lot of the success of University Ave. (both restaurants and other companies) can be attributed to immigrants.

New American Economy, a bipartisan research and immigration advocacy organization, creates Map the Impact, an interactive map which helps explain data about immigrants from a

federal level down to Congressional districts. In 2017, about 3.2 million immigrants owned a business, totaling about 20 percent of all business in the United States. According to a 2016 National Restaurant Association study, 29 percent of restaurant and hospitality businesses were owned by an immigrant compared to 14 percent of all businesses in the United States.

Map the Impact states 20,413

immigrant entrepreneurs reside in the metro area (2017 statistic). No doubt immigrants help the economy in our country, and the Midway is a shining example.

A few years ago I was living in Frogtown and made a New Year's resolution to try a new restaurant in or near my neighborhood every month (this is the kind of food-related resolution more people should attempt!). Making this resolution means you are supporting the local economy and exposing yourself to new restaurants – and possibly new cultures and cuisines.

We are lucky to live in a neighborhood with so many unique food options – make a point soon to try at least one restaurant you haven't been to yet!

**Monitor**  
Midway • Como

### MONITOR VOLUNTARY PAY

Support your neighborhood newspaper. Not something you can do right now? That's ok. We'll still deliver to your door as we have for 45 years. You can also rest assured that we won't share your contact information with anyone.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select your donation amount and remit with check to 5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Mpls MN 55417. Or, go online to [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com/voluntary-pay/](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com/voluntary-pay/) Make checks out to TMC Publications. Thanks!

\$12 \_\_\_\_\_ \$24 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

### I'm interested in reading:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Living               | <input type="checkbox"/> In Our Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Drink               | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Lifestyle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Wellness          | <input type="checkbox"/> Home & Garden    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business & Development     | <input type="checkbox"/> School news      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical tidbits         | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids Corner      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MN United updates          | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance & Money  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District 11 Hamline-Midway | <input type="checkbox"/> District 10 Como |

# in Household: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age/s:  0-19  20-99  30-44  45-64  65+

**Monitor**

5139 34th Ave. S. #17097  
Minneapolis, MN 55417  
612-345-9998

News for you!

The Monitor is a monthly community publication in the Midway and Como areas of St. Paul, owned and operated by TMC Publications, CO. All correspondence should be sent to the Monitor, 5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis, MN 55417. To contact the editor, call Tesha at 612-345-9998. To reach the advertising department, call Denis at 651-917-4183. If you have a problem with delivery, call 612-345-9998.

Now, communicate with the Monitor electronically!

Now it's easier than ever to keep in touch with the Monitor. Letters to the editor and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail at [news@MonitorSaintPaul.com](mailto:news@MonitorSaintPaul.com). Be sure to send copy in the body of the e-mail, and please mark whether the copy is a letter, a news release for publication, or perhaps just your thoughts on the last issue. Don't forget to write!

**Owner & Editor:**  
Tesha M. Christensen  
[tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com](mailto:tesha@MonitorSaintPaul.com)

**Advertising:**  
Denis Woulfe (651-917-4183);  
[denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com](mailto:denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com)

**Production:**  
Tesha M. Christensen

**Contributing Writers:**  
Jane McClure, Jan Willms,  
Jill Boogren, Margie O'Loughlin,  
Matthew Davis, Chad Kulas

Check us out on the web at:  
[www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/monitorsaintpaul/>  
Instagram: [midwaycomomonitor](https://www.instagram.com/midwaycomomonitor)

All rights reserved. The contents of the Monitor cannot be reproduced without express written permission of the publisher. Copyright © 2019.

**TMC**  
PUBLICATIONS CO

# Minnesota United goes unbeaten for July in MLS action

By MATTHEW DAVIS

Minnesota United had its way with MLS teams in July.

The Loons (10-7-5) went 5-0-2 against MLS competition that month as the lone loss came against English Premier League squad Aston Villa in a friendly July 17 at Allianz Field in St. Paul. The unbeaten month helped the Loons stay strong in the playoff race at fifth in the Western Conference through July 27.

"It's been an accumulation of a lot of things but mainly hard work and belief in what they're trying to do," Loons coach Adrian Heath said about the recent success following a July 15 win over FC Dallas, one of the biggest wins of the month.

Minnesota United entered July fresh off its biggest blowout win in the franchise's MLS history. The Loons beat Cincinnati

7-1 June 28 behind goals from six different players. Defender Ike Opara led the Loons with two goals.

Minnesota United picked up where it left off July 3 in a 3-1 win over the San Jose Earthquakes. Loons midfielder Darwin Quintero got things going with a goal in the fifth minute. Midfielders Ethan Finlay and Miguel Ibarra assisted on the goal.

Earthquakes defender Tommy Thompson evened things up late in the first half with a game-tying goal unassisted.

Minnesota United answered early in the second half with a goal by defender Michael Boxall. Loons midfielder Kevin Molino gave his team some distance from the Earthquakes with a goal in the final minutes of the game for a 3-1 lead. Opara and forward Mason Toye assisted on the score.

The Loons kept the win-

ning streak going with two unanswered goals at Montreal July 6 in a 3-2 victory. Finlay scored on a penalty kick to tie the game 2-2, and Toye scored the game-winner off an assist from Molino. Toye and Molino also connected on the Loons' first goal of the game.

Angelo Rodriguez made things a little more comfortable for the Loons with a hat trick against the New Mexico United in a 6-1 win July 10. The Loons forward tied the game in the 10th minute on an assist from defender Hassani Dotson. Rodriguez and company rolled from there.

"Obviously, very happy because as a forward, I always want to score goals let alone a hat trick," Rodriguez said after the game.

He scored again in the 18th minute with an assist from midfielder Jan Gregus. Rodriguez

scored this third goal in the 45th minute unassisted. Quintero and Ibarra also scored goals unassisted.

Toye had the lone goal for the Loons in a July 13 win over FC Dallas, which came in the final minutes of the game. It extended the Loons' winning streak to five games.

Minnesota United couldn't keep its success going against Austin Villa in a 3-0 loss July 17. The Loons returned to MLS action July 20 with a 1-1 tie at Real Salt Lake. Quintero put the Loons ahead 1-0 in the 57th minute on assists from Toye and Gregus, but Real Salt Lake rallied to tie in the 70th minute with a goal from defender Marcelo Silva.

The Loons took another tie, 0-0, against Vancouver at home July 27. Loons goalkeeper Vito Mannone earned a spot on the MLS Team of the Week with

*"It's been an accumulation of a lot of things but mainly hard work and belief."  
~ Loons coach Adrian Heath*

his clean sheet performance, a shutout with five saves. He also helped the Loons sustain the unbeaten month with six saves against FC Dallas, seven against San Jose and four against Montreal. He needed only two saves against Real Salt Lake to preserve the 1-1 tie.

"We look at the positives (and) we have to focus on the next two months because it's a long way to go," Mannone said after the tie with Vancouver. "Still 12 games to go, and it's important not to lose these kinds of games."

## Monitor In A Minute

By JANE MCCLURE

### Midway Amoco faces sanctions

A Hamline-Midway convenience store faces sanctions for selling flavored tobacco products in violation of city regulations. The St. Paul City Council July 24 took action against the tobacco license held by Midway University & Hamline LLC d/b/a Midway Amoco BP, 1347 University Ave. W. but the store owners requested a hearing, so that decision was rescinded Aug. 7.

The business has a troubled past, including incidents of violence, a fatal shooting and license violations.

Ward Four Council Member Mitra Jalali Nelson brought in the request for sanctions, which date from a November 2018 inspection by the Minnesota Department of Revenue. State officials found flavored tobacco products, which cannot be sold in St. Paul convenience stores. The city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) then stepped in.

The business owners disputed the finds and requested that city officials hold a legislative hearing, which was done. But the owners didn't attend the scheduled hearing, so DSI staff sought a default judgment. The administrative law judge who handled the case issued findings and ordered a \$500 penalty,

but that penalty is now rescinded.

### Dwelling wins needed change

A Hamline-Midway dwelling can continue to be used as a triplex, with St. Paul Planning Commission approval of a nonconforming use permit. Andrew Newby, who recently purchased 1614 Hewitt Ave., sought the change. The building had three leases when he purchased it last year.

The property was built as a duplex and has a long history of building improvement, but not all may have been issued city permits under past owners. The building has been used as a triplex since at least 2004.

The Planning Commission reviewed the issue and approved the change July 11, on recommendation of its Zoning Committee. Hamline Midway Coalition also recommended approval.

A nonconforming use permit allows the triplex use to continue. The Planning Commission found that rezoning the property for triplex use would constitute an illegal "spot" rezoning.

The nonconforming use permit is with the condition that the property go through a code compliance inspection, and that it be brought into compliance with all

fire and building code requirements.

No one attended a Zoning Committee public hearing or sent letters in opposition to the change.

### Community benefits plan takes shape

A long-awaited plan to create a community benefits fund tied to Allianz Field and redevelopment at Midway Center continues to take shape. Since 2016, Hamline Midway Coalition and Union Park District Council (UPDC) have worked with city leaders, Minnesota United FC and area businesses and property owners to develop the Neighbors United Funding Collaborative.

Leaders of the district councils say the fund is now in a position to start actively soliciting donations.

The fund was one of many ideas discussed during planning for the stadium and shopping center redevelopment in 2015-2016. The St. Paul City Council in August 2016 passed a resolution creating a task force to explore the fund's creation, at the same time it was working with the team on a lease package and other agreements tied to site development.

The task force began meeting in early 2017 and hosted a larger

community event to discuss ideas in November 2018. In late June, City Council members Mitra Jalali Nelson and Dai Thao met with stakeholders and district council members to discuss the fund and next steps.

The community benefits fund came out of a larger council resolution introduced by Thao, which also included workforce goals for hiring of minority and women construction workers, ensuring ethnic food vendors were able to be at Allianz Field and involving small businesses in other aspects of stadium development.

Thao noted that the work isn't done. "We've had many positive conversations with potential sponsors of this fund and I'm eager to report back," he said.

The fund could support projects such as business facade improvements, a marketing campaign for area business and public art. "Placemaking" and wayfinding improvements are also among the ideas that floated to the top.

Those priorities were chosen from a long list of ideas generated by area residents and business owners. "The ideas really ran the gamut," said Brandon Long, executive director of UPDC. About 900 responses were received, from an online survey and at meetings.

It will be a community advised fund, housed by the St. Paul Foundation. The fund will be governed by a neighborhood-based steering committee, with subcommittees handling project reviews, finance, and marketing and communication.

Grants from the fund are anticipated to be between \$5,000 and \$50,000.

Minnesota United FC will be a supporter, along with area businesses, industries and individuals. The team, hasn't announced its level of support.

The fund has four donor levels. Supporters give \$1 to \$499. Neighbors give \$500 to \$4,999. Friends are donors at the \$5,000 to \$49,999 level. Partners would contribute \$50,000 to \$499,999. Pillars donate \$500,000 and up.

Minnesota United FC's four largest supporter groups in July announced their support of the Neighbors United Funding Collaborative and are using their gifts as a means of encouraging others to get involved. The clubs are Dark Clouds, True North Elite, Red Loons and Dark Glitterati. The clubs haven't determined what their individual gifts will be.

Contacts for the fund are [brandon@unionparkdc.org](mailto:brandon@unionparkdc.org) or [info@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:info@hamlinemidway.org)

**CONTACT DENIS WOULFE 651-917-4183**  
to schedule your next flyer!  
• 8.5x11 sheet • Printed 4-color • Delivered • ONLY 6¢ EACH!!

**SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
• Flexible • No Evenings • No Weekends • \$13/Hour

**discovery club**  
**WE ARE HIRING STAFF FOR FALL 2019**  
Saint Paul Public Schools is in search of quality staff for part-time work in our Discovery Club childcare program. Qualifications include a combination of credits/training and hours of experience working with children.  
**Learn More/Apply: [www.bit.ly/2zwd5sG](http://www.bit.ly/2zwd5sG)**  
**Questions? Email [steve.egbert@spps.org](mailto:steve.egbert@spps.org)**

**Age Well**  
Living longer, living better  
Join the conversation on aging well. Offer our readers information on how to live life to the fullest after age 50. Advertise in this quarterly feature coming in October 2019.  
[Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com](mailto:Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com) | 651-917-4183

**Midway Animal Hospital**  
Offering high quality, compassionate care for your pets.  
[www.midwayanimalhospital.com](http://www.midwayanimalhospital.com)  
**Pete Kelley, DVM & Teresa Nolte, DVM**  
**731 North Snelling Avenue / 651-644-2100**  
Parking & Entrance in Rear / Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 6 pm, Sat. 9 am - 1 pm

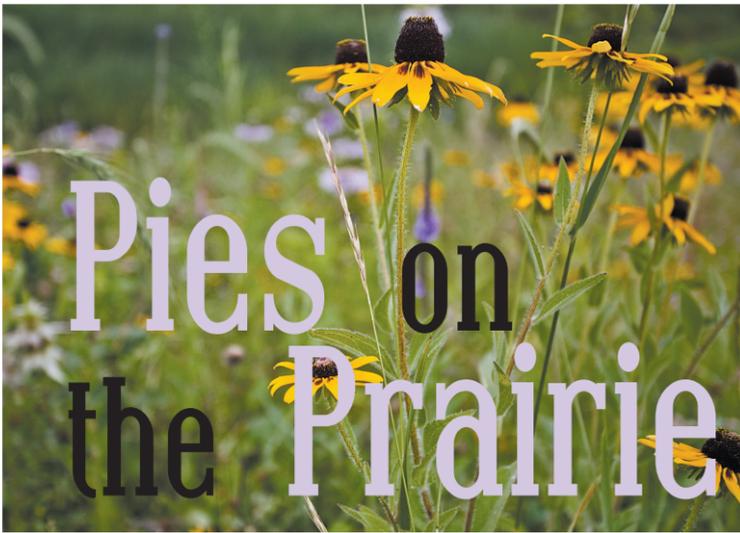
**LULA**  
**LULA VINTAGE CLOTHING**  
651.644.4110 1587 • Selby Avenue, St. Paul • MN 55104  
[www.lulavintagewear.com](http://www.lulavintagewear.com)

**A-1 VACUUM**  
• Sales, Service & Supplies  
• Free Estimates  
• Bags, Belts & Filters  
• Trade-Ins Welcomed  
• Dyson, Miele & Riccar etc.  
2575 Fairview Ave. N. | Roseville, MN  
**651-222-6316**  
9-5 Mon & Fri | 9-6 Tues-Wed-Thurs | 10-2 Sat  
[www.A-1Vacuum.com](http://www.A-1Vacuum.com)

# Rebuild Repair Recycle

Monitor

Advertise in our new special section aimed at letting readers know about businesses and organizations that support greener living! Contact Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com or call 651-917-4183.



## Surprise - there's Pierce Butler Meadows just before the Snelling Ave. crossing

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Pierce Butler Route is known as a short cut through the Midway and Central neighborhoods of St. Paul. It runs, usually without congestion, all the way from Prior Ave, to Dale St. The surrounding area is mostly industrial, but just before Pierce Butler Route crosses under Snelling Ave. - there's a surprise.

Pierce Butler Meadows is a small patch of native prairie

Photo at left by Margie O'Loughlin

growing on the southwest corner of that intersection. It starts along Pierce Butler Route as a cattail-lined pool, and gives way to swamp white oak and service-berry seedlings, interspersed with 1,500 native plants and grasses, rising up the hillside.

Planted in October 2017 by teachers and students from Hamline Elementary, Hamline University, and the Hmong Preparatory Academy, countless Hamline Midway neighbors, and Hamline Midway Coalition staff (HMC), the newly-established Pierce Butler Meadows is in full bloom.

Prairies once stretched across western and southern Minnesota; less than 1% of the Minnesota native prairie remains today.

Prairies are sometimes called upside-down forests because much of the plant and animal life they support is below ground. Many prairie plants have roots five feet deep or more.

Extensive root systems improve the ability of water to infiltrate soil, which reduces runoff. Deep roots decrease erosion by anchoring soil. Prairie plants also store carbon, which keeps the soil healthy.

### Attend prairie events

With the help of a partnership grant from the Capitol Region Watershed District, HMC is hosting three events called "Pies on the Prairie" at Pierce Butler Meadows this summer. The dates are Aug. 17, Sept. 21, and Oct. 5 from 10 a.m.-noon.

Each of the Saturday programs will offer different activities. Hear neighbors share their expertise about prairie flowers, prairie birds, bee keeping, water use in a prairie eco-system, and more. All ages are welcome, and the zero-waste event promises PIE. There is no cost to attend, and no registration is needed. Attend one or all of the programs.

HMC's Melissa Michener said, "'Pies on the Prairie' is part of our work to build community engagement through clean water education. This is one of the ways we connect with residents, by showing how we can support cleaner water in the Hamline Midway neighborhood."

For their ongoing efforts at the Pierce Butler Meadows, HMC received a Watershed Project Award from the Capitol Region Watershed District. The award recognizes a project that demonstrates excellence in protecting, managing, and improving local water resources within the watershed. The Pierce Butler Meadows came out of more than a decade of community interest in and activism on the site. Without the dedication of HMC's Environment Committee and resident Steve Mitrione, the project would not have happened.

Contact Melissa Michener at Hamline Midway Coalition with questions about "Pies on the Prairie." (Melissa@hmc.org) There will be parking on nearby Taylor Ave., and volunteers to help at the crossing on the west side of Snelling Ave.



Approaching the Pierce Butler Meadow from the south on Snelling Ave., there are no clues that it is there. The native prairie creates a buffer which slows storm water runoff, and protects water quality both locally and downstream. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

# SOLAR SIMPLIFIED.

## ZERO UPFRONT COSTS.

\*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. SUBJECT TO APPROVED CREDIT.



AllEnergySolar.com

Phone: +1 651 401 8522

1264 Energy Lane Saint Paul, MN 55108

# FREE FIX-IT CLINIC

Saturday, August 24  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

North Dale Recreation Center  
1414 St. Albans St. N  
Saint Paul, MN 55107



Questions? Contact:  
FixItClinics@RamseyCounty.us  
or 651-266-1199

RAMSEY COUNTY

## Rebuild Repair Recycle

Our readers care about Green Living.



Let them know about your sustainability practices and how you can help them live better. Advertise in this monthly feature.

Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com | 651-917-4183

# Rebuild Repair Recycle

Monitor

Advertise in our new special section aimed at letting readers know about businesses and organizations that support greener living! Contact Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com or call 651-917-4183.

## Citizens group reducing pollution in Como Lake

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Anyone who has walked or biked around Como Lake this summer has got to wonder, "What is that smell?"

The short answer is decomposing curly-leaf pondweed.

The long answer is more complicated.

At Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD), Water Resource Project Manager Britta Belden described the life cycle of this invasive aquatic species, and why it causes such a problem in Como Lake.

She said, "Curly-leaf pondweed was first observed here in the early 1990s, and it now dominates the aquatic plant ecosystem - with nearly 100% coverage by early June. It has done so well because Como Lake is a shallow lake with a maximum depth of 15'. Curly-leaf pondweed starts growing in late fall, from seedlings dropped in June. It continues growing through the winter beneath the ice, which gives it a competitive advantage."

**"When the ice goes out and sunlight hits the water in April, these plants really take off and grow rapidly."**

~ Britta Belden

She continued, "Curly-leaf pondweed forms thick mats of vegetation on the lake surface in the spring, and then quickly dies off in late June. This coincides with peak sunlight and high summer temperatures, providing perfect conditions for rapid decomposition - and that's what



Janna Caywood, a founding member of the Como Active Citizen's Network, sits atop a clean curb. The organization is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, and is nearly 100 members strong. Interested in joining? Visit [www.comoACN.org](http://www.comoACN.org). (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

people are smelling."

Despite continued attempts to improve the water quality of Como Lake, its phosphorous levels are about three times higher than the state standards for shallow lakes. Once the curly-leaf pondweed starts to die, it releases a burst of phosphorous back into the water and, in a predictable cycle, is followed by a major algae bloom.

**Phosphorous is not only present in Como Lake because of decomposition, it's also being transported in runoff to the lake.**

To address this problem, CRWD invests in projects and partnerships that reduce nutrients and other pollutants in watershed runoff. In one such partnership, CRWD supports a

*"Minnesota has a great responsibility for managing its lakes wisely. As a state, we are second only to Alaska in the amount of surface water that we have."*

~ Janna Caywood, Como Active Citizen Network

neighborhood group called the Como Active Citizen Network; their Como Curb Clean-Up is a coordinated effort to remove leaves and other organic material from neighborhood streets for six weeks in the fall.

This program has about 100 participants - all of them committed to improving the water quality of Como Lake through this practice.

Janna Caywood is a founding member of the Como Active Citizen Network, and a Como resident for more than 20 years. She said, "We're a group of neighbors who care about our nearby lake."

"We're not the leaf police but we believe that, as property owners, we have the ability to impact our neighborhood positively. By keeping the curbs and gutters clean in front of our houses, we can prevent additional phosphorous from getting into Como Lake through run-off."

**"Many people mistakenly believe that phosphorous in commercial lawn fertilizers is the culprit, but it's decaying organic matter (leaves and grass clippings) that really throw Como Lake out of balance."**

~ Janna Caywood

Part of the problem is that

Como Lake is being asked to do more than it realistically can. Caywood explained that there are no longer any natural tributaries delivering fresh water to the 70 acre lake. She said, "With 22 storm sewers draining into such a small lake, it has essentially become a glorified storm water basin. Yet, because of its location, we expect it to perform as a recreational amenity - and a natural amenity, too."

Caywood said, "This kind of 'non-source' pollution is the hardest to address, because it's coming from St. Paul, Roseville, and Falcon Heights through the storm water system. We see this as a great challenge for our generation, figuring out how to deal responsibly with the impact of human living on our waters."

Looking ahead, the Capitol Region Watershed District will begin implementing new management strategies for Como Lake next year. Its 20-year Como Lake Management Plan contains 54 actions designed to improve the health of this much-loved neighborhood gathering spot. To better understand Como Lake both past and present, follow the link below to view a story map developed by the Capitol Region Watershed District. [www.capitolregionwd.org/comolake](http://www.capitolregionwd.org/comolake)

KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE FEATURED HERE?

Email [news@monitorsaintpaul.com](mailto:news@monitorsaintpaul.com)

**Windows / Screens Repair**

**We solve problems!**

- We: • Fix frames • Re-Screen • Re-Glaze • Fix Rotted Windows
- Make & Repair Thermal Windows • Custom-Make Windows & Screens
- Glass Cutting

978 Dale Street North, Saint Paul -  
(651) 489-3210

**Kendall's**  
Ace Hardware & Paint

840 Payne Ave., St. Paul -  
(651) 776-6996

We offer same day service if you need it.

[kendalls@acehardware.com](mailto:kendalls@acehardware.com)

"The Friendliest Stores in Town" ...Free Popcorn



**Benita Warns**  
**Michael Warns**

Mr. Michael  
**RECYCLES**  
**BICYCLES**

[info@mmbstore.com](mailto:info@mmbstore.com)  
651-641-1037

Changing lives one bicycle at a time.  
The ultimate bike junkyard.

520 N. Prior Ave St. Paul, MN 55104

Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 PM - 8 PM; and Sundays noon - 4 PM

**Back to School Bike Sale on Now**

# Recycle Smart

Keep these out of your recycling cart



No plastic bags



No large plastic items



No random metal items



➤ Learn more at [stpaul.gov/recycle](http://stpaul.gov/recycle)

## Hope Heals camps

Como staff members Mr. Donnell Gibson and Ms. Kristy Pierce have successfully expanded a thriving summer program to serve St. Paul students and alumni. The Gibson Foundation is going strong in its fourth summer, running the Hope Heals basketball camps and hosting an inaugural tournament at the St. Bernard's gym.

Over 60 boys and girls, ages 6-13, attend camp sessions at Arlington Hills Rec Center. They meet twice a week for the course of six weeks. One hundred-forty high school students and St. Paul college-age alumni meet at Washington Technology Magnet for free play, socializing, and check-ins with Gibson Foundation leaders and community supporters. The multi-age grouping lends itself to mentoring as high school students learn what it takes to study and play at the next level.

Other program leaders include Ronnie Smith (new Como girls assistant coach), Shawn Phillips (Como boys j.v. coach), and Olanda England (Como staff and girls j.v. coach). Como alum Louis Carter is the lead coach for the young age group, and current Como student Ronnie Porter also mentors the youngsters.



# News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

## Gibson Foundation, cooking in Paris, FFA, and swimmers on MPR



Como Culinary Arts teacher Ms. Courtney Gbolo earned a grant to study at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. (Photo submitted)

### Culinary arts institute

Como teacher Ms. Courtney Gbolo traveled to Paris, France to take classes at Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts Institute from July 20-Aug. 5. Gbolo earned a grant through the St. Paul Fund for Teachers that sponsored her travel and study.



Como FFA students volunteered at the Ramsey County Fair in July 2019. (Photo submitted)

Gbolo's classes at Le Cordon Bleu included The Art of Cooking Like A Chef, The Secrets of Choux Pastry, Tart Making, Bread Making, Sauces, and Pastry Art. Gbolo says she's been energized by the hands-on curriculum and is extremely grateful for the opportunity that was made possible by the St. Paul Foundation.

Looking ahead to the school year, Gbolo is eager to incorporate ideas and recipes from her summer learning and share her passion with Como students in her Culinary Arts classes and Culinary Club.

### Future farmers

Students from Como Park's Future Farmers of America (FFA) helped with the "Farmer for the Day" exhibit at the Ramsey County Fair in July. The students taught young children about agricultural products made in Minnesota.

### Swimmers on MPR

Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) produced a well-received feature story about competitive swimming, wrapped into historical patterns of participation. The subjects of the feature were Como teacher Justin Mann, and Como student Aaron Ramsey.

Mann teaches social studies and is the assistant boys' swim coach. Ramsey will be a junior and is a varsity swimmer. They are two examples of leaders who are "broadening the circle" and raising awareness that swimming is a skill and activity available for all.

Both were interviewed for radio and digital print features, and filmed for the social media links and videos that MPR produced. Ramsey said that swimming used to cause him some fear and anxiety, but he's gained confidence through competitive swimming. "I feel at home in the water. I'm always itching to get back in the water. And I've decided to become a lifeguard and help people," Ramsey said.

# Hamline Elementary

By JESSICA KOPP

Happy summer neighbors! In just a few short weeks, on Thursday, Aug. 29 from 4-6 p.m., Hamline Elementary is hosting its Back to School Open House. Stop by to meet your teachers, reconnect with classmates and friends, and see what's new for the 2019-2020 school year.

Hamline teachers will be back for extra training days this August as they continue to build Hamline's new inquiry-based program in partnership with the Hamline University School of Education. This

student-centered program redesign builds on the long-standing Hamline to Hamline Collaboration program to create a rigorous, engaging, and truly unique learning environment. It also integrates whole-child and whole-family support through Hamline Elementary's almost three-year-old full-service community school program. Learn more about the school at <http://hamline.spps.org> and get registered by contacting the student placement office at 651-632-3700.

## New charter school in former Central Lutheran

Ten years in the making, a group of engaged educators will open a new charter school called The Journey School this fall.

The Journey School, which is currently accepting enrollment for students K-2, was the brainchild of long-time educators Michelle Cambrice and Scott Gostchock. Their goal was to make a positive difference in the community for children and families through a quality, caring, family-centered education and environment.

"Our dream to open a school where any student has the opportunity to succeed has become a reality, and we're so excited to share our vision with the community," said Cambrice, who has been appointed as the school's first director.

This dream garnered momentum when The Journey School leased the former Central Lutheran School building at 775 Lexington Parkway in St.



Michelle Cambrice is the first director at The Journey School. (Photo submitted)

Paul, which closed last year. The building has gone through renovations to prepare for opening in the fall.

"The Journey School is located in a diverse area where we can reach more children and pro-

vide resources," Cambrice said. "Choosing the right school for a child is one of the most important decisions parents will make. At The Journey School, we will partner with parents and the community to equip each student with the knowledge and skills necessary for their life-long journey of learning."

In addition to offering classes for students K-2, The Journey School has also partnered with Head Start to provide childcare.

The Journey School is hosting three open house events at the newly renovated building Aug. 10, 17 and 24. All open house events are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Families are welcome to, tour the new school, get to know the staff and school board, and enroll their student(s).

Learn more by calling 612-389-1579 or browse [www.thejourneyschool.org](http://www.thejourneyschool.org).

## Your health, our priority

Independently owned and operated

Fast, friendly service

Prescription compounding

Blister packs

Delivery and mail out

**Lloyd's**  
**pharmacy**  
est. 1949  
& Compounding Center



**Business Hours:**

Mon - Fri 8:30am - 7:00pm

Saturday 8:30am - 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am - 1:00pm

720 Snelling Avenue North  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
(651) 645-8636

[www.lloydsrx.com](http://www.lloydsrx.com)

## Still looking for YOUR school?

See the **MMSA Difference:**  
Academics, Leadership,  
Service & Faith



**OPEN HOUSE**  
Wed., August 14 | 3-7 pm



Maternity of Mary  
Saint Andrew  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ENTER DOOR #7  
592 Arlington Ave. W. | St. Paul  
**651-489-1459**  
[mmsaschool.org](http://mmsaschool.org)

PRESCHOOL THROUGH 8TH GRADE | EXTENDED DAY | FAITH BASED EDUCATION

# Neighbors mourn >> from 1



Attendees applaud during a rally to save historic Saint Andrew's on July 21. The building has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places but historic designation was denied by the city. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Twin Cities German Immersion School intends to replace the one-of-a-kind church with a new three-story structure. (Courtesy of TCGIS)

has nominated the building for the National Historic Register. "The school's claim that wiping out the heritage of the Italian and Hungarian immigrants who built this iconic church building is necessary for young children to immerse themselves in German language and culture will fall on deaf ears as the rancor caused by this unnecessary destruction lingers. That's often the result of a tragic outcome that is completely avoidable."

If it proceeds, the school "will be making the choice to wound this community that will never heal," said Ward 7 Council member Jane Prince, who sidestepped tradition to speak out on an issue outside her district.

She expressed her hope that "sensible minds" would prevail.

Prince honored the city's great preservationists who "helped us to be different than Minneapolis in this way," and observed that the city's historic structures help tell stories of St. Paul.

"The teardown of this building is happening with our property tax dollars," said Prince.

She shared her belief that the historic Saint Andrew's Church building could be reused.

Prince recalled how citizens stood in the way of a wrecking ball and saved the Landmark Center in 1972.

City Council President and Ward 5 resident Amy Brendmoen, who lives a few blocks from the school, has supported the TCGIS plan and spoke against historic designation in favor of what she views as a property rights issue.

The K-8 charter school intends to build a new 24,000-square-foot addition with

classrooms, a gymnasium, cafeteria and individualized instruction rooms in the footprint of the former church structure. Plans are that it be completed for the 2020-2021 school year.

TCGIS obtained a demolition permit in early August from the city and expected the building tear-down to begin after Aug. 5. The city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) gave preliminary approval for up to \$9 million in conduit revenue bonds that the school will use to fund the building replacement project, with a final vote scheduled for Aug. 14.

The school held a hastily planned open house on July 28 that was attended by about 100

people to say farewell to the building.

Meanwhile, protesters organized outside with signs that read, "Demolition does not heal a community."

The next week, SHSA organized a protest at the Governor's mansion on Aug. 3 and a candlelight vigil at St. Andrew's on Aug. 4.

Father John Forliti has lived across the street for his entire life, and his dad moved to the neighborhood at age 14.

He doesn't know what he'll do when the demolition crew shows up.

"I'm not sure I'll be able to stay in that house and watch it go," Forliti said.

## Chroma Zone Mural & Art Fest >> from 1

based on scale and visibility." The mural locations will be announced once all of the details have been finalized. The majority of the properties are between Hwy 280 and Vandalia St.

Festival dates are Sept. 7-14, with artists working on different sites each day. A full schedule of events can be found at [www.chromazone.net](http://www.chromazone.net) closer to the festival start.

In addition to the creation of 12 murals, Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival will feature a week of programming throughout the CEZ. Events will include two nights of the Little Mekong Night Market, open studios, guided mural tours, Chroma Zone-themed beers available at CEZ breweries, and much more.

According to Reid Day, "The idea for a mural festival germinated in the hearts of Theresa Sweetland and Jack Becker (of Forecast

Public Arts) years ago. We knew these festivals were happening in many American cities: Denver, Sacramento, Detroit, and Miami, to name a few.

"Something just clicked for me last year, and I said, 'Let's do it!' Two lead donations came rather quickly, and we've now met our fundraising goal. Some of our fantastic sponsors include Dual Citizen Brewing Co., Wycliff, Platform Apartments, St. Paul Star Program, Mark Simonsen, Motley, Exeter, NewStudio Architecture, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, Vandalia Tower, All Energy Solar, Xcel Energy, First & First, and Stahl Construction."

This event is being offered to the community free of charge. Reid Day hopes it will become an annual event, because, she said, "We believe that art fosters a sense of peace and connection within communities."

# Classifieds & Service Directory

## Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by Aug. 30 for the Sept. 12 issue. Call 651-917-4183 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

**Monitor Want Ads** are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Monitor Classifieds*, 5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Ad copy can be e-mailed to [denis@monitorsaintpaul.com](mailto:denis@monitorsaintpaul.com), or call 651-917-4183.

### APARTMENT WANTED

Working woman looking for one or one-plus bedroom apartment. No smoking or pets, flexible moving date. Please call (no texts) -- Lynn 651-489-9053 B-19

### ATTORNEY

Creative Solutions With a Personal Touch. Legal Services in the areas of: Small Business, Wills and Trusts, Probate, Real Estate, and Family. Kirsten Libby, 855 Rice Street, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN, 651-487-1208 [www.libby-lawoffice.com](http://www.libby-lawoffice.com). B-19

### AUTO STORAGE

Secured auto and boat storage near Snelling and University. Short term or long term. Heated and unheated available. 570 Asbury Street. 651-641-0166. [hamlineparkstorage.com](http://hamlineparkstorage.com). 12-19

**STUMP GRINDING**  
612-724-6045

### EMPLOYMENT

Fresh Heir Delivery is looking for a newspaper delivery carrier available to handle 2-4 routes a week in Minneapolis/St. Paul area. \$13-\$15 an hour per route. [FreshHeirDelivery@gmail.com](mailto:FreshHeirDelivery@gmail.com) or call/text 612-669-5520. Serious inquiries only. B-19

### FLOORING

Carpet installation - ResTreTeh - Repairs - Hard surface floors. 320-266-0222 Ron 8-19

### LAWN

All your GREEN needs: Mowing/Lawn Care/Landscaping, 20+ Years in Mpls. Call 612-781-3420. [SorensenLawnCare.com](http://SorensenLawnCare.com) 6-19

**GET BUSINESS.  
GET BUSY.**

**Classifieds: \$1/word**

**A-Tree Service Inc.**  
40 Years of Professional Service  
Owner/Operator  
Cleve Volk  
Licensed & Insured  
1849 E. 38th St.  
South Mpls.  
We accept   
612-724-6045  
Tree trimming • Tree removal  
Stump grinding • Chipping  
[www.atreeservices.com](http://www.atreeservices.com)

### OFFICE SPACE

Quiet, professional office space with free, attached parking. Single offices up to 10,000 sf. Building information available at [hamlinepp.com](http://hamlinepp.com). Contact Eric with Colliers at 952-837-3087. 12-19

### PAINTING

Painter Jim since 1982. Small painting jobs, wallpaper removal. 612-202-5514. 12-19

Interior Exterior Painting / Repair. Wallpaper Removal, etc. Gutter Cleaning. Insured. 651-699-2832. B-19

### LAWN SERVICE

**KERN**  
LAWN SERVICE, INC.

Total Lawn Maintenance  
Large or Small  
Landscaping Projects

Office: 651-207-5396  
Cell: 612-328-6893

Since 1984 / Major Credit Cards Accepted

[www.kernlawnservice.com](http://www.kernlawnservice.com)

### LANDSCAPING

### WINDOW CLEANING

Larry's Window Washing - You will see the difference. Inside and out. 651-635-9228. 11-19

Readers tell us they still love this section and make sure they check it out monthly.

**GET THEIR ATTENTION.**

Call 651-917-4183 to schedule a service directory ad.

**Nilles Builders, Inc.**  
Additions • Remodeling  
Renovation • Windows & Siding  
Concrete • Garages  
Licensed • Bonded • Insured #4690  
651-222-8701  
[www.nillesbuilders.com](http://www.nillesbuilders.com)

**Merriam Park Painting**  
• Exterior & Interior  
Painting - Enameling  
• Ceiling Texturing  
• Wallpapering  
• Free Estimates  
Call Ed 651-224-3660

**ROOFING**  
Nilles Builders, Inc.  
Full Warranty  
Licensed • Bonded • Insured #4690  
"We Work All Winter"  
651-222-8701  
[www.nillesbuilders.com](http://www.nillesbuilders.com)

### YARD CLEANING

Lawn/Snow Service, Yard/Gutter Cleaning. Roof Snow/Ice.. 651-688-9977. B-19

The Perfect Little Library Addition  
[weeweathervanes.com](http://weeweathervanes.com)

**CONCRETE SIDEWALKS, STEPS, NEW OR REPAIR,**

**GLASS BLOCK WINDOW**  
good for basements any size

**BRICK, BLOCK & STUCCO REPAIR**

Over 25 years experience

Call Mark Larson  
651-642-5090



# In Our Community

## Monitor

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

### Dragonflies Nature Survey Walk Aug. 10

Attend a Dragonflies Nature Survey Walk documenting species in Como Woodland on Saturday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m. at the Kilmer Fireplace, 1221 Wynne Ave (SW Como Park). Britt Forsberg, Minnesota Bee Atlas Coordinator with the University of Minnesota Extension and longtime Como Woodland Advisor, will return to lead this free two-hour event. RSVP with committee chairperson: [teri.heyer@gmail.com](mailto:teri.heyer@gmail.com).

### Butterfly release at Our Lady of Peace

Close to 400 people will gather Thursday, Aug. 15, 4-5:30 p.m. in the gardens at Our Lady of Peace Hospice in Saint Paul (2076 St. Anthony Ave.) to release monarch butterflies in memory of their loved ones during an annual celebration of remembrance. This beautiful event brings together family and friends who have had a loved one cared for in the Our Lady of Peace hospice home or through the Our Lady of Peace community hospice.

### Beat that drum

Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave., will offer a class in hand drums for beginners on August 13, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10. Drums are provided. Visit [womensdrumcenter.org](http://womensdrumcenter.org).

### Reading volunteers needed at school

Chelsea Heights Elementary, located at the intersection of Hamline and Hoyt, is looking for Reading Volunteers for the 2019-2020 school year. Reading Volunteers choose one day a week, Mondays-Thursdays from 8:15-9 a.m., to read one on one with students from 1st-3rd grade for 15 minutes. "We provide the books, the students, and the coffee," said organizers. Contact Maura Thompson at [maura.thompson@spps.org](mailto:maura.thompson@spps.org) or call Chelsea Heights at 651-293-8790. The new season begins the week of Oct 1.

### Racial Equity forum for musicians set

The American Composers Forum will hold the 2019 Racial Equity and Inclusion Forum, a convening of artists, administrators, and advocates to discuss racially inclusive and equitable opportunities for creative musicians on Sept. 7, 2019 at Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), 172 E Fourth St, St. Paul. The forum is free and open to the public, but due to space limitations, RSVP's are strongly encouraged. A livestream of the forum will be simultaneously available on the TPT website and ACF Facebook page. More at [www.composersforum.org](http://www.composersforum.org).

### Applications due Aug.

### 12 for MPCA group

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is looking to recruit Minnesotans left out of environmental discussions to apply to be in the Environmental Justice Advisory Group. The group advises the MPCA Commissioner, Laura Bishop, on implementation of the agency's environmental justice framework, provides feedback on its effectiveness, and offer suggestions for future improvements. Applications are due Monday, Aug. 12. More at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/mpca-environmental-justice-advisory-group>.

### Greek summer festival Aug. 17-18

This summer, experience a weekend getaway to Greece without leaving Minnesota at the St. George's Greek Summer Festival in St. Paul. Come and enjoy fresh baked Moussaka, Gyros, Lamb, Pork, and Chicken Souvlaki Dinners, Flaming Cheese (OPA!!!), and delectable Greek Pastries! Learn to dance Greek with the Greek Dancers of Minnesota, have fun with games for kids, and tour the beautiful sanctuary of St. George Greek Orthodox Church (1111 Summit Ave.), Aug. 17, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and August 18, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., rain or shine with free admission. For more information and to purchase pre-sale food tickets, visit: [www.stgeorgegoc.org](http://www.stgeorgegoc.org).

## Hamline Midway Elders

By LAUREL COLLINS, [laurel@hmelders.org](mailto:laurel@hmelders.org) or 651-209-6542

### Jody's Documentary Series - Wednesday Aug. 28, 1 p.m. at Hamline Midway Library (1558 W.t Minnehaha)

Join us to view documentaries with discussion after, refreshments provided. This month's film (55 minutes): Farmsteaders (see our website for film descriptions [www.hmelders.org/events.html](http://www.hmelders.org/events.html))

### Knitting & Crochet Group - Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. (ongoing) at Hamline Church United Methodist

Hamline Midway Elders provides the yarn and needles along with some light snacks. The group meets weekly throughout the year to work on projects, such as shawls or scarves that are do-

nated to those in need. New participants are always welcome.

### Monthly Luncheons - Second Tuesday of each month, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, 739 Lafond Ave.

Erik Hendrickson will prepare a wonderful meal, blood pressure checks will be provided, and new attendees are always welcome at our "Second Tuesday" luncheon events. Suggested donation \$7.

- Aug. 13 "Senior Snippets" with book giveaway hosted by Green Books

- Sept. 10 "Hamline University Music Opportunities" with Silvester Vicic, Director of Sundin Music Hall

### Events at St. Thomas

The student-run Farmers' Market is back every Friday through Aug. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on Monahan Plaza south of the football field at St. Thomas. Attend NeighborFest on Thursday, Aug. 15, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., on Monahan Plaza. Expect familiar fun and new surprises. More at <https://www.stthomas.edu/neighbors/events/neighborfest-2019.html>.

### Booksigning Sept. 3 for new Krueger book

Get a copy of local author Kent Krueger's brand new book, "This Tender Land," on Sept. 3 during a book signing at Once upon a Crime, 604 E. 26th St., Minneapolis, at 7 p.m. This will be followed by a book signing in Stillwater, hitting the road for 10 days and then returning for more local events.

## The Midway Men's Club Join us at the Minnesota State Fair

(Underwood - just north of Dan Patch)



Est. 1960

**MENS CLUB**

*Sponsoring youth activities for over 50 years in St. Paul*

*Thank you to all who have volunteered at the State Fair over the years, and to all who have visited our stand.*

*We look forward to see you again soon!*

**Midway Men's Club  
Hot food and cold drink**

**Mosaic**  
ON A STICK  
1564 Lafond Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
651-645-6600  
[www.mosaiconastick.com](http://www.mosaiconastick.com)  
An artist-owned mosaic supply shop, community classroom & artist studio

**HAMPDEN PARK CO-OP**  
**PRESENTS: MOVIES IN THE PARK!!**  
SAT / AUGUST 10 / 8:30PM  
**FEATURING: SPIDERMAN INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE**  
ALSO: LIVE BAND & BUBBLES!!  
FOR MORE INFO: 763-406-0413

Reach 'em with a coupon. You know they love deals.  
[Denise@MonitorSaintPaul.com](mailto:Denise@MonitorSaintPaul.com)



**Healthcare, Housing, & Services for Older Adults since 1906**

[www.lyngblomsten.org](http://www.lyngblomsten.org) • (651) 646-2941

St. Paul

- Senior Housing with Services Available
- Rehab & Transitional Care
- Alzheimer's & Parkinson's Care
- Long-term Nursing Care
- Caregiver Support

*Lyngblomsten is seeking volunteers to help with our respite services to caregivers of persons with memory loss. More information at [www.lyngblomsten.org/individualvolunteer](http://www.lyngblomsten.org/individualvolunteer)*

# Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director, [district10@district10comopark.org](mailto:district10@district10comopark.org)

## Do's and don'ts during the State Fair

### Do's and don'ts during fair

The Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 22-Sept. 2. Some residents can't wait. Some residents can't wait to get out. To get up to date (or take a refresher course) on what is and is not allowed in the neighborhood during the Fair, see the "State Fair Do's and Don'ts" article on District 10's website. It covers the special chaos that is fair time in Como: yard parking, street parking, peddlers, vendors, signs, and more. Go to: [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org).

### Commissioner to speak

Ramsey County Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo will be the guest presenter at the Aug. 20 Como Community Council board meeting. She'll give updates on local issues, and answer residents' questions. The meeting begins Tuesday Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station, which is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton. All renters, homeowners, and other community members are welcome to attend and participate. If technology cooperates, we'll also stream the meeting live on the Como Community Council Facebook page.

### Upcoming District 10 meetings

- Environment Committee: Wednesday Aug. 14.
- Neighborhood Relations Committee: Tuesday Sept. 3
- Land Use Committee: Wednesday Sept. 4

All meetings typically begin at 7 p.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station, which is at the northeast



City code gives property owners in part of District 10 special dispensation to park cars on their lawn during the 12 days of the Minnesota State Fair. But you have to get permission from neighbors on both sides of you before you can do so. (Photo submitted)

corner of Lexington and Horton. Renters, homeowners, and other community members are always welcome to attend and participate. Whenever possible, agendas are posted in advance in the "Board News" section of District 10's website.

### Community Yoga is Sept. 8

District 10's next Community Yoga is Sunday Sept. 8 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Como Park Streetcar Station. The session will be suitable for all levels of skill and experience. Bring a yoga mat or blanket and wear comfortable clothes. The class is limited to 25 participants.

Registration is \$5, which benefits the Como Community

Council. Register in advance at: [www.district10comopark.org/communityyoga.html](http://www.district10comopark.org/communityyoga.html)

### Streetcar Station open Sundays

The Como Park Streetcar Station is open every Sunday through Oct. 6 from noon-4 p.m. It is a great chance to introduce yourself to the long-gone trolley system in the Twin Cities, to get a sense of the history and visionaries behind Como Park (and the Twin Cities' overall park system), to pick up organics recycling bags or kitchen starter kits, or just to chat with a District 10 board member who is staffing the day. The Historic Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

# Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY, Hamline Midway Library Association

### Programs for families and kids

Preschool Storytimes in English happen Fridays from 10:30-11 AM, with upcoming storytimes on Aug. 9, 16, and 23 and Sept. 6. Storytimes feature stories, songs, puppets, and more. They're a great way for caregivers to bond with children and build social skills, listening comprehension, and letter and number recognition while creating a solid foundation for lifelong learning. Children of all activity levels are welcome!

On Saturday, Aug. 17 from 3-4 p.m., the Summer Spark program presents the Brodini Comedy Magic Show, a kid-friendly comedy magic show with plenty of audience participation.

The Summer Spark program challenges kids and youth ages 0-18 to have fun, stay active, and keep learning all summer. Kids and teens can attend free programs at the library and earn prizes by completing reading and activity challenges. Talk to a librarian or go to <https://sppl.org/summer-spark/> for more information.

On Wednesday, Aug. 21 from 6-7 p.m., the new Local Voices program will host renowned chil-

dren's author Heather Bouwman, who'll read from her newest fantasy adventure "A Tear in the Ocean." Bouwman will be joined by Carrie Pomeroy, who will read from her narrative nonfiction book about silent film pioneer Mary Pickford and the early days of Hollywood, and illustrator Elizabeth Crawford, who uses photos of small-scale characters to elicit the power of imaginative and dramatic play for young people. All three presenters are members of the local homeschool community and will discuss the relationship between homeschooling and their creative processes.

### Club Gathers for mysteries

The Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club meets on Saturday, September 7, 1-2 PM, to discuss good mystery novels. This month's book is Connie Archer's A Spoonful of Murder. Contact volunteer G. Balter for more information at [gerrbalter@gmail.com](mailto:gerrbalter@gmail.com) or 651-224-5570.

### Closed for Labor Day weekend

All St. Paul Libraries will be closed Aug. 31-Sept. 2 in honor of the Labor Day holiday weekend.

CHILDREN  
TEENS  
ADULTS

SOMETHING  
FOR  
EVERYONE!

## AUGUST DANCE!

In your neighborhood at 655 Fairview Avenue N

SPBALLET.ORG | ST. PAUL BALLET | 651-690-1588

2019 Minnesota  
**Renaissance Festival**

Weekends & Labor Day  
August 17th- September 29th  
Festival Friday, September 27th  
9AM-7PM • Rain or Shine!

## FREE PARKING!

952-445-7361 • [RenaissanceFest.com](http://RenaissanceFest.com)

# Walk to Fight Suicide

Twin Cities, MN  
September 15

[afsp.org/TwinCities](http://afsp.org/TwinCities)



American  
Foundation  
for Suicide  
Prevention



OUT OF THE  
DARKNESS  
Community Walks

# St. Paul inventor helps save summer and maybe, the planet

By STEPHANIE FOX

It was just a mishap, or so it seemed at the time. But, in the summer of 2008, while boating on Lake Okoboji in Iowa, Alex Orcutt lost a flip-flop. "I was shoving a ski boat off a sandbar into the lake and when I jumped back, the flip-flop was gone," he recalled.

And then, it happened again, this time when Orcutt was biking. His flip-flop slipped from the bike pedal and off his foot.

It could have been a disaster, but it turned out to be fate. He retreated into his Como Ave. basement to work on a design, something quick and easy, that would help keep flip-flops on people's feet instead of letting the iconic summer shoe fly off into the unknown. His invention was Toe Tethrs, a do-hicky that attaches to both the sandal strap and to the big toe, keeping the flip-flops firmly on the feet.

"With these, you can run great in flip-flops, you can use them in canoes, kayaks. You can wear flip-flops all the time, you don't need closed sandals," Orcutt said.

## Made in North Minneapolis of recycled materials

Orcutt had no real design experience, but in 2018, he became an inventor, awarded a patent, number 10,070,684, for his Toe Tethrs.

"I worked hard trying to find the right material to make them," he said. "We tried rubber bands and other things but settled on a silicone blend. It doesn't irritate, it's durable, flexible and eco-friendly. And now, we have an eco-friendly business. That's our real mission."

Soon, he was selling them through his online company, Tethrco. The Toe Tethrs sell for

\$10 a pair, with 30 percent of the profits from sales going to environmental charities including Ocean Sole, a non-profit company in Kenya that recycles flip-flops and makes them into colorful pieces of art and functional products, available over the Internet.

"More than 40 tons of discarded flip-flops wash on the shores of Kenya every year," said Orcutt. "People gather them and recycle them which helps clean up beaches and gives people jobs."

Creating the product and the company was exciting, he said, but the patenting process was long and tedious. He reached out to LegalCORPS, which provides free advice to low-income startups and inventors in Minnesota.

"Without their help, I wouldn't have been able to do this," he said. "I had to submit information and they set me up with legal representation. It was a five-year process, but working with them was a great experience."

This is Tethrco's first summer in sales and so far, they've sold more than 1,500 of the bright red Toe Tethrs, all made in North Minneapolis out of recycled material. So far, said Orcutt, it's been all word-of-mouth generating sales. He quit his job as an EMT last August to work on marketing his product and on his real job, being a single father.

## 'Labor of love'

His two daughters, 14-year old Lilly and 12-year old Layla, have been working with him since the beginning. They are featured in the company's online advertising and have become Toe Tethr models, as well as posting product information to their own social media.

*"We're in it for a purpose. Taking care of the planet is a no-brainer."*

— Alex Orcutt, Toe Tethrs owner

"It's a labor of love – a family affair," he said.

## More shoreline in Minnesota than California, Oregon and Washington combined

The family connection goes back a couple of generations. Orcutt's grandfather was president of his local Izaak Walton League, one of the earliest national conservation organizations, founded in 1922. His dad did work for the Sierra Club. "I'm a third generation conservationist," said Orcutt.

"We're the land of 10,000 Lakes," he said. "We have more shoreline than California, Oregon and Washington put together – shoreline and waterways that need protection."

In addition to the Toe Tethrs (in adult and kid's sizes) and colorfully designed flip-flops, the Tethrco website also features t-shirts, caps and other items displaying the Tethrco logo. Orcutt also started adding a decorative silvery Hamsa charm, a hand-shaped amulet from the Middle East and North Africa, a protective symbol said to bring happiness and luck, designed to be fastened to Toe Tethrs.

Maybe some of that luck will rub off on the new company. Orcutt said he's trying to find a foothold with the outdoor recreation and adventure customer. In the future, Orcutt is hoping to expand, to collaborate with brick and mortar stores like Minneso-



Toe Tethrs is a family affair. Alex Orcutt (center) with daughters Lilly (age 14) and Layla (age 12), who help promote the company on social media and pose as models. "It's a labor of love - a family affair," said Orcutt. He was inspired to invent Toe Tethrs after losing a few flip-flops, and became determined to find a solution that would keep the sandals on feet. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

ta-based Target.

"I would love to get in there but I'm still learning to navigate that process, learning marketing and sales," he remarked.

Orcutt said he's hoping that the Tethrco logo will become widely recognized, so that people wearing it will be immediately

identified as supporters of conservation, clean water and clean beaches.

"We're not just in it for profit," said Orcutt. "We're in it for a purpose. We're in it supporting recycling and conservation. Taking care of the planet is a no-brainer."

**We've got new contact information.**

News@MonitorSaintPaul.com | Ads@MonitorSaintPaul.com

Denis@MonitorSaintPaul.com | Tessa@MonitorSaintPaul.com



5139 34th Ave. S. #17097, Minneapolis, MN 55417

General: 612-345-9998 Ads: 651-917-4183

**Unemployed or Underemployed?**

**Ready for a change?**

**FREE work-skills training program!**

Information Sessions daily-call to schedule:

MINNEAPOLIS

1301 Bryant Ave. N.

612-338-0295

ST. PAUL

1600 University Ave. W.

651-603-8520

**TWIN CITIES R!SE**

**WE TRANSFORM LIVES THROUGH MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT**

- Work Skills Training
- One-on-One Coaching and Mentorship
- Empowerment Training
- Internships

twincitiesrise.org

f t YouTube

**Enroll Today!**

FREE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL



The **Journey School**

775 Lexington Pkwy N.  
St. Paul, MN 55104

thejourneyschool.org | (612) 389-1579