



A thing of beauty is a joy forever. Even a 76-year old canoe.

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Summer camp options abound for kids in the metro

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St. Paul Ballet is breaking down barriers so that all can dance

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Midway Como

Monitor



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Spring Café awarded five-year contract to operate at Como Pavilion

By JANE MCCLURE

Visitors to Como Park and its economic pavilion will enjoy a new dining option. And everyone is hoping that with the new operator, the third time is the charm.

On Feb. 14, the St. Paul City Council approved a 23-page contract with O'Reilly Custom 3 LLC to operate the pavilion, 1360 Lexington Pkwy. N., on a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission. The name announced is Spring Café.

A request for proposals was posted in December 2017, and the restaurant operator was chosen from who applied before a January deadline.

The City Council approved the contract without discussion as part of its consent agenda.



The Pavilion at Como Park, the future home of Spring Café.

Spring Café will be the third restaurant operator at the pavilion in recent years. Como Dockside closed last fall. In 2015 Como Dockside had replaced Black Bear Crossings, which won an \$800,000 legal

judgment against the city after it was ousted in 2014. That restaurant had operated for 13 years, and on Como Ave. before that.

Before Black Bear a combination of city workers and ca-

terers provided food service at the pavilion.

New operator Matty O'Reilly is not only a veteran restaurateur, he already works with the Department of Parks and Recreation to operate Red River Kitchen at the City House at Upper Landing. That facility is in what used to be a head house and sack house for a larger grain elevator complex.

Area residents may also know O'Reilly as owner-operator of Delicata Pizza & Gelato, 1341 Pascal St., in the Como neighborhood.

The agreement takes effect Apr. 1 and continues through 2023, with an option for an additional five-year renewal. It also has a clause allowing termination. It calls for operations between 11am and 9pm

weekdays during peak season and no weekday hours during the winter. Saturday and Sunday hours during peak season are 9am-9pm, and 9am-3pm during the off-season. The operator and city will work together to see if there can be promenade access during the peak season, before opening the restaurant.

Peak season is considered Mothers' Day to Labor Day.

The hours are a major change from the Como Dockside operation, which shut its doors in November 2017. Those operators dealt with very slow weekday hours during the fall and winter months. Como Dockside had to open at 7am under its city contract.

The new operator will also

Continued on page 4

Program helps those with sensory processing needs enjoy zoo more

Como works with Autism Society on handouts and maps to help families prepare before they get into zoo

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

For those with sensory issues, it can be hard to visit the zoo, but Como is launching a new program to change that.

Visitors who have family members on the autism spectrum or those with sensory processing needs will now be able to enter Como Zoo one hour before doors open to the general public on selected Sundays and Wednesdays.

"Como has so much to

offer when it comes to sights, sounds, smells, and temperatures, that it can sometimes be overwhelming," remarked Noah Petermeier of Como Zoo and Conservatory. "We are so lucky to have such a dynamic facility that allows visitors to have unique learning experiences. Keeping that in mind, it is important for us at Como to acknowledge what we can do to assist those who might have challenges processing these

sensory experiences."

The goal of this new program is to provide families resources and tools to support them and make their time at Como more accessible.

"We can't take away some of these sensory experiences like the smells and sounds, but what we can do is provide families with resources to help prepare them for their experience and set them up for success," stated Petermeier.

"When we go to events like these, we find that knowing the staff and other visitors understand unique struggles can be helpful," said Autism Society of Minnesota Education Specialist Lucas Scott, who added that it eases any embarrassment that might develop.

Scott is excited about the zoo's commitment to hold these Autism Sensory Friendly Mornings monthly and make it a regular offering rather than a

one-time thing.

Upcoming dates include Sundays, Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, July 22, Aug. 5, and Aug. 19; and Wednesdays, June 13, July 11, July 25, Aug. 8 and Aug. 22.

Families can arrive between 9-10am on the selected dates. They should enter through the visitor center main entrance. The early entry days

Continued on page 4



"Como has so much to offer when it comes to sights, sounds, smells, and temperatures, that it can sometimes be overwhelming," remarked Noah Petermeier of Como. "We can't take away some of these sensory experiences like the smells and sounds, but what we can do is provide families with resources to help prepare them for their experience and set them up for success." (Photos submitted)

Everyone loves to 'mix it up' in the Creative Enterprise Zone

Article and photos
by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ) is a well-established hub of industry and creativity, radiating out in all directions from the intersection of Raymond and University avenues.

Home to many creative businesses and nonprofit groups, the CEZ itself became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the fall of 2017, making it possible to receive funding from a broader range of foundations.

Originally formed in 2009 as a task force of the St. Anthony Park Community Council, the CEZ now has its own twelve-member working board.

As part of an ongoing series, they hosted a mixer on Feb. 26 at The Naughty Greek Restaurant (2400 University Ave. W.). The Naughty Greek is a fairly new addition to the restaurant scene that serves up authentic Athenian street food at their two St. Paul locations.

The mixer addressed questions unique to the CEZ about live/work spaces, the growing trend of maker spaces, the future of space development for creative entrepreneurs, and the opportunities and challenges associated with transit-oriented development.

The event was funded by the Knight Foundation. Jai Winston, St. Paul Program Director for the Knight Foundation, added closing remarks.

According to board chair Catherine Reid Day, "At the heart of everything we do for the CEZ is the belief that creativity and economic development go hand in hand. We very much want to preserve the lively mix of people and enterprises that make up our zone. In the usual scheme of gentrification, this presents real challenges."

The main mixer event was a panel discussion about these challenges. Panelists were Can Can Wonderland's Rob Clapp, owner and real estate broker



CEZ board chair Catherine Reid Day welcomed 100+ attendees to the mixer held at the Naughty Greek Restaurant on Feb. 26th. The topic of discussion was Innovative Development for a Creative Economy.



Dr. Bruce Corrie, newly appointed Director of Planning and Economic development for the City of St. Paul said, "We have every intention of becoming the best city in the country for the creative economy."

of Summit Group/KW Commercial; First and First CEO Peter Remes, a company that transforms derelict urban warehouses into creative, inspiring, worker spaces; and Renee Spillum, Senior Project Manager with the community development corporation Seward Redesign. CEZ board member Lucas Koska moderated the

panel discussion.

Clapp explained, "Can Can Wonderland (755 Prior Ave. N.) is proud to be the first arts-based public benefit corporation in Minnesota (called a B Corp). That means that we can place value both on being an economic engine for the arts and on being a profitable company. The American Can Factory was the perfect place to create Can Can Wonderland because it had the space we needed at a price point we could afford."

"The positive energy of the CEZ," Peter Remes said, "was a big part of what drew me to want to develop Vandalia Tower at 550 Vandalia St. The 220,000 square foot building was in terrible shape, but so many other things about the decision felt right. Ultimately, it was because of the neighborhood that we decided to put our stake in the ground."

Renee Spillum works as a senior project manager for

Seward Redesign in Minneapolis, is a resident of Hamline-Midway, and a new CEZ board member. Her work is focused on business develop-

ment, commercial leasing, and new development projects. She is also a licensed commercial real estate agent. "I get to go to my job every day and work on re-connecting neighborhoods. What could be better!" she said.

Reid Day concluded, "The Mixer Series has been great because we're able to invite all kinds of people into creative spaces in the CEZ for conversation."

In addition to many creatives and makers living and working in the CEZ, staff of the Department of Planning and Economic Development showed up in full force for this mixer. And why shouldn't City Hall be interested in what's happening in the CEZ? According to Reid Day, "this district provides more tax revenue to the state than any other."

The next mixer will be held in early April, time and place still TBD. Check the website at www.creativeenterprisezone.org for updates.

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Monitor In A Minute

By JANE MCCLURE

Update given on survey work

Neighbors interested in a proposed historic survey of the neighborhood around Hamline University got an update Feb. 19, along with an overview of area history.

Despite a snowstorm, there was a good turnout for the Hamline-Midway Reconnaissance Survey. It is a historic survey of properties and identification of historic contexts, development patterns, and historic resources in the Hamline Midway neighborhood.

Those present learned about the project and how they can help provide information. The meeting was part of the regular Hamline University Neighborhood Advisory Committee meeting. An update was to be provided in January but was postponed that month due to a storm.

The project is being followed closely by the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, which received an update Feb. 22. The survey is being funded through a mix of federal, state, and city funds.

Those present got an update on neighborhood history (including industrial history), and talked about upcoming meetings that will be part of the project.

There will also be additional community outreach.

What could ultimately result hinges on study findings, but the neighborhood could have a district or individual sites designated. The type of designation, such as national

or local, could also be decided.

Follow city work on the survey at <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/planning-economic-development/planning/current-activities>.

Interim council member named

Samantha Henningson is the interim St. Paul City Council Ward Four member. She was appointed Feb. 14 to replace Russ Stark, who has joined Mayor Melvin Carter III's administration.

Henningson has worked as Stark's legislative aide for all of his 10 years in office. She previously worked for Hamline University and is a founder of Women on Bikes. Henningson and her family live in Hamline-Midway neighborhood.

She was chosen from a field of six candidates who interviewed for the interim post. Those who interviewed agreed that if they were chosen they would not seek election to the seat in August.

A new council member will be chosen during the statewide primary election. That person will serve through 2019 (the remaining year-plus of Stark's term). 2019 is when all seven council seats are on the ballot.

City Council members in St. Paul are part-time and are paid \$63,000 year.

Ward Four includes all of Merriam Park, Hamline-Midway, and St. Anthony Park neighborhoods, and parts of Como, and Macalester-Groveland.

Autumn Amadou-Blegen,

Scott Banas, Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn, Jon Oppenheimer and John Van Hecke had also interviewed for the interim post.

Approval sought for 'accessory dwellings'

The topic of accessory dwelling units, such as an apartment in a home or housing above a garage, will be studied by the St. Paul Planning Commission.

On Feb. 7 the City Council approved a study that includes the West 7th, West Side, Frogtown, District One and Mounds Park neighborhoods. In late February Union Park District Council sought to have its neighborhoods added to the study.

Older neighborhoods with larger homes, including Ramsey Hill and Summit Hill, have carriage house apartments or other forms of accessory dwellings that predate the zoning code. Neighborhoods one-half mile north and south of Green Line light rail, except for Frogtown, have newer zoning regulations that allow the units to be added in a home or above a garage.

Ward Seven Council Member Jane Prince sought the study at the behest of Mounds Park residents. But other council members said there is growing interest in studying the dwelling units. The council discussed whether there should be a citywide study, or if the study should only cover areas where there is interest. Some neighborhoods, including Summit Hill and Highland, have fought the idea. The Green Line accessory dwellings proposal drew a mixed reaction in St. Anthony Park.

"From a staff perspective, we need to see if there is community support" before doing a study citywide, said City Planner Jamie Radel. She suggested a series of open houses and events to explain what an accessory dwelling unit is. Community reaction could determine where the studies

would continue. But that kind of process would slow down studies for neighborhoods that want the option of accessory dwelling units.

"There are pockets of interest throughout the city," said former Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark. He heard from constituents who live just outside of the Green Line area where the dwelling units are allowed. Those constituents question why they cannot add the units to their properties.

Changes meant to help small businesses

Changes to the Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) guidelines, meant to help small businesses, won approval Feb. 7 from the St. Paul City Council.

The council, Neighborhood STAR Board, and Department of Planning and Economic Development staff have discussed the changes for a couple of years. Michelle Swanson, the city staff for the program, said the intent is to get more for-profit small businesses involved. A second goal is to fill vacant commercial storefronts.

Swanson said projects that occupy vacant storefronts would get favorable consideration during the project review process.

Small businesses will be able to seek grant-only assistance. Grants will have to be matched on a dollar for dollar basis.

Swanson said larger businesses will still have to seek loans or a grant-loan combination. The city will also ease the match requirements for small businesses, with no match at all for loans of up to \$50,000. Technical changes are also being made to streamline the reimbursement process.

An informational workshop about the Neighborhood STAR Program and application process was held Feb. 14. Applications are being accepted through Wed., Mar. 21, at 4pm.

More than \$2.8 million will be available in loans and grants for capital (bricks and mortar) improvement projects in neighborhoods that further economic, commercial or residential development. After a complete review, funding decisions will be announced in July 2018.

Letters to the Editor

Hello from new Ward 4 Council rep

Hello, Ward 4 residents, businesses, employees, and partners,

I am pleased to share that I have been officially sworn in as the Ward 4 interim Councilmember, and will be serving through August 2018 when the special election results are certified. I have big shoes to fill (literally) but know that I can rely on the ten years I've spent as the Ward 4 Legislative Aide. The relationships and expertise I've developed will allow me to serve you effectively, as well as continue much of the work Russ and I did together.

A little about me: I'm a proud Hamline Midway resident and have been since 2004 (aside from a brief, ill-advised stint living in south Minneapolis). I live on Lafond Ave. with my husband, two kids, and two cats, where we enjoy growing vegetables in our front yard during the half of the year we don't live on the Minnesota tundra. I have a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in Education, with a specific focus on policy.

Other staffing changes are afoot in my office. Kelly Bauer, who served for nearly five years as our wonderful Executive Assistant fielding your inquiries and tracking down answers, has moved on to another position with the City. Her replacement is in flux, so please be patient while we're in transition.

On Feb. 26, Libby Kantner joined the Ward 4 office as Legislative Aide. Libby has most recently been serving the City as the Coordinator for the Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission (PCIARC) and before that, was the Ward 3 Legislative Aide. I am so excited to have Libby's expertise and energy in my office, and grateful to have her aboard!

More to come, but I wanted to keep you apprised of changes in the Ward 4 office. I am excited to continue this work. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns. I look forward to representing you. The best way to contact me is to use the ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us address or call 651-266-8640. Please be patient with us as we transition to full staffing.

All best,
Samantha Henningson



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A longtime industrial site near Prior Ave. and Pierce Butler Rte. has reached a milestone in clean-up work. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced in February that the former Plating Inc. plant site has been cleaned up. Area residents now wonder if redevelopment is ahead.

The EPA, state, county and city officials jumped into action last summer to clean and secure the property at 888 Prior Ave. N. The abandoned chemicals, many in vats and leaking containers, generated a fog-like haze inside the building.

The announcement ends months of work at the property. Crews removed more than 15,000 gallons of hazardous acids, 14 tons of acid sludge, and more than 67 tons of caustic liquids and solids. The previous owners of the property shut the metal plating plant down and walked

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Pollution cleanup done at Plating Inc. site

away more than a year ago.

In an announcement, EPA officials said they have removed the immediate health threat. But now the federal agency must take Action to recover its costs. The EPA is deciding if it can find a responsible party to cover the costs, the total of which hasn't been announced.

One possibility to help recover costs is when and if the property is sold and redeveloped. One possibility discussed at a community meeting in 2017 is if the

property goes through the property tax foreclosure process. City and county officials have heard from developers interested in the site, but no developer names or future uses have been announced. Although the property has had industrial uses for decades, it is just west of a small residential neighborhood.

More transit is a development impetus

While Gov. Mark Dayton's 2018 bonding bill left out

many local and regional projects, one inclusion being watched closely would connect with the area's popular A Line bus.

Dayton included three Metropolitan Council initiatives in his \$1.5 billion bonding proposal, including \$50 million for regional bus rapid transit projects.

The area bus line eyed would be the B Line on Marshall Ave. in St. Paul and Lake St. in Minneapolis. It is one of

three rapid bus lines eyed for design and engineering studies. The goal would be to offer service in 2020. Other transit projects in the region would also be a focus.

The A line has stops just south of Marshall, at Dayton and Selby avenues. If the B Line is developed, it would provide intersecting bus rapid transit at the first location in St. Paul.

Marshall Ave. is currently the focus of a zoning study to determine where changes could be made. There is also a zoning moratorium on six blocks of that street, which is part of a study to determine where, and if, historic properties should be saved—and if there is a need for historic district protection for parts of the neighborhood. Those studies are to be completed by this fall.

Como Zoo/Autism Society collaboration

Continued from page 1

will include early access to zoo exhibits and zoo grounds, a sensory story time, and a quiet room where families can go to take a break if needed. Other partnering organizations will also have resources available for families.

According to Scott, there are many misconceptions out there regarding those with autism and sensory processing disorders.

"I generally think the easiest way to understand anyone is to recognize a person for who they are and not only by a disability label," he pointed out.

The Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM) has also worked with other organizations to provide sensory-friendly events, including Stages Theater in Hopkins and the

"The hope is that families will be able to better prepare for their visit by reading through the social narrative. They can look at the photos, read the text, understand expectations, and ease some uncertainties that their family might have before coming to visit the exhibits and zoo grounds."

— Noah Petermeier, Como Zoo & Conservatory

Schubert Club.

"We've worked with Shoreview Library and many Dakota county libraries recently to create more sensory-friendly programs and options. We've even

brought quiet rooms to events like Pride to create a little sensory-friendly bubble in an otherwise not sensory-friendly environment," stated Scott.

Plan the visit

Prior to starting this new sensory-friendly program, Como met with representatives from AuSM to create a sensory map, social narrative, and visual schedule. They can be found at www.comozooconservatory.org under the "Plan your visit" tab.

These items help attendees prepare and plan before coming. The sensory map highlights strong smells and quiet spaces. A 20-page social narrative lists which types of animals live in each building or area in the zoo, expectations, and rules to follow in each area, and sensory information that might be important before entering.

Families can print out and modify a visual schedule resource for those who appreciate having a pre-planned visual

"I generally think the easiest way to understand anyone is to recognize a person for who they are and not only by a disability label."

— Lucas Scott, Autism Society of Minnesota

schedule.

"The hope is that families will be able to better prepare for their visit by reading through the social narrative," observed Petermeier. "They can look at the photos, read the text, understand expectations, and ease some uncertainties that their family might have before coming to visit the exhibits and zoo grounds."

Excited about the new program

Como's education department

currently partners with the Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM) to host year-round camps for elementary and high school-aged students.

"We wanted to continue our outreach to these families and other families for a free, early access experience," remarked Petermeier.

He added, "Our partnership with AuSM has been such a successful and celebrated program here at Como. I am so excited to offer this new program to a larger audience and provide this space and time for families. I am looking forward to learning from our visitors and using their suggestions to make the program more successful."

So far, the program is doing what organizers set out to accomplish. As one visitor commented, "We have hesitated to come to Como in the past. We are so excited that you are offering this program."

Spring Café

Continued from page 1

provide recreational equipment rental, room rental and community access to rooms, and catering service with facilities rental. Services such as equipment rental could be contracted to a third party.

The contract gives the new operator exclusive rights to outdoor vending and calls for operations of the concessions window. Window hours cannot be used as a substitute for interior hours of operation. The operators can sell souvenirs, with the approval of such items.

O'Reilly will also take over the theater and music bookings, which traditionally are more than 100 per year.

The contract also allows for the sale of alcoholic beverages including wine, beer, and liquor. Those must be consumed within the pavilion and promenade and can only be sold when the full kitchen is in operation. Liquor could be sold at ticketed or private events.

One point of debate at last year's community meeting is that while some neighborhood residents enjoyed being able to have liquor or cocktails,

others said walking in and seeing a full bar didn't provide a family-friendly atmosphere. The full bar is expected to go away, with wine, beer, and a few selected premade cocktails offered.

The new restaurant isn't expected to have table service. A menu of burgers, salads and rice bowls has been suggested, under the guidance of chef J.D. Fratzke.

Another change is that the city can potentially take a larger cut of revenue during the summer. The contract does maintain the \$100,000 minimum annual payback to the city.

The contract also calls for the new operator make \$20,000 in improvements. That compares to \$294,000 put in by Como Dockside, largely on the interior of the pavilion, which needed a new kitchen. It also included a new dock.

The new contract calls for the city to get a guarantee of 10 percent of gross revenues during the peak season. Como Dockside's contract called for nine percent.

The contract also has thresholds for additional shared revenue if the restaurant receipts top \$1.5 million and \$1.75 million per year. A

percentage of winter brunch revenues are to be dedicated

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Allianz Field granted major noise and signage variances

No limitation on noise during games; a 1872% variance on temporary signage, and 179% variance on permanent signage

By JANE MCCLURE

Allianz Field, the soccer stadium under construction near Snelling and St. Anthony avenues, has won a blanket noise exemption from city noise limits for soccer games. The St. Paul City Council approved the measure Feb. 14. Minnesota United FC is expected to start playing at the field in 2019.

The noise exemption—or sound variance—is one of two measures approved in February for the stadium. The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Feb. 26 approved variances for permanent and temporary signage at the stadium site. The BZA laid over a request in January to separate permanent and temporary signage, and to have questions answered.

The noise exemption has been debated for several weeks in neighborhoods around the stadium and at City Hall. A public hearing was held in January. Ward One Council Member Dai Thao laid the matter over Feb. 7, so he could review a recommendation from Union Park District Council (UPDC).

The district council asked that the exemption be rejected and that the city council set a maximum noise level of 65 decibels allowed during the playing and exhibition of any game or league event at the stadium. That is consistent with the allowable daytime noise level. UPDC be-



Major sign variances are now approved for Allianz Field. (Photo by James Burger)

lieves it is a reasonable limitation to impose after 10pm as well, instead of the current ordinance limitation of 55 decibels after 10pm. UPDC also recommended that the ordinance exemption or variance be put in effect on a conditional or trial basis, for the first five home games of the 2019 season. After an opportunity for review of the noise level generated, it could be granted for the remainder of that season.

Neighbors south of the stadium, in the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood, attended the Feb. 7 meeting to voice concerns. They said they hadn't gotten notice of the January public hearing. Snelling Park residents Tim

Mangan and Jeff Schaller heckled the council before the layover vote. After the meeting, Schaller said that if the soccer team fails, he foresees neighbors getting blasted with loud rock concerts.

"The city has totally ignored our neighborhood," he said.

"We are literally in the shadow of the stadium, and we deserve consideration," said Mangan. Snelling Park is the neighborhood south of Concordia Ave., between Snelling Ave. and Pascal St.

But Thao, who represents part of the affected area, said the exemption is a better way to regulate noise. He said it doesn't include concerts and fireworks, and that such events would be con-

sidered on a case-by-case basis.

Thao also said the exemption is what is in place at other stadiums in the area. He also pledged to continue working with neighbors and UPDC on noise issues.

Environmental impact studies of the stadium indicate that the blanket exemption is a better strategy for handling noise, said Thao.

Outgoing Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark, who lives north of the stadium, said the city is limited by a development agreement previously adopted on the stadium. "To say you can hold soccer games but you have to quiet the fans down somehow doesn't make a lot of sense."

As for the signs, the BZA approved two of the most significant variances seen recently at City Hall. Zoning regulations allow for 250 feet of temporary signage. Team contractors led by Mortenson Construction installed 4,167 square feet of signage without the needed sign permits. They also want to install and additional 763 square feet of signage, for a variance of 4,680 square feet.

Most of the temporary signs promote the Minnesota United FC and the contractors. Some signage promotes the businesses remaining at Midway Center. The temporary signs will come down once the stadium and permanent signs are completed.

The BZA also approved a

variance for permanent signage. The zoning code sets the amount of permanent signage by street frontage and property size. The code allows 1,776.5 square feet of signage; the request is for 3,187 square feet of signage, for a variance of 1,410.5 square feet. This signage is on the stadium lower levels as well as on pylons and in the plaza planned at Snelling and St. Anthony avenues.

One concern the board had about so much permanent signage is whether it would affect the longer-term development of the site. While there are parking lots shown west of the stadium, plans call for those sites to be developed in the future. BXA members and city staff had questioned whether the stadium would lose signage or if yet more variances would be sought in the future.

But it sounds like at least one more variance is on the way. Bill McGuire, the lead team owner, has been discussing the possibility of dynamic signage at the property. Dynamic signage is lit, changing signage. An example is on Xcel Energy Center in downtown St. Paul. Smaller examples are at Holiday Station stores.

The city has regulations on that type of signage, so it's likely that before any dynamic signage is added at Allianz Field, a zoning code text amendment is needed. Those go through the Planning Commission and then to City Hall.

Factory building on Wabash Ave. to be converted to apartments

By JANE MCCLURE

Preserve industrial land or let a mostly underutilized building sit vacant? Those were the choices for the St. Paul Planning Commission. After much debate in February, the commission agreed Feb. 23 to a plan to convert a century-old West Midway meat packing plant into a 64-unit apartment complex. The commission approved a conditional use permit for Superior LLC's project at 2103 Wabash Ave. That decision is final barring an appeal to the St. Paul City Council.

"I'm usually the one who says, preserve industrial land," said Daniel Edgerton, chair of the Planning Commission Zoning Committee. But he was struck by the Port and Midway Chamber support of the residential reuse.

"This is really a challenging site," Edgerton said. "It's been underutilized for about 40 years. It seems like a choice of repurposing the property for housing or letting it sit vacant."

The old Superior Meat Packing Company building has been mostly vacant since 1979. Its first floor in recent years has housed uses including pet boarding, guitar repair and industrial tire sales and service. The oldest part of the structure dates from 1886. It was added onto in 1911, 1928 and 1947, so it has different floor levels and roof heights. Sections range from one to three stories in height.

Many more steps must be taken between now and June, when work is to start at the site. The developers need to seek historic designation for the property, and a possible spot on the National Register of Historic Places. That would provide



You can see from this satellite image the complexity of the building by all the site line changes in the roof. The oldest part of the structure dates from 1886. It was added onto in 1911, 1928 and 1947, so it has different floor levels and roof heights. Sections range from one to three stories in height. (Web image)

state and federal historic tax credits to help pay for redevelopment.

Almost two hours of debate at the Planning Commission and its Zoning Committee Feb. 15 revealed the complexity of redeveloping the property. It is a 1.6-acre industrially zoned property that is one block south of Green Line light rail and one block west of Cleveland Ave. The building fills its block, which is bounded by Wabash, Montgomery Ave., Myrtle St. and a parking lot used by Rihm Kenworth.

The parking lot was recently purchased by American Engineering Testing, which plans a five-story building there. Rihm Kenworth is in the process of relocating out of the Midway after being there nearly 70 years.

"Our goal is to save and reuse a historic structure," said developer Clint Blaiser, who represented HGB and PAK Properties before the Zoning Committee. The developers are trying to get work underway by

June, before changes are made to federal historic tax credits needed for the project.

The conditional permit approved Feb. 23 is to allow residential use in an industrial area. It allows more than six dwelling units on an industrially zoned property. Plans call for 39 dwelling units on the first floor. Typically, when residential uses are allowed in an industrial area, those are on upper floors.

The permit also allows 90 percent of the first floor to have residential use. Typically, 80 percent of the first floor would be for non-residential uses.

Blaiser said different ideas were considered for the property, including industrial or commercial reuse. But the building's configuration makes 100 percent residential use most feasible. "It has about 30 roofs and about as many elevations inside," Blaiser said.

"It's basically a historic shell,"

said Rich Wessling, project architect from UrbanWorks Architecture. But he and Blaiser said it makes more sense to gut and rehabilitate the building, than to tear it down and build new on the site. They see the building as being affordable for young families and workers who want easy access to light rail, bus service, and area amenities.

The building is in very poor condition, said Blaiser. But it appeals to the developers because of its location in West Midway, where several other old industrial and warehouse properties have been repurposed for residential, commercial and institutional uses.

The property is in an area that has had different types of industrial zoning over the years. Property to the north was rezoned for industrial-transitional use in 2011 as part of Central Corridor (now Green Line) land use and zoning studies.

Beyond the zoning issues are practical considerations for residential reuse. One is that the building occupies its block. It is in an area with no sidewalks. Streets carry large amounts of truck traffic. Those were seen by city staff and some commissioners as impediments to residential reuse. One idea suggested is to vacate the adjacent portion of Montgomery and create more of a walking, biking and parking area.

Another point of debate is a city and St. Paul Port Authority policy to preserve existing industrial property, as outlined in the West Midway Industrial Area Plan. But the St. Paul Port Authority and Midway Chamber of Commerce support the Superior LLC project, as does the St. Anthony Park Community Council.

Both business groups note that the property has been underused for many years and that other developers have considered ideas without bringing anything to fruition. John Young, a Midway Chamber Board Member and industrial real estate broker, said the site has been looked at and rejected by many would-be industrial developers. "It was awful years ago," he said, noting that the property has gone unsold during several successful real estate cycles.

The Chamber doesn't take the notion of losing industrial land lightly, Young said. But a residential redevelopment there may be the best fit for the property. "We want places where our employees can live."

The developers took the unusual step of filing three applications, with the idea of getting at least one approved. The one approved leaves the industrial zoning in place, but grants conditions for largely residential reuse. The commission laid over a request to rezone the suite to industrial transitional and rejected a variable request that tied first-floor industrial use to rezoning to industrial transitional use.

City staff had recommended against all three applications for a variety of reasons, including inconsistency with the comprehensive plan and impacts on area development. Much of the Zoning Committee debate Feb. 15 was technical and procedural, as all eight Planning Commission members present want to see the building repurposed. Sorting that out took time.

- Global Minnesota, with support from the World Affairs Council and the Foreign Policy Association, sponsored the annual Academic WorldQuest competition at the University of Minnesota on Feb. 7. Two Como teams of four students each participated. For the second consecutive year, both Como teams placed in the top 10 out of 40 teams from across the state.

The team of seniors with Dominic Wolters, Jackson Kerr, Gabriel Reynolds and Stephen Boler finished in 4th place. The team of juniors with Celia Olson, Nora Ellingsen, Isaac Harker and Henry Hansen finished 8th.

The quiz bowl format featured questions from eleven global affairs and foreign policy topics including Cybersecurity, India's Bid for Global Leadership, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, NAFTA and Combatting Climate Change. The event was emceed by KARE 11 veteran news reporter Karla Hult.

- National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) was celebrated at Como on Feb. 12, highlighted by a program for students, parents, and community members in the auditorium led by Como's Pan-African Student Union. Spoken word performances, poetry readings, music from the orchestra and choir, along with guest speakers and recognition of parents in attendance made for an impactful event.

Student performers included Yasin Abdullahi, Robert Adams, Malique Mccoy, Madyson Sklar, Najma Ali, Hawi Ali, Farhiya Mohamed, Sucdi Jama, Bernadette Kargbo, Asha Hassan and Lumin Johnson.

- 47 cadets from the Marine JROTC program at Como continued a tradition of outdoor winter training activities over two days in early February at Camp Shamineau in Motley, Minnesota. The Winter Cadet Leadership Camp included evaluations in the standards of ice wall climbing, rock wall climbing, hiking, horseback riding, and even broomball. Cadets meeting or exceeding standards in those or any of the other five activities earned a Distinguished Military Training Award (DMT). All cadets performed exceptionally well despite the



News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Academic WorldQuest, NAAPID, History Day and Cougars to State!



Dominic Wolters, Jackson Kerr, Gabriel Reynolds and Stephen Boler (from L to R) placed 4th out of 40 teams in the state at the Global Minnesota Academic WorldQuest event at the U of M. (Photo courtesy of Global Minnesota)

harsh, cold conditions and came back to Como with great stories of adventure.

- The Como Culinary Club was cooking with top chefs in the "Taste of the NFL" event at the St. Paul RiverCentre during Super Bowl weekend. Each Como student was paired with an executive chef from one of the NFL cities, helping prepare and serve the specialty foods representative from the respective teams' region. Courtney Gbolo, who teaches Family and Consumer Science and leads the culinary club, said compliments about Como students were abundant. Chefs and event organizers were impressed by the skill, strong work ethic and cooperative attitude of Como's club members.

- History Day at Como featured the research and final products of 11th grade U.S. History students. Students advancing to St. Paul regional competition on Mar. 17 include the following students from their respective categories:

Group Exhibit—Asia Faulk, DaVonna Jones and Isabelle Hoppe for the Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Naw Sei, Roa Lay and Ray Boe for the Chinese Exclusion Act. Caitlin Jones and Nyah Davis for the Integration of College Basketball. Aye Win and Eh Soh for the Emancipation Proclamation.

Individual Exhibit—Kayla Selbitschka for Hela Cells, and Emma Mueller for The Lavender Scare.

Group Website—David Amobi, Trinh Nguyen and Pany

Thor for the Kent State Massacre. William Farley, Kao Nou Lee and Lee Thao for the Secret War in Laos.

Individual Website—Maria Chiamonti for computer scientist Alan Turing.

Research Paper—Cadence Paramore for the Treaty of Mendota, Hundaol Deressa for the Battle of Adwa, and Jenny Vue for The Secret War in Laos.

- For the fourth consecutive season, the Como Girls Basketball team won the St. Paul City Conference Championship. The Cougars conference record during the last four years now stands at 47-1, with a 40-game winning streak. Como capped off its regular season with another Twin Cities Title by defeat-

ing Minneapolis South, the champion of the Minneapolis City Conference, 80-74 in a thrilling comeback victory at Como on Feb. 24.

The annual Twin Cities Championship Game is always an intense game with city pride on the line. The Cougars have won all four of their Twin Cities games to keep bragging rights in St. Paul. The Cougars were practicing for the Section 4AAA Play-Offs in early March as the *Monitor* went to press.

- For the second consecutive season, the Como Boys Swimming team will send a relay team to the State Meet. Seniors Cole Napierala, Jared Czech and Noah Frese, with junior Josef Miller, placed third in 400 Freestyle Relay at the Section 4A Meet on Feb. 23 to claim the final state qualifying position. Earlier in the evening, the same swimmers finished fourth in the 200 Medley Relay, narrowly missing state, but setting a school record of 1:46 in the process.

Josef Miller placed second in the section for the 100 Freestyle as well, so he will swim in that event at state along with the relay. State was scheduled at the U of M Aquatic Center Mar. 1-3, after the *Monitor* deadline.

- Como senior Drew Barnard qualified for the State Wrestling Meet by placing second in the Section 4AA Meet in the 145-pound division. Trailing late in the match that would decide who qualified for state and who would have their season ended, Barnard scored a takedown in the final seconds to win the match. A joyous celebration followed as a dream was realized after years of hard work and commitment. Barnard was excited to represent Como on the big stage at the Xcel Energy Center on Mar. 1.

- The Como Park Booster Club' annual fundraiser at the Urban Growler will take place on Sun., Mar. 11 from 4-8pm. The annual, festive get-together helps support extra-curricular academic, athletic, and club activities for Como students. For those interested in tickets, more information, or volunteering, contact Ann Commers of the Como Park Booster Club at acommers@msn.com.



The Como Gymnasium was the site of the girls' basketball Twin Cities Title Game on Saturday, Feb. 24. The Cougars defeated Minneapolis South to win their fourth consecutive Twin Cities Championship. (Photo by Eric Erickson)

A thing of beauty is a joy forever. Even a 76-year old canoe.

By STEPHANIE FOX

For Kevin Buzicky, getting his old canoe restored to its previous glory was homage to his dad, Ed Buzicky who died, at age 99, in 2016. "Dad instilled a love of the water and the outdoors in me from a young age," he said. "I have fond memories of my dad and my brother and I going to our lake cabin at Brigg's Lake, near St. Cloud. We'd catch a bunch of crappies and put them in the freezer, and the next weekend, we'd smoke them."

The canoe, a 1935 Thompson-Hiawatha canoe, almost didn't stay in the family, Buzicky said. "Dad was going to sell it to a neighbor for \$200, and I asked him, why not sell it to me. It was usable but was aqua blue, and he had painted the outside so many times that the canvas ended up having to be removed and replaced." He considered taking the boat to a commercial, professional boat builder, who quoted him \$3,500 for the job. But, Buzicky had a better idea.

Ed Buzicky was a young man, only 19-years old, when bought the canoe, hoping to connect to the Minnesota tradition of fishing and boating. It cost \$64 when he purchased it in 1936, about \$1,120 in today's money and his son ended up spending about that much to have it restored. But, that money also went to a good cause. It was part of the tribute.

Buzicky called Urban Boatbuilders, 2288 University Ave. W., an organization that helps troubled kids in St. Paul.

Volunteers, working a few hours a week, restored the canoe, the money going to help fund courses that include an after-school work experience program and an apprentice program.

"It was a year before they agreed to do it," he said. "In January of 2017, the volunteers came to my garage and picked up the



Marc Hosmer, Urban Boatbuilder's Executive Director shows off the restoration of Kevin Buzicky's restored 1935 Thompson-Hiawatha canoe. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

canoe. I visited their workshop with my stepmother a couple of times as they restored wood, removed the old canvas and stretched a new canvas over the boat."

"It took another year for them to finish it, but they put the last coat of red paint on this January, a week before the opening of the Minneapolis Boat Show, where it was on display."

Buzicky said he'd been following and donating to the organization for a number of years. "I am extremely thankful to the staff for doing such a great job on the Hiawatha Canoe to honor my father," he said.

"At Urban Boatbuilders, projects engage youth through hands-on experiences. It empowers them to be successful in school, work and life," said Marc Hosmer, the executive director of the program. The schools select the younger kids for the School Partnership Program, he said, finding kids for whom traditional classrooms are not a good fit. Older kids, aged



The canoe, circa 1941, on top of Ed Buzicky's car. (Photo submitted)

16 through 19, can apply for an apprentice program where they learn boat building and in doing so, learn to use math, engineering, and technical skills.

"They also learn social and emotional skills like communication, collaboration, and problem-solving. They learn skills

they'll need for jobs, including the soft skills like how to show up on time and how to interact at work," Hosmer said.

"When some of these (School Partnership) kids come into the program," said volunteer Al Raymond, "they couldn't look you in the eye. At the end, six months later, they're giving speeches, talking about college, or starting their own business."

Apprentices often come into the program facing barriers to employment, said Hosmer.

Apprentices often come into the program, facing barriers to employment, said Hosmer. Some have been involved with the justice system. "We look for youth who are interested in hands-on skills. What they learn can translate into jobs in other fields, technical jobs, and jobs in the trades."

Apprentices also get a chance to try out the boats they build on field trips to places like the Boundary Waters or the St. Croix

River. For some of the kids, it will be their first real trip outside of the cities. Most of them can't swim, but before they take to the water, they'll get some basic instruction on swimming and, of course, will wear life jackets. The kid builds boats, and then they get to put it on the water, learning to launch and paddle them.

"The Boundary Waters is like an out-of-body experience for some," said Bob Anderson, another Urban Boatbuilder's volunteer. "The program broadens their perspective. You see the transformation, and it's not just the kids who are affected. At graduation, the parents will tell us how much their kids have changed."

Buzicky's red canoe is not the only old canoe that the volunteers have restored. "Many of the boats we get are pre-1950s," said Hosmer. "One came from the early 1900s. But what's unique about this boat is the family history. It's nice to be able to make an emotional connection and have memories come back to life."

"My dad courted my mother in the canoe around Lake Phalen, Buzicky said. "He painted the outside many times until the paint was cracked from age. He varnished the inside and always kept it indoors or covered."

"My dad's canoe is heavier than modern canoes," he continued. "The 1935 model is 17 ft. long and weighs 75 lbs. These day they have lightweight 25 lbs. canoes, but they aren't as beautiful."

Buzicky's canoe remains at Urban Boatbuilders for now, but he has plans for it. Eventually, it will grace his place in Bayfield, Wisconsin, where he spends weekends. But, before it gets displayed in that home's cathedral ceiling, it will be part of a Boat Festival at the end of May at Lake Phalen, where newly graduated apprentices will launch it. He hopes, he said, to be one of those paddling the canoe across the water.

Buzicky starts to choke up at the memories brought back by the newly restored canoe and thought of his dad courting his mother at Phalen. "The canoe will be there, back to where my dad enjoyed it. It will be a great tribute."



One of the after-school groups learning life skills and boat building with adult instructor Christopher Dunham. (Top l to r) Chua Vang, Eleanor O'Doubhlain, Cesar Gomez, Roger Xiong. (Bottom l to r) Thao Vang, Maya Rivera. (Photo by Stephanie Fox)

Teens Need Checkups Too!

Free Preventive Health and Dental Checkups

If you are 20 or younger, and on **Medical Assistance**, you qualify for free checkups. Call 651-266-2420 for information and help finding a clinic, or making an appointment.





ctcr Ramsey.org

Make their summer unforgettable

Check out Free Forest School, Blackhawks of St. Paul, Camp Como

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Give your kids childhood experiences they'll never forget. This summer, take part in a free Forest School—unplug, step back and let their imaginations take the lead. Participate in an outdoor adventure camp and spark a love for biking, climbing, and canoeing that will give them skills to battle stress as they age. Let them soar through the air while learning circus arts, or focus on their artistic side. Give them cardboard to build with, balls to kick around, and Legos to construct robots. Let them pretend to live 100 years ago. Go for the gold in Animal Olympics at the zoo.

That's just the start of the youth camp options available in the Twin Cities area. Browse below for more information on some of the camps offered locally.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

AUTISM SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

Experience outdoor activities including swimming in an outdoor pool, horseback riding, use of a ropes course and climbing tower, group games, hiking, sensory crafts, and gross motor activities led by a registered occupational therapist, music groups led by a board-certified music therapist, boating, and sports during a Wahode Day Camp in Eagan where campers arrive each morning and leave each afternoon. Two residential camps where campers stay several days and nights are also offered in northern Minnesota at several locations. AuSM camps are tailored for youth and adults with autism. AuSM camps are available for individuals ages 6 and up who are AuSM members.

Cost: \$725-\$1,870
ausm.org/camp/ausm-summer-camps.html
 651-647-1083

BLACKHAWKS OF ST. PAUL

Blackhawks offer several exciting half- and full-day soccer camps for players ages 5-18 that encompass a wide variety of activities and skills. Specialty camps focus on specific skills such as ball control, shooting, and goalkeeping.

Cost: \$85-\$195
 651-894-3527
blackhawksoccer.org/

CAMP COMO

Spend some time "Monkeying Around" with your primate pals, go for the gold in "Animal Olympics," take an "African Adventure" without leaving Como, or try on the hat of a zookeeper or gardener in "Behind-the-Scenes!." Como's camps focus on developing children's appreciation for the natural world through play and exploration, behind-the-scenes experiences, interactions with zookeepers and gardeners, and up-close encounters with plant and animal ambassadors. Five-day, half-day or full-day sessions for preschool to grade eight. Extended care is available.



A variety of athletic, academic and enrichment programs are offered at Minnehaha Academy. (Photo provided)

Cost: \$135-\$155
 651-487-8272
www.tinyurl.com/p3u4lqv

FRIENDS SCHOOL OF MINNESOTA

Biking camps, film school, LEGO engineering, Harry Potter, theatre and much more offered at the Friends School for ages 4-14. Weekdays, half- and full-day with extended day options available.

Cost: \$130 to \$350
 651-621-8941
www.fsmn.org

FOREST SCHOOL

Free Forest School of the Twin Cities is a free group, open to young children and their parents or caregivers. This is a welcoming and non-judgmental group where parents and caregivers can practice giving children space and autonomy to explore and create in nature. Free Forest School meets every day of the week throughout the year at wilderness areas around the metro. Share a snack, take a hike, play in the woods, and have circle time. Parents get a chance to unplug and step back... Kids and their imaginations take the lead.

Cost: Free
www.freeforestschool.org/free-

forest-school-twin-cities-minnesota

GIBBS MUSEUM OF PIONEER AND DAKOTA LIFE CAMPS

Travel back in time and learn about life in the 1800s. Explore seasonal Dakota activities including the maple sugar camp, wild rice village, life in the tipi, hunting games, methods of travel, language, and song. Or enroll in Gibbs Girl or Digging history sessions. Three-day, half-day camps. One-day Pioneer PeeWees camps offered for ages 4-5.

Cost: \$19-\$99
 651-646-8629
www.rchs.com

HAMLIN YOUNG WRITERS

High school students ages 15-18 can explore the craft, prepare for college, and connect with other young writers in the Twin Cities while working closely with Hamline Creative Writing faculty and published authors.

Cost: \$400
 651-523-2476
www.hamline.edu/gls/youngwriters

IRISH DANCE

Professional Irish Dance training by director Cormac O'Se, an orig-

inal member of Riverdance.
 612-722-7000
www.oshairishdance.com

MINNESOTA WALDORF SCHOOL

Join the Minnesota Waldorf School for good, old-fashioned summer fun June 12 to Aug. 18. Outdoor games, natural crafts, water play, gardening, fairy camp, and much more, all on their beautiful 8-acre campus. 70 East County Road B, St. Paul. For children ages 3.5 to (rising) 6th grade.

Cost: \$150-\$275
 651-487-6700 x202
mnwaldorf.org/summercamp

RAPTOR CENTER

Summer sessions for ages 6-15 are run by the University of Minnesota's Rec & Wellness Camps, from June 11 to Aug. 10.

Cost: \$299
www.raptor.umn.edu

SPIRIT TAE KWON DO

Fun, exciting camps that combine physical fitness and education are offered throughout the summer for school-age kids. Register early for discounts.

651-428-6172
www.istkd.com

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

Make your own games and design circuits. Paint with pizzazz. Search out connections between visual art and creative writing, and explore the life of a story in journalism. Debate, play chess, learn about mathematical modeling and forecasting, make movies or delve into creative science options. Options at SPA cover a wide range of academic, arts, and enrichment activities for grades 2-12.

Cost: \$195-\$385
 651-698-2451
www.spa.edu

ST. PAUL BALLET

Summer is a great time to try dance. Programs include workshops and camps for ages 3 and up, weekly drop-in classes for teens and adults, and a new "mommy and me" baby class.

Cost: \$8.50-\$20
 651-690-1588
www.spballet.org


ST. PAUL URBAN TENNIS

Located at 30+ sites, with several locations in the Midway-Como neighborhoods, St. Paul Urban Tennis offers a summer program for all age groups and skill levels. Tennis lessons combine high-quality instruction with life skills learning. Sampler Camps offer a condensed, 4-day version of the lesson program. Scholarships are available.

612-222-2879
stpaulurbantennis.org/2011-summer-program.php

SAINT PAUL URBAN TENNIS

Tennis Lessons and Sampler Camps for Kids and Teens, USTA Jr. Team Tennis, Adult Programs



June 18 - August 3 • 26 St. Paul sites
Life skills built into tennis lessons
2 days/week and 4 days/week options
www.urbantennis.org / 651-222-2879
 Affordable: Scholarships Available

Make Your Summer

Full and half day engineering, art & technology workshops for ages 6-17



Leonardo's
BASEMENT

table with camp experiences

Como, Autism Society of Minnesota, Friends School and more

YMCA

Explore the variety of Y Summer Programs at over 60 metro-area locations. Programs include flexible three-, four-, and five-day options. There's something fun for everyone from preschool through grade nine.
Cost: \$80-\$350
www.ymcatwincities.org/child_care_preschool/summer_programs

IN THE TWIN CITIES

ADVENTURES IN CARDBOARD

Be initiated into an ancient and esteemed House of The Realm, jump into live-action adventure gaming, build your own arms and armor, and more during these five-day, full-day sessions for ages 6-17. Buses available from Powderhorn Park and some camps held at Minnehaha Park.
Cost: \$369
julianmcaul.com
612-532-6764

ALEXANDER RAMSEY HOUSE

Solve mysteries of the past in this three-day History Detective Camp for ages 10-13. Or, young ladies ages 9-12 can step back in time to a unique Finishing School for Young Ladies day camp.
Cost: \$220
612-341-7555
www.mnhs.org/summercamps

ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY

Unleashed summer campers entering grades 3-10 spend a full



There are numerous computer and technology summer classes available at Minnehaha Academy. (Photo provided)

week immersed in animal learning and fun. NEW this year: Campers will spend their time exclusively in the shelters.
Cost: \$120-\$300
763-489-2220
www.animalhumanesociety.org/camps

ARTICULTURE

A variety of art disciplines and mediums with themes like mirror images, urban forest, theater, art car, or paper and book arts offered for ages 4-18. Five-day, half- and full-day sessions available.

Cost: \$155-\$285
612-729-5151
www.artculture.org

CAMP SUNRISE

Camp and canoe while learning leadership and teamwork skills in a seven-day resident camp for youths age 13-18 who live within the city limits of Minneapolis or St. Paul. Held on the St. Croix River in Rush City and organized by YouthCARE.
Cost: free
612-338-1233
www.youthcaremn.org

CIRCUS JUVENTAS

Explore international circus arts at Circus Juventas. Five-day, full-day sessions offered for ages 6-15. Or make your own camp with Circus Sampler Days.
Cost: \$85-\$405
651-699-8229
www.circusjuventas.org

CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES

Experience cultural and language immersion; 15 languages to choose from. Resident camp for ages 6-18 and family camps.
Cost: \$960-\$4,510
800-222-4750
www.concordialanguagevillages.org

DODGE NATURE CENTER

Explore prairies, wetlands and woodland trails during full- and half-day, four-day camps offered for students entering 1-8 grades. Shorter sessions available for ages 3-6.
Cost: \$55-\$325
651-455-4531
www.dodgenaturecenter.org

ENGINEERING FOR KIDS

Day camps exploring science, technology and engineering are

offered in partnership with local community education programs. Sessions, length, and price, are varied per location and type of camp for ages 4-14.
engineeringforkids.com

FARM TO TABLE

Make butter, ice cream, and bread while learning about science, agriculture and history at the Bruentrup Heritage Farm in Maplewood. Students play old-time games like townball and do arts and crafts. Three four-day sessions offered in July and Aug.
Cost: \$150
651-748-8645
www.maplewoodhistoricalsociety.org/pdfs/2017-Summer-Camp.pdf

FIDDLE PAL CAMP

Fiddle Pal Camp Minnesota is four days to discover, learn and play for children, adults, and families at three locations.
Cost: \$395-\$495
americanfiddlemethod.com/fiddle-pal-camps/minnesota

FOCCI MN CENTER FOR GLASS

From fusing to casting to glass blowing, ages 9-18 are introduced to the mesmerizing medium of glass through immersive half-day, five-day experiences.
Cost: \$325-\$425
612-623-3624
tinyurl.com/foci2016

FORT SNELLING

Experience the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder or the engineers and grenadiers who called Fort Snelling home. Experience outdoor skills and life in the early 1800s. Camps range from one to four days.
\$75-\$275
612-341-7555
www.mnhs.org/summercamps

GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CAMPS

Speak, hear, sing, and create in German while exploring subjects ranging from history and art to science and music during five-day, half-, full- and extended-day sessions for grades K-3 at the Germanic American Institute.
Cost: \$130-\$150
651-222-2979
gai-mn.org

HEARTFELT

Summer camps allow time for more in-depth projects, such as Wild & Wooly, Fairies, Gnomes, Knights, Critters, and Classic Crafts, for kindergarten and up.
Cost: \$120-\$165
heartfeltonline.com/summer-camps

JUGHEADS JUGGLING CAMP

Half-day, five-day sessions and single day sessions for beginners through experts ages 8-18 enhance hand-eye coordination, boost concentration and build self-confidence.
Cost: \$30-\$110
612-229-3348
jugheads.com

Continued on page 10

WALKER|WEST

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for more information

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www.WalkerWest.org

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—Sheila Regan, Star Tribune

THE COWLES CENTER

SPBALLET.ORG

Summer Camp experiences

Continued from page 9

KID YOGA

Yoga infused throughout the day via story, dance and games for campers age 5-12. Located on the Midtown Greenway = daily field adventures.

Cost: \$75-\$355
612-202-5164
kidyogamn.com

LEONARDO'S BASEMENT

Girls and boys ages 6 to 17 can design and build their creative ideas, mixing art, science, and technology during partial-day, weekday camps. There are more than 120 classes available over ten weeks.

Cost: \$185-\$370, scholarships available
612-824-4394
www.leonardosbasement.org

LITTLE FOLK SUMMER CAMP

Ages 4-8 can participate in a nourishing, creative and relaxing "backyard" summer experience. The morning starts with free play/maker time with loose parts, a mud and wood chip kitchen, supervised use of basic tools, costumes and art projects. Take picnic lunches to nearby Brackett Park or trails along the Mississippi, where there is after-lunch reading time on blankets and in hammocks. Afternoons are spent at Brackett Park, playing ball, climbing trees, or playing at the playground or wading pool. Four weekly sessions offered.

Cost: \$180/week
spark.adobe.com/page/ffMuf-5AOypFq3

LOFT LITERARY CENTER

There's something for everyone—from the youngster just learning to put pen to paper to the seasoned high school senior with a novel already under her belt. Sessions run in week-long blocks July and August, full and half-day options available for ages 6-17.

Cost: \$262-\$525
612-215-2575
www.loft.org/classes/about_youth_classes_6-17

LOPPET ADVENTURE CAMPS

Roller ski, mountain bike, canoe and more during adventure camps for ages 9-13 at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis. Equipment provided during the



AuSM camps are tailored for youth & adults with autism. (Photo provided)

full-day, five-day sessions.
Cost: \$200
612-604-5330
loppet.org

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

A variety of athletic, academic and enrichment programs are offered, including woodcarving, viola and cello, combat robots, puddlestompers, fencing, movie making, sewing, painting, rocket science, drumming, and more. Half- and full-day, one- to three-week weekday sessions. Camp Minnehaha, a full day camp for pre-k to grade 8, includes daily devotions, games, indoor and outdoor activities, daily swimming lessons and a weekly off-campus activity.

Cost: \$40-\$500
612-728-7745, ext. 1
www.minnehahaacademy.net

MILL CITY MUSEUM

Play music, get creative, bake bread and construct books while exploring the rich culture along the Minneapolis riverfront district. Campers aged 9-11 will explore a new experience each day at four arts centers.

Cost: \$225-\$250
612-341-7555
www.mnhs.org/summercamps

NORTHERN CLAY CENTER

Work with sculpture, tiles, or wheel-thrown pottery in half or full-day sessions for ages 6 and up.

Cost: \$165-\$315
612-339-8007
www.northernclaycenter.org

SNAPOLOGY

Snapology camps provide a perfect mixture of STEAM learning and fun. With camps

happening at the new Discovery Center in Uptown every week of the summer, as well as at various schools and educational partners around the Twin Cities, Snapology has got you covered for kiddos as young as 3 and as old as 14. Choose Robotics, Coding, Science, Technology, Drones, Pre-K, Engineering, Architecture and more.

Cost: \$150
www.snapology.com/locations/minneapolis

STEPPING STONE THEATER

Learn about devised theater, music, and other performance art forms during these one- to two-week, half- and full-day sessions for those preK to grade 12. Two theater classes offered in collaboration with the Science Museum and Minnesota Zoo.

Cost: \$75-\$425
steppingstonetheatre.org

TEXTILE CENTER CAMPS

Sew, knit, felt, dye and more. Take home completed fiber items from three- and five-day, half-, full- and extended-day sessions for ages 6-16.

Cost: \$87-\$370
612-436-0464
textilecentermn.org

TRAPEZE CENTER CIRCUS CAMP

Students ages 8-17 enrolled in the weeklong, half-day camps will experience a variety of circus disciplines (including Trampoline, Static Trapeze, Acrobatics, Circus Bike, and of course Flying Trapeze).

Cost: \$275
651-262-9477
twincitiestrapeze.com



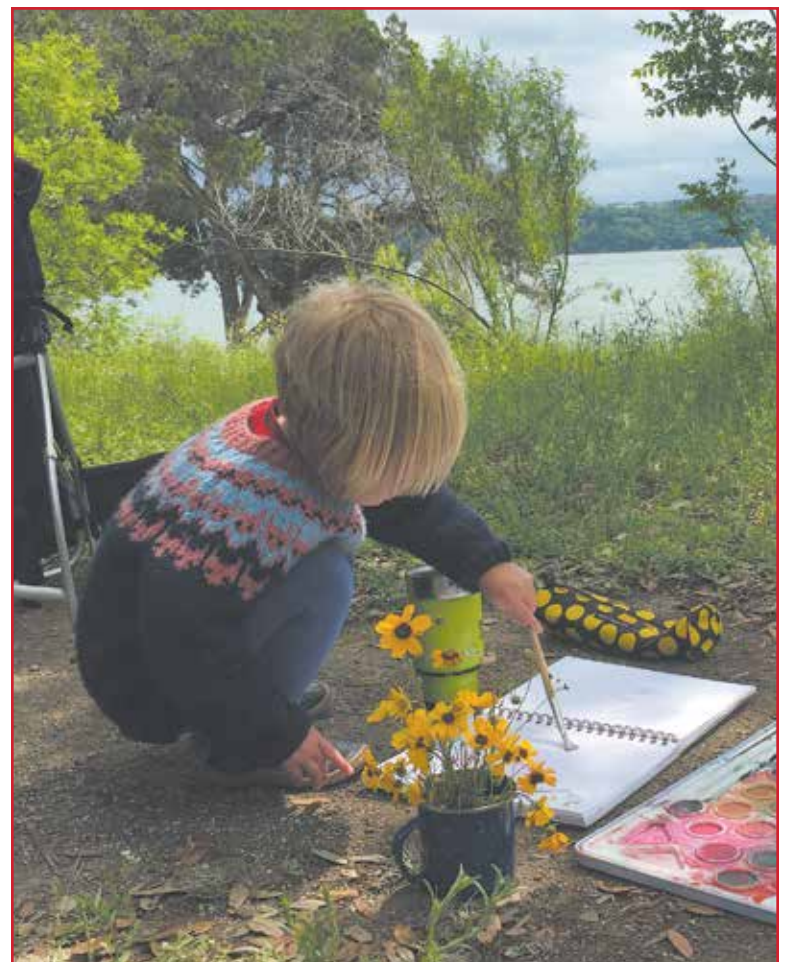
Create something great at Friends School. (Photo provided)

WHITE BEAR CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Painting, drawing, clay, theatre, writing, glass and much more for ages 6-14.

Cost: \$23-\$97
651-407-0597
www.WhiteBearArts.org

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is not a comprehensive list of every camp in the Twin Cities. If you would like to be considered for inclusion in next year's guide, please send us detailed information on the camp.



Ages 4-8 can participate in a nourishing, creative and relaxing "backyard" summer experience with Little Folk Summer Camp. (Photo provided)

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Saturday 8:30am - 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am - 1:00pm

In Our Community

Monitor

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

Central Lutheran plans Gala Mar. 24

Central Lutheran School's annual CLS Gala fundraiser will be held 4:30-7pm on Sat., Mar. 24 at the school, 775 Lexington Pkwy. N. The event includes food, entertainment and silent and live auctions. Attendees offer donations as they see fit. The school asks for RSVPs by Mar. 12 with your name and the number of guests. E-mail RSVPs to school@clssp.org or call 651-645-8649.

Como Men's Golf Club invites you

The Como Men's Golf Club invites all golfers of any ability level to consider joining one of the most active clubs in the Twin Cities.

The Club's Spring Mixer is set for Fri., Apr. 13, 7pm, at the Como Golf Course Clubhouse (1431 Lexington Pkwy.).

Member dues are \$100, and there is an optional season-long hole-in-one contest for \$5.

Membership includes access to preferred weekend tee times and registration in the USGA handicap system, allowing golfers to play in Club events as well as events sponsored by the USGA and MGA.

The Club sponsors events every weekend morning from mid-April to October. Members play in events as their time permits. An application form and additional information are available at the Club's website (www.mensclubcomo.org), and in the Clubhouse once the course opens.

Please contact Bob Schmall at 651-646-0852 if you have further questions.

Six-artist art sale scheduled Mar. 24

Six local artists are hosting a one-day pop-up sale at the historic Charles Thompson Memorial Hall, 1824 Marshall Ave. on Mar. 24, 1-8pm.

There will be a wide variety of different artworks from ceramics to paintings, prints, collages, jewelry, clerical stoles, and embroidery.

Organized by six local artists—Liz Carlson, Alex Chinn, Paul Damon, Chillon Leach, Dorothy Osterman and Justin Terlecki—the sale will present selected works at prices that reflect their belief that art should be both accessible and affordable. All the artists will be there to meet and answer any questions their work may provoke.

The historic Charles Thompson Memorial Hall is one of the nation's social clubs for the deaf. Tours of the building will be available. A portion of all sales will be dedicated to the building.

Amy Ireland announces Council candidacy

Amy Ireland, 44, has announced her candidacy to replace former City Council President Russ Stark in a special election this fall. A resident of the ward for nearly twenty years, Ireland has served on numerous city and neighborhood committees and is currently on the board of the Hamline-Midway Coalition.

"When the city threatened to close our library, I helped organize neighbors to keep it open," Ireland said. After that, a group of neighborhood moms formed the Hamline Midway Library Association. Ireland was there from the beginning and started raising money to improve the library and enhance programming. "The experience showed me that people can make a difference, and as a city council member I want to empower others to do the same," she said.

"I want a city that works for everyone, proactively making sure that the system is transparent and fairly represents all of us. The best solutions come from the bottom-up, not the top-down."

Ireland is married with three children and lives in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. She graduated from Macalester College, and also graduated with honors from the University of Minnesota School of Law. Professionally, she worked on civil rights issues at the MN Dept. of Human Rights and then as an immigration attorney for over a decade. After serving as the Chapter President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Young Lawyers Division, she began serving children and families in her faith community and continues to focus on social justice issues.



Amy Ireland. (Photo provided)

For more information contact pauldamon007@gmail.com.

Concerts continue at Hamline Methodist

The Hamline Church United Methodist Music Series continues this month with two special performances.

"Speaking Like Light" is planned for Thur., Mar. 8, at 7pm. This will be a night of spiritual poetry from around the world. This event is not ticketed, and a free-will offering will be collected at the door.

On Sat., Mar. 24, 7pm, the Minnesota Boychoir presents "Walk Together Children." This is a part art of the Minnesota Boychoir concert series. This event is also not ticketed, and a free-will offering will be collected at the door.

Citizen Science apps workshop set Apr. 14

You too can become a citizen scientist just by using the phone in your pocket. In a free two-hour, hands-on workshop, we will dig into what it means to be a citizen scientist. The workshop will be held on Sat., Apr. 14 (National Citizen Science Day) from 2-4pm at the Historic Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Pkwy.

Several free apps will be explored, such as "iNaturalist" and "eBird," which you can use to contribute data to citizen sci-

ence projects. Make an important contribution science—the data you submit via these apps will be used by scientists around the world to learn more about the living things around you.

Please dress to be outdoors and bring a smartphone, tablet, or laptop computer. This workshop is suitable for adults to youngsters (children ages 10+ are welcome with an adult). Note that there is limited parking in front of the Streetcar Station. Contact Britt Forsberg, forsb118@umn.edu or 612-626-2690 with any questions.

Online registration can be done at <http://bit.ly/2DD8PZ6>.

Easter Egg hunt planned Mar. 31

There will be a free Easter Egg Hunt and Festival, open to all, on Sat., Mar. 31, at 10am, at Trinity City Church, 1849 Marshall Ave. The egg hunt will occur indoors at 10am, followed by live music, games, activities, and light refreshments.

Celebrate St. Paddy's at Celtic Junction

Celebrate Saint Paddy's Day in true Irish style with Kickin' It Irish on Mar. 10-11 at Celtic Junction Arts Center, 836 Prior Ave. N.

Performances are planned on Sat., Mar. 10, 3-5pm and Sun., Mar. 11, 3-5pm featuring Dublin

native and original Riverdancer Cormac O'Sé. Kickin' It Irish is a modern fusion of show-style Irish dance and live Irish music. The lineup consists of 22 world-class dancers, and a driving dance band.

There are also performances at 7:30-9:30, Sat. and Sun., Mar. 10-11. This family-friendly live Irish music and dance spectacular features O'Sé. These performances are a modern fusion of show-style Irish dance and live Irish music. The lineup consists of 20 world-class dancers, including regional and national champions, and an international six-piece band. In addition to O'Sé on accordion, the driving dance band includes Aidín Ní Shé, Midwest Fleadh champion in English and Irish song; Todd Menton, multi-instrumentalist and lead singer of band Boiled in Lead; Brian Miller of acclaimed band Bua; Randy Gosa of The Lost Forty; David Ochs on fiddle; and Seán O'Brien, former Riverdancer and Riverdance musical director.

Tickets for all performances are \$18 for adults in advance, \$22 at the door; seniors \$11 at the door; youth 18 and under free.

Citywide tree sale now underway

The annual tree sale is underway at Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County.

The sale offers 15 locally grown, hardy selections of trees, shrubs, roses, and vines. Prices range from \$30-\$75; all proceeds benefit parks and trails in the city and county. Go online at shop.friendsoftheparks.org/annual-tree-sale to place your order.

If you want to truly eat locally, the selection includes options such as two blueberries, a thornless blackberry, a cherry tree, and a grapevine. New this year is columnar serviceberry, selected to fit smaller urban yards.

You can order for yourself, as a gift, or as a donation to a park. That final option is especially important when public land is losing so many trees—ash and otherwise. They're taking orders now through Apr. 20. Pick-up is May 5 at the county fairgrounds in Maplewood.

Emerging artists to perform at Can Can

Can Can Wonderland, 755 Prior Ave. N., will host the McNally Smith Emerging Artist (MSEA) Series in March.

MSEA Series is a 3-day music event showcasing the talent from the recently closed McNally Smith College of Music. In December of 2017 the school closed down due to financial difficulty, leaving students uncertain as to what lies ahead on their musical journey. In recognition of all their dedication and hard work,

the McNally Smith Series will display performances by former students and alumni on Can Can Wonderland's Wee stage.

The Series will present three different shows:

— Singer Songwriters will perform Thur., Mar. 8, 9-11pm. Tickets available at www.facebook.com/events/2055811711370389.

— Hip Hop and RNB will take the stage on Thur., Mar. 15, 9-11pm. Tickets available at www.facebook.com/event/1478-31146025447.

— Band Night is scheduled for Thur., Mar. 22, 9-11pm. Tickets can be purchased from <https://www.facebook.com/events/388051918289424>.

\$5 tickets (must be 21+) will be sold on Ticketfly and at the door on the day of the show. All proceeds go directly to the performers.

Fit and Strong class set at Lyngblomsten

Older Adults who would like to improve their fitness, strength, and mobility are invited to participate in Fit and Strong, an evidence-based exercise program held at 2nd Half with Lyngblomsten (1415 Almond Ave.) twice a week now through June 13. Sessions are held on Mondays and Wednesdays, 10-11:30am, and will include strength training, low impact aerobics, flexibility, balance exercises, and health education. To register, call 651-632-5330 or email 2ndHalf@lyngblomsten.org. The fee is \$15 for the 14-week class.

Two local groups win Watershed awards

The Capital Region Watershed District, 1410 Energy Park Dr., hosted its annual Recognition and Awards Ceremony in January. Two local organizations received awards during the event.

Central High School received a Watershed Project Award for their leadership and dedication to student engagement for a cleaner Mississippi River. "Central High School's campus was transformed into a beautiful and inviting environment that captures and cleans 1.4 million gallons of runoff each year before it reaches the Mississippi River." The project was born of a partnership between the school, Transforming Central Committee, Saint Paul Public Schools, and CRWD. The project includes tree trenches, permeable pavement, two rain gardens, a native planting, an underground rock trench system, and monitoring wells to connect student learning to the campus improvements.

The Youth of Urban Boatbuilders received the Young

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In Our Community

Continued from page 11

Watershed Steward Award for their dedication to protect and improve the Mississippi River. The youth of Urban Boatbuilders helped maintain and revitalize rain gardens along the Green Line in 2017. They also tested water quality at Lake McCarrons and learned about the effects of runoff and ways they can help keep our lakes and rivers clean.

Sholom property a 'no go' once again

According to Dist. 10, owners of the former Sholom Home property on Midway Parkway say they are out of money and uncertain about the site's future. "We're kind of in a free fall right now," David Grzan told District 10. "It's a bad situation that's getting worse, and we're trying to catch our breath."

For more than two years, Grzan's ownership group has been trying to assemble financing to convert the abandoned nursing home into a 168-unit assisted living facility. But the latest efforts at financing fell through, he said, and "there are a lot of people chasing us for money."

At the beginning of February, the previous construction partner removed security fencing from the site's perimeter. Grzan said owners cannot afford another fence or other security. Selling the property is a possibility but "isn't optimal," because owners are not likely to recover their investment, he said. "We haven't thrown in the towel, but our back is against the wall."

No dog park planned for Newell Park

Hamline Midway Coalition has been informed that the City of Saint Paul is not planning to create a dog park in Newell at this time. Comments or questions should be directed to the Ward 4 City Council office at Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

There is an effort underway to create an off-leash facility for small dogs on a small parcel of land in Union Park. You can learn more about that proposal online at unionparkdc.org/sites/default/files/Community_Dog_Field_Proposal.pdf (note there are actual spaces between words in this email address).

Susan Sochacki named to Honor Roll

Susan Sochacki was Hamline Midway Coalition's Honor Roll awardee for 2018. Neighborhood Honor Roll is given to outstanding volunteers and neighbors across St. Paul for their outstanding work.

According to the Coalition, Sochacki is a true catalyst for change in Hamline Midway. Sochacki worked tirelessly to make the pedestrian crossing at Pierce Butler Rte. and Hamline Ave. safer for all, especially the students that cross there daily. Through her perseverance, a Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RFB) was installed at the crossing. Sochacki plans to monitor the impact of the RFB for years

to come.

Family Concert planned Mar. 16

The Schubert Club will present a Family Concert Minnesota Percussion Trio at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., on Fri., Mar. 16. There will be a performance at 6pm and again at 7:15pm.

Travel on a whirlwind tour of the musical traditions found around the world. Polka on the marimba of Guatemala, sounds from Brazil, Spanish Flamenco, Middle Eastern dance rhythms, Ghana's gourd shekere, and Australia's own lagerphone. Return to the US for Jazz and Early Rock and Roll on the drum set.

This concert by the Schubert Club is a general admission event.

Driver program offered Mar. 20-21

The 55+ Driver Improvement Program is offering the 8-hr. First Time Course Wed.-Thur., Mar. 20-21, noon-4pm at the Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 N. Dale St.

The Driver Improvement course is open to the public; pre-registration is required. A MN Highway Safety & Research Center certified instructor teaches this class. By utilizing the most up-to-date research in the field, participants will be provided the latest information in regards to driver safety, new laws, and vehicle technology. This class has something for everyone! The fee for the eight-hour course is \$26. For more information or to register, visit their website at www.mnsafetycenter.org or call toll-free 888-234-1294.

Persons age 55 and older who complete the course qualify for a 10% discount on their auto insurance premiums for three years, according to Minnesota law. First-time participants must complete the initial eight hours of training and a four-hour refresher class every three years to maintain the 10% discount.

NAMI holds partner support group

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors a support group specifically for partners or spouses of someone who lives with a mental illness. The Partners and Spouses Support Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm, at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St. (Holton and Garden). For more information, call Melissa at 651-354-0825 or Sara at 763-350-6502.

La Leche League meets Mar. 13

The next meeting of the La Leche League of St. Paul Como-Midway will be held on Tues., Mar. 13, from 7-8:45pm. The discussion will focus on breastfeeding-related issues. Please contact Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more details.

Emotions Anonymous meets Wednesdays

Do you often feel nervous, anx-

Cliff Eberhardt in concert Mar. 10



Singer-songwriter Cliff Eberhardt performs a solo concert in the intimate listening room setting at Ginkgo coffeehouse on Sat., Mar. 10 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$20 plus tax and are available online at brownpapertickets.com (with fees) or in person at GINKGO coffeehouse (with-out fees), 721 N Snelling Ave.

His releases include a variety of styles and span the years 1995-2012. Ranging from folk/singer-songwriter to jazz, and original music for an award-winning production of "Taming of the Shrew," his recordings speak to his wide range of talents and broad appeal.

Seattle Post Intelligencer said that Eberhardt was "one of the most talented musicians on the solo acoustic circuit... full of well-crafted songs and rich, emotional vocals."

ious, lonely, or fearful? Do you suffer from mood swings? Are you suffering from depression, panic attacks or crying spells? You can find help in a 12-Step Group called Emotions Anonymous (EA).

At EA meetings, they read EA literature and share how they are coping with emotional problems and how applying the 12 Steps of EA helps them find mental health.

The meetings are open to anyone who is seeking to achieve and maintain emotional balance. EA is not a religious group, and they welcome people of any religious affiliation or no religious affiliation. There is no cost to attend meetings. Only first names are used, and everything said at a meeting is confidential. EA meets each Wednesday, 7pm, at the Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Use the rear entrance and ring the bell to gain admittance. The meeting is upstairs in Room 7.

Wednesday soup suppers continue

Jehovah Lutheran Church resumes its Wednesday night soup suppers from 5:30-6:30pm through Mar. 21. Suppers are free and open to all. A free-will offering is welcome.

Information is available by calling the church at 651-644-1421. The church entry, which is handicapped accessible, is at 1566 Thomas Ave.

Neighbor Day planned for Mar. 23

The 4th annual Neighbor Day event at Rondo Education Center (560 Concordia Ave.) is planned for Fri., Mar. 23, 4-7pm. Celebrate the legacy of Fred Rogers by joining your city-wide neighbors for an evening of fun. There will be hands-on activities, youth performances, a community meal, the Metro State Dome (an inflatable planetarium), a bouncy house, inflatable obstacle course and more!

This free event is hosted by the St. Paul Public Schools' Community Education department. Their daily programs include Adult Basic Education, Adult Enrichment, Discovery Club, Early Child and Family Education, Flipside After School, Youth Enrichment, and the Como Planetarium.

Neighbor Day is open to the public, and all are welcome.

Please RSVP at <https://neighborday2018.eventbrite.com>, so they know how many to expect. Walk-ins will also be welcome.

News from Hamline Midway Elders

Tai Chi Classes—Mondays, 11:30-12:30pm at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Kathy Carlson leads a new 8-week series this spring. Tai Chi is a gentle exercise that increases flexibility

and strength; improves balance; and reduces the pain and stiffness of arthritis.

Exercise Classes—Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Mar. 13 from 1:30-2:30pm at Hamline Church United Methodist. Joni O'Connell utilizes her unique Irish sense of humor to create a welcoming and motivating atmosphere to lead another 8-week gentle exercise series.

Jody's Documentary Film Series—Wed., Mar. 28, 1pm at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. W. This POV film, titled "Swim Team," follows three diverse teen swimmers, all on the autism spectrum. No one, but no one, is going to tell them what they can't do. No registration is necessary for this last Wednesday of the month film series. So just enjoy the documentary, some snacks, and a lively discussion led by Jody Huber after the film.

Let's Cook and Eat Healthy—Wed., Apr. 11, 11am-1pm at Hamline Church United Methodist. Yeng Moua, Health and Nutrition Educator at the University of Minnesota, returns to lead another one-time cooking/nutrition class. Space is limited to 12 participants, and advance registration is required for this free class. Attendees will help prepare and enjoy a healthy meal. Call Tom Fitzpatrick at Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or email tom@hmelders.org.

Knitting Group—Mondays, 1-3pm at Hamline Church United Methodist. Hamline Midway Elders provides the yarn and needles along with some light snacks. The participants work on projects, such as making shawls to be donated to a local hospice or blankets for a child care center. But it has also become a nice social gathering for a group of 8-10 elders and new participants are welcome. We are also seeking donations of yarn.

Reading Buddy—1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 10:45-11:30am at Hancock/Hamline Magnet Elementary School, 1599 Englewood Ave. Our partnership with the school and the Reading Buddy Program continues twice a month during the school year. The third-grade students enjoy reading to neighborhood elders, and the older adults love the interaction with the children. No experience is needed, we're just looking for older adults with a desire to interact with third-grade students.

New participants are welcome for all the above activities. For more information, please contact Tom Fitzpatrick at Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or tom@hmelders.org.

SD company wins contract for LED video displays at stadium

Daktronics (NASDAQ-DAKT) of Brookings, South Dakota, has partnered with Minnesota United FC to deliver new LED displays for Allianz Field, the team's new, soccer-specific stadium in the Midway. This summer, one main display and ten ribbon displays will be installed at the new stadium to elevate the overall experience at soccer matches and other special events.

At one end of the stadium, a main LED video display featuring a 15HD pixel layout will measure 23 feet high by 115 feet wide to bring excellent image clarity and

contrast to fans in every seat. It will feature variable content zoning allowing it to show one large image or to be divided into multiple windows to show any combination of live video, instant replay, match statistics, graphics and animations, and sponsorship messages.

Along the seating fascia, Daktronics will install a ribbon display featuring a 15HD pixel layout using patented ProRail technology. This technology allows for better sightlines as the mounting of the LED product is connected closer to the seating fascia coordinated with

the stadium architecture. Another ribbon display will be installed on the opposite seating fascia.

Each of these ribbon displays will measure 2.5 feet high by 380 feet wide.

Additionally, eight ribbon displays will be installed throughout the stadium: two along the Supporters Section fascia, two at the South Gate and four at the North Gate. These displays will feature 16-millimeter line spacing and allow for additional statistics, animations and sponsorship messages to be highlighted throughout events.

Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director

Pedestrian safety: what's the next step?

How to make our streets safer for pedestrians is the topic of District 10's next Sunday Series presentation on Mar. 18. Fay Simer, St. Paul's new pedestrian safety advocate, and Sgt. Jeremy Ellison, who leads enforcement in the citywide Stop for Me campaign, share their ideas and invite yours.

Their presentation, "The Next Step: Pedestrian Safety in Saint Paul," is Sun., Mar. 18 in the upstairs auditorium at the Como Zoo and Conservatory's Visitors Center, 1225 Estabrook Dr. All Sunday Series events are free; they run from 1-2:30pm.

Future presentations in 2018:

- Crime Prevention through Landscape Design, Sun., Apr. 15, Como Park Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Pkwy. N.—Patty Lammers, crime prevention coordinator for the St. Paul Police, advises where to plant, where not to plant, and what to plant to make yourself, your family, and your home safer.

- Como Park Tree Trek, Sun., June 3 (meet outside the Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Pkwy. N.)—Certified arborist and former Tree Advisory Panel member Tim Morgan leads a walk to help you better identify and understand local tree species, their health, and the diseases and pests that affect them.

You, too, can join the District 10 Board

Eight positions on the Como Community Council Board are up for election at District 10's annual meeting on Tues., Apr. 17. In at least six of the positions, the incumbent is not seeking re-election. So this year is a great oppor-

tunity for new activists to seek an open seat. To find out more, see the article on District 10's website: www.district10comopark.org. The positions on this April's ballot:

- Vice-Chair
- Treasurer
- One representative from each of four geographic sub-districts
- Two at-large representatives

Any resident of District 10 who is age 18 or older is eligible to run. So are authorized representatives from a business or nonprofit organization located in District 10.

Candidates interested in a board position must submit their name and a brief biography by Tues., Apr. 10. Nominations submitted after that date will be treated as write-in candidacies.

Board members elected this year will serve from Apr. 24, 2018, until Apr. 28, 2020.

What do you think about the crosswalk idea?

St. Paul Parks and Recreation plans to build a new pedestrian crosswalk across Lexington Pkwy., near the parking lots for the Golf Course and Lakeside Pavilion. District 10 is exploring residents' priorities about the proposed crosswalk and some of the potential options. Take our survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/D10LexCrossing.

Improve your credit score

Learn how to understand and improve your credit and credit score at a free Financial Literacy Workshop on Wed., Mar. 21, 6pm, at the Como Park Streetcar

Station. Join LSS Financial Counseling and TopLine Federal Credit Union for a workshop to learn:

- How to get and read your credit report
- How your credit score is calculated and ways to increase your score
- Ways to improve negative credit and build good credit
- Your FCRA rights and how to correct errors

To register for the workshop call 763-391-9494.

Get your junk pile together earlier this year

Heads up, procrastinators! The yearly Citywide Drop-Off at the State Fairgrounds will be earlier this year. Usually, the event—where you get rid of stuff you can't throw in the trash—is in the fall. But in 2018, Drop-Off Day is June 9. We'll fill you in on details as we get closer, but this is definitely the year to take spring cleaning seriously.

Upcoming District 10 meetings

- Como Community Council Monthly Meeting: Tues., Mar. 20
- Environment Committee: Wed., Mar. 28
- Neighborhood Relations and Safety Committee: Tues., Apr. 3
- Land Use Committee: Wed., Apr. 4

All meetings begin at 7pm at the Como Park Streetcar Station, at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton. 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.

Register at your local Recreation Center

North Dale Recreation Center: www.stpaul.gov/northdaleRec or call 651-558-2329

- Tumbling, ages 3-5; Thur., Apr. 12-May 17; 5-5:45pm; \$40
- Veggie Basics Gardening for Adults; Sat, Mar. 17; 9am-3pm; free
- Zumba for Adults; 9:30-10:30am on Wed., Apr. 11-June 6; \$60
- Awesome Drawing, ages 6-12; 7-8pm on Wed., Apr. 11-May 16; \$60
- Awesome Preschool Drawing, ages 3-5; 6-6:45pm on Wed., Apr. 11-May 16; \$60
- Music Together, ages 1mo-6; 6:15-7pm, Mon., Apr. 9-June 18; \$177
- POWA Hip Hop, ages 16+; 9:30-10:30am, Sat, Apr. 7-May 26; \$60
- Digital Dating Violence, ages 16-Adult; 10-11am on Sat, Mar. 31; free
- Men's Soccer; 9:30am-12:30pm on Sat, through Apr. 7; \$3/weekly
- Parent/Child Tot Time; Mon./Wed./Thur. at 9am
- Elmo's World Art, ages 3-5; 9:30-10:30am on Sat, Apr. 21; \$15
- **Lunch With The Bunny on Sat, Mar. 24, 11am-1pm; all ages; \$2/person or \$5/family
- **No School Days Spring Break, ages 6-12; 8:30am-5pm, Apr. 2-6; \$25



Northwest Como Recreation Center: www.stpaul.gov/northwest-comoRec or call 651-298-5813

- Babysitting Training, ages 11-17; on Thur., Apr. 5, 9am-3:30pm; \$60
- Geography Explorer, ages 7-12; on Wed., Apr. 11-May 2, 3:15-4:15pm; \$30
- Get Connected, ages 5-12; on Mon., Apr. 16, 3:15-4:15pm; \$20
- Plumbing Repairs for Adults on Wed., Apr. 25, 6-7pm; free
- Family Open Gym; Sun. through Mar. 25, 3-5pm; free
- Parents Night Out, ages 4-12; Sat, Apr. 28, 6-9pm; \$7/child
- Artist Workshop Winter, ages 8-17; 3:15-5:15pm on Tue., Apr. 10-May 15; \$60
- Young Men's 5 on 5 Basketball, ages 15-20; 8-9pm on Wed., Apr. 4-May 30; free
- Art/Wine/Pizza for Adults; Mon., Apr. 16, 7-9pm; \$50

Langford Recreation Center: www.stpaul.gov/LangfordRec or call 651-298-5765

- Tumbling, ages 3-5; on Wed., Apr. 11-May 16; \$40
- Minecraft EDU, ages 6-10; Fri. Mar. 30, 1-4pm; \$40
- Veggie Basics Gardening for Adults; Tue., Apr. 11-24, 6:30-8pm; free
- Pilates Intermediate Level for adults; on Thur., Mar. 15-May 17, 11am-Noon; \$73
- STEM Club, ages 7-11; 6-7:30pm on Mon., Apr. 16-30; \$75
- Zumba for Adults; 7:45-8:45pm on Mon., Apr. 9-June 4; \$60
- Bowling, ages 50+; 9-11am on Fri. (ongoing); free
- Walking, ages 18+; 2-3pm on Fri. through Mar. 30; free
- Tot Time; Thursday mornings; 9-10:30am
- Soo Bahk Do, ages 6-Adult; on Thur. (ongoing); \$45/month
- **Spring Break Blast, ages 6-12; 1-4pm, Apr. 2-6; free

On Jan. 20, three Hamline Elementary/Jie Ming teams competed in the St. Paul Lego Robotics Regional Tournament, facing off against dozens of other schools. All three teams received awards (Robot Performance, Robot Design, two in Core Values) for their work.

Two teams qualified for the MN First Lego League State Championship (grades 4-8), held on Feb. 24, where they joined around 60 other Lego Robotics teams from around Minnesota in a lively and friendly competition.

Hamline Elementary School

By JESSICA KOPP

Lego robotics reveal greatness in the Midway

This year's theme was Hydro Dynamics, and each team completed a project that, according to the First Lego League guidelines, "developed a creative solution to

improve the way people find, use, transport, or dispose of water." The teams conducted research, talked to experts, and presented to various individuals and or-

ganizations as they developed, built, and refined their project.

The Hydro Dragons created an electrical rain garden to produce clean, renewable energy. The Hydro Huskies created the compost tea booster to create natural, nutrient-rich rainwater for use in personal and community gardens. The teams also built small robots, using Lego Mindstorms kits, that were then programmed to complete various "missions" related to hydrodynamics on a small course.

At the State Tournament, the Hydro Dragons took home the Inspiration Award for, "demonstrating extraordinary enthusiasm, support, and encouragement of fellow teams." This is related to First Lego League's Core Values which include shared learning, sportsmanship, and having fun.

If the current state of Lego Robotics is strong at 1599 Englewood Ave., the future is bright, too. The Water Mixing Dragons, a Hamline Elementary/Jie Ming Ju-

nior Lego League team (2nd and 3rd graders) participated in an exhibition during the State Tournament, showing off their emerging skills by developing a poster, building a model, and presenting their work.

Thanks to Hamline Elementary and Jie Ming science teacher Dr. Bonnie Laabs and several other dedicated volunteers who gave the teams the tools and encouragement they needed to succeed. Congratulations to all on a great year of awesome engineering and teamwork—and buckle up, because next year the project and mission will take the teams into space!



The Hydro Huskies huddle at the MN First Lego League State Championship held Feb. 24. (Photo submitted)



The Junior Lego League team, The Water Mixing Dragons, took home the Inspiration Award at the MN First Lego League State Championship. (Photo submitted)

The Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., is your neighborhood spot to connect with your community, enjoy great programs, access the Internet, and stock up on books, CDs, and DVDs, all free with your library card.

Local mosaic Artist Lori Greene will be designing a community mosaic for the Hamline Midway Library. Community members are invited to participate in the construction of the mosaic on the following dates: Mar. 22, 3-7pm, Mar. 23, 1-4pm, and Mar. 24, 12-3pm. Come make a lasting impact on our library with art that patrons will enjoy for years!

Preschool Storytimes in English happen Fridays, 10:30-11am, with upcoming events on Mar. 9 and 30 and Apr. 6, 13, and 20. 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!

Starting on Apr. 3, the library is also offering Evening Storytimes on Tuesdays from 6-6:30pm, with additional storytimes on Apr. 10, 17, and 24.

On Sat., Mar. 10, 1:30-3pm, the library presents the popular Science Saturdays program, where school-aged participants and their families can enjoy fun, hands-on science and art activities. No pre-registration necessary—just come by when you can. The theme will be Wind and Air Experiments. On Sat., Apr. 14, 1:30-3pm, the Science Saturdays theme will be Optical Illusions.

Word and Sound Lab continues at the library on Tuesday afternoons from 4:30-6pm, with upcoming sessions on Mar. 13, 20, and 27. Poet Becca Barniskis and musician Nick Jaffe are offering this open studio workshop for youth grades 5-8. Explore the intersection of poetry, sound,

News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

Help construct the Hamline Midway Library mosaic!



The library will feature Harold Lloyd's breathtaking 1923 daredevil silent film comedy "Safety Last!" on Mar. 30, 2pm. (Web image)

and video, and experiment with making your own creations on iPads and other tech, to be provided. Participants can also bring their own phone, laptop, tablet, or notebook. This activity, provided by a grant from the State Arts Board, is free and does not require advance registration—just show up!

The Start a Series Book Club will meet on Mon., Mar. 19, 4-5pm, to discuss "Lumberjanes, Volume 1: Beware the Kitten Holy" by Noelle Stevenson. This book club is recommended for grades 5 and up, and each month the group will focus on discussing the first book in a series.

The Show and Tell Book Club for grades 1-3 meets on Sat., Mar. 24, from 1:30-2:15pm.

The Novels at Night Book



Club meets on Thur., Mar. 29, 6:30-7:30pm. This book club

"Lumberjanes, Volume 1: Beware the Kitten Holy" will be the focus of March's Start a Series Book Club on Mar. 19. (Web image)

aimed at adult fiction enthusiasts will discuss "And the Mountains Echoed" by Khaled Hosseini.

On Wed., Mar. 28, 1-3pm, Jody's Documentary Film Series will feature "Swim Team," directed by Lara Stolen. Meet Mikey, Robert, and Kelvin, three exceptional swimmers on the same competitive team who are all on the autism spectrum—and no one, but no one, is going to tell them what they can and can't do. Enjoy the free film and snacks and stay for the post-film discussion facilitated by Jody. This program is a collaboration

of the award-winning POV documentary series and the Hamline Midway Elders Association.

Also on Wed., Mar. 28, 6:30pm, the library presents Poetry in the Neighborhood, a poetry workshop with poet and teaching artist Rodrigo Sanchez-Chavarria. Participants can play with different poetic forms and generate ideas about the Hamline-Midway community while creating a neighborhood poem. This event is a presentation of the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library.

On Fri., Mar. 30, 2pm, enjoy a family-friendly silent comedy matinee featuring Harold Lloyd's breathtaking 1923 daredevil comedy "Safety Last!" You may have seen the movie's famous image of a bespectacled man hanging from a clock face high above a city street—now you can see the legendary comedy behind the image. This event features free hot popcorn and cider.

On Sat., Apr. 7, 1-2pm, the Saints and Sinners Book Club meets to discuss good mysteries. Contact volunteer G. Balter for book lists and more information at gerribalter@gmail.com or 651-224-5570.

You can get a head start on your gardening plans on Tues., Apr. 10, 6:30pm, with Native Plants for the Garden.

Mark your calendar for Math and Science Day at the Library on Sat., Apr. 14, 11:30am-5pm, when the focus will be fun math and science activities for school-aged children and their families.

On Thur., Apr. 19, 6:30-7:45pm, Metropolitan State University professor Matt Filner and Gil Gustafson of the non-partisan group Clean Elections Minnesota will present Elections and the State of our Democracy, a look at how gerrymandering, dark money, and the erosion of voting rights for some citizens is impacting our country.

All libraries will be closed on Sun., Apr. 1 for Easter.

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by April 2 for the April 12 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor by Apr. 2 for the Apr. 12 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

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LANDSCAPING

St. Paul Ballet is breaking down barriers so all can dance

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

In only five years' time, St. Paul Ballet (SPB) has established itself as a thriving non-profit dance school and company in the Midway neighborhood. Their mission is to rejoice in the beauty and immediacy of dance with the widest possible audience, to lift the human spirit through the art of ballet, to provide outstanding dance education, and to perform a vibrant repertory with excellence. To accomplish all of this, they're breaking down barriers to participation in ballet—one after another.

Executive Director Lori Gleason, said, "At first glance, the things that seem to get in the way for people are transportation and cost. Our studios are conveniently located just three blocks north of the Greenline LRT station at 655 Fairview Ave. We also have ample off-street parking. The first class here is always free for new students, and we offer many affordable drop-in classes."

"Our philosophy at SPB is to address each dancer as a whole person," Gleason continued. "Traditionally, ballet dancers have had a certain look. Members of SPB's company created something a few years ago called 'Take Back the Tutu'—which sets the tone for inclusiveness at the school, and shows that all body types are welcomed and celebrated. 'Take Back the Tutu' empowers dancers to claim ownership of their bodies, and to throw out the idea that every dancer has to look the same."

In the past, SPB has partnered with the Melrose Institute and the Emily Program to provide information and guidance about nutrition and eating disorders. They also sponsor an annual health fair in the fall that is open to the public and provides a wealth of health and wellness information.

The recreational program at SPB serves about 300 students through music and movement classes, beginning with a class called 'Parent and Me' for dancers ages 2.5-4 and their parents. This class (offered on Saturday mornings 8:45-9:30) welcomes Spanish and English speaking families.

"Not speaking English shouldn't be a barrier to participation," Gleason explained. "This is the fourth session that we've offered this class; it was the idea of Mary Coats, Director of our Young Children's Program. One of our pre-professional students is the teaching assistant. She's a native Spanish speaker who greets families at the door and translates as much of the class as is needed into Spanish. We feel this broadens the experience for everyone."

Laura Greenwell is SPB's School Director and an instructor in the pre-professional program. She is also the only ballet teacher in the state of Minnesota certified by the American Ballet Theatre at the highest level of their National Teacher Training Curriculum. Because of this, she is eligible to bring American Ballet Theatre's Project Plié out into the community. Greenwell partners with



Children in the Parent and Me class on Saturday mornings enjoy movement to music, along with songs and games. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

local Boy's and Girl's Clubs in the summer, offering classes and watching for students ages 7-14 from communities of color who might have a natural ability for ballet. The goal of Project Plié is to diversify the field of ballet and keep it culturally relevant for years to come.

Another perceived barrier to participation in ballet can be age. SPB offers an intermediate level class from 10-11:30am on Mondays and Wednesdays called Life Long Ballet. Taught by Anna Goodrich, the class is a magnet for people who want to keep dancing all through their lives. The oldest students are in their 80's, with an average age of 60. The class is followed by an optional 30 minutes of strength conditioning.

"Dance is for people of all ages, as long as it's enjoyable," Gleason said.

'Boys Club' is a new class happening on Saturdays from 1-2pm. This introduction to ballet, for boys ages 7-12, is offered free of charge. Gleason said, "In keeping with our philosophy of treating dancers as athletes, this class emphasizes conditioning,

flexibility, and strength, as well as technique." A dress code of black ballet slippers, shorts, and a white t-shirt is required.

Lastly, SPB and their neighbor/landlord have created a partnership that is busting through barriers. Next door to SPB, Element Gym is owned and operated by Dalton Outlaw—a boxer who trains competitive fighters and leads fitness classes. SPB and Element Gym teamed up for a series of performances last year called "The Art of Boxing – the Sport of Ballet." The performance will be repeated this year at 6pm on Apr. 15 at the Ordway Concert Hall. Gleason said, "One of the many wonderful things that have come out of our partnership with Dalton and his athletes is that more women and girls are taking boxing classes, and more men and boys are taking ballet. We learned that our two organizations have a lot of shared values around training and community building."

To learn more about the work of SPB, call 651-690-1588 or visit their website at www.sp-ballet.org.



The Parent and Me class welcomes Spanish speaking families, with the help of pre-professional student Emilia Garrido, who is a native Spanish speaker. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



"Take Back the Tutu" empowers dancers to claim ownership of their bodies, and to throw out the idea that every dancer has to look the same."



Children in the Parent and Me class on Saturday mornings enjoy movement to music, along with songs and games. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Jewish Community Action launches new justice initiative

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Since 1995, Jewish Community Action (JCA), 2375 University Ave. W., Suite #150, has worked to organize Jewish Minnesotans to act together for social change.

With a unique model that combines traditional congregational-based community organizing with issue-based campaign work, they partner with local coalitions, interfaith initiatives, neighborhood groups, people of color, and immigrant groups. They believe in working collectively to directly address the causes of poverty, racism, and injustice. To accomplish this they train teams of volunteer leaders who take this work inward to their congregations, as well as outward to their broader communities. JCA's campaigns are driven by Jewish values, but people from all backgrounds are welcome to join in their work for social change.

On Feb. 15, JCA staff member Rachel English and intern Anam Hasan led a soft launch of a campaign called Decriminalizing Communities.

The event started with defining some of the organization's core values. English explained, "We believe that all people are equal. We believe that all people deserve to live in safe communities and safe homes. Despite its name, we do not believe that our criminal justice system is just. In the past 20 years, all forms of crime have declined in our state, yet



Participants in the soft launch of the Decriminalizing Communities Campaign had opportunities to discuss their own experiences (direct and indirect) with the criminal justice system, and their hopes for a better future.

we continue to incarcerate more people for longer periods of time. Evidence shows that our prison system is both profit-motivated and powered by the racial oppression that underlies many of the systems that remain fundamental to our society. We believe in the need for a justice system that is truly fair."

English continued, "Our vision is of a justice system that treats incarceration as a last resort. We envision one that emphasizes rehabilitation, drug treatment, mental health care and community-based services to prevent incarceration, and supports people upon their release. We envision one that holds violent offenders ac-

countable while upholding their human rights. We envision a community-centered justice system that uses comprehensive approaches to public safety. We envision a justice system that acknowledges the suffering caused by institutional oppression, and works to eliminate the injustices that trap many people in cycles of hopelessness and despair."

Embedded in the Decriminalizing Communities Campaign are two other initiatives. The first addresses the for-profit private prison system: it seeks to push back on the creation of private prisons and ICE detention centers in Minnesota. The second seeks to restore voting rights to felons who have com-

pleted their sentences and are once again living and working in their communities.

For more information on how to get involved in the Decriminalizing Communities

Campaign, contact community organizer Rachel English at rachel@jewishcommunityaction.org.

Visible in the community in another way, JCA will be hosting their annual Freedom Seder on Sun., Mar. 11 from 2-5pm at Mount Zion Synagogue (1300 Summit Ave.). Friends, partners, allies, and community members are invited to observe Passover together, and to share a meal. The cost is \$18; reservations are strongly recommended, though walk-ins won't be turned away.

What is a Freedom Seder? During the 1960's, rabbis and activists across the country were inspired by the American Civil Rights Movement. They wanted to incorporate what was happening in present time into the telling of the Passover story, which recounts how the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. For more information about the Freedom Seder, contact: Lauren Muscolat at lauren@jewishcommunityaction.org.

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