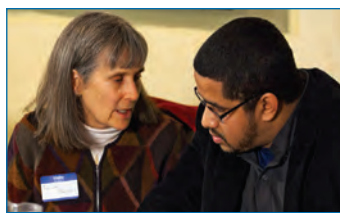




Fun summer camp options for kids

PAGE 8



St. Paul STRONG pushes for community engagement

PAGE 13



Local Midway artists put flair into CSA

PAGE 16

# Midway Como

# Monitor



Your community newspaper since 1975

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## Soccer stadium development renderings unveiled

Plans laid out for possible super-block development that could be the catalyst for complete makeover in 10 years

**Editor's Note:** On Wed., Mar. 2, the St. Paul City Council approved \$18.4 million for infrastructure work around the proposed stadium site. The vote was 5-2 with Council Members Jane Prince and Dan Bostrom voting against. After the vote, Mayor Chris Coleman said, "Not only will we be able to bring the fastest growing sport in the nation to our state, but today's agreement builds on the promise of the Green Line and ushers in new possibilities for economic growth and development throughout the Midway and the region."

By JANE MCCLURE

An oval, translucent open-air stadium would dominate the Midway Center superblock, with green spaces, high-rise offices, hotels, retail, and housing. Minnesota United FC unveiled its stadium plans Feb. 24, a week after a master plan was revealed for the area bounded by St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues and Pascal St.

The plans have met with excitement from area residents and soccer fans, but also with questions about everything from parking to how the current Midway Center stores would fit in. The stadium would be near the center of the block at St. Anthony. Plans show it extending into the current footprint of Rainbow Foods.

The public can weigh in on the plans 7-8:30pm, Tue., Mar. 15 at Buenger Center at Concordia University.

Under the master plan, the entire 1950s shopping center and other center buildings would be replaced with new structures, green spaces, and a street grid with bike and pedestrian connections.

McGuire said the intent is to break ground this summer and open the stadium for the 2018 soccer season. The stadium would house soccer games as well as festivals and other events. Rick Birdoff of RD Management and RK Midway, the shopping center owners, said that reconstruction of Midway Center would take place over a period of years and would be phased in.

The stadium itself was designed by the Kansas City-based sports-architecture firm Populous. Populous was the lead architect for Target Field and TCF Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

The stadium exterior would feature limestone, glass and a

translucent plastic "skin." The stadium would have a roof covering most of the seats. Its design is supposed to evoke lakes and rivers, as well as the Aurora Borealis.

The field would be sunk about 16 feet below grade, with the stadium about 70 to 75 feet high.

The stadium would have three hospitality areas, a natural grass field, and field heating similar to that at other Twin Cities stadiums. No seat would be more than 125 feet from the field. McGuire said the stadium skin is meant to block noise and light. It could change color, possibly depending on which team is playing there.

It would cost \$150 million or more, an increase from the \$120 million initially announced. McGuire said additional investors are being sought to help cover the costs. No public



Artists' rendition of the future for the Midway Center / Bus Barn site. In this illustration the freeway is at the top and University Ave. at the bottom. Snelling is on the right of the towers. (Illustration courtesy of MN United FC, Populous and S9Architecture)

funds would be used to build the stadium itself. Sports team owners the Pohlad family and Glen

Taylor are already among soccer investors.

However, there would be

substantial infrastructure costs that the city, county, and state

Continued on page 10

## Como resident becomes a centenarian

His secret? "You should choose your parents very carefully," he notes with a smile

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Bill Treumann, a resident of Como by the Lake Senior Apartments, is proof that staying physically and mentally active can improve the quality and quantity of your years. Treumann turned 100 on Feb. 26. When asked the secret to his longevity, he smiled and said, "You should choose your parents very carefully."

Current research shows that while genetics matter, there are other factors that are just as important. Treumann displays the optimism, good humor and sense of community connection that researchers say support aging long and well.

The centenarian was born in 1916, midway through World War I, in Grand Forks, North Dakota. At age 16, he contracted tuberculosis and would spend a total of 1,009 days in a sanatorium over the next few years.

Sanatoriums were commonplace in the first half of the 1900's: hospital settings where people with long-term, chronic illness could rest and recover in the days before antibiotics were available.

Treumann was able to return to finish high school in 1936. During his first year in the sanatorium, he had a roommate who was a chemistry graduate student.



NE-SC Block Nurse Program executive director Chris Langer (left), Bill Treumann (center) and wellness coordinator Molly Fitzel (right) at Como by the Lake Senior Apartments. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Treumann read all of his textbooks and found them so interesting that he chose chemistry as his own life's work.

He enrolled at North Dakota State University in 1937, had to return to the sanatorium to heal his lungs for another year, and then completed his chemistry degree. He would go on to earn his Ph.D. in chemistry at the Univer-

sity Of Illinois.

During one of his sanatorium stays, Treumann read Harry Frank's book, "A Vagabond Journey Around the World." It tells the story of a young man who sets out to see Europe with only \$3.18 in his pocket. The author's travels in Europe were so successful that he kept going, eventually circling the globe.

In a similar style, Treumann longed for adventure. Before starting his doctorate program, he took several months to hitchhiking across the United States, seeing every state except Oregon and Hawaii. "I visited Alaska when it was still a territory," he said proudly.

He wasn't ready to stop yet, so his travels took him across Canada from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, through Mexico and Cuba.

Following graduate school, Treumann married his first wife—whom he had met at the sanatorium. She would die at the age of 30. He married again to a woman who, like himself, was a professor.

Treumann started his teaching career in Fargo, North Dakota, before moving across the Red River to Moorhead. He would finish his long academic career as Dean of Mathematical and Natural Sciences there.

At 100, Treumann is still quite physically mobile, and his memory is uncannily sharp. One of the things he most looks forward to is the bridge game that takes place every Wednesday in the lobby of his apartment building.

Continued on page 4

# Building a business on the needs of immigrants

By MARIA HERD

There are approximately 85,700 Somali people in the United States, and nearly one-third of them – about 25,000 – reside in Minnesota, according to U.S. Census Bureau data from 2010.

Out of the 2,338 total immigrants that came to Minnesota last year, almost 45 percent were from Somalia, reported the *Star Tribune* in December.

The Midway Immigrant Center, 1910 University Ave., has been assisting immigrants and refugees, the majority of them Somali, for the last three years out of the Midway neighborhood.

Manager and founder Dalmar Jama says that although the majority of his clients are originally from Somali and West Africa, the center has served immigrants of various ethnicities and continents, who now reside all over the Greater Twin Cities area.

The immigration center offers three primary services to their clients—temporary mailboxes, discounted international flights, and assistance translating documents.

There are currently 60 mailboxes available to rent for up to 6 months at a time, and Jama is hoping to add more boxes soon. Most recently, the immigration center started providing the DHL mailing service after Jama recognized his clientele's need to mail or receive documents internationally.

The Midway Immigrant Center sells plane tickets to people traveling all over the world, but the majority of tickets are for immigrants that are already living in Minnesota visiting their home country, according to Jama.

Immigrants come to the center looking for help with many types of forms ranging from green card loss and renewal to housing and job applications.

"We help them complete the forms electronically, and then we charge a fee depending on the complexity of the service we're providing," said Jama.

He estimates that his office assists about seven clients per day.

## Building a business

A Somali immigrant himself, Jama worked at an organization that assisted immigrants and refugees in Minneapolis for about six years. Seeing the need for a similar business in Saint Paul, he took entrepreneurship classes through the non-profit Neighborhood Development Center. Then, Jama opened the Midway Immigrant Center in 2012.

Jama said that many people assume his business is connected to the government or that the services are free. However, that is not the case. "We are just here to



The Midway Immigrant Center, 1910 University Ave., has provided services to immigrants, mostly from Somalia, since 2012. (Photo by Maria Herd)



Dalmar Jama founded the Midway Immigrant Center in 2012 after working for a similar organization in Minneapolis and taking entrepreneurship classes. (Photo by Maria Herd)

to pay the bills," he says.

There are currently just two other full-time employees besides Jama that assist clients; both are Somali immigrants as well.

Jama is enthusiastic about the Midway location, hence the name of his business.

"And it's getting better all the time," he said, referring to the new stadium going up in the Midway. Clients have already asked him for help finding employment opportunities at the stadium.

The Midway Immigrant Center opened right during the middle of the light rail construction, he recalled. But with the office located next to the Fairview Avenue Station, many of his clients now take the light rail.

Jama pointed out that the majority of those clients board in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. That area is also sometimes referred to as Little Mogadishu, or Little Somalia, for its large Somali population.

## Immigration trends

Jama says that the majority of people who immigrate to Minnesota choose this state because

they have a family member here already. However, "the underlying reasons are employment opportunities, housing and safety," he said. "Minnesota is a good place to live."

Jama understands that people have their opinions on the refugee crisis, but he says that refugees are immigrating not because they want to, but because they have to.

"There are some people that



The Center currently rents out a total of 60 temporary mailboxes to immigrants and is planning to add more soon. (Photo by Maria Herd)

think we have too many people coming to the U.S.," he said. "But at the same time, those people had a reason to run. They have to do it because of their safety. When there is killing, when you see that people are dying, or there is a gun pointed at you, you have no option but to run."

However, Jama says he has not seen as many recent immigrants lately, or those with refugee status come through his doors. Most clients are immigrants that have already been living in Minnesota for awhile.

But in the early 2000's while working at his previous immigration organization, Jama says he saw many new refugees. He attributes the trend to discontinued family reunification refugee settlements.

Nevertheless, Jama says that he has his hands full until April.

"My busiest time of year is tax season," he said.

# Monitor

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And check us out on the web at:  
www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

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Maundy Thursday: Noon & 6:00 Seder/Communion  
Good Friday: Noon & 7:00  
Holy Saturday: 8 PM Easter Vigil  
Easter Day: 9:30 AM Festival Worship/Communion

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## Como plan is approved

Many months of hard work by Como residents and business owners has resulted in the adoption of a new district plan for the Como Park neighborhood. The St. Paul City Council unanimously adopted the plan in early February.

Every one of the city's 17 planning district is required to have a plan, and to update that plan every decade. The plans become part of the city's comprehensive plan, and part of regional plans overseen by the Metropolitan Council.

District plans lay out a vision for a neighborhood, regarding housing and economic development, parks and trails, streets and other infrastructure, and a host of other issues. District councils and city officials use the plan to guide redevelopment, set capital budget priorities and weigh in on city issues.

The Como plan was developed over a three-year period. More than 1,000 volunteer hours went into the plan, through a process led by a volunteer committee. Several hundred people weighed in when the plan was being developed.

The plan calls for maintaining the neighborhood's stable residential quality with sensitive, limited development and redevelopment. Future park and recreation improvements, including work at Como Park, should enhance neighborhood livability. Neighborhood connectedness should be enhanced by making the neighborhood a better place to bike and walk, with safer street crossings. Street improvements will also be a priority.

Bringing in more small and median-sized businesses to serve the community, and policies to support and protect the environment through sustainable development are also goals.

## New park is taking shape

The third and final property near Griggs St. south of University Ave. has been purchased and secured for a new 5-acre park in the Midway neighborhood. The Trust for Public Land and the City of Saint Paul announced last month. "It is a rare opportunity to be able to create such a large, vibrant

# Monitor In A Minute

green space in an urban area," said Mayor Chris Coleman. "We are thrilled that our collaboration with The Trust for Public Land will allow us to establish a community gathering space along the Green Line."

The parcels are between Parks High School and the Central Medical parking lot on the east side of Griggs.

The Trust for Public Land acquired the parcel with private funds and donated it to the City. The other two parcels were acquired with a combination of the city's 8-80 Vitality Funds and private funds. The owners of the three parcels also discounted the sales price in light of the land's future use as a park. The park is located in one of the few remaining neighborhoods where an accessible neighborhood park is not within a 10-minute walk for residents.

Over the next couple of years, The Trust for Public Land will lead creative community engagement to bring together park stakeholders and raise funds to develop the park. The park will both serve as a destination along the Green Line, which has few parks along its route; and as an important local park for the neighborhood, the adjacent Gordon Parks High School community, and residents of the nearby Skyline Tower.

Currently referred to as the "park at Griggs," the park will be named during the community planning process. Residents of Skyline Tower have long-sought community green space, and teachers from nearby Gordon Parks High School have incorporated elements of civic engagement related to parks into their innovative curriculum. A creative community engagement process will help bring these park stakeholders together with others, including Union Park District Council, the Lexington-Hamline Neighborhood Association, Wilder Foundation, and others.

## City wants to talk trash

Take a survey, speak at a forum, or take a picture of your trash bill and send it to City Hall. Those

are ways St. Paul residents can weigh in on whether or not the city should move to an organized trash collection system. In late February the St. Paul City Council unanimously approved a resolution launching the public input process.

Comments gathered in March and April will be used to develop draft goals and objections for developing an organized trash collection system.

St. Paul has an open garbage collection system, in which residents and business owners hire their own haulers. In organized collection, the city oversees trash collection. In St. Paul this is likely to mean dividing the city into zones served by a designated hauler or haulers. Discussion of a change has pitted haulers and customers who want to choose their own trash hauler against those who want organized collection. Support is also coming from neighborhoods

where illegal dumping of trash is a problem. The city spends about \$250,000 per year cleaning up dumped garbage.

The resolution adopted Feb. 24 has several goals, including placing a priority on maintaining opportunities for small, local, minority and women-owned garbage haulers, in addition to supporting living wage jobs. The council also stated a desire to provide consistent, quality customer service; provide stable and uniform rates for residents throughout the city; and improve the understanding of, and access to, garbage service for new residents and non-English speakers.

The resolution was amended, at Ward One Council Member Dai Thao's request, to explore the need for cleared and plowed alley access for trash-removal services, emergency vehicles, pedestrian mobility, and public safety. In St. Paul, property owners must cover the

costs of alley plowing. Changing that has been debated for years, and some council members said they don't want the alley plowing debate to overwhelm the issue of organized garbage collection. They said the issue might have to be set aside for more study separately.

When sending a copy of a trash bill, residents should cross out their names and the last two numbers of their street address and send their bill. Residents can submit them by mail to Public Works, 1500 City Hall Annex, 25 W. 4th St., St. Paul, MN 55102. To e-mail, submit to [allinprogram@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:allinprogram@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

On Facebook, post a status with a picture of your bill and the hashtag #ShareYourBillStP. On Twitter: Tweet to, or send a direct message to, @cityofsaintpaul, or utilize the hashtag #ShareYourBillStP with a picture of your bill.

For more information about organized trash collection and updates on the process visit: <http://www.stpaul.gov/organized-trash-collection>

Compiled by JAND MCCLURE

## Letters to the Editor

### Blast from the past as reader recalls newspaper's coverage

To the Editor,

Thanks for continuing to speak to the community, and for the community, for all of these years. I picked up a copy of the *Monitor* at the Flamingo Cafe recently. The issue spoke to school and neighborhood issues.

I was pastor at Hamline United Methodist Church when you began this helpful publication. We walked through some important neighborhood issues. I helped with the committee that worked on the paring of Maxfield, Galtier and Hancock Schools. I worked with the Planning, Evaluating, and Reporting, PER legislation for the St. Paul Schools system. I remember going to see Mayor Latimer with you about the Energy Park development. I remember the Job Corps coming to our neighborhood to the north. In all of these things, the *Monitor's* support was important.

Thanks for your continued good journalism and for creating community, both with stories and advertising.

I hope to find another *Moni-*

*tor* issue soon.

Thanks, and greet the neighborhoods for me.

Bruce Buller

*Editor's Note: Bruce is speaking of many issues that took place in the first decades of the Monitor's existence. The Monitor is in its 41st year of serving Midway-Como.*

### Bike route is being forced on us

Dear Editor,

Your paper reported that there *will* be bike lanes on Cleveland. This after a hand-picked task force by the Mayor to force this upon the residents.

This is a truck route. It is a very busy street. I have lived a few houses off of Cleveland for 40 years. I see very few bikes. Most of us choose a less busy street to travel on with our bicycles.

The businesses will lose all of their parking in Highland Village. St Thomas students and even St. Catherine students will be forced to park even MORE in our neighborhoods as their parking on Cleveland will be gone.

After forcing this upon us, and calling it a done deal, as stated in your paper, they plan future public meetings.

Ever been to one of these? This *informs* the public of the what they *will* do. The mayor and our council people are not listening to the people. They do not want to hear what we have to say. Heavens to Mergatroid! We might disagree. *Then* what will they do? This continues the Mayor and Council's recent methods of forcing things they want, for whatever reason, on the citizens of St. Paul. You would have thought they would have learned something from the Grand Ave. meter fiasco.

But I guess they could see that their behind-our-backs soccer stadium thing worked and continues to work with yet another hand-picked task force of the mayor's buddies.

Nancy Hone

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**MDH** Minnesota Department of Health

# Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## We're not fooling around with safety

**Details: Family Safety Fair, Fri. Apr. 1, 5:30-7pm; Movie begins at 7pm. North Dale Community Center, 1414 N. St. Albans.**

Keeping yourself, your family, and your home safe is a non-stop project. For the best tips available, join us on April Fools' Day at the Como Family Safety Fair. The free event is co-sponsored by District 10 and St. Paul Parks and Recreation.

At the Fair, more than a dozen organizations will share advice, precautions, and resources on increasing safety for you, your kids, for elderly relatives or neighbors, for pets, and more.

You can get one-on-one advice and take-home tips on topics including crime prevention and crime victim services; home fire safety; food safety in the kitchen and while eating out; pet safety; internet precautions; making our streets safer for walking; keeping safe when you're riding the bus or light rail; keeping students safe on their way to and from school; and even using the mail safely.

Dinner and a movie: Because the Safety Fair is during dinnertime, we'll have the Cave Café food truck available, where you can purchase from a creative menu of burgers, salads, wraps, curries, and "Afro-Italiano" fusion dinners. For desert, the local folks from Craven Pies will sell slices. Then, we'll cap off the evening with the family friendly movie "Shaun the Sheep" (from the creators of "Chicken Run").

Participating agencies include: District 10 Como Community Council; Como Composts; Como Park Falcon Heights Block Nurse Program; the Crime Victim Services Program of the Council on Crime and Justice; Metro Transit; Ramsey County Library; Safe Routes to School; St. Paul

Animal Control; St. Paul Fire; St. Paul Parks and Recreation; St. Paul Police; St. Paul Walks; University of Minnesota Extension; and the US Postal Service.

### There's no reason to be bored on Sunday afternoons

District 10's free Sunday Series continues with topics to enlighten and engage you. Here's the lineup in March and April:

#### What the Birds Are Telling Us

The trumpeter swan. The American white pelican. The common loon. The mallard duck. The bald eagle. The Baltimore oriole. These are just 6 of the 166 bird species in Minnesota whose survival is threatened by climate change.

Photographer and birder Monica Bryand of St. Paul shares photos and stories from the special project she is working on through the national and Minnesota Audubon Societies. It's part of her effort to protect the environment for the birds—and for us. The event is planned for Sun., Mar. 13, 1pm, at the Como Park Visitors Center Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Como Zoo and Conservatory.

#### Building a Rain Garden

Master Gardener Frank Dolejsi and Nate Zwonitzer from the Capitol Region Watershed District share the big picture on the benefits of rain gardens—then give us the nitty-gritty on how to create one that works. They'll cover planning, construction, specific plants to include, and how the Watershed District can provide technical expertise—even grant money to help offset your costs. The talk is scheduled for Sun., Mar. 20, 1pm at the Newman-Benson Chapel at Lyngblomsten, 1415

Almond Ave.

#### The Truth About Saint Paul's Bike Plan

St. Paul is adding more paint and paths to make bicycling safer, more accessible, and more useful for more riders. We'll look specifically at what the bike plan envisions for District 10—including the Grand Round on Wheelock Pkwy., through Como Park, and along Como Ave. The discussion covers the timetables of potential projects, the different types of bicycle amenities (lanes, paths, "sharrows"), and the needs of different types of riders. "The Truth About Saint Paul's Bike Plan," is planned for Sun., Apr. 10, 1pm at the Historic Streetcar Station.

#### Interested in Joining?

Nine seats on the Como Community Council Board of Directors will be up for election at District 10's Annual Meeting on Tue., Apr. 19. Elections will be held this year for:

- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- One director from each of the neighborhood's four sub-districts
- Three at-large directors

#### Eligibility and Responsibilities

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

Board members elected this year will serve from Apr. 26, 2016, until Apr. 24, 2018. They are required to attend the monthly Community Council meeting, to serve on at least one committee, and to share other duties.

Candidates interested in running for a board position must

submit their name and a brief biography by Tue., Apr. 5. Nominations submitted after that date will be treated as write-in candidacies.

- Submit your nomination to: [district10@district10comopark.org](mailto:district10@district10comopark.org)
- For a map of the four sub-districts: [www.district10comopark.org/Neighborhood.html](http://www.district10comopark.org/Neighborhood.html)

#### How to Vote

Community residents will vote in person, using secret ballots, at the District 10 Annual Meeting on Apr. 19. Community members must register in order to vote; if you are new to the neighborhood or have not previously

voted, you can:

- Register online; just fill out the form at [bit.ly/1WSvF22](http://bit.ly/1WSvF22)
- Send your name, address and phone number to the District 10 office by postal mail. Our address: 1224 Lexington Pkwy. N., St. Paul, MN 55103.

#### Are You on Our List?

To keep up to date on what's going on down the block, across the street, and around the corner, sign up for District 10's free weekly e-newsletter. We send it to your inbox every Friday. Go to [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org), then click on the sign-up icon in the right column.

## Workshop planned on health care directives

By WARREN WOLFE

It can happen to anyone at any age—an accident, illness or mental change that leaves you needing intensive medical care but unable to communicate with the doctors.

Who would speak for you if you became unable to speak for yourself? One answer is an Honoring Choices Minnesota health care directive.

The document allows people to choose someone they know and trust to be their medical-care advocate when they are unable to act, and to put in writing things they would want their doctors and families to know about the kind of care they would want in certain medical situations.

On Sat., Apr. 16, a panel of experts will share how to make this work for you. They include Thaddeus Pope, director of the Health Law Institute at Mitchell Hamline School of Law; Dr. Ryan Greiner, a hospitalist at North Memorial Medical Center, and Greg Peterson, Roseville Fire Department battalion chief, and emergency manager.

The event will be held from 9-11am at Centennial United Methodist Church in Roseville, 1524 W. Co. Rd. C2, just east of Snelling Ave. The event is free and open to anyone.

The panel discussions will be followed by small-group discussions led by trained advance

care planning facilitators. They can help individuals translate their wishes into a legal health care directive. Participants will receive copies of the Honoring Choices Minnesota health care directive, both the long form and short form, and the Roseville Vial of Life. Information about additional assistance also will be available.

To ensure that enough facilitators are on hand, organizers ask interested people to register online at <http://itstimetotalk-advancecareplanning.eventbrite.com>, by e-mail at [parishnurse@centennialumc.org](mailto:parishnurse@centennialumc.org) or by phone at 651-633-7644 x21.

The event, to be held on National Healthcare Decisions Day, is being organized by Roseville's Community Health Awareness Team (CHAT), City of Roseville, Honoring Choices Minnesota, and Centennial United Methodist Church.

Honoring Choices Minnesota is a statewide campaign of doctors, hospitals, clinics, health insurers and others to help people complete health care directives.

Warren Wolfe is a retired reporter who covered aging and health care policy issues for the Star Tribune. He lives in Roseville and is active in the Roseville Alzheimer's and Dementia Community Action Team.

## Como centenarian

Continued from page 1

Chris Langer, executive director of the North End-South Como (NE-SC) Block Nurse Program, organized the bridge club for Treumann several months ago. She knew how much he liked to play and realized there weren't any other players in the building. She asked three bridge-playing friends of hers, and they were happy to volunteer. Treumann is an excellent player, and his 100-year-old mind doesn't struggle with the complexities of the game.

Langer said, "Friendly visits like these are just one of the ways our block nurse program helps

keep the elderly engaged and connected. A community that has a diverse population in every way, including age, is a stronger community."

The NE-SC Block Nurse Program is one of 26 programs of its kind throughout the state of Minnesota. Part of the Living-at-Home Network, this non-profit organization helps seniors stay in their homes, improves their quality of life and strengthens neighborhoods by not isolating the elderly.

They contract for medical services through Recover Health, a Medicare-certified agency offering in-home health care with nurses, health aides, and physical therapists.

The senior apartment complex

Como by the Lake is one of the locations where the NE-SC Block Nurse Program provides services. Located at 901 East Como Blvd. in the South Como neighborhood, there are several benefits being offered to seniors living in the area at little to no cost.

Molly Fitzel is the health and wellness coordinator for the program. She teaches a free Chair Yoga class at 11am on Monday and Thursday mornings in the Community Room. This non-strenuous form of exercise helps improve flexibility, balance, and strength. "The movements build a healthy sense of body awareness," Fitzel said, "and the closing meditation leaves participants feeling calm, restored and happy." Call Molly at 651-487-

5135 to learn more or to sign up.

On Monday thru Friday at noon, a nutritious lunch is served in the Community Room of Como by the Lake. The suggested donation is \$3.50 for persons over 60, but no one is turned away for inability to pay. An intake can be done over the phone by calling Optage Senior Dining 651-746-8280.

The NE-SC Block Nurse Program offers volunteer opportunities for people in the neighborhood. "It's so important to look out for your neighbors," Langer said. "We welcome volunteers to help with raking, shoveling, grocery shop-

ping, household chores and friendly visiting, among other things."

Questions about volunteering can be directed to volunteer coordinator Jamie Schlough at 651-489-4067.

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As the temperatures continue to warm, the seasons change and neighbors reemerge from hibernation, it's time to start planning the 2016 Hamline Midway Spring Festival! We're looking for a few good volunteers excited about planning an event that celebrates everything special about Hamline Midway. The festival planning committee will start meeting mid-March, and will get together every other week leading up to the festival at the beginning of June. Whether you're looking for a fun new way to connect with your neighbors, or reconnect with your community, this is an excellent opportunity to discover and rediscover everything we love about Hamline Midway. Contact Kyle Mianulli at [kyle@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:kyle@hamlinemidway.org) or call 651-494-7683 to get involved. Visit [www.hamlinemidway.org/springfestival](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/springfestival) for more info on last year's event.

### Join the Hamline Midway Transportation Committee

We're currently looking to fill two vacancies on the Hamline Midway Transportation Committee. If you're passionate about transportation issues and are looking to get involved with an exciting aspect of neighborhood work and planning, this is an opportunity to have a tangible effect on the long-term livability and vitality of the neighborhood. The transportation committee meets the first Monday of every

## News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

### Help plan the 2016 Hamline Midway Spring Festival!



The 2015 Hamline Midway Spring Festival featured art making, resource information, delicious foods, and examples of all the things that make living in Hamline Midway great.

month and works with HMC staff to review and inform transportation and infrastructure decisions for neighborhood projects, initiate educational and outreach projects, and many other transportation-related activities. There are lots of upcoming opportunities to represent the community's voice on various transportation projects including the coming Bus Rapid Transit

A-Line, implementation of the citywide bike plan, pedestrian safety initiatives and transportation issues surrounding the Snelling-Midway development. Whether you get around the neighborhood by foot, bike, transit or car, if you're interested in getting involved or learning more, contact Kyle Mianulli at [kyle@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:kyle@hamlinemidway.org) or call 651-494-7683.

### Help launch Hamline Midway Investment Cooperative

The Hamline Midway Investment Cooperative is moving closer to launching an effort to collectively purchase a community-owned building in the neighborhood. Now, with three distinct working groups focusing on research and real estate, governing and finance, and communications, there are more opportunities than ever to get involved in this exciting neighborhood project, whatever your particular passion or skill set may be. Email [hminvestmentcoop@gmail.com](mailto:hminvestmentcoop@gmail.com) to get involved and visit [www.hamlinemidway.org/investmentcoop](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/investmentcoop) to learn more.

### Neighborhood garage sale scheduled for June 4

Mark your calendars and start planning for the annual Hamline Midway Neighborhood Garage Sale on Sat., June 4, 8am-3pm. Garage sales are a great way to meet new neighbors, reduce waste, and support the community economy. With more than 50 participating sales across the neighborhood

in 2015, we're looking to have an even bigger impact this year.

There will be a \$10 fee for participating sales to help with the expense of printing flyers, sale maps, and signs, as well as advertising in the *Monitor*, *Pioneer Press*, and Craigslist. If you live within the Hamline Midway boundaries, start clearing out your closets and collecting your unwanted items for this year's sale. If you have questions or would like to learn more, please email [gargagesale@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:gargagesale@hamlinemidway.org). We'll post registration forms and start collecting fees closer to the date.

### Public Art group seeks input

The Hamline Midway Public Art Working Group wants to hear your feedback on a slate of possible projects the group could pursue and seek to fund in 2016. Following the success of the Midway Murals project in 2015, which brought four beautiful murals to Snelling Ave, we're looking to continue the evolution of Hamline Midway as a hub for public and community-oriented art in 2016. The group has developed a slate of possible projects to pursue this year and is now seeking input from the community. Visit [www.hamlinemidway.org/publicart](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/publicart) to see the list of possible projects, vote on your favorites, and offer your own ideas.

- Como Park Choir students participated in a special concert with the Minneapolis musical institution VocalEssence on Feb. 22. VocalEssence director G. Phillip Schoultz, III led selected Como Choir students in a concert at Como with members of VocalEssence. The relationship between Carole Whitney's choir program and Schoultz's renowned group is based on the VocalEssence Talented Tenth Apprenticeship Program (TTAP). The TTAP is founded on the W.E.B. DuBois theory that if you train one-tenth of any population, the talent will work its way through the entire group.

Como Choir students selected to participate were Andrew Cardoza, Raphael Forrest, Jacoria Layrock, Natalie Moua, Justine Sanchez, Ethan Wesby, Nasue Xiong, and Titi Yusuf. An enthusiastic and appreciative audience of Como Choir members and other classes from the student body gave rave reviews of the performance. The Choirs will host their next full concert in the Como Auditorium on Mon., Mar. 28.

- The Como Bands and Orchestra under Dr. Phil Fried conducted a performance on Feb. 25 in the school auditorium. An ensemble recital included works from the Band, Jazz Band, and the Strings. The Tri M program, which is the musical honor society, will host its annual variety show on Thur., Mar. 24.

- The Academy of Finance (AOF) continues to engage students with off-campus visits that help connect AOF students to their business components. Fifteen AOF students volunteered at Junior Achievement's



## News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

### Como Park Choir sings with famed VocalEssence



VocalEssence Director G. Phillip Schoultz, III conducted a concert with members of VocalEssence and Como Park High School Choirs in the Como Auditorium on Feb. 22. The concert was the culminating work of the Talented Tenth Apprenticeship Program. (Photo submitted)

Biz Town on Feb. 19. On Mar. 1, 30 sophomores job-shadowed at US Bank. On Mar. 9, 30 freshmen were part of a site visit and job-shadow at Thomson Reuters, the multinational mass media company in Eagan that has established a business partnership with Como Park High. AOF is a small learning community that provides students an opportunity to study accounting, international trade, business leadership and technology in preparation for college and careers in the financial services industry.

- The Academy of Finance has another new community part-

nership with the Minnesota United Soccer team, which will make the Midway its permanent home after the completion of the new stadium in the neighborhood. AOF teacher Ms. Kris Somerville has coordinated "Como Night" with United for this season's May 14 game. Como AOF students and players from both Como's boys and girls soccer programs will be guests of the team. The team is partnering with Como to provide service and employment opportunities, support existing programs, and potentially develop internships for AOF students.

- Seventeen seniors, who are

studying AP Government and AP Macroeconomics, recently returned from a unique and powerful experience in Washington D.C. The participating students were part of the national Close Up program, which promotes civic engagement and uses the capital as a living classroom. Students visited the monuments, memorials, the Smithsonian, the Supreme Court, the U.S. Capitol, and prominent Washington neighborhoods. They had meetings with their Senators and Congresswoman on Capitol Hill, and throughout the week they discussed policy issues with professionals and political experts while interacting with peers

from across the nation.

- BKBM Engineers visited Como on Feb. 25 for Engineering Day. The event held in Robyn Asher's science classroom included a presentation and several instructional hands-on activities.

- Cadets Antania Goff and Kaelah Foreman were representatives of the Como MJROTC at the MSP International Airport for the arrival of Medal of Honor Recipient Thomas Kelley (US Navy - Retired). They were part of the welcoming delegation along with several other JROTC Cadets from Minnesota schools.

- Sophomore Corey Guenther was the Section 4AA Wrestling champion in the heavyweight division. By winning the section, Guenther earned the opportunity to wrestle in the State Tournament held Feb. 26-27 at the Xcel Energy Center. Guenther lost his first-round match in State but concluded the season in the arena every Minnesota high school wrestler wants to be. Coach Tijn van der Wege is confident the young sophomore can return to the Xcel if he continues to work at a high level.

- The Lady Cougars Basketball team won the St. Paul City Conference and the Twin Cities Championship. They defeated Minneapolis Southwest in the Twin Cities Game on Feb. 27 to finish the regular season with a 22-5 record. The Cougars earned the #1 seed for the Section 4AAA playoffs which were beginning as the *Monitor* went to press. Look for an update in the next issue!

The days are getting longer and lighter, and as we head toward spring, the Hamline Midway Library at 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. is offering another month of wonderful programs. Highlights include Spring Break week programming with lots of hands-on fun for families and a program about traditional medicinal plants to get you ready for gardening season. Also, teens should be sure and check out the comfy, attractive new furnishings in the library's updated Teen Area, created with input from teen library patrons. Call the librarians at 651-642-0293 for more information on any of the programs listed below.

Preschool Storytimes happen every Friday, 10:30-11am, Mar. 11, 18, and 25 and Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Storytimes feature stories, songs, puppets, and more, and they enhance social skills, listening comprehension, letter and number recognition, and vocabulary. Children of all activity levels are welcome!

The popular Saturday Science Club series continues on Sat., Mar. 12, 1:30-3pm, as educators Peter Hoh and Jackie Lanin guide children ages 6 and up and their families through hands-on science and art activ-

## News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

### Teens Reading Bravely; Baby Boomers Book Club; Science Club featured

ities. This month, Saturday Science Club explores air and wind science toys. And, mark your calendars for the Apr. 9 Saturday Science Club, when the theme will be optical illusions, with activities also held 1:30-3pm. Walk-ins are welcome.

Also on Sat., Mar. 12, 3-4pm, the Teens Reading Bravely group meets in the Teen Area to discuss books that fall under the "Read Brave" genre. The group is recommended for ages 14 and up, grades 9 and up. Come check out the new furniture and fun decor in the Teen Area, funded by the Hamline Midway Library Association thanks to many generous community donations. Keep checking back for more Teen Area updates in this ongoing project, and watch for details of a celebration of the new Teen Area later this spring.

Mon., Mar. 14, 6-7:30pm,

growers from the Little Earth Community Garden present Medicine Garden Wellness. The gardeners will discuss growing and using traditional and medicinal plants to improve wellness. Herbs and produce will be displayed. This Grow, Cook, Heal program featuring Native American Foodways is funded by Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds.

The new Baby Boomers Book Club kicks off Sat., Mar. 19, 1-2pm. Join Baby Boomers (you know who you are!) to discuss books relevant to the Baby Boom generation. This month's book will be the mystery "Our Souls at Night" by Kent Haruf. On Sat., Apr. 16, 1-2pm, the group will discuss "The Virtues of Aging" by Jimmy Carter.

Jody's Documentary Film Series continues on Wed., Mar. 30, 1-3pm, with "Tea Time: A POV

Documentary" by Maite Alberdi. So you say you keep up with old friends? How about keeping up 60 or more years later? In this documentary, longtime Chilean friends gossip, argue, express their regrets, and share amazing food. Jody is renowned for leading lively discussions and choosing wonderful films to share with library audiences.

In April, families who can't make it to the daytime Preschool Storytimes (or just can't get enough storytimes in their week) can enjoy Pajama Storytimes on Tuesday evenings, Apr. 5, 12, 19, and 26, from 6:30-7pm. Come dressed in pajamas if you like and bring favorite blankets and stuffed animals along. Children of all activity levels are welcome.

On Sat., Apr. 2, the long-running Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club meets from 1-3pm to discuss the mystery

"Blessed Are the Dead" by Kristi Belcamino. Contact Geraldine Balter at gerribalter@gmail.com or 651-224-5570 for more information.

The Kids Book Clubs: I Read! I Vote! meet Sat., Apr. 2 to learn more about this year's Maud Hart Lovelace award nominees through games and activities. Division I (grades 3-5) meets 1:30-2:15pm. Division II (grades 6-8) meets 2:30-3:15pm.

The week of the St. Paul school district's spring break, the library is hosting two afternoons of drop-in fun for families. On Mon., Apr. 4 from 1-4pm, the library will present Wordplay, featuring writing activities teamed with art. Wed., Apr. 6 from 1-4pm, the activity is Unplugged Games, with board and card game fun for all ages. On Thur., Apr. 7, 6:30-8pm, the library will also host an evening family activity that's sure to be memorable—Maker Break: Bubblemancy. Artist Russell Harris will teach about the science behind bubbles and guide participants in making bubbles with their own hands—no wands necessary! This event is made possible by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Some might remember the Embers, which stood at 1664 University Ave. for many years. Others might recall Kim Huoy Chor, a once-popular restaurant that managed to rack up many health code violations and force the city to shut it down in late 2010.

Now it appears that a Denny's will be opening its doors at the long-vacant site. Building permits were pulled in February for renovation as well as work on the building's mechanical systems. The permits total \$342,500.

It's not clear yet when Denny's would open. State officials must inspect the premises and issue needed licenses for a restaurant use, as the city lost its restaurant licensing authority several years ago when state officials found shortcomings in inspection and recordkeeping processes.

The building has been owned by the St. Paul Federal Credit Union for several years.

## Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

### Denny's looks to open doors at long-vacant University building

The credit union twice went through city approval processes for variances needed to install drive-through service in preparation for a move there. Those variances and conditional use permits have expired. Right now it doesn't appear that Denny's would need any zoning changes to open in the Midway.

### New tenant for old stadium site on Energy Park Drive

The old Midway Stadium site on Energy Park Dr. has its first occupant. United Properties an-

nounced in late February that it will work with the St. Paul Port Authority this spring to build an almost-200,000-square-foot light-industrial building there. It was also announced that Tierney Brothers Inc. will occupy about a quarter of the facility.

Tierney Brothers is a technology firm located in Minneapolis. The company plans to move its headquarters to the Midway. The new building will also provide a warehouse and showroom. The company currently employs about 100 people.

The building is to be com-

pleted in the fall.

No other tenants have been announced.

The stadium was torn down last summer after the St. Paul Saints and other teams moved to CHS Field in Lowertown.

### Daycare will be part of redevelopment

As The Vintage on Selby (1555 Selby Ave.) continues to welcome apartment residents and prepares for the opening of Whole Foods in mid-March, developer Ryan Companies has announced

the sale of land at 1533 Dayton Ave. for a new Primrose daycare center. The property was sold for \$1.05 million. "Primrose School of St. Paul at Merriam Park" will be built on Dayton Ave. east of Associated Bank.

The development is one of the last pieces of plans that have transformed the Selby-Snelling intersection and the east side of Snelling. The apartments above Whole Foods opened late last year. The bank has been open for more than a year.

Those properties eventually wound up in the hands of Associated Bank, which worked with Ryan Companies on site redevelopment.

The last remaining piece of the properties to be redeveloped may be the most contentious, as Union Park District Council has objected to a proposal to put a Starbucks with drive-through service there. The plans have been debated for several months.

## Altered University Ave. on-street parking plan approved by City Council

By JANE MCCLURE

Businesses along University Ave. will have on-street parking restored later this year, as a result of Feb. 17 St. Paul City Council approval of a parking plan. The plan will provide more than 300 spots between 6pm and 2am. Adding parking back will narrow University and Washington avenues from four lanes to two during those hours.

In the Monitor area, the areas affected by the additional parking hours will be between Emerald to Hampden streets, between Syndicate and Grotto streets, and between Mackubin and Rice streets.

But the plan won't include adding parking between Aldine St. and Prior Ave. as the Planning Commission previously recommended. That could affect people who want to visit Dickerman and Iris parks and future evening events there. That's because the stretch of University is eyed for shared bicycle use, as a connection between bicycle facilities on Charles and Prior avenues. Council President Russ Stark, whose Fourth Ward includes that part of University, said he'd

like to see share the road or narrow (shared lane) markings on the street as soon as this year. The section of University is identified as a future route in the city's bike plan.

While Stark joked that the markings might be "sharrows on steroids," no decisions have been made as to what type of markings would be used and when that would take place. It won't include a bike lane, as there isn't space for one.

University is a Ramsey County road, so the county also must sign off on the bike and parking plans. That isn't likely until March. The Hennepin County Board and Minneapolis City Council must also sign off on the parking plans for the sections of University and Washington in their stretch of roadway.

Proponents would like to see parking restored later this spring or early this summer.

The parking plan has been discussed for several years. It is meant to help St. Paul and Minneapolis businesses that lost parking during Green Line light rail construction and the first years of operation.

Most on-street parking on University and Washington avenues was lost as a result of the rail project, which prompted protests all along the route.

The plan recommended by the Planning Commission would have restored about 451 spots in nine areas between Park St. in St. Paul and 23rd Ave. in Minneapolis. It's not clear exactly how many spaces will be lost by eliminating the Aldine to Prior stretch. Stark estimated that more than 300 spaces will be restored under the plan adopted by the City Council.

Council members said the plan could be changed as needed. The cost of adding parking is about \$80,000 for signage. Meters won't be installed in areas where parking is being added, but that could change if a need to turn spaces over is seen. Parking spaces can also be removed if there are traffic flow problems. The Planning Commission recommended that the parking renewal is viewed as a test and that it be evaluated after a year.

"For the time being, this is a really good compromise," said Stark.

"It's a relatively inexpensive way to bring back parking."

One challenge Ward One Council Member Dai Thao noted is that the parking plan was developed before plans emerged for a soccer stadium to be built at Snelling and St. Anthony avenues. Traffic studies for that project are underway. Concerns are already being raised about spillover parking in adjacent neighborhoods.

Although the loss of on-street parking caused an uproar several years ago and drew many comments in online surveys, the Planning Commission and City Council review drew few comments. Christopher Ferguson, a Minneapolis East Bank business owner and Midway Chamber of Commerce Board member, was one of the study leaders.

The Prior-to-Aldine stretch has been the most controversial, prompting a split vote on the Planning Commission's Transportation Committee in January. Union Park District Council (UPDC) asked that that stretch be removed from the plan, saying that businesses don't

want or need on-street parking in that area. But the committee and full Planning Commission asked that the parking be kept in the plan. Commissioners cited a need for on-street parking when people visit Iris and Dickerman parks.

UPDC's Land Use Committee discussed the parking proposal in mid-February. Former district council member Mike Madden told the committee that he was dismayed to see the Aldine to Prior parking removed. He said that in 2010 the district council took a position that parking on University should be restored "to the greatest extent possible."

Committee members said they were aware of the previous district council stance on parking, but that they were trying to balance that with the bike plan, the survey responses, and current conditions. Committee member Benita Warns, who owns and operates two small businesses on Prior, said most businesses in the area are closed at night and don't need on-street parking during the period that parking is being restored.

# Noted children's author to be part of Third Annual Read-A-Thon

Hamline Elementary brings in famed Minnesota author and illustrator of children's books, Nancy Carlson

By RHONDA SIMONSON

A lot is happening at Hamline Elementary (1599 Englewood Ave.) in March. The Hamline PTA is sponsoring their Third Annual Read-A-Thon and has activities

planned around the event.

When Hamline lost its magnet status and was given a charge to fill with neighbors; the school was fortunate to have an active group of parents and teachers to form an orga-

nization that has now transitioned to the status of a PTA, with all the rights and responsibilities of the state and national Parent Teacher Association.

The PTA has set as a goal to sponsor activities that sup-

port all students in the school. Last year an Artist in Residence was hired with monies raised in the Read-A-Thon. This year the school hopes to sponsor a music residency for all students with the raised funds.

For the 2016 school year, Hamline Elementary has hired full time a recent art educator graduate from North Dakota State, Katie Laubenstein. She works with all Hamline students. "Arts in elementary school is really important as it gives kids an outlet to express themselves and serves as a great community builder," Laubenstein said.

Nancy Carlson, the celebrated guest artist that arrived Mar. 4, added, "Art serves as a way for kids to express their feelings when they feel powerless. Also, art needs practice... so start early." On Nancy Carlson's website, she states that she knew when she was in kindergarten that she wanted to be an author and illustrator.

As a special kick-off for the Read-A-Thon, the PTA was the winner of a grant paid for by the Lillian Wright & C Emil Berglund Foundation. This prize sponsored Carlson to come and talk about her books. In her school talks, she explained how she gets ideas and then sketched for the kids and left those sketches, as well as autographed books.

In addition, books have been purchased for the younger students with a continuing grant from Rozanne Ridgway. This legacy grant is given to honor Ridgway's mom and her love of reading.

Sheila Martin, a new second-grade teacher at Hamline, commented, "I am familiar with children reading books to raise money...but the thought of a gift of a book from someone who believes in us is very powerful and generous. The Ridgway philanthropic presence in the Hamline community is a wonderful legacy."

Carol Schjei, a longtime kindergarten teacher, is spending lots of time reading Carlson's books and making certain her students know that taking home an autographed book is very special.

"The best thing for kids is to work together," Carlson said. "Teaching cooperation can help in all areas of life, especially when a child needs support! Schools should have lots of time for play. I always have hope in children. I think kids now are color blind and are being taught to accept kids different than themselves."

Kristen Reilly, a newly appointed administrative intern at Hamline, was brought in for her expertise in school climate. All year she has been glowing at the hidden gem she found when she joined the Hamline staff. When asked about Carlson's visit Reilly said, "I have always admired the topics she writes about. She makes feelings accessible to young students. It is neat to see her work with children with special needs."

Hamline students are part of a school community surrounded by teachers, family, neighbors, and strangers, cheering them on in their love of reading.

# FREE FIX-IT CLINICS

**Saturday, March 26**  
**12:30 pm - 3:30 pm**  
**Merriam Park Library**  
**1831 Marshall Ave**  
**Saint Paul, MN 55104**

Fix-it Clinics are family-friendly events. First come, first served. Items must be carry-in — no oversized items. Please bring any tools that might be helpful to fix your item.

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 RAMSEY COUNTY

# SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS!

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

Imagine you are a zookeeper, junior sleuth or engineer. Get lost in a colossal cardboard maze. Learn how to make a Rube Goldberg machine, ice cream, fused glass, and Lego movie. Hone your soccer and German skills. Rollerski, canoe, and dance.

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

### ART START

Pre-school children ages 4-5 years register for "A Start with the Arts". Youth ages 13 years and older register for "Camp CREATE." Youth select classes taught by professional artists from multiple arts disciplines— music, creative movement/dance, and visual arts. As a result of participating in this 5-day immersion experience, youth gain artistic knowledge and skills, learn about the people, geography and environment of a place and create art works and performances inspired by the culture. Week 1, Galapagos; Week 2, Cuba. Includes options in drawing/painting, mosaics, puppetry, construction arts, movement/dance, weaving, clay jewelry, music and mixed media. Cost: \$140-\$270. 651-698-2787. <http://www.artstart.org/summer-immersion>

### 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: \$75-175. 651-894-3527. <http://blackhawksoccer.org>

### CAMP COMO

Spend some time Monkeying Around with your primate pals; discover your creative side with Adventures in Art; take an African Adventure right at Como; or, try on the hat of a zookeeper or gardener in Behind-the-Scenes! Como's camps include "behind-the-scenes" experiences and meeting Como's plant and animal ambassadors up-close! Five-

day, half-day sessions. Extended care available. In partnership with the Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM), Como also offers summer camp opportunities for youth, ages 8-18, with autism. Cost: \$117-150. 651-487-8272. <http://www.tinyurl.com/p3u4lqv>

### CREATE SOMETHING GREAT AT FRIENDS SCHOOL

From junior sleuths to budding lawyers to young artists, there are seven weeks of adventures and summer fun planned for ages 4-14 at the Friends School of Minnesota. Weekdays, half- and full-day. Cost: \$100 to \$440. 651-621-8941. <https://fsmn.org/summer-camp/overview>

### GIBBS FARM: 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 during the Say It In Dakota Camp. Three-day, half-day camps. Two-hour day sessions for ages 6-13 only \$19. Cost: \$99. 651-646-8629. <http://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. <http://www.hamline.edu/gls/youngwriters>

### MINNESOTA WALDORF SCHOOL

Join them for good, old-fashioned summer fun at Minnesota Waldorf School summer camp. Outdoor games, natural crafts, water play, gardening, caring for the school's chickens, and much more, all on their beautiful 8 acre campus. 70 East County Road B, St. Paul. For children ages 3.5 to (rising) 5th grade. Cost: \$150/wk (half-day); \$270/wk (full-day). 651-487-6700 x202. <http://mnwaldorf.org/summercamp>

### ST. PAUL ACADEMY

Make Rube Goldberg machines. Take a writing workshop entitled: "A Week at Hogwarts." Learn

about 3D printing and movie-making. Debate, play chess, take competitive math, debate, or learn how to be a better leader. Twelve options at SPA cover a wide range of academic, arts, and enrichment activities for grades 2-12. The Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth offers the Explor-School for students in grades 4-6. Cost: \$169-425. 651-698-2451. [http://www.spa.edu/about\\_spa/summer\\_programs\\_2015/](http://www.spa.edu/about_spa/summer_programs_2015/)

### 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. 651-428-6170, 651-428-6172. [www.istkd.com](http://www.istkd.com)

### ST. PAUL BALLET

Summer at St. Paul Ballet is a time to try something new that you've always wanted to try. Programs include workshops and camps for ages 3-22. It's a time to try out classical ballet, as well as other genres of dance such as flamenco, modern, and some surprises. Weekly and drop-in classes offered throughout the summer (\$8.50 to \$20). Cost: \$75-1,800. 651-690-1588. [www.spballet.org](http://www.spballet.org)

### ST. PAUL URBAN TENNIS

Located all over the St. Paul map, with several locations in the Midway Como neighborhoods, St. Paul Urban Tennis offers summer camp programs for all age groups. In addition to tennis lessons, they offer SPUT Sampler Camps (\$45) which offer a condensed version in 4 days of their acclaimed summer program, with a high dose of tennis instruction for players just starting out with the sport. Cost: wide range. <http://stpaulurbantennis.org/2011-summer-program.php>

## IN THE TWIN CITIES

### ADVENTURES IN CARDBOARD

Construct giant castles, get lost in colossal mazes, build suits of armor and more during these five-day, full-day sessions for ages 8-17. Eight weeks offered at five different parks. Cost: \$320. 612-532-6764. <http://julianmcfaul.com>



At Friends School, there are seven weeks of adventures and fun planned for ages 4-14. (Photos submitted)

### ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY

Unleashed summer campers entering grades 3-10 spend a full week immersed in animal learning and fun. Camp sessions are held in St. Paul and Golden Valley (as well as three other locations). Cost: \$300. 763-489-2220. <http://www.animalhumanesociety.org/camps>

### ARTICULTURE

A variety of art disciplines and mediums with themes like Claymation, theater, art car, or food as art offered for ages 4-18. Five-day, half- and full-day sessions available. Cost: \$117-270. 612-729-5151. <http://www.articulture.org>

### ALEXANDER RAMSEY HOUSE

Solve mysteries of the past in this three-day History Detective Camp for ages 11-13. Or, young ladies ages 9-12 can step back in time in a unique Finishing School for Young Ladies day camp. Cost: \$200-\$220. 612-


341-7555. <http://www.mnhs.org/summercamps>

### 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. <http://www.youth->

*Continued on page 9*

**Artstart**  
PASSPORT TO PLACES LESS TRAVELED  
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**651-646-8629**  
2097 W. Larpenteur Ave., Falcon Heights, MN 55113



## Summer fun for kids

Continued from page 8

caremn.org

### CIRCUS JUVENTAS

Explore international circus arts at Circus Juventas. Five-day, full-day sessions offered for ages 6-18. Or make your own camp with Circus Sampler Days. Cost: \$395. 651-699-8229. <http://www.circusjuventas.org>

### CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES

Experience cultural and language immersion; 15 languages to choose from. Resident camp for ages 6-18 and half-day programs offered. Cost: \$240-\$4,400. 1-800-222-4750. <http://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 are available for ages 3-6. Cost: \$42-255. 651-455-4531. <http://www.dodgenaturecenter.org>

### FARM TO TABLE

Make butter, ice cream and bread while learning about science, agriculture, and history at the Bruentrup Heritage Farm in Maplewood. Plus, students will play old-time games like town-ball and do arts and crafts. Three four-day sessions offered in July and August. Cost: \$150. 651-748-8645. <http://tinyurl.com/bhf2016>

### 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: \$375-420. 612-623-3624. <http://tinyurl.com/foci2016>

### FORT SNELLING

Be an adventurer like Davy Crockett. Explore like Huck Finn. Experience the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Be a soldier for a day. Or, try out what life as an archeologist is like. Camps range from one day to one week. \$60-\$250. 612-341-7555. <http://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-2 at the Germanic American Institute. Cost: \$130-270. 651-222-2979. <http://gai-mn.org>

### JUGHEADS JUGGLING CAMP

Half-day, five-day sessions for beginners through experts ages 8-18 enhance hand-eye coordination, boost concentration, and build self-confidence. Cost: \$110. 612-229-3348. <http://jugheads.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 88 classes available over ten weeks. New this summer: Star Wars week. Cost: \$185-370, scholarships available. 612-824-4394. <http://www.leonardosbasement.org>

### 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 full-day, five-day sessions. Cost: \$200. 612-604-5330. <http://loppet.org>

### MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

A variety of athletic, academic and enrichment programs are offered, including woodworking, Lego robotics, puddle-stompers, geocaching, movie making, sailing, painting, rocket science, guitar, and more. Half- and full-day, one- to three-week weekday ses-

sions. 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: \$36-500. 612-728-7745, ext. 1. <http://www.minnehahaacademy.net>

### MILL CITY MUSEUM

Play music, get creative, bake bread and construct books while exploring the rich culture of the Minneapolis riverfront district. Campers aged 9-11 will explore a new experience each day at four arts centers, including Mill City Museum, the Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Center for Book Arts and MacPhail Center for Music. Cost: \$225-\$250. 612-341-7555. <http://www.mnhs.org/summercamps>

### STEM CAMPS

Use LEGO bricks, gears and motors to construct and program robots, or produce their a LEGO movie using the latest Stop-Motion Animation software. Opt to learn to code or create your own video game. Math Advantage offers five-day, half-day camps for grades 2-8. \$215. <http://mathadvantage.com>

### 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. A sliding scale scholarship program is available for all on-site summer camps. Cost: \$125-475. <http://steppingstonetheatre.org>



Summer at St. Paul Ballet is a time to try something new that you've always wanted to try. Programs include workshops and camps for ages 3-22. (Photo submitted)

### SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA

Summer programs for youth ages 3 to 16 combine science, art, drama, and literature in ways that encourage kids to actively discover and examine concepts for themselves. Programs also offered at the Lee & Rose Warner Nature Center, the state's oldest outdoor environmental education facility. Cost: \$60-345. 651-221-4511, 651-433-2427. <http://www.smm.org/classes>

### 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 6-18. Cost \$87-370. 612-436-0464.

<http://textilecentermn.org/summer-camps>

### 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. [http://www.y-mcatwincities.org/child\\_care\\_preschool/summer\\_programs](http://www.y-mcatwincities.org/child_care_preschool/summer_programs)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is by no means a comprehensive list of every camp in the Twin Cities. If you would like to be included in next year's guide, please send us detailed information on the camp to [editorial@deruyternelson.com](mailto:editorial@deruyternelson.com).

# Keystone Community Services welcomes new president

## Outgoing president retires after 32 years of service to Keystone

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Eric Nyberg will retire as Keystone Community Services' chief executive officer on Apr. 1, ending a career that began 32 years ago. "I had my reasons," he said, "but you might wonder why anyone would stay with an organization that long?"

It seems to be something of a pattern at Keystone. The organization celebrated its 75th birthday last year, and Nyberg has only been the fifth person to serve as president. He explained that "with learning opportunities at every turn, I just never felt the need to leave."

Nyberg came to his first job at Keystone with a master's of social work and training as a family counselor. "It was clear to me that

healthy individuals had a better chance of establishing healthy families," he said, "and from there we could work toward building a healthy community."

Initially hired as a program director, he eventually branched out into fundraising and development.

"One of the things that distinguishes Keystone as a service provider is a dedicated base of 2,000+ donors, and almost as many active volunteers," Nyberg said. "We also receive excellent support from the Greater Twin Cities United Way, for which we're very grateful."

Keystone addresses three areas of community service: basic needs such as food and shelter, activities for youth and critical support for senior citizens. It of-

fers these services at seven sites throughout St. Paul and covers an area that includes half of Ramsey County. Nyberg noted that "engagement is our ultimate goal. If we can help people get engaged in their communities, then we feel we're succeeding."

The non-profit organization began in the Merriam Park Community Center in 1939, under the name St. Paul Community Services. It was the end of the Great Depression, and neighbors were worried about kids in the Merriam Park neighborhood. They got together and started a pre-school, which was the first of many youth services to come.

The incoming president, Mary McKeown, is a long time Keystone employee and Merriam Park resident. She was selected by the board of directors to step into Nyberg's role and brings to the job many years of experience in St. Paul social services. Nyberg added, "Mary really understands the history of this organization, as well as the needs of the community."

He continued, "the diversity of people Keystone serves reflects current community needs, and the range of services reflects the missions of the organizations that have become part of ours: Capitol Community Services, Neighbor to Neighbor, the Good Neighbor Foundation, and Youth Express."

The organization has gone through a series of mergers over the years, most recently with Youth Express at 1128 Selby Ave. Youth Express is a full-service bike shop and youth employment program. They specialize in refurbished bikes, bike repair, and the



Mary McKeown (left) is the incoming president of Keystone Community Services, and Eric Nyberg (right) is the outgoing. The two have been friends and colleagues for nearly 30 years. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

sale of new and used bike parts. All store proceeds are re-invested back into the Youth Express Program, which currently serves 100+ youth and is expected to grow in 2016.

Shopping at Youth Express is one way to support the work of Keystone. Other opportunities include delivering Meals on Wheels, helping at Keystone's two food shelves, or becoming a youth program tutor. Consider hosting a collection for food and personal care items at your business, school or faith community, or becoming a Keystone business or congregational partner. For information about any of these volunteer opportunities or to make a donation, email [volunteer@keystoneservices.org](mailto:volunteer@keystoneservices.org).



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# Soccer stadium

Continued from page 1

would have to absorb in conjunction with the project.

McGuire said the stadium would be similar to Alliance Arena in Munich, Germany. The St. Paul stadium, like its German counterpart, could change color. It would hold more than 20,000 people including 3,000 in a standing area popular with soccer fans.

McGuire said the intent is to offer an "iconic professional soccer experience" as well as provide a quality facility for the Minnesota United FC.

Both Birdoff and McGuire described the stadium as "catalytic" to area redevelopment. Birdoff's firm has owned Midway Center since 1992.

"We're very excited to redevelop our site and the superblock," Birdoff said. "We needed a catalytic event to turn the prop-

erty around."

Birdoff showed plans that the Snelling-Midway Community Advisory Committee, a city task force, saw Feb. 18. All of the buildings planned would have retail on the first floor. Midway Center is honoring all of its current leases. Birdoff said there is ample space in the new development to accommodate all center tenants and add new ones. But he also noted that market forces would dictate when and how the center redevelops.

"Whether it's a five-year or a 10-year build-out is to be seen," Birdoff said.

In the first phase, the plans show 15 to 17-story office towers along Snelling, with a health club and movie theater there as well. The offices will require a major tenant, which Midway Center is working with United Properties to secure. Those buildings would also house much of the structured parking.

Two large privately owned

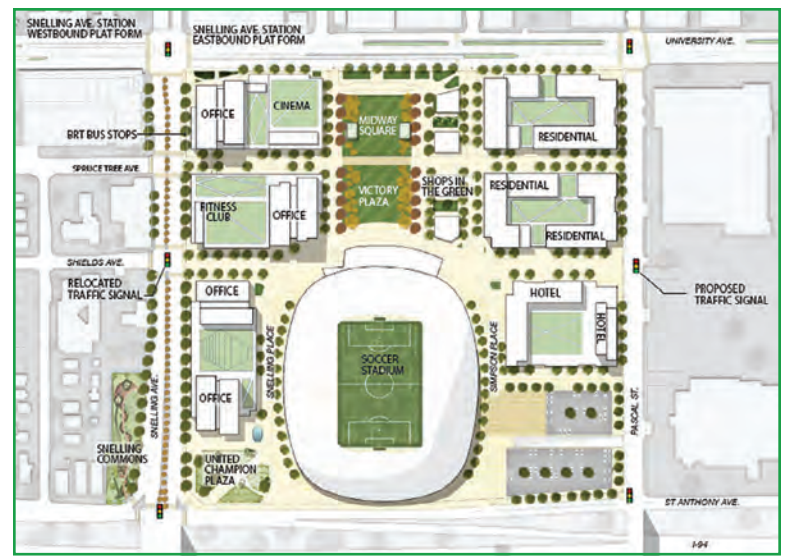
green spaces would connect University Ave. to the stadium. High-rise residential buildings are proposed for University and Pascal, with two hotels and a large green space at the Pascal-St. Anthony corner. That space could be used for parking as well.

An extensively landscaped plaza is planned at the corner of St. Anthony and Snelling avenues.

The plan shows the major pedestrian entrances at Shields and Snelling, and on Pascal. One suggestion is to move the Spruce Tree Drive traffic signal to Shield, but how that would affect the Spruce Tree-Fry Street bypass route to University remains unclear.

Birdoff said the intent is to make the entire area one with 24-hour activity, where people could live, work, shop and enjoy recreation. Having Green Line light rail and arterial bus service by the property provides an opportunity for transit-oriented development.

Costs to redevelop the shopping center property is unknown.



This is one possible scenario for the "superblock," with the stadium anchoring the site, office buildings on the left, and residential on the right with a green space in front of the stadium facing University Ave. at the top. (Illustration courtesy of MN United FC, Populous and S9Architecture)

Community advisory committee members who saw the plans Feb. 18 said they are excited about the idea of walk-

able, bikeable redevelopment. But they raised concerns ranging from the fate of the current businesses to how the already busy Snelling-University intersection would handle large crowds coming in via transit or their own vehicles. Committee co-chairman Eric Molho acknowledged the excitement over redevelopment, adding "But the devil is in the details."

Elected officials said they are excited about the plans. "This is about the redevelopment of the Midway, the central district of St. Paul, and quite frankly the Twin Cities," said Mayor Chris Coleman. He added, "We get closer and closer every day to breaking ground on this project."



Proposed stadium. Possible office towers are on the right. (Illustration courtesy of MN United FC, Populous and S9Architecture)



(Top left) Photo from the top of the stadium steps looking west to new office towers. Green space would extend in front of the stadium all the way to University. (Bottom left) The field will be 16 feet below grade and the stadium approx. 75 feet high. No seat would be more than 125 feet from the field of play. (Illustrations courtesy of MN United FC, Populous and S9Architecture)



The stadium at night. The stadium "skin" is meant to block noise and will be able to change color. (Illustration courtesy of MN United FC, Populous and S9Architecture)

**Please join us for Holy Week**

**Palm Sunday**  
March 20, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday**  
March 24, 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday**  
March 25, 7:00 p.m.

**Easter Day**  
March 27, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
(Easter Breakfast served 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.)

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# In Our Community

## Monitor

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

### “Intimate Apparel” staged Mar. 10-12

Hamline University Department of Theatre and Dance continues its 85th season with “Intimate Apparel” by Lynn Nottage, directed by Carolyn Levy.

“Intimate Apparel” tells the story of Esther, a 35-year-old African-American seamstress living alone in a woman’s boarding house run by the pragmatic Mrs. Dickson. Esther dreams of one day owning a beauty parlor that serves women of color. Her seamstress work consists of creating custom-made lingerie for New York’s uptown ladies and its downtown ladies of the night. Lonely and longing for a husband, Esther finds solace and possible romance from her burgeoning correspondence with George, a handsome, Barbadian laborer working on the Panama Canal. Meanwhile, Esther is continuously drawn into the world of Mr. Marks, an Orthodox Jewish fabric supplier. As Esther attempts to navigate through her relationships, Nottage illustrates the issues of race, women’s sense of worth, and the struggle against compromising one’s dreams.

Performances are scheduled Mar. 10, 11, and 12 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$2-\$8. For reservations or more information, contact the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or [tickets@hamline.edu](mailto:tickets@hamline.edu).

### Modern Spark Trio to perform Mar. 26

On Sat., Mar. 26, the Modern Spark Trio will perform a concert of modern American music at The Underground Music Cafe, 1579 Hamline Ave. This performance will feature Como Park cellist Aaron Kerr’s American Trio, an exploration of original styles of American music in a modern classical setting. The concert also includes jazz compositions by St. Paul pianist and composer Todd Harper as well as South American Milonga, Choro, and Samba music. The Modern Spark Trio features violinist Laura Harada, pianist Rebecca Hass, and cellist Kerr. The concert is at 7pm, and there is a cost of \$10 admission at the door. For more info go to [www.undergroundmusiccafe.com](http://www.undergroundmusiccafe.com), or [www.modernsparktrio.com](http://www.modernsparktrio.com), or [www.aaronkerr.com](http://www.aaronkerr.com).

### The Oracle receives Legacy grant

The Minnesota Historical Society awarded a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant to Hamline’s Archives for *The Oracle* Digitization Project. *The Oracle* is Hamline University’s student publication. With these funds, issues of *The Oracle* from 1988 through 2015 will be digitized

### Local science students awarded recognition in Regional Science Fair



In February, 39 Murray students and 13 students from Como Sr. High participated in the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair (TCRSF). The Murray students qualified for the TCRSF by competing in the Murray Science Fair in January. The Como Sr. High students either completed their projects over the summer at Wolf Ridge through the Murray Environmental Inquiry Immersion class or the science club new to Como this year and run by Kathy Kahn.

At the awards ceremony on Feb. 27, students found out if they qualified for the Minnesota State Science Fair, and many of the Murray participants were also recognized by organizations for their science. The MN State Science Fair will be held on Apr. 3-5.

The following students will be advancing to State: Janey Post, Lucy Black, James Carlson, Olivia Ahrens, Nora Thomey, Mason Salverda, Maasia Apet, and Charlie Rogers. Amelia Moseman and Claire Olson were chosen as alternates.

The following Specialty Awards were given:

- American Meteorological Society: Maeli Englemann
- Broadcam MASTERS: Olivia Ahrens, Anna Gaudio, James Carlson, Lucy Black, Janey Post, Charlie Rogers, Mason Salverda
- East Side Science Club Alumni: Nora Thomey, Sawyer Wall, Phelameena Lee
- Twin Cities Regional Science Fair Excellence: Will Altman
- Graduate Women in Science: Janey Post, Olivia Ahrens
- Integrated Approach to Science: Bridget Lee, Charlie Rogers
- ISEF Alumni Award, Kyra Underbakke: Lucy Black
- Minnesota Astronomical Society: William Gray
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Jillian Brenner
- Radio City: Nick Jacobson
- Midway Party Rental: Charlie Rogers, Alternate
- U of M School of Social Word Research for the Common Good: Lucy Black
- US Navy/Marine Office of Naval Research: James Carlson

and preserved. Hamline Archivist Candy Hart will lead the project.

The Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grant Program is funded by The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund from Legacy Amendment Funds. In 2008, Minnesota’s voters passed the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota Constitution.

### Native American history program set

Merriam Park Library (1831 Marshall Ave.) will be hosting a Native American food history, wellness, and gardening program on Thur., Mar. 17 from 6:30-7:30pm. Diane Wilson, author and Executive Director for Dream of Wild Health, a Native American-led organic farm in Hugo, will discuss the relationship of her books to her interest in learning the old

ways of growing food and helping others to live healthy lives.

### Make, Bake and Play scheduled Mar. 26

Due to a schedule conflict, the monthly Make, Bake and Play Day at Hamline Church has been changed to 9:30-11:30am, Sat., Mar. 26. Parents and children can enjoy free play and snacks. The church has lots of riding and rocking toys, toddler toys, and games for older children. Frost and decorate some cookies. Anyone needing a big space to spread out a craft project is also welcome. The church is at 1514 Englewood Ave. Enter through the alley door. Questions? Email [hamlinewomen@gmail.com](mailto:hamlinewomen@gmail.com) or call 651-646-3473 to talk to one of the church women. Sponsored by Hamline Church Women/UMW.

### Noel Nix honored with award

The Trust for Public Land announced the winners of its 8th annual Conservation Leadership Awards, which recognize outstanding support for the conservation of Minnesota’s special places, from city parks to wilderness.

Among the recipients was Noel Nix. Nix was recognized for his steadfast dedication to all of St. Paul’s neighborhoods including making the dreams of Frogtown Park and Farm and Griggs Park reality. Nix is a community development professional who has dedicated his career to advancing economic and social equity. He currently serves as the Assistant to Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter, serves on the boards of Springboard for the Arts, Minnesota Homeownership Center, and advisory committees for the Victoria Theater Arts Initiative and the Rondo Commemorative Plaza and Garden. Nix worked tirelessly to secure the final funding needed for the nature-based play area at the new park in Frogtown.

### Write It! workshops planned at library

Back by popular demand, Saint Paul Public Library is once again partnering with The Loft to offer two writing workshops led by expert writing instructors at Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Workshops are free, but registration is required by phone (651-642-0385) or online.

A Write It! workshop, “Senior Moments: Starting Your Writing Project at 55+,” will be held on Tues., Mar. 15, 10:30-noon, and covers memoir and novel-writing for retired or older adults. With creative writing prompts and exercises, participants will learn simple tips for starting — and staying with — a writing project.

“The Family Stories into Memoir” workshop is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 5, 10:30am-noon, and is for the aspiring writer who wants to write down memories for family members and friends, or who hopes to publish a book-length memoir.

Call or register online today for these free workshops at Saint Paul Public Library. Learn more at [www.sppl.org/Writelt](http://www.sppl.org/Writelt).

### Salvage Saturdays planned in March

Local nonprofit social enterprise electronics recycler Tech Dump St. Paul (698 Prior Ave. N.) will host Salvage Saturday events every Saturday in March, 9am-1pm.

Most computers, cables, cords and cell phones can be dumped for free, as can fully intact and functional flat panel monitors. Due to low commodity prices,

Tech Dump has to charge fees for processing small household electronic items and televisions. More price information is available at <http://www.techdump.org/electronics-recycling>.

### HU Union accepts first labor contract

Adjunct faculty at Hamline University voted to ratify their historic first contract with the University in February after a full day of voting. The contract, reached in December, was called a win for faculty, students, and whole university. After ten years without a raise, adjuncts voted to form their Union with SEIU Local 284 in June of 2014 and negotiated their first contract for over a year. The contract was ratified with over 95% of ballots voting “yes,” and the new contract will go into effect for the spring semester.

### Cathedral Choir to perform Apr. 8

The Oratorio Society of Minnesota is proud to present the world-famous Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Oxford, under the direction of director Stephen Darlington. The concert will be held on Fri., Apr. 8, 7:30pm at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave.

The Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Oxford, is one of the world’s oldest (500 yrs.) and best-known cathedral choirs. There are 12 men and 16 boys in the Choir along with two organists. The program will include music by Tallis, Parsons, Byrd, Handel, Wood, Grieg and Walton, as well as organ music performed by the Cathedral’s Organ Scholars.

Tickets are \$40, \$30, and \$20 and are available at <http://oratorio.org> or 866-811-4111.

Minnesota Public Radio will record the concert for future broadcast.

### If you travel, immunize!

Measles kills 400 children in the world every day. It is very contagious and travels easily from one continent to another. But, there is something you can do to protect you and your family—get vaccinated.

If you are traveling overseas, make sure that you and your children are up-to-date on your measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR). Children as young as six months old should receive the MMR vaccine.

To keep your travels healthy, talk to your clinic or doctor about your trip, the shots you need and ways to stay healthy while traveling.

*Continued on page 12*

## In Our Community

Continued from page 11

### Still time to start seeds indoors!

For detailed instructions on how you can start your gardens inside, check out the University of Minnesota's Extension Office online guide. It includes the best time to plant those seeds indoors that you will want to transfer outside after the first last date in May. Find information at [www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/flowers/starting-seeds-indoors](http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/flowers/starting-seeds-indoors).

### Rummage sale planned Mar. 10

A Holy Childhood Rummage Sale is scheduled for Mar. 10, 9am-7pm; Mar. 11, 9am-5pm; and Mar. 12, 9am-1pm (Bag Day). The church is located at 1435 Midway Pkwy. Housewares, clothing, linens, shoes, plants, CD's, books, games, puzzles and more will be available. There will be many treasures to bring home.

### Events scheduled at Ginkgo Coffeehouse

Peter Mulvey is scheduled to appear at Ginkgo Coffeehouse (721 Snelling Ave. N.) on Fri., Mar. 18, 8pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 after 6pm on the day of the show. Mulvey is a walking secret handshake. He has been the street-singing kid in Dublin, the man fronting the storming electric band, the conspiratorial spoken-word craftsman, the Tin Pan Alley delver, and an instigator in the occasional Redbird collective. Through it he has remained the traveler out on the road, bringing his music to audiences from Fairbanks to Bilbao, Santa Monica to Montreal, in clubs, theaters, coffee shops, the Kennedy Center, and old barns. Honing his musicianship, his phrasing, his ability to inhabit a song, he has come into his own, with a sound full of grit and warmth, at the same time startling and familiar.

Matthew Hardy will be playing at Ginkgo on Sat. Mar. 19, 8pm for your donations.

On Sun., Mar. 20, 7pm, Kray Van Kirk ([www.krayvankirk.com](http://www.krayvankirk.com)) will take the stage at Ginkgo. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Van Kirk is an Alaskan singer-songwriter, delivering performances that the Borderline Folk Club in New

York called "...what every singer-songwriter should aspire to." His warm and intimate concerts on six- and twelve-string guitar have received critical praise and enthusiastic receptions from the house concert circuit to festivals and larger stages.

### HM Health to hold kick-off event

The Hamline Midway Health Movement (HMHM) invites Hamline Midway residents to attend their kick-off event featuring local author William Kent Krueger.

The first monthly event will be held on Thur., Mar. 17, 6pm at Hamline United Methodist Church (1514 Englewood Ave.). The event will feature a free, healthy meal and lecture by Krueger, the St. Paul novelist who wrote the Cork O'Connor mysteries as well as "Ordinary Grace."

This event is the first of many monthly events that will be hosted by HMHM in 2016.

Each month a new topic will be featured along with a free healthy meal. Watch the Midway Monitor and the HM Coalition website for upcoming events or visit us on our Facebook page at Hamline-Midway Health Movement.

RSVP at [hamlinemidway-health@gmail.com](mailto:hamlinemidway-health@gmail.com) for the Mar. 17 event.

### La Leche Group scheduled Apr. 12

The next meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tue., Apr. 12. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers to discuss breastfeeding and mothering issues. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

### Como Men's Golf announces 2016 fee

Membership in the Como Men's Golf Club for 2016 will be \$100 for the season. This is one of the lowest membership fees in the entire metropolitan area.

New members will be eligible to receive a free \$25 gift card after completing five qualifying rounds to establish a club handicap. The gift card may be redeemed at the Como pro shop towards greens fees or merchandise. The board is committed to expanding its membership in 2016, with all the great values that have existed for years in

one of the oldest clubs in Minnesota. Membership includes events every weekend from mid-April to Oct. 15. These events and tournaments are available to all members for small or no fees. Members select which contests to play in and also qualify for preferred tee times. Our club welcomes everyone no matter your age or golf ability.

The \$100 fee includes handicaps through GHIN (Golf Handicap Information Network), as well as computer access for posting scores and retrieving handicap cards every two weeks. Bring your game to Como as an individual or a group and join the fun.

For more information contact a board member, Larry Jago at 651-271-1131, or access their website [atmensclubcomo.org](http://atmensclubcomo.org) for a listing of all events or to print out an application.

### Merriam Library to host Club Book

Club Book, a program of the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA) and coordinated by Library Strategies Consulting Group, will host David Mura and Sun Yung Shin on Mon., Mar. 14, 7pm, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.

Writers Mura and Shin will come together for an evening of conversation about the Asian-American experience in Minnesota. Mura is a multi-talented poet, novelist, memoirist, and playwright. His four full-length poetry collections to date include "After We Lost Our Way," winner of the 1989 National Poetry Contest, and "The Colors of Desire," winner of the Carl Sandburg Literary Award. Mura's first memoir, "Turning Japanese: Memoirs of a Sensei," gained distinction as a New York Times Notable Book. Sun Yung Shin is a Korean American poet and educator. Her poetry debut, "Skirt Full of Black," received the Asian American Literary Award in 2008. She is also the editor of the upcoming essay anthol-

## Registration for events at rec centers

Register now for what's coming at the local recreation centers. To register for any activity, call the recreation center involved or go to [www.stpaul.gov/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks).

Local centers include:

**Langford, 30 Langford Park, 651-298-5765:**

- Ode to Van Gogh Art Class, ages 7-12, on Mar. 25, at 9:30am
- Babysitting Training, ages 11 & up, on Apr. 7
- Spring Blast, ages 6-12, beginning Apr. 4
- Henna body Art, ages 11 & up Apr. 22 at 6pm
- Aerospace Engineering - Up, Up and Away, ages 7-12, beginning May 4 at 6:30pm
- Minecraft Game Designer, ages 7-11, beginning Apr. 11 at 6:30pm
- Jazz/Hip Hop, ages 7-11, beginning Apr. 12 at 5pm

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

- Spring Break No School Days, ages 6-12, beginning Apr. 4
- Computers: Clay Animation, ages 7-11, beginning Apr. 23
- Babysitting Training, ages 11 & up, on May 14
- Pilates/Mind/Body/Strength, adults, on Mon/Wed
- Earth Moon Yoga, adults, on Tues/Sat

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

- Barnyard Buddies Art Class, ages 3-5, on Apr. 15
- Artist Workshop, ages 7-13, beginning Apr. 13
- Science: Mineral Mania, ages 6-12, on May 9
- Spring Break Programs include: Scooby Dooby Doo Art Camp, Environmental-Engineering-Go Green, Tennis, Paint Like Picasso
- Senior Gamers, every Tuesday from 1-3pm

ogy "A Peculiar Price: New Writing on Racial Realities in Minnesota," which debuts this month.

### Spaghetti Dinner scheduled Apr. 2

The Men's Club of St. Stephanus, 739 Lafond Ave., will hold their Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sat., Apr. 2, 5-7pm. Takeout is available and a bake sale will be held during the dinner. The cost of the dinner is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12, and free for children under 5. For tickets, call the church at 651-228-1486 or Dennis at 651-644-9432. Tickets will also be available at the door.

### Partners support group meets

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Minnesota is

sponsoring 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 second and fourth 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.

### Keystone events at Merriam Center

The Keystone Senior Center, located at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave., offers a variety of programs for seniors in the community. Here are a few ongoing events and some special events coming soon.

A new eight-week Arthritis

Continued on page 14



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**EASTER SUNDAY**  
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# Saint Paul STRONG pushes for more community engagement

Among other issues, group concerned about how Midway soccer stadium being handled

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Members of Saint Paul STRONG are tired of being invited to city government meetings after the decisions have already been made.

They're working to do something about it.

"Saint Paul STRONG was formed because too many big decisions—like the one to provide permanent property tax relief to major league soccer or the new Comcast long-term contract—happened with virtually no public input," said founder John Mannillo.

The community-led organization is dedicated to improving open and representative government in St. Paul by encouraging and supporting open and transparent public processes at city hall, engaging and empowering resident participation, and building a stronger, more inclusive St. Paul.

Launched in October 2015, the steering committee includes diverse community leaders, such as former City Council member and Ramsey County Commissioner Ruby Hunt, Roy Magnuson of the St. Paul Federations of Teachers' executive board, disabilities activist Rick Cardenas, Hmong-American activist Pa Chua Vang, former state Rep-



(L to R) St. Paul City Council members Dan Bostrom, Jane Prince, and Dai Thao, participated in a Jan. 7, 2016 forum to discuss ways to create a more open process at City Hall that was sponsored by Saint Paul STRONG. John Mannillo, at right, helped found the organization in order to increase the amount of public input on city decisions. (Photo courtesy of Saint Paul STRONG)

representative Andy Dawkins, Somali-American activist Kassim Busuri, former U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger, Linda Winsor of Save Our Neighborhoods, former City Council candidate Ed Davis, NAACP vice-president Yusef Mgeni, and former City Council candidate and American Indian activist David Glass, in addition to Mannillo, a downtown businessman.

## Dawkins: more engagement

A member of former St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly's cabinet, Dawkins said he worked hard to make sure his department was in regular touch with the community and was transparent.

Dawkins said, "The goal I have for Saint Paul STRONG is simple: More public engagement!"

Dawkins represented a part of the Midway area from 1987 to 2002 as the DFL state representative and is married to former State Senator Ellen Anderson. One of his sons is a freshman at Hamline, and the other is a junior at Central High School.

Dawkins always been a proponent of third parties and is the founder of Coalition of Third Party Organizers. He was the Green Party of Minnesota nominee for Minnesota Attorney General in the 2014 election.

Dawkins believes that St. Paul suffers from being a "one-party town."

"I see the need for more transparency/accountability/citizen involvement in St. Paul city politics," stated Dawkins. "Under our strong mayoral system too much city council work is just ratifying the mayor's wishes."

He pointed to the soccer stadium as an example.

"How many of us, as members of the public, knew the City Council took a vote to ask the Minnesota Legislature to give the billionaire owner of the for-profit soccer team tax exemptions? How much money are we giving up by treating the land as owned by a non-profit? How many of us members of the public showed up at the mayor's soccer stadium forums only to learn there was no time for public comment? When will we get a chance to learn if making the surrounding area a TIF (Tax Increment Finance) district will impact the city's STAR program? How much will it cost us taxpayers to do the infrastructure investments owner McGuire

has requested?"

Ruby Hunt, a former St. Paul Council Member from 1972-1982, is also concerned about how the city has handled the Midway site for the soccer stadium.

"It was approved that day without any opportunity for citizen participation," said Hunt.

The list of grievances on the Saint Paul STRONG website that affect the Midway-Como neighborhood include:

**"Saint Paul STRONG was formed because too many big decisions – like the one to provide permanent property tax relief to major league soccer or the new Comcast long-term contract – happened with virtually no public input."**

—John Mannillo

- The decision to offer permanent property tax forgiveness for soccer stadium, then supporting a Met Council proposal to prevent the public from any access to knowledge and negotiations of internal decisions.

- The Black Bear Crossings legal decision to award \$800,000 to a private owner put out of business and the subsequent cover-up.

- Tax dollars committed to the construction of new bikeways without comprehensive public input.

- Community's need to file a lawsuit to have three Saint Paul LRT stations built in minority/transit dependent areas of the Green Line.

Find more at <http://www.saintpaulstrong.com/>.

## Hunt: checks and balances needed

A former Mac-Grove resident, Hunt currently lives at Episcopal Homes in the Como-Midway neighborhood. Her concerns don't end with the soccer stadium.

"I am concerned about the way the Consent Agenda has been used over the last several years to pass items without any discussion unless a member requests that it be taken from the Consent Agenda for discussion," remarked Hunt. "Rebecca Noecker made



Saint Paul STRONG members Linda Winsor of Save Our Neighborhoods and Somali-American activist Kassim Busuri participated in a Jan. 7 forum to discuss ways to create a more open process at City Hall that was sponsored by Saint Paul STRONG. (Photo courtesy of Saint Paul STRONG)

that request recently. It was a request for approval of a contract for outside legal services. However, as I understand it, this was for a contract that already had been awarded but which should have first been approved by the City Council.

"I hope this sends a message to the administration that they should follow the proper procedures," Hunt said.

Another issue Hunt sees has to do with notifying district councils when city agencies are proposing development in their districts.

This early notification system has been in place since the establishment of the district councils some 40 years ago, Hunt pointed out. In the Grand Ave. parking meter issue, the district council didn't hear about it until it was found to be an item in the Mayor Chris Coleman's proposed budget.

"Having played a part in establishing a strong mayor-strong council form of government for St. Paul, I want to see the mayor and council each play their respective check and balance roles in governing the city," said Hunt.

## Mannillo: City Council abusing transparency and accountability

Mannillo believes that Saint Paul STRONG is needed because of the lack of open government on the municipal level. "As a one-party town, it has abused transparency and accountability, to benefit political goals and to the detriment to good public policy," Mannillo said.

Saint Paul STRONG represents the entire city. It is non-partisan, and will not support specific candidates or specific issues.

"We support public process," stressed Mannillo.

In October, the five incumbent City Council members and two new Council members were invited to endorse Saint Paul STRONG's six principles of openness, accountability, and a more vibrant public process. All seven council members did so.

"We are optimistic with two new Council members working with like-minded incumbents, we will see attention paid to transparency and openness," said Mannillo. "All the Council members have subscribed to our principles and will be held accountable for their decisions."

Saint Paul STRONG is working to expand its avenues of communication and plans to work with Community Councils, as well as offer input to the mayor and City Council. "This should be embraced by the city administration as a valuable tool to build consensus with the public," noted Mannillo.

He said that Saint Paul STRONG will encourage the exploration of new election policy to increase voter turnout.

"We will make our city administration more visible. Our focus will continue to address public process," Mannillo stated. "We will continue to shed light on the public process and related information that has not been available in the past."



Community members interested in seeing more transparency and community input attended the Saint Paul STRONG event in January 2016. (Photo courtesy of Saint Paul STRONG)

## The Six Principles of Saint Paul STRONG are:

- **SAFETY:** We pledge to make public safety our top priority, maintaining efficient and effective first responder systems and enhancing citizen/community relationships with police, fire, and other city departments.
- **TRUST:** We will work to make sure full and informed citizen participation comes before decisions are made—not after—and put the interests of all the people, including the affected communities and the intended beneficiaries, ahead of personal or partisan interests.
- **RESPONSIBLE:** We believe city officials must be accountable to all citizens—including persons of color, seniors, persons with disabilities, low-income residents, immigrants, and refugees—and that they must be fully engaged to the public, not parties, and must respond to citizen concerns in a timely and nonpartisan fashion.
- **OPEN:** We will break down the barriers that exclude citizen participation and bring decision-making back into the public arena where it belongs; ensuring taxpayers are fully informed and have an opportunity to participate meaningfully in decision making.
- **NEIGHBORHOODS:** We pledge to strengthen community voices and to work—across ward boundaries—to foster stronger neighborhoods with equal right and access to the resources and amenities of our city.
- **GENERATIONS:** Understanding that our city was built by generations of people who loved it as we do, we pledge to build a stronger, safer, and more beautiful city for the generations that will come after us.

## In Our Community

Continued from page 12

Exercise Class series begins on Tue., Mar. 15. Instructors from the Arthritis Foundation will provide low-impact, joint-safe classes which can help with pain, relieve stiffness, and increase flexibility and range of motion. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursday, beginning Mar. 15 from 11am to noon. Call 651-534-7424 to register. The cost is \$8 for the entire series or \$1 per class.

Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day! Dig out your green duds and join in the fun! Tap your toes to Irish music and enjoy a corned beef dinner with dessert to boot! Trudy Harper, harpist, will provide musical entertainment. The event is planned for Wed., Mar. 16, 11:30am-1:15pm and the cost is \$8. Call 651-645-7424 to reserve your spot.

Learn easy breathing exercises that you can do at home and discover the benefits of meditation on Mon., Mar. 21, 11:15am-noon. Call 651-645-7424 to register. There's no fee,

but donations will be accepted.

Free tax assistance is sponsored by AARP. Call 651-645-7424 to register for half-hour appointments from 9am to 2pm. No walk-in appointments are available. Bring your Social Security cards, a copy of your 2014 tax return, records of income from all sources, lists of medical, health, and long-term insurance expenses, taxes and mortgage interest, your property tax statement or certificate of rent paid, and direct deposit bank information.

## Co-ed Drum Circle planned Mar. 25

The Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., will present a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., Mar. 25, 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm, and freedom of expression will be explored. The cost is \$10 at the door all experience levels are welcome. Drums are provided. Info and registration can be found at [www.womensdrumcenter.org](http://www.womensdrumcenter.org).

## HM Elders plan for monthly activities

Hamline Midway Elders (HME) announce the following programs.

**Baby Boomers Book Club**—HME is excited about a new partnership with the Hamline Midway Library on a monthly book club. The first session will be held on Sat., Mar. 19 from 1-2pm at the library and will feature a discussion on the book "Our Souls at Night" by Kent Haruf. Shelly Hawkins from the library will facilitate along with Tom Fitzpatrick and Monica Gallagher from Hamline Midway Elders. The book club will also meet on Sat., Apr. 16 to discuss "The Virtues of Aging" by Jimmy Carter (and free copies of this book will be given to the first 20 individuals who commit to reading the book and attending the book club).

**Exercise Class**—Joni O'Connell returns to lead another eight-week series that will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2-3pm beginning Mar. 22. Classes will be held in the Community Room at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. New attendees are always welcome for these free classes, so if you've never tried a group

exercise class before please consider coming.

**Jody's Documentary Series**—Our partnership with the Hamline Midway Library continues Wed., Mar. 30 at 1pm with the POV film, "Tea Time," about old friends getting together. Jody Huber will introduce the film and lead a discussion after the showing. Snacks will be provided, and all are welcome to this monthly last Wednesday series.

**Monthly Luncheon, "Forever Fit"**—On Tue., Apr. 12, Cathy Quinlivan from the Midway YMCA will explain the importance of fitness and movement as well as share information on the new YMCA facility. Green Books will also be hosting another book giveaway during the luncheon. The meal begins at 11:30am at Hamline Church United Methodist (1514 Englewood Ave.) followed by the presentation at 12:15. New attendees are always welcome at these second Tuesday monthly luncheons.

**Re-Defining Home**—HME is excited to be partnering again with the Vital Aging Network on a workshop that explores the question "What does home and com-

munity mean to you?" This workshop will be held on Sat., Apr. 30 from 12-3:30pm at the Hamline Midway Library (1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.). The workshop leader will be Lynn Englund, Ph.D., who teaches in the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota. Due to the interactive nature of this workshop, attendance is limited to 20 individuals. Advance registration is required, and HME is asking a \$10 fee to cover the cost of lunch and snacks.

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

For more information on any of the above items, please contact Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or [info@hmelers.org](mailto:info@hmelers.org).

# Classifieds

## Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by Apr. 4 for the Apr. 14 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor by Apr. 4 for the Apr. 14 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to [denis@deruyternelson.com](mailto:denis@deruyternelson.com). Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

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By JUDY MALMON

As I look out the window at the colorless winter landscape, I find myself dreaming of spring and colors and weekly deliveries of fresh, seasonal vegetables.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a concept that has always appealed to me. I'm a bit of a lame gardener myself, yet I love veggies fresh from the ground, in rich abundance and variety. The anti-capitalist in me also likes the economic structure of democratizing investment costs at the start of the season and the shared risk. As a member of a CSA, I share the risk of both the rampant disasters that can befall attempts to tease food from a mercurial earth, as well as the generous bounty equally possible. In a single growing season, you can even have both.

For years I have sought out the right combination of inspiration, convenience and value from a CSA, and for a variety of reasons, we have shopped around and had occasion to try some of the farms in our area. I've eagerly anticipated the ritual of each week's box of surprises, and I've generally been pleased with the quality and breadth I've received. Fresh, seasonal, organic produce—what could be bad?

But I didn't realize there could be even more. Until last year.

In 2015, we completed our first summer with Night Owl Farm, a joint venture of Midway artists Susan Andre and Rosie Kimball. They started their farming adventure in 2014, on a 20-acre tract of land near North Branch. Both were avid gardeners, and had organized community gardens, but neither had experience growing for a CSA in the past. With an abundance of enthusiasm, they jumped in. The first season, they experimented with a limited group of family and friends. This year, Night Owl Farm CSA officially launched, opening up the field to the broader public.

I signed up and quickly learned what happens when you have your food grown by artists: it becomes an exercise in transcendence. Most local CSAs deliver a standard cardboard box to their weekly customers, typically a 5/9 bushel. There are all kinds



(Photos left to right) Midway residents and artists Rosemary Kimball (l) and Susan Andre co-own Night Owl Farms near North Branch. Their CSA—Community Supported Agriculture—combines fresh vegetables with artistic visual flair. A pick-up location is available in the Midway. (Photos submitted)

of reasons for this, like that it's economical, and that you can stack the boxes in the truck and at the pickup site. Also, you can close them, which keeps everything inside, and protects delicate produce from getting squished. Makes sense. But also, the boxes are innately limited, in that when they're full, they're full, and if you need to close them to stack them, there's no way to fit more inside. Plus, well, they're just a box.

I have no problem with any of this. Only, this year, we got sprinkles, and now, those plain boxes look a little vanilla to me. Like when you get cupcakes, and some of them are undecorated, some have colored sprinkles on top. The undecorated one is good, delicious; you are so happy until you see the one with the sprinkles. Then you realize you could have more, something beautiful and special, as well as delicious. This is what Night Owl gives you.

Susan and Rosie eschew the

traditional white cardboard box, in favor of a wicker basket. This might sound impractical, but each week's basket is more than a random assortment of vegetables—it's an installation! The basket is lined with a drape of colored fabric, and the veggies arranged in a visually thrilling display. And because it's not a closed box, but an open basket, as the summer goes on and the harvest grows more copious, the basket fills to overflowing. There were a couple of times I could barely lift the thing (thank you, conveniently handled sturdy basket!), so packed it was with eggplant, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, and other assorted delicacies.

But that's not all; there are little touches. Every week throughout the season, we also received a small bunch of flowers, stems carefully wrapped in a wet paper towel and rubber-banded into a plastic bag, to ensure they are fresh and beautiful when we get them home. All summer long, I had a vase of these flowers on the shelf over my kitchen sink, a little

wink of color and happiness every time I rinsed a dish.

Also, instead of the more typical emailed list of the week's items and recipes, Rosie and Susan insert a rectangle of parchment-colored printed cardstock. It's like getting an invitation to a gala event each week! Or a menu at a fancy restaurant, with the lineup of the day elegantly listed on the front, each item an italicized showcase. On the back—which you might not notice, as I didn't at first, so it feels like even more of a bonus—are two recipes. The ones that I have tried have been unique and awesome.

But wait, there's more!! Night Owl partnered with one of its neighbors, who has chickens, and offered shares of fresh, pasture-raised eggs. Even the eggs are specially packaged, like a present, in a bag with a satin bow. There also were sweet surprises, like the bag of hand-harvested wild rice, or the bunch of tiny, wild apples.

When the final basket arrived, it was a masterful finale to what had been 16 weeks of pure, un-

derstated delight. I set the basket on the kitchen table and had to call my family into the room, to behold the breathtaking beauty of this last offering. So gorgeous, the array of colors and textures and shapes, all tucked into its enormous wicker nest. I didn't want to unpack it, even though of course I did, to savor the feel and taste of all this magnificence. This is the transcendent moment that Susan and Rosie give from their hearts: vegetables, and nature, and color, and form, and scent, and feel, and taste, and abundance, and love. The effect is exponentially more than the sum of its parts: exquisite. Make no mistake, this is art!

As if that weren't enough sprinkles to send anyone into a sugar coma, there is yet a final gift. I didn't discover it until this morning, when I noticed the baggie sitting on the table, containing a rolled up scroll of paper. I'd cast it aside in my orgiastic unpacking, thought it to be the request for feedback referred to in Night Owl's final email. Picking it up, I thought, how odd, that they would print their evaluation questionnaire on such heavy paper. And tie it with a piece of sisal. Wow, they can make even a survey a beautiful thing. They're artists!

I rolled off the tie, pulled the paper from the bag, and gasped. I actually gasped. I unrolled a full-size print of Susan Andre's woodcut of the Night Owl 'logo,' a luscious, color-saturated image of an owl and a farm, signed by Susan. I'm not exaggerating to say it brought tears to my eyes.

I am so filled up by this experience. It is multi-sensory, it is joyful, it is the most lovely, astonishing representation of all that life can be. I thought I was signing up for a CSA, but Night Owl Farm is so much more. It is CSA, elevated. And I am grateful, for such unexpected grace.

Congratulations, Susan and Rosie, you have created a true masterpiece!

The Midway pickup location is 1689 Hubbard Ave. To find out more about Night Owl Farms CSA program, go to their website at <http://nightowlfarm.com>.

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AA/EOE

# Emerald ash borer effects now cover 77% of St. Paul

30,000 ash trees remain in boulevards and parks, with unknown numbers on private property

By JANE MCCLURE

The emerald ash borer continues its wave of destruction in St. Paul, now covering almost 80 percent of the city. In February the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission heard the grim update. It's anticipated that the pests will someday destroy all of the public and private ash trees in St. Paul, and throughout North America.

The emerald ash borer was discovered in St. Paul first in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood in May 2009. Since then, infestations have been found in Hamline-Midway, Como Park, Frogtown, Desnoyer Park, Highland Park, Lexington-Hamline, West End, Summit Hill and Summit-University neighborhoods, as well as in East and West Side neighborhoods. Measuring one mile around each infestation allows city forestry staff to determine the one-mile buffer around every infestation. "Seventy-seven percent of the city is covered," said Rachel Coyle of the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation Forestry staff.

Another infestation was found in February, said Coyle.

One challenge in trying to eradicate the pests is that emerald ash borers can be present for a few years before they are detected. The insects, which look like small grasshoppers, have larvae that bore under ash bark and feed on nutrients there. That feeding behavior eventually kills trees by cutting off circulation beneath the bark.

The city has removed about 7,580 ash trees from boulevards and

parks, with about 20,000 remaining on boulevards and 10,000 in parks. It's not clear how many ash trees are on private property.

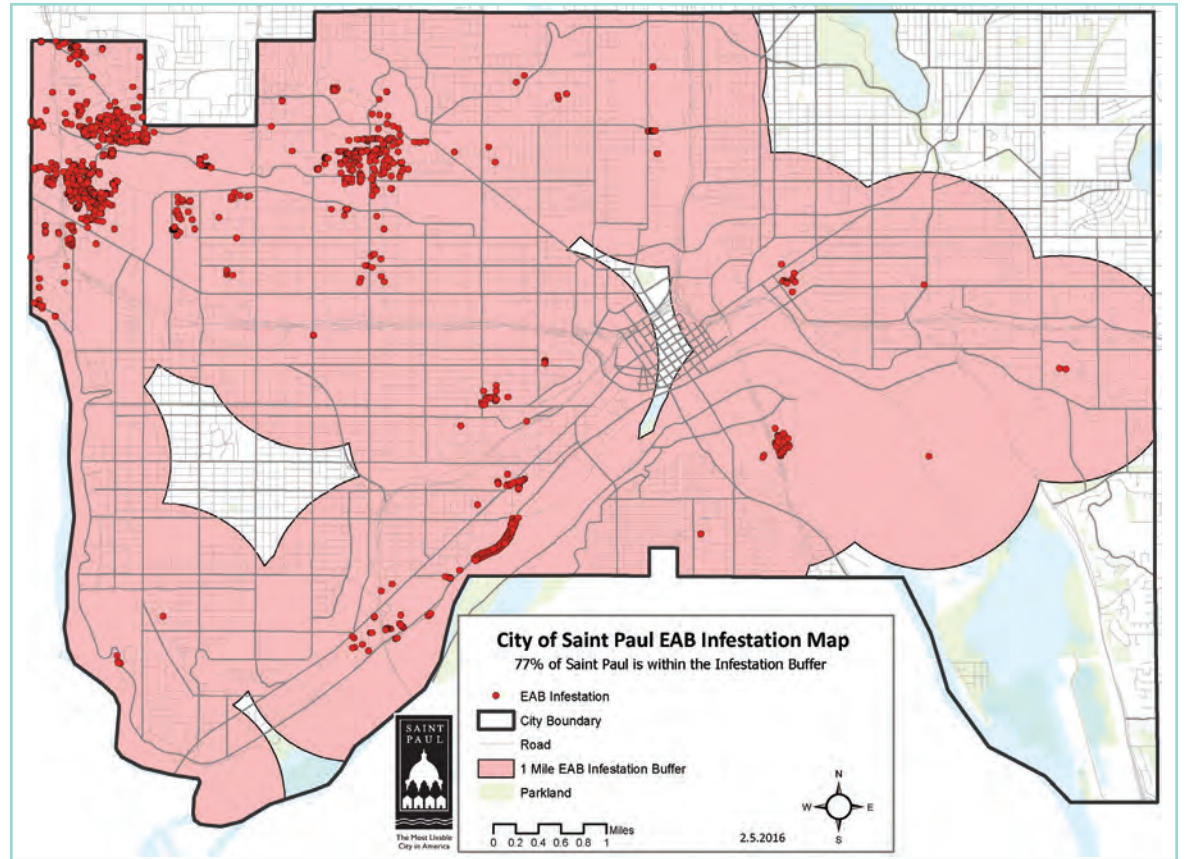
Coyle said the city would continue to treat some public ash trees. But she, and Parks and Recreation Director Mike Hahm, said that while the city's past efforts have slowed the spread of emerald ash borer, there is no way to stop the insects.

"Treatment was meant as a containment measure, not as a way to preserve trees," said Hahm. But with the spread of the insects, "the benefit of containment is gone."

Another challenge for the city is that cost of replacement trees has risen. During the recession, tree sales fell, and nurseries planted fewer trees, Coyle said. Now that trees are needed by cities and private property owners, prices are higher.

One change in 2016 is that the city no longer proactively inspects ash trees on private property. Nor will it condemn private trees. Property owners will continue to be responsible for tree removal on their property. The city will continue to provide information about the spread of the infestation to property owners as requested and on the city website.

The city will also continue surveying street boulevards and parks for infested ash trees, and will be marking trees until April. Parks and Recreation hasn't yet announced which neighborhoods will be the focus of future structured removal programs. In the programs, where there are many declining or dying ash trees in an area, crews come in



and remove every ash tree. The areas are then replanted with a variety of trees. One factor in the spread of emerald ash borer is that on many streets, ash trees were the only trees planted along the boulevard. Many were planted to replace the elms lost in the 1970s when Dutch Elm Disease swept the region.

Area residents affected by structured removal will receive postcards from the city. After trees are removed, residents will receive door


hangers saying what type of trees will be planted as replacements. Residents can have some say in what type of replacement tree is planted, using the city's species list. The city is planting different species of replacement trees, to promote diversity and avoid the widespread loss of trees happening now.

The intent is to plant replacement trees in the spring or fall, depending on the species. Residents can ask the city for water bags to

help the young trees.

Winter is the best time to transport ash logs and debris for disposal. September to May is the "low risk" period for spreading emerald ash borer. But Ramsey County and much of the metropolitan area has long been under a quarantine that prohibits moving of ash wood outside of the counties.

For more information about emerald ash borer and city programs, go to [www.stpaul.gov/eab](http://www.stpaul.gov/eab).



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