



Rihm anchored in Midway neighborhood

Page 2



Black Bear calls it quits

Page 6



Plot your Green-Blue adventure

Page 8

Midway Como

Monitor



Your community newspaper since 1975

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Connect with community at Como Neighborhood Days

Neighborhood festival grows from 250 to 2,500 attendees in five years

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Como Neighborhood Days (formerly called Como Fest) returns this year on Fri., July 11 to Sun., July 13.

"I love this event because it's great to see how this community comes together – the people behind the scenes making the events happen and the neighbors

that attend and support the event," said AndreaLynn Johnson, who has been involved in the event since its beginning as "Staycation" in 2010.

She added, "The variety of activities offered throughout the weekend gets richer and more interesting each year. I have to agree with what I have heard about why people attend this event, and that is that it's got a very 'neighborhoody' feel to it – inviting sense of community around family-friendly events."

According to District 10 Administrator Ted Blank, "It's a great way to enjoy the neighborhood, connect with your neighbors, and experience some uniquely creative performances."

BEGINNING

The event was started in 2010 by the District 10 Como Community Council, along with several neighborhood organizations and businesses.

"The goal was to offer folks a



Movie night on Fridays has consistently been one of the most popular activities of the 3-day festival.

weekend of affordable fun in their own neighborhood and to highlight neighborhood businesses and other amenities," explained Blank.

Northwest Como Park Recreation Director Darcy Rivers remembers meeting in 2010 with Rhonda DeBough from District 10 to discuss what had been done in the past for National Night Out. "Rhonda suggested we do something before National Night Out to help promote that event and get the word out so we began

Staycation," recalled Rivers. "Because of the budget crunch, we figured people were not traveling as much and would like to do something in their own community."

The first year it was a three-day event, July 23-25, 2010 and it drew 250 people. It began with a battle of the bands weekend event at The Coffee Grounds on Hamline Ave. Chelsea Heights PTO organized a flea market, Northwest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



The campout at the park was so popular last year that it is being offered again in 2014.

Small conversation leads to huge project

"Transforming Central" receives multiple grants and assistance as it improves the environment



By JAN WILLMS

Big ideas sometimes start with small conversations. In 2011, the Parent Advisory Council at Central High School, 275 Lexington Pkwy., looked around at the grounds of the school and started talking about what might be done to make the school's campus a more welcoming and environmentally healthy place. The "Transforming Central" project was born.

"We looked at what hard shape things were in, such as packed earth, runoff and trees that needed to be trimmed," said Julie Marckel, a member of the Council. "We started very simply, with bulb planting."

Central connected with Metro Design Center (MDC) at the University of Minnesota. This organization created a document with a list of projects.

"MDC does front-end conceptual planning for sites," Marckel explained.

Students work on plantings to beautify Central as part of "Transforming Central."

"It looks at the before, and how it could be improved for the after. MDC looked at samples of planting on other similar campuses and did an analysis of the way students move, with heavy periods at the beginning and end of the day, and where students gather. This was done in 2011 and 2012."

In the summer of 2012, tiered beds of natives, perennials and grasses were planted in the front exterior stairway of the school.

Marckel said a survey was conducted and facilitated by National Honor Society members. Students were asked what they liked best about Central, what made them the proudest, and what could be improved. Parents and teachers also provided feedback, and the Transforming Central project built on that information.

In the fall of 2012, the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) awarded the school a \$10,000 grant in services to analyze storm water runoff. This resulted in a conceptual design for improving aesthetics and solving environmental issues.

"CRWD worked with the architect firm of Emmons and Oliver and did a site analysis," Marckel explained. "The Watershed District began to propose solutions around water runoff and rain gardens. It looked at worn dirt paths and storm water issues and improvements."

She said that with the assistance of Nate Zwonitzer, urban best management practices specialist with CRWD, Central received another \$50,000 grant to help with a storm water retrofit project. This award will be used for design finalization to be provided to Central High School this year.

"This past year we have continued to work with the Watershed District," Marckel said. "It is focusing on water issues, but we also hope to address other things, such as the arts, sculpture and more landscaping."

She said the parents' group supporting Transforming Central has developed a brochure and met with neighborhood community councils to share information about the project.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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Quick decision saves company for 4th generation

By JAN WILLMS

For Kari Rihm, taking over a trucking business was a decision that had to be made quickly.

Rihm Kenworth, 2108 University Ave., had been in her husband's family for three generations. The original Rihm Motor Company was founded in 1932 by his grandfather, JB Rihm. The company became a dealer for Kenworth trucks in 1949. JB's son, Walter, operated the dealership until passing it on to John W.

However, John W. died from brain cancer in the fall of 2010, after being ill for only three and a half months.

"There was a level of urgency, because we are a franchise," Kari Rihm explained. "I had 180 days to decide what to do."

A contractor friend asked her what would become of Rihm. "I took a deep breath and told him that was a good question," she said. She responded to him, "I own a business. I had better get to work."

Rihm had been a stay-at-home mother for the previous 17 years, and her only participation with the company had been as a board member.

She applied to be the dealer,



Kari Rihm stands in front of one of the trucks her company sells, as son JB and daughter Libby join her.

making the case for her to be a successor to her husband.

"It was just a realization that I should not even think about selling it," she said. "JB, our son, had some interest and I knew the business had a significant value. I started coming in to work on a part-time basis, and JB started six months later."

She said there were a lot of challenges. "I had to learn about an industry that I was not very familiar with," she said. "And just getting back into the workforce after being a stay-at-home mom was a challenge in itself."

But since her take-over as president and dealer principal of Rihm Kenworth, the company has added another location and increased its employee count by 60. Besides the University Ave. location, the trucking company has locations in Albert Lea, Superior and Sauk Centre. It has 160 employees.

The company was named dealer of the year in both 2011 and 2012. It also received the National Women's Business Enterprise Cer-

tification for its diversity. In 2013, Rihm Kenworth received the Family Business award in the resilience category.

"The company has been resilient," Rihm said. "It was founded during the depression and stayed open through the Second World War. Only one other Kenworth company in the United States has been owned by one family, and that company is a little older than ours."

"We've weathered economic storms over the years," Rihm continued.

The dealership, which sells new and used trucks and provides parts and service, has purposely built its medium-duty business, according to Rihm. She said this has helped the company weather the economic upheavals over the past few years.

With medium-sized trucks, drivers are delivering their own product and continue to come in. They continue to purchase parts and get their trucks serviced.

"We also have a vibrant export business and export parts all over the world," said JB Rihm, who serves as the global sales manager and market analyst for the company.

"Currently we do, or have done, business in 56 countries," he noted. "We are dealing with oil and gas industries. The Middle East and China are our two biggest markets. We export truck parts to those regions for Kenworth and other brands. I believe Minnesota is one of the largest export states."

He continued to say that the truck industry is behind the car industry in a lot of aspects, but by using social media and updating its technology, Rihm Kenworth is trying to grow its customer base and awareness.

Kari Rihm said she has never had second thoughts about taking over the business.

"It really feels like I did the right thing," she said. "I learn something new every day, and it is good to be connected with the people I had heard about for years."

She said some of the employees have been with the company for 30 years or more, and she really enjoys meeting retired employees or customers who can remember the founder.

"A customer brought in a 1974 truck that he said needs a new paint job," she said. "He remembers coming in when he was little, with his father."

Rihm said the company is hosting an event in August featuring Kenworth products and celebrating its 65th anniversary as a Kenworth dealer.

She reflected again that she could never have sold the family business, as the fourth generation becomes a part of it.

"I consider myself a 3rd generation placeholder," Rihm explained. "And now JB is working here, and my daughter Libby has taken a break from school and is working here."

"It's fun to grow something," she said. "Even the challenges are fun."

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Rihm Kenworth's location on University Ave. carries new and used trucks for sale, as well as parts and service. (Photo by Jan Willms)

Regular Monitor readers are likely aware of the recent controversy surrounding a proposal by the Ramsey County Public Works Department to convert Dale St. into a two lane street between Larpenteur Ave. and Front St. in order to reduce traffic speeds and improve safety. Through the course of its process to solicit neighborhood input into the project, Ramsey County encountered significant disagreement among neighbors. As a result, Ramsey County has tabled the proposal and will not be implementing this conversion in 2014, although it will be completing a repaving project on Dale north of Arlington.

For some, this decision might signal the end of the issue. For others, including the District 10 Como Community Council,



Como Community Council Corner

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

Building a Better Dale Street

this decision marks the start of an opportunity for the neighborhood to engage in a conversation and work together to build a better Dale St. on our terms – a Dale St. that is safer, becomes less of a neighborhood barrier, and is more accessible to all users, including drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.

It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone who has driven along Dale that it functions as a mini-highway. Speeds are high – the

average speed along Dale far exceeds the 30 mph speed limit, and a significant percentage of vehicles travel at speeds greater than 45 mph. These speeds, coupled with quick lane changes, left turns, and the occasional parked car contribute to a higher than average accident rate on Dale St. and diminish the property values of homes along it.

This highway-like nature makes Dale St. a neighborhood barrier. Pedestrian crossings are

few and far between, making it difficult for people on foot or on bikes to safely cross the street to patronize neighborhood businesses, visit the park or recreation center, or catch the bus. For our older or disabled neighbors, this barrier can be insurmountable.

The District 10 Council is committed to working with our neighbors and neighboring district councils to build a better Dale St. Our Land Use Commit-

tee, chaired by Kim Moon, will be taking the lead on this work. The committee is planning on taking a multi-pronged approach to the challenge by working on an improved enforcement and education approach as well as identifying key physical improvements to the street that will address safety concerns. I'd strongly encourage Dale St. neighbors interested in this work to attend our next committee meeting on Mon., Aug. 4 and get involved, or to contact our office at 651-644-3889/district10@district10comopark.org for more information.

Building a better Dale St. won't happen overnight, and it won't happen without neighbors joining together to develop and implement solutions. But, it can happen. I'm looking forward to working with you on this project.

The Friendly Streets Initiative (FSI) is paving the way to modern day transit-oriented communities in St. Paul. What started as a grassroots-initiative in 2009 to engage residents of the Hamline Midway and Frogtown neighborhoods in the visioning and design process for the future Charles Avenue bike boulevard, is now a citywide effort engaging communities to transform public spaces.

With a brand new website (friendlystreetsinitiative.org) and a six-member team—including newly-hired Artist Organizer Robyn Hendrix—behind it, the Friendly Streets Initiative is running on all cylinders—or sprockets, as the bike-friendly organization might have it.

The fruits of FSI's efforts are coming to life along Charles Avenue with new pedestrian and bicycling refuges at major arterial crossings and other traffic calming measures currently under construction. As the next phase of placemaking and public art features continue to take shape on that project, the team

News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Friendly Streets Initiative Ramps Up in 2014, Sets Sights on Fairview Reconstruction

is also now looking to tackle Fairview Avenue with a slate of unique programming and events scheduled throughout the summer.

An important connection to the new Light Rail Green Line on University Avenue, neighbors and businesses alike are rallying around the potential reconstruction of Fairview Ave between Pierce Butler Route and Grand Avenue. They're hoping to find ways to make it a friendlier route for bikers and pedestrians, while turning it into a more vibrant, lively public space for all.

The city of St. Paul identified Fairview Ave. as a prime site for improved biking infrastructure and other improved pedestrian amenities in its City Wide

Bikeways Plan. Organizers and residents are hoping to capitalize on that with three exciting events set for this summer to engage the community in visioning and planning with the aim of influencing the city's final plans for the street.

Whether you're directly invested in the future of this important neighborhood route, or are just looking for some fun and inspiring community events to get out and enjoy this summer, you'll want to mark these dates on the calendar:

Sat., July 19
Fairview North Block Party
Put on in partnership with Feline Rescue, this block party, from 3-

7pm, will feature a bike rodeo and, as always, lots of ways for you to provide input on the reconstruction of the street. Also, join a special bike event from Women on Bikes in Newell Park from Noon – 3pm!

Sun., Aug. 24
Fairview South Block Party
Come on out for brunch as you re-imagine what Fairview Ave could be and enjoy family friendly activities, tasty food and community fun!

Sat., Sept. 13
Fairview After Hours Underpass Party
A new spin on the Friendly

Streets block parties, this nighttime event will transform Fairview at the I-94 underpass.

Be sure to check friendlystreetsinitiative.org for event times, locations and details.

These events are all volunteer-led, and the more hands from residents in the mix, the better. If you'd like to volunteer for any or all of these events contact Lauren Fulner, HMC transportation and sustainability coordinator, at Lauren@hamlinemidway.org

Check out other FSI projects and events happening this summer including the Pelham Avenue Golden Mile project in Desnoyer Park, the Raymond Station Missing Link project and Raymond Avenue phases II and III. FSI is also teaming up with the Frogtown Crew on four block parties in 2014, including a Paint-the-Pavement at the intersection of Charles and Avon on Sept. 27.

Still time to apply for the Green Line Challenge

\$1.5 million for projects to benefit St. Paul's Central Corridor neighborhoods

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation is promoting its Knight Green Line Challenge, seeking projects to make St. Paul neighborhoods along the new Green Line more vibrant places to live, work, play and visit. The challenge is part of a three-year, \$1.5 million commitment from Knight Foundation to further advance community development in St. Paul's Central Corridor.

The challenge will accept applications through July 24. The Saint Paul Foundation will ad-

minister the challenge.

Any individual, business or nonprofit can apply. The only requirement is that the project must take place in and benefit at least one of six St. Paul neighborhoods along the Green Line: Downtown St. Paul, Frogtown/Thomas-Dale, Hamline Midway, St. Anthony Park, Summit-University or Union Park.

The Knight Green Line Challenge is Knight Foundation's newest effort to invest in the success of St. Paul. The Green Line

Challenge builds on Knight's role in co-founding the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, an initiative that brings together di-

verse groups across sectors to build opportunity and benefit communities along the new light rail line.

For more information and instructions on how to apply, visit www.knightgreenlinechallenge.org.

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Neighborhood Days

Continued from page 1

Como hosted a movie night and District 10 offered a bike ride, garden tour and art crawl.

As an active District 10 block leader at the time, Johnson was approached by then District 10 Community Organizer DeBough about participating in planning an art event during a greater community-building event. "We thought we could find ways for families to enjoy a fun yet budget-friendly weekend in their own backyard - a staycation!" Johnson remarked.

The second year was similar to the first, and attracted more attendees than the year before. The Hubert H. Humphrey Job

Corp pitched in to help make things run smoothly.

"The third year we changed the name to Como Fest in hopes of reaching more people," stated Rivers.

Several other businesses added to the line-up of events in 2012. Lyngblomsten Care Center hosted a Mid-Summer Festival. Black Bear Crossings Cafe offered a wine and cheese social on Friday night. Chelsea Heights PTO added inflatables, carnival games and concessions during the flea market on Saturday. Como Park Language and Arts Preschool organized Make and Take Art projects, the Como Block Nurse Program performed blood pressure checks, and Kinderberry Hill in Roseville offered free Kite Making for Kids. On Sunday, Como Park Lutheran Church held an outdoor worship service with a live band and organized a kick-ball tournament.

In 2013, the event continued to grow with the addition of event sponsors Linders, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and TopLine Federal Credit Union. There was a beer and wine tasting event at Como Park Grill. And the Friday night movie (with a jump castle, climbing tower, craft, concessions, bingo and the movie) expanded into a campout. "Families pre-register and bring their tents and camping supplies, enjoy a campfire after the movie, then hit their sleeping bags. We wake them in the morning, serve a light breakfast at 8am, then pack up and head out," said Rivers.

EVOLUTION

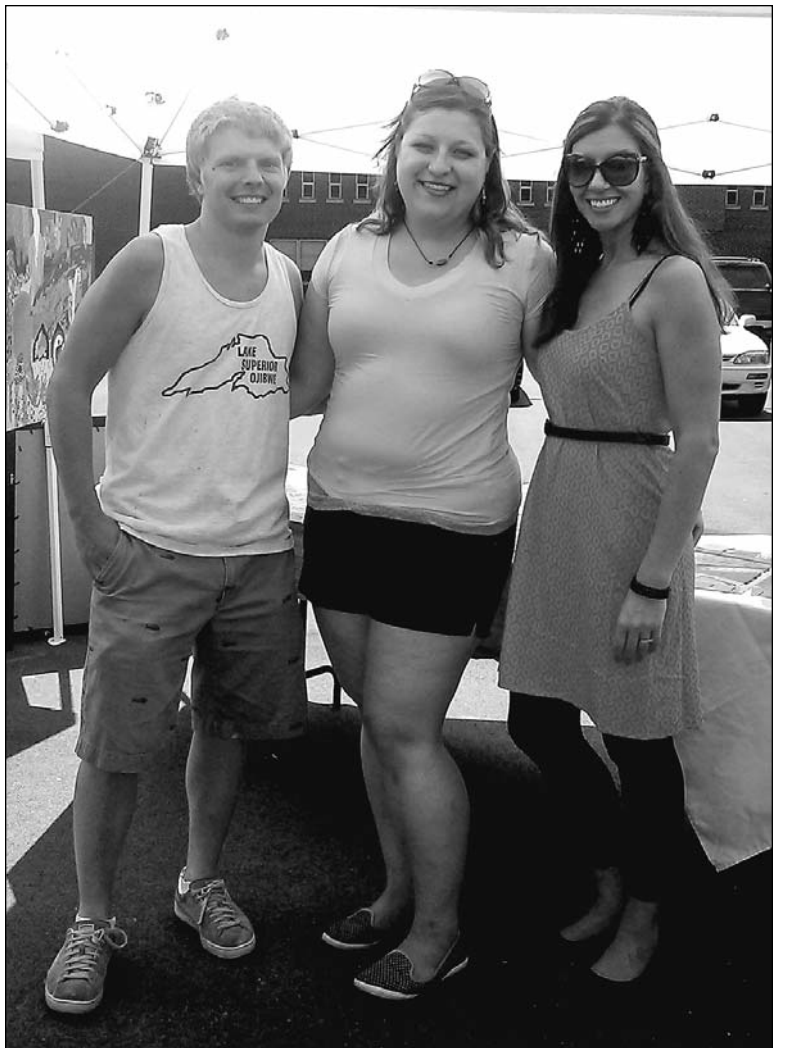
"Como Neighborhood Days has grown and evolved over the years since it started as the Staycation," observed Blank. "In 2012, the Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival became part of our lineup, which brought a well-established neighborhood arts event on board. Venues for Como Neighborhood Days have changed, as businesses have opened and closed."

"It has evolved to include a wider range of activities for children to grandparents, as well as more partners and venues, and promotes various businesses and services in District 10," said Johnson. While some things have changed, with the bike ride and garden tour spinning off as separate events, others parts, such as the Art Fair with hands-on/take-away children art projects and carnival games/movie at North Dale Recreation Center, have stayed intact over the years. "The events have remained virtually free or at a low cost to families have been important for us to maintain," said Johnson.

"Attendees enjoy the informal nature of the event, getting to have fun right in their own neighborhood, and sampling neighborhood businesses," remarked Blank.

Last year 2,000 people attended the festival, and this year organizers expect to serve 2,500.

Rivers praised the people who volunteer to make this festival happen. "That's one major reason why the event is so good," she said.



Como Neighborhood Festival volunteer and artist AndreaLynn Johnson (right) poses with two other artists at the Art Fair 2013 held at Holy Childhood Church.

"The variety of activities offered throughout the weekend gets richer and more interesting each year. I have to agree with what I have heard about why people attend this event, and that is that it's got a very 'neighborhoody' feel to it - inviting sense of community around family-friendly events."

- AndreaLynn Johnson

JULY 11-13, 2014

The 2014 lineup includes events at Northwest Como Recreation Center, Lyngblomsten, Como Park Grill, and Black Bear Crossings.

Friday, July 11

12 - 10pm. Firkin Friday with Summit Brewing at Como Park Grill

6-9pm. Family Movie Night at Northwest Como Recreation Center

Saturday, July 12

11am-6pm. Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival at Lyngblomsten

4-10pm. Patio Party at Como Park Grill

Sunday, July 13

10am-noon. Live Music at Black Bear Crossings

12-4:30pm. Art Fair at Como Lakeside Pavilion/Black Bear Crossings

12-2:30pm. Make and Take Children's Activities at Como Lakeside Pavilion/Black Bear Crossings

3-4:30pm. Pops Concert at Como Lakeside Pavilion/Black Bear Crossings

Remember that each of these time blocks has multiple activities and participants—find the full schedule at www.district10comopark.org/neigh_days.html and its links.

"What's valuable about this event is bringing together neighbors of all ages, as well as neighborhood businesses, to promote/celebrate the talents found within the community - all for low to no cost for families," said Johnson.



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Transforming Central

Continued from page 1

Central was also selected as a site for the St. Paul Riverfront Corporation's Placemaking Residency, and had Gil Penalosa, an internationally known placemaking expert who is passionate about designing cities for all people, speak to the students in May. A selected group of students joined him for a walk through the neighborhood and a follow-up talk to share what they had seen and discuss ways to connect to the community.

"We're now moving forward," Marckel said. She said that information has been gathered about rain gardens and maintenance and the realities of snow removal. A goal for 2015-16 is to work on the front plaza areas.

"This is such a large project, and we're just a small band of parent volunteers," Marckel commented. "Our challenge is to keep letting the students and faculty

know that we are working on it." She said Transforming Central is a three-pronged project, focusing on student experience, environmental impact and community connections.

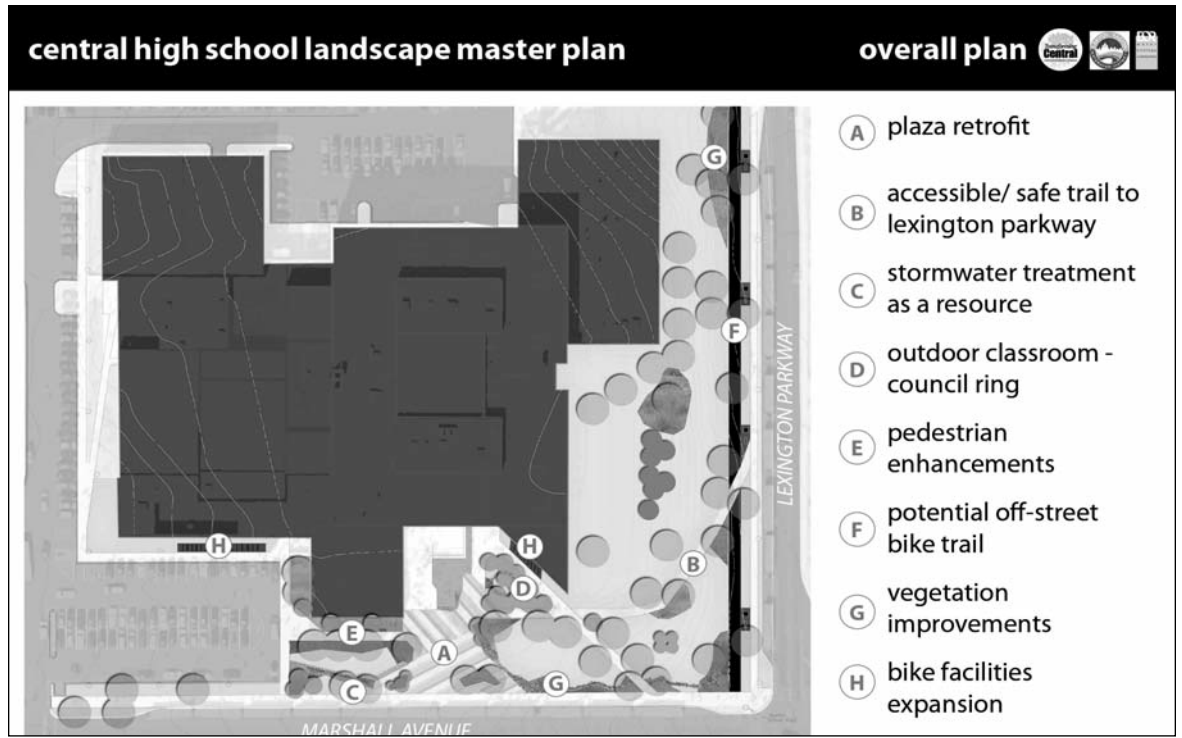
Studies have shown that student interaction with the natural elements on their campus can decrease stress and increase achievement levels. The Central site is also in a very vibrant neighborhood, according to Marckel.

Zwonitzer said the Watershed District is trying to capitalize on Central's efforts to improve the aesthetics of its exterior and also work on runoff solutions.

"One of our big roles is to manage and treat storm water runoff," he said. "The water at Central goes into a storm drain and is not treated at all, going into the river. We are trying to find ways to treat the water and get it to soak in the ground."

He said there are different ways of capturing storm water in underground storage systems, and the agency is trying to figure out which approach will work best.

"There's a big toolbox of ways to capture runoff," he con-



This is most recent plan development for Transforming Central as of press time; it may include slight changes as plans progress.



The tiered landscaping at Central High School presented some interesting and exciting platforms for the Transforming Central project.

tinued. "There are rain gardens and permeable pavers with gaps in between the pavers, so that the water soaks into the ground."

Zwonitzer said his agency has reached the stage where it is starting to incorporate ideas and plan.

"There's a lot in the mix," he noted, "including our organization, the faculty, community, parents and the City of Saint Paul. It all takes time."

"What's happening at Central is a good example of something we are trying to do district-wide," added Tom Parent, interim director of facilities at St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS). "We're at the beginning phase of a master plan for the district, and we have been part of that conversation at Central since its inception."

Parent said SPPS is looking at how schools' grounds and community can be an extension of classrooms.

"We want to be welcoming, inclusive and accessible to students from the moment they step off the bus," Parent said.

Stay on top of local events by visiting the **Monitor Events Calendar** at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

Submit your local events at MonitorSaintPaul.com It's Free!

Tickets on sale now for Ticket to Brasil

Since 2003, Adieu Summer Concert hosted by Twin Cities' group Ticket To Brasil has been an annual tradition as summer slips into autumn. Celebrating and embracing diversity through international music and dance, this year's concert will be held on Sun., Sept. 21 from 3- 6:30pm at the Historic Lake Como Pavilion.

Adieu Summer Concert 2014 features a great lineup of flamenco, African drumming and dance, world jazz, bossa nova and samba music styles:--3pm, "A Touch of Spain" -- an exciting music and dance ensemble (led by guitarist Michael Hauser) dedicated to presenting the art of flamenco in its most authentic form. The group

features some of the best Twin Cities' flamenco dancers and instrumentalists:--4pm, "World Jazz Collegium" - an international jazz quintet led by guitarist Pavel Jany and featuring violinist Gary Schulte as a special guest;--4:45pm, "Voice of Culture" - a drum and dance company (led by dancer Kenna Camara-Cottman) performing traditional rhythms, movements, and songs of West African people with an emphasis on cultural and artistic education; and--5:15pm, "Ticket to Brasil" - Twin Cities' premier bossa nova, samba and Brazilian jazz ensemble has been hosting Adieu Summer Concerts since 2003.

Ticket To Brasil features Nata-

nia Kamin and Joyce Perez - vocals, Pavel Jany - guitars, Josue Alfaro - drums/vocals/percussion, Dan Musselman - piano/keyboards, Doug Little - sax, Dan Weston - bass, and Tim O'Keefe - percussion, and special guests.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and children 12 and over; children under twelve are free. Advanced tickets are available for purchase beginning July 1 at www.ticketto-brasil.com. Tickets can also be purchased at the gate on the day of the event beginning at 2:30pm.

The Historic Lake Como Pavilion is at 1360 Lexington Pkwy. N. Parking is free; food, wine and non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase.

Green Line serves 27000+ per day

Green Line serves Customers boarded METRO Green Line trains 139,027 times during the first five business days of regular operations (Mon., June 16 - Fri., June 20), averaging 27,805 rides per weekday.

The projection for average weekday Green Line ridership is 27,500 by 2015, growing to more than 40,000 in the year 2030. The stations with the highest share of first week boardings were: Nicollet Mall (9 percent),

East Bank (9 percent), Snelling Avenue (7 percent) and Central (7 percent).

"We are very encouraged to see initial ridership running at 2015 projections during these early summer days," said Brian Lamb, Metro Transit General Manager. "We'll have a clearer sense of everyday use when the University of Minnesota and other schools along the light-rail line resume classes in the fall."

Service on bus route 50 was

entirely replaced by the Green Line, and trips were reduced on routes 16 and 94. Bus ridership on these three duplicative routes in the Central Corridor service area dropped an average of about 15,000 rides per weekday during the first week of Green Line operations.

Including 107,039 free rides taken during opening weekend, the Green Line has provided a total of 246,066 rides since opening at 10am on June 14.

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STEVEN SCOTT MANAGEMENT

Black Bear calls it quits at Como Pavilion

District Court rules that it was the city — not Black Bear — that breached agreement

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

Black Bear Crossings on the Lake at the Como Pavilion won the legal dispute between the restaurant and the city of St. Paul, but they've decided to close at the end of 2014 anyway.

Citing a breach of the management agreement, last fall St. Paul decided not to renew its contract with Black Bear Crossings. On May 15, 2014, the district court in Ramsey County ruled that it was the city that had breached the management agreement with Black Bear Crossings by denying Black Bear's request for an extension to continue operating through 2018.

The court also ruled that the city "is liable to [Black Bear] for any money damages caused by its breach of the agreement." Citing the "bitter dispute" over the city's breach of the agreement, however, the court did not require the parties to continue doing business together.

The court found that the terms of the agreement were "clear and unambiguous" and that the city had "failed to come forward with evidence" that would justify its refusal to extend the agreement. In a previous ruling, the court found that statements the city made to the local media about Black Bear caused "irreparable harm" to Black Bear's business.

Specifically, the city had al-



Daoua Vue fishes one summer evening across Como Lake from the Pavilion, enjoying the Sunday night concert. He walks regularly down to the lake to fish. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

leged that Black Bear paid its rent late for the past four years; did not provide the city with three bids for each project it undertook; and submitted receipts two years late. Additionally, the city had said that Black Bear did not submit its financial records to the city for review in a timely

manner. The city requested the records on May 15, 2013 and expected them within 15 days. They were provided in August 2013.

The city had also pointed out that there are almost 4.4 million visitors at Como each year, and expressed concern that the cafe had not shown the level of sales that would be expected from a successful establishment in that location.

Pamela and David Glass (a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe) opened Black Bear Crossings in 1997 and moved to the Como Pavilion in 2000. During the Glasses' tenure, a patio was built on the lakeside of the pavilion, and two perennial gardens created. A concession stand was added on the lower level of the pavilion, and the cafe also handles paddleboats and canoe rentals.

"For 17 years, Pam and I poured our heart and soul into Black Bear to make it a destination for the community worthy of Como Park's rich heritage. We received countless awards and accolades for our service and now a court of law also recognized our contributions," said David Glass.

"The Glasses will pursue damage claims against the city to

compensate them for the irreparable harm that the city caused to their business both in breaching the contract and mak-

ing erroneous statements to the media that their breach was justified, which a court has now found to be without merit," said Black Bear's lawyer Jan Conlin of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P.

City Park and Recreation staff opted not to comment on this issue, citing the city's policy of not commenting on pending litigation due to legal constraints.

MOVING FORWARD

Events can still be booked with Black Bear Crossings through the end of 2014; however, no new bookings will be accepted for dates after Jan. 4, 2015. All events already booked for 2015 or 2016 will continue to be honored by the city (and the new partner). Customers may also elect to cancel their event and request a full refund.

Over the next several months, the city will complete a competitive selection process for finding a new vendor for the management of the Pavilion. In June, the city collected feedback and ideas via an online survey. Browse <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=1146> to stay informed.



Black Bear Crossings in the Como Park Pavilion is calling it quits despite the fact that it won its lawsuit against the city for breach of contract. The court also found that the city caused "irreparable harm" to Black Bear's business. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)



Black Bear Crossings owner David Glass chats with a Thursday morning regular, Preston Parker, a staff member from Johnson High School. "For 17 years, Pam and I poured our heart and soul into Black Bear to make it a destination for the community worthy of Como Park's rich heritage," said David Glass. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

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Midway development roundup

Long-term plans to expand and improve Spruce Tree Centre got a boost June 25 from the St. Paul City Council. The council, acting as the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), amended a 1987 tax increment financing (TIF) plan to increase and adjust authorized expenditures.

The Spruce Tree Centre and its 353-space parking ramp were built in 1987 by the Slawik family, at the southwest corner of University and Snelling avenues. The complex is now owned by Metro Plains. The HRA and Metro Plains have been in discussions regarding renovation of the Spruce Tree ramp to accommodate future development in and around Spruce Tree Centre. Because TIF funds are closely regulated, the TIF plan needs to be amended to allow for redevelopment expenses.

The TIF is in its final year, but there is no deadline for spending the proceeds. The HRA will continue to be involved with planning any changes at Spruce Tree, and will review details of how the funds are spent.

Midway Center moves ahead

Plans to relocate Midway Center Walgreens into the iconic former Midway Bank building won support July 2 from Union Park District Council (UPDC). A district council recommendation to allow relocation of the former bank drive-in lanes goes to the St. Paul Planning Commission Zoning Committee Thur., July 17.

A decision on the request for relocation of a non-conforming use ultimately goes to the full Planning Commission. It could be appealed to the St. Paul City Council.

Plan reviewed June 24 by the district council's Land Use Committee show the bank's current six drive-through lanes reduced to one lane. The customer window would be moved 70 feet south, closer to the southeast corner of the building at 1578 University Ave. A roof over the old drive-through lanes will be removed.

Plans also show a new 2,800 square foot building addition along University, by the building's northeast corner. The addition will house small businesses and will be 25 feet high at its highest point, to match the height of the bank. It will have a stepped-back design. The higher height will also meet the site's traditional neighborhood's zoning classification. The bank property and the adjacent Midway Center were rezoned three years ago to promote denser, mixed-use redevelopment along University.

An initial, site plan for the Walgreens project was submitted to city officials in June. Minor changes were made in response to city staff questions and issues raised by Walgreens. The biggest change was increasing the height of the building addition. That allows plans to go ahead with a request for a height variance.

Development Updates

By JANE MCCLURE

Goodwill variance issue resolved; project moving forward

Pawn America eyes a facelift

Pawn America's Midway store at 1636 University Ave. will be extensively renovated in the months ahead, adding a new entrance point, redoing the exterior and eliminating a long-standing traffic hazard on nearby Fry St. Pawn America is preparing to take its detailed building and site plans to the city this summer. Only site plan review is required, so no Planning Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals action is needed. Once the work gets underway, passerby will notice that the store's red pyramid icon will go away.



Pawn America on University Ave. will undergo a facelift, including a new entrance and redoing the exterior. In the renovation, the store's red pyramid icon will be discarded.

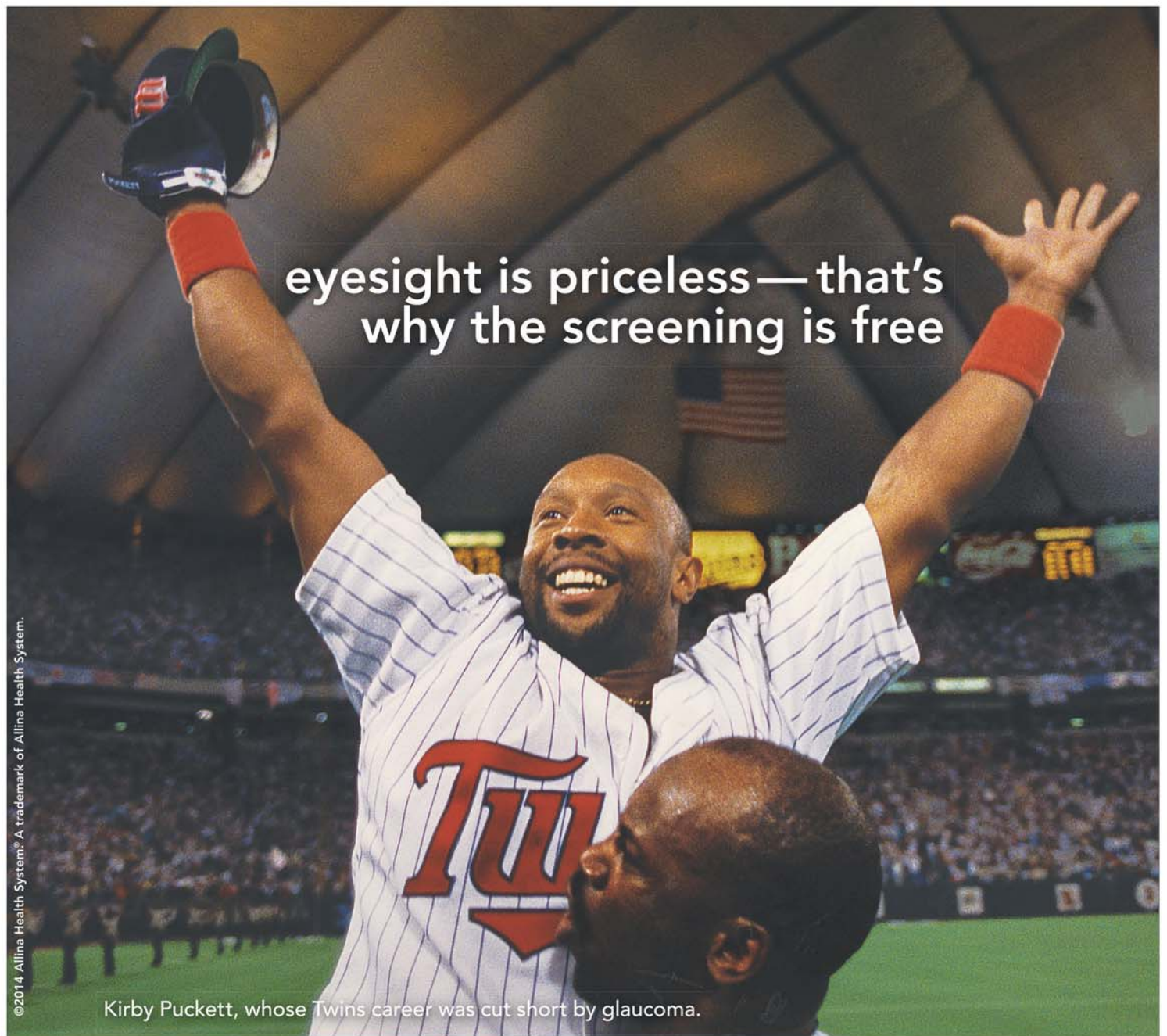
"After three years of watching the construction of the Green Line, we're excited to be investing

in our property," said Chuck Armstrong, chief legislative officer for Pawn America. The intent

is to update the store inside and outside, and make it more pedestrian-friendly.

Armstrong and Link Wilson of Kass Wilson Architects said the store is in need of an upgrade. Its existing entrance is off of Fry St., with some off-street parking there. Customers back out onto Fry, creating a dangerous situation for other motorists. The store entrance will be moved to the building's east side. Plans show columns, planters and a square roof at the building's northeast corner. An open walkway will lead to the new entrance on the east side of the building. The current entrance would be used for store personnel. The new entrance would be adjacent to parking shared with a building to the east. There will be columns at the corner, supporting a roof. The new entrance cannot easily be placed at the corner because of a two-foot grade change at the building site, Wilson said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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Kirby Puckett, whose Twins career was cut short by glaucoma.

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From Midway to Minnehaha:

Plot Your Green-Blue Adventure

BY JILL BOOGREN

With the Green Line getting all the attention for connecting our two downtowns, it's easy to overlook the Blue Line. But more than just a route to the airport and Mall of America, the Blue Line gets you to an area of south Minneapolis that is rich with award-winning eats and treats, vintage shopping, renowned parks, and entertainment – all within a short walk from the stations.

In the mood for sushi? Or piping hot Indian food? Or maybe you want to take a leisurely stroll in a park or catch a music festival. Go exploring by train, and you'll feel like you're taking a vacation right here in the city. Get a day pass and hop aboard!

50th STREET/ MINNEHAHA PARK STATION

Why not start here? It's been a



Exceptionally high water has made for a raging Minnehaha Falls this year. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

banner year for the park, with the falls raging and President Obama dropping by. Besides, it's summer time, and there's no better time (okay, autumn is pretty sweet, too) to visit **Minnehaha Park**. We



Madison and Leon Navarro return from riding a Wheel Fun Rental bike at Minnehaha Park. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Jeremy Iverson with a tray ready for delivery at Sea Salt Eatery in Minnehaha Park. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

don't always think about taking transit to visit our parks, but we should. Here, it's especially easy. Get out at the 50th St. Station, cross the street, and you're in. No parking headaches, no waiting in traffic.

Minnehaha Falls is at the north end of the park. Check out the waterfall from above, or descend the stone steps to catch a view from below. While you're down there, walk along the creek to where it pours into the Mississippi River (wait 'til flood waters recede).

Pedal the trails on a **Wheel Fun Rental** bike (for single and up to eight riders), or listen to free music at the bandshell (7pm Wed.-Fri. www.mpls.musicandmovies.com). In the Wabun Picnic area at the east end of the park is a frisbee golf course and a brand new fully-accessible playground.

Be sure to grab a drink or bite at **Sea Salt Eatery** (4801 Minnehaha Pkwy). Housed in the historic pavilion beneath majestic oaks and just a stone's throw from the falls, Sea Salt is situated in one of the most pic-

turesque settings in the Twin Cities. Serving seafood from Coastal Seafoods, Sebastian Joe's ice cream, Surly and other local beers, wine, and Peace Coffee, they make it pretty easy to camp out a while. Try their grilled catfish po'boy for a mouth-watering feast. Or if it's a Wednesday, try a Sri Lankan dish served up by The Curry Diva. Kick back and enjoy the view and, if you're lucky, music performed on the patio steps. Open daily.

Tip: You place your order at the counter, and the line for food gets very long on gorgeous weekends. Grab a beverage at a separate counter first and enjoy a drink while you wait in line. Ice cream is available at a separate counter, too.

If you want to do more exploring, there's a great bike ride from Minnehaha Park to Fort Snelling (see "Bike 'N' Ride: Minnehaha Falls to Fort Snelling," pg. 10)

46th STREET STATION

A block north of the train station, you can take a walk along the creek well above the falls. Or

cross over Hiawatha Ave. to Minnehaha Ave. **The Pink Closet** (4024 E. 46th St.) carries consignment clothing for men and women. Open Tues.-Sat., closed Sun.-Mon. Kitty corner the **King Taco** food truck serves tacos, tortas, burritos, and quesadillas. There's a fruit stand, too, if you want to add to your picnic.

38th STREET STATION

There are tons of food options, here, and thrift shops, too. At the station you can't miss the **Cardinal Restaurant & Bar** (2920 E. 38th St.), which hosts pool leagues and karaoke nights. Open daily. A block west is **Ted Cook's 19th Hole Barbecue** (2814 E. 38th St.), offering up pit-smoked barbecue and soul food (take-out only). Try hickory and cherry-smoked barbecued beef and JoJos potatoes with hot sauce. Open Tues.-Sun., closed Mon.

Need a beer? In another short block, **Northbound Smokehouse Brewpub** (2716 E 38th St.), named Best Brewpub by City Pages in 2013, makes craft beer and house-smoked meats. Grab a seat at a picnic table outside and admire the hop vines climbing. Try the Reuben, with smoked corned beef, smoked Swiss cheese, homemade sauerkraut and Thousand Island dressing on marble rye. Get your crunch fix with house-made potato chips. The Big Jim IPA always satisfies, and look for seasonals, too. Open daily. **A Cupcake Social** (3800 28th Ave.) across the street will satisfy your sweet tooth. Open Mon.-Sat., closed Sun.

Shopping vintage? East of Hiawatha and a block south on Minnehaha Ave. is **E's Emporium** (3911 Minnehaha Ave.). Stepping inside this retro shop is like going to an estate sale for the coolest granny ever. But check the calendar; it's an occasional shop, open Fri.-Sun. the first and third weekends only.

Next door is **SOSA Foods & Deli** (3909 Minnehaha Ave.). The food truck for **Taqueria Mi Guanaajuato** serves as a billboard for their walk-up counter inside, where you can get tacos, burritos, gorditas, quesadillas, tortas, and tamales. Add whatever heat sauce you like, and dig in. Open Mon.-Sat.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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Midway to Minnehaha

Continued from page 8

TNT This 'N That (3869 Minnehaha Ave.) is a second-hand shop whose profits benefit Stepping Stone Farms, which offers therapy and life-skills through horses. Open daily. Amble up the block a bit more to **Paris Apartment Antiques** (3721 Minnehaha Ave.), where the goods aren't all from Paris, nor are they all antiques. Across the street at **Selam Coffee Shop** grab a cup of Ethiopian coffee and a sambusa made in-house.

LAKE STREET / MIDTOWN STATION

Get past the chain stores and fast

food, and you'll find some treasures here. Cross Hiawatha Ave. under the overpass to Minnehaha Ave. On the corner is **Patrick's Cabaret** (3010 Minnehaha Ave.) who, with **Harriet Brewing** (3036 Minnehaha Ave.), is hosting the 4th Annual Roots, Rock, and Deep Blues Festival July 19, noon-10pm. 30 bands on five stages, plus DJs, dance, arts, crafts, food, and beer. Tickets \$20: www.rootsrockdeepblues.com (after the festival Patrick's Cabaret closes for one month for construction).

Harriet Brewing's Belgian-styled and inspired beer can be sampled at the festival and in their taproom Tues.-Sat. Entrance is in the back. You'll often catch live music and food trucks here.

Mosaic Café (3019 Minnehaha Ave.) is across the street. Serving sandwiches on house-baked bread (vegan options available), local beer, and wine. Try their deli-

cious custard, available plain or with toppings – brownie, cookie, or cereals of the old Saturday morning cartoon variety. Enjoy great patio seating with the community-created mosaic on the south-facing wall as a backdrop.

Around the corner is **Midori Floating World Café** (2629 E. Lake St.), serving sushi, tempura, noodles, tea, and sake cocktails. Open Tues.-Sun., closed Mon.

Across the side street, **Gandhi Mahal** (3009 27th Ave. S.) serves scrumptious Indian cuisine with a focus on sustainability. Their Moghal Saagwalla is exceptional; try it vegetarian or with lamb. Their nan and other breads are fresh-baked in a traditional tandoor clay oven. Fair warning: food here is spiced India hot not Minnesota hot, so order accordingly. Open daily. Live music Wed.-Sun. evenings.

In the mood to wander?



The artist- and community-created mosaic at Mosaic Cafe, just east of the Lake St. Station. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



Patrick's Cabaret, east of the Lake St. Station, with neighbor Harriet Brewing will host the 4th Annual "Roots, Rock, and Deep Blues Festival" July 19. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

Don't miss these gems two long blocks south on Minnehaha. Take-Up Productions' **Trylon microcinema** (3258 Minnehaha Ave.) is a 50-seat cinema that shows classics like "Pee-wee's Big Adventure," "The Jerk," "Metropolis," and anything by Alfred Hitchcock. July is Jackie Chan month. Next door enjoy a cup of fair-trade Peace Coffee (3262 Minnehaha Ave.), open daily. Around the corner is **Moon Palace Books** (2820 E 33rd St.) with new and used books, open daily, and across the street is **Plum Crabby Vintage** (3263 Minnehaha Ave.), open Fri.-Sun. first and third weekends only.

The next train station is at 38th St., so decide if you want to keep going or head back to the Lake St. Station. Whether you pick one station or more to explore, have a great trip!



The 50-seat Trylon Microcinema and Peace Coffee, a couple of blocks south of E. Lake St. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

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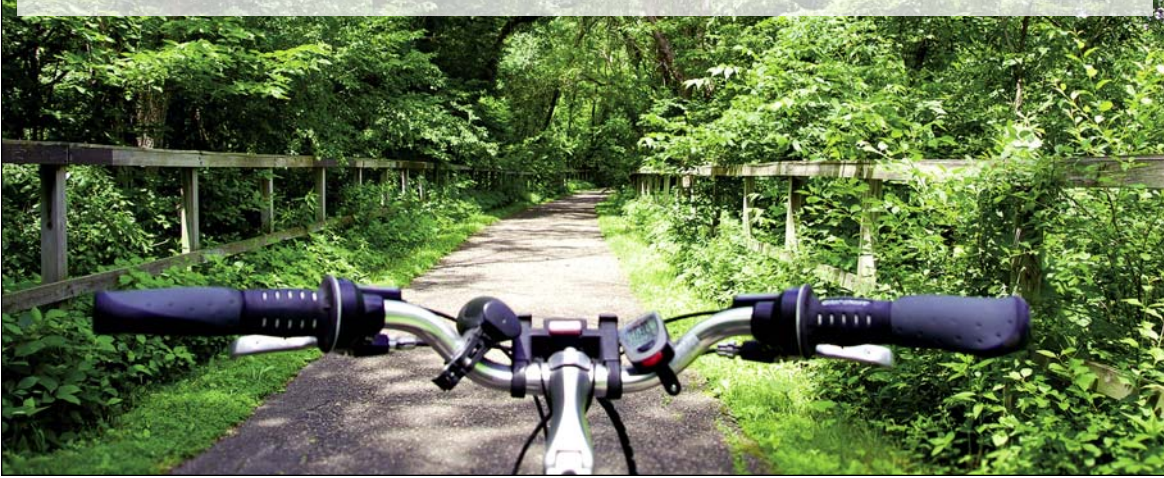
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Bike 'N' Ride: Minnehaha Falls to Fort Snelling



The MRT Trail from Minnehaha Park to Fort Snelling State Park. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

By **JILL BOOGEN**

Have a bike? Or want to use a Nice Ride? Take the Blue Line to the 50th St./Minnehaha Park Station and then pedal the short distance to Fort Snelling, where you can visit the historic fort

atop the bluff or the state park along the river bottom.

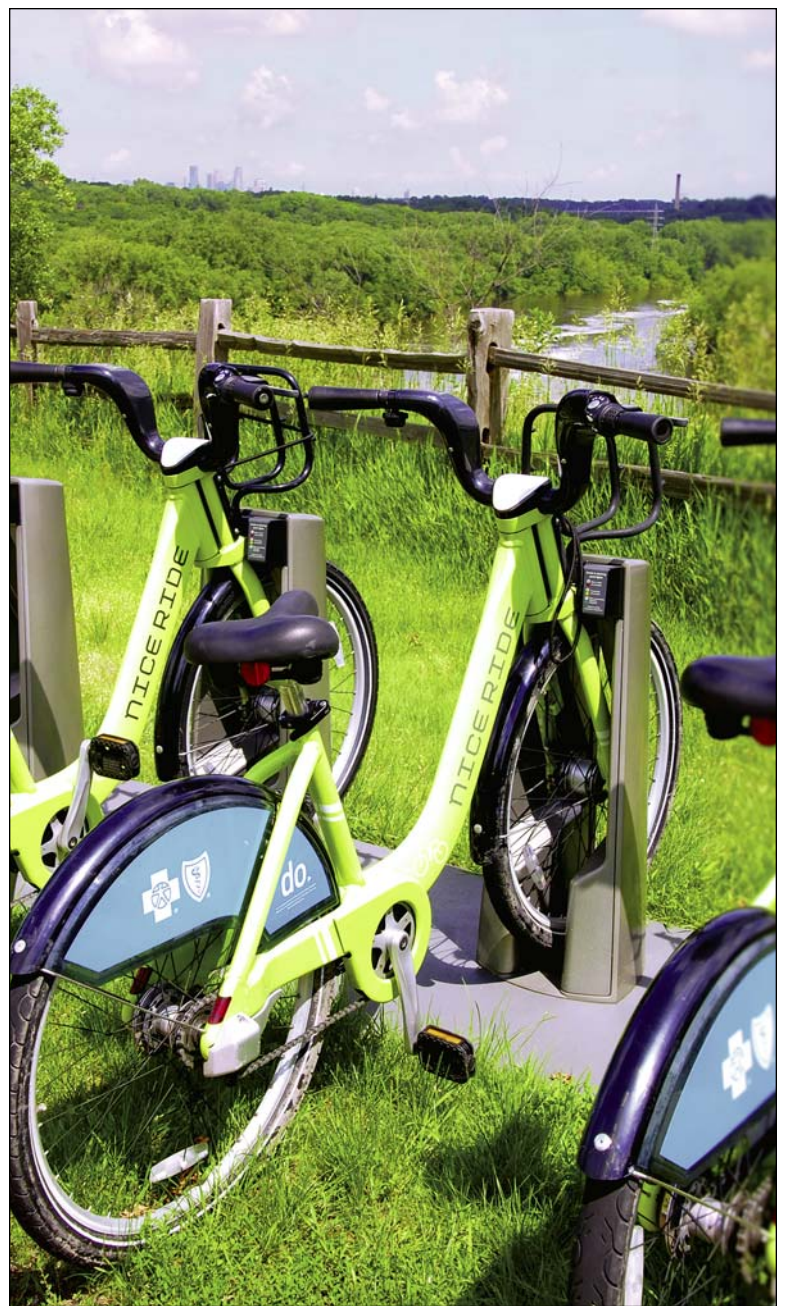
To get to **Historic Fort Snelling**, take the little road from 54th St. (at Minnehaha Park's southern end) to Coldwater Springs, then follow the bike

trail that runs parallel to the highway about a mile to the fort. Inside, costumed interpreters, demonstrations, and exhibits tell the story of Minnesota's native people, soldiers, settlers, traders, and servants from 1820 until 1946, when it closed. Even if you don't go in, you can still enjoy sweeping vistas of the Mississippi River and the Minneapolis skyline in the distance.

If you love fife and drum music or want to experience canon and musket firings, you may want to visit on "Civil War Weekend: 1864" to take place Sat., Aug. 16 through Sun., Aug. 17. Otherwise, regular hours are



A rider breezes past Historic Fort Snelling. (Photo by Jill Boogren)



The Nice Ride station overlooking the Mississippi River at Historic Fort Snelling. (Photo by Jill Boogren)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

**EPISCOPAL
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All aboard for Midway Village - three new residences arriving November 2014 with the Green Line at the door!

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Monitor In A Minute

Dale St. plans shelved

Ramsey County Public Works has shelved a controversial plan to reconfigure Dale St. in the Como and North End neighborhoods. The plan had drawn the opposition of many neighbors, as well as Como Community Council and District 6 Planning Council.

One major concern was that the conversion would have to take place this summer during a street project. Dale St. between Larpen- teur Ave. and Como/Dale/Front, would have been converted from four lanes to two lanes with a center turn lane.

Neighbors raised worries about loss of parking, impacts on deliveries and recycling pickup, potential traffic congestion and other issues. The district councils were concerned about the lack of public process and the need to do something with Dale St. that is more compatible with the city's "complete streets" plans.

What the district councils and community residents will do instead is take a more holistic look at how Dale St. can be improved. Como Community Council held a meeting June 30 to start that process. The plan is to work with Ramsey County, the city of St. Paul and District 6. Both district councils want to hear from all users of Dale St. to learn about the types of improvements they would like to see.

Although Dale St. is a county road, future improvements could be sought and funded through the city's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget Process.

Taco Bell noise dispute unresolved

City officials have continued to communicate with a Hamline-Midway couple who raised concerns about excessive noise generated by the Taco Bell restaurant at 565 N. Snelling Ave. Restaurant neighbors Mark and Kristine Vesley lost an appeal June 9 of a zoning administrator's decision. But city officials are continuing to look at the situation, to see what if anything can be done.

The Vesleys contend that changes in the restaurant's underlying zoning, made in 2011 as part of area wide zoning changes, should have forced Taco Bell to seek city approval before expanding its hours. The restaurant now opens at 7am for breakfast, and the drive-through stays open until 5am weekends. That means near-constant intercom noise for neighbors, as well as post-bar closing behavior by patrons.

The Vesleys took their concerns to the city's zoning administrator, Wendy Lane, and asked that the expanded hours get St. Paul Planning Commission review. They cited the 2011 zoning

changes and regulations for the restaurant's new traditional neighborhoods zoning. Taco Bell was one of many properties rezoned to promote long-term redevelopment along the Green Line light rail.

Lane disagreed with the request for Planning Commission review, so her decision was appealed to the city's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Lane contended that since there has been some kind of fast food business at the Snelling site since 1973, review of expanded hours isn't needed.

The BZA upheld Lane's decision on a 4-2 vote. Taco Bell representatives told the BZA that they are following city regulations and that they are willing to work with neighbors on noise and other issues.

Goodwill/Easter Seals worker honored

June 25, 2014 was Rose Ramey Day in the City of Saint Paul. The St. Paul City Council declared the special day to honor a woman who has worked for Goodwill/Easter Seals for 50 years.

Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark introduced the resolution, citing Ramey's years of service to Goodwill/Easter Seals at its various locations in the ward and downtown.

Ramey moved from Texas to St. Paul in 1957 where she lived with her sister and helped tend to her nephew as he battled cancer. She was hired as a textile grader in 1964 at Goodwill when it was located on Sibley Avenue downtown Saint Paul. After several months she was asked to manage Goodwill's kitchen to serve lunch to its employees. In 1970, when Goodwill moved to Como Avenue and Highway 280, Ramey served both breakfast and lunch in the facility fondly known as Rose's kitchen. She is well-known for her cooking skills. But she is also a skilled mentor and leader at Goodwill/Easter Seals. She is known to have a drawer full of belts handy in case a person should need to take off their cap, pull up their pants and wear a belt in order to get a job.

She also helped establish an on-site feeding program for the homeless at Shiloh Missionary Baptist church in St. Paul, where at that time the program served more than 10,000 dinners a year.

Since Goodwill/Easter Seals moved to the Midway in 2002, she has been the hospitality coordinator, the first person to greet all who enter, and an ambassador for the organization. She has three children and eight grandchildren, and the nephew she helped care for is well and retired.

Ramey is 76 years old and shows no sign of slowing down.

Sign changes pending

Here's a fun fact tied to the start of Green Line light rail service. St. Paul doesn't just have bus stops any more. The new city definition of a "transit stop" is just

one of the changes to St. Paul's sign regulations that is coming. The changes will be the topic of a St. Paul Planning Commission public hearing at 8:30am, Fri., July 11 at City Hall. The commission voted May 30 to release the proposed changes for public review.

Some of the changes are technical or clarifying language. For example, the June 14 start of light rail service in St. Paul means that the city has "transit stops" and not just bus stops.

Another change is that there be master sign plans for buildings with multiple tenants. This would address issues where some tenants use up all of the existing signage, leaving nothing for any added tenants. This affects a number of buildings in the Midway, with multiple tenants. The city has had issues where a few businesses take all of the signage allotted for a mall, leaving nothing for new businesses to use.

Another proposal would ease regulations on rooftop signs. New rooftop signs are banned. The proposed language would set up a conditional permit option for new rooftop signs in the central business zoning districts downtown.

The changes would also allow for advertising signs at the new Lowertown ballpark and for signs for shared bicycle facilities such as the Nice Ride rental bike stations.

Anyone with questions on the amendments can contact City Planner Jake Reilly at jake.reilly@ci.stpaul.mn.us. The draft amendments are at www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=3441.

"Monitor In A Minute" is compiled by JANE MCCLURE.

HU adjuncts vote to join SEIU in landmark union election

Vote marks first vote for private school in Minnesota in growing national union movement

Hamline University adjunct professors have voted overwhelmingly to join part-time faculty at Northeastern University, Georgetown University and thousands of instructors nationwide in a growing union movement.

The vote marks the first time that adjunct faculty at a private Twin Cities-area university have formed a union in their quest to improve higher education for students and faculty. Hamline ad-

adjuncts joined SEIU Local 284 after votes for the all-mail ballot election were counted last month. 72% of the valid ballots counted voted yes to forming the union.

David Weiss, an adjunct faculty in the Religion department at Hamline, spoke about why he thought the win reflected a victory for the entire Hamline community. "This is a great day for faculty, students, and the whole

Hamline community. It was clear in this campaign that for adjuncts in Minnesota, our time is now. By coming together to address the low pay and lack of benefits and stability for adjunct faculty, we are taking steps to strengthen all of higher education for students and faculty alike. I'm confident that our success today will help empower other workers, including adjunct faculty like ourselves at schools like St.

Thomas, to change working and learning conditions in higher education."

Jennifer Beckham teaches in the English department and spoke said, "We sent a letter to Provost Jensen expressing our interest in building a productive relationship that reflects our shared value in making Hamline a great place for faculty and students. Adjuncts have been energized by the support of tenured faculty,

students, alumni, and community supporters throughout this process, and we look forward to continuing this important work."

Minnesota adjuncts are joining a union movement that hopes to address what they see as a crisis in higher education that has turned what was once a good middle-class profession into a low-wage, no-benefits job without any job security from semester to semester.

RAHS announces drama season list

The drama program at Roseville Area High School (RAHS) has announced a season of live theater for the 2014-15 school year that will include popular musicals, one-act plays, improv, Shakespeare, and more.

The RAHS Drama season will open in the fall with the musical comedy, "Once Upon a Mattress," while the winter show will be the hilarious "Arsenic and Old Lace," and the student-directed spring show will be the timeless American theater classic, "The Music Man."

The RAHS Drama program will also stage a number of one-act plays, and will present "The Tempest" by William Shakespeare. Plus, RAHSprov, the school's improvisational comedy troupe, will perform several shows throughout the school year.

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In Our Community

Monitor

Send us your news! When you submit your press release it will be considered for both the newspaper as well as the Monitor Facebook page (facebook.com/monitorsaintpaul). You can also go to our website, MonitorSaintPaul.com and enter the information in the online Event Calendar.

Business Network meets July 25

The Como Business Network, an initiative of the District 10 Como Community Council, will be hosting its quarterly networking breakfast on Fri., July 25 from 7:30-9am at the Como Park Grill (1341 Pascal St. N.). Registration fee of \$5 includes breakfast, networking time, and a speaker. Bring a friend for free! Call the District 10 Como Community Council at 651-644-3889 to register.

Activities abound at Hamline-Midway

The Hamline Midway Library has many activities planned for July and August to keep neighbors reading, learning, and gathering together through the hot months of summer.

Summer Reading Program continues in July, with the pirate-themed comedy act Treasure Beyond Measure taking the stage on Thur., July 10, 10:30am. Magician Matt Dunn performs Thur., July 17, 10:30am, and on Thur., July 24, 10:30am, Bruce the Bug Guy combines storytelling, nature education, and hands-on activities, along with showing kids interesting live arthropods. Kids can also sign up to earn free books by logging how many hours they read and trying fun activities and projects during the summer.

The library will host family-friendly movie matinees on Thursdays July 10, 17 and Aug 7, all at 2pm.

Fridays at 10:30am, Hamline Midway librarians offer Toddler Storytime, with finger play fun, books, and songs. Upcoming storytimes are July 11, 18, 25, and Aug. 1, 8, and 15.

The Kids Book Club (for ages 8-12) meets at 1:30pm on Sat., July 26, with the Teen Book Club (for ages 12-18) meeting that day at 2:30pm. Both clubs offer treats, fun, and a great way for book lovers to discuss what they're been reading with other avid readers.

The Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club for adults meets Sat., Aug. 2 from 1-3pm. The title for August is "Dark of the Moon" by John Sanford. Contact Geraldine Balter at gerrib13@q.com or 651-224-5570 for more information about the club.

Summer programs for young people continue in August with Summer Power activities, sponsored by the Hamline Midway Library Association. On Thur., Aug. 7 from 10:30-11:30am, art teacher Sonja Olson will show kids how to make a simple collage book they can take home. Participants are limited to 15 people; please register online at www.sppl.org or stop in at the library to sign up.

Thur., Aug. 14, money writer Kara McGuire will present a kid-

friendly workshop about money, talking with kids about what exactly money is and why grown-ups have to work for it.

14th annual fundraiser scheduled July 28

Rein in Sarcoma's 2014 Party in the Park will be held Mon., July 28, 6-9:30pm at the Cafesjian's Carousel and Como Park Visitors Center. This 14th annual "Party in the Park" will be a magical evening of great music, entertainment and family fun. Rein in Sarcoma 2014 will feature unlimited carousel rides, continuous entertainment, a large and unique Silent Auction and children's activities. Rein in Sarcoma not only raises funds to benefit sarcoma cancers research and physician education, but it is also intended to provide hope and relief for patients and their families from the isolation of these rare and dangerous cancers. Get full information and register at www.reininsarcoma.org.

Local author to sign July 12-13

Local author Suzy Tomlinson will be available to sign copies of her book, "Teddy Meets a Bully and Finds a Friend" on Sat., July 12, from 11am-6pm at the Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival, 1415 W Almond Ave. She will also be available Sun., July 13,

from noon-4:30pm at the 2014 Art Fair at Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N Lexington Pkwy.

Has anyone ever called you names? Has anyone ever laughed at what you were wearing or how you looked? In "Teddy Meets a Bully and Finds a Friend", Teddy knows just how you feel. He loves wearing his red plaid bow tie and thinks he is a very handsome bear. But a little red-haired girl doesn't think so. She laughs and calls Teddy names. David, Teddy's best friend, comes to the rescue. They try hats, ties, and scarves to make Teddy fit in. But when nothing fits, they discover that Teddy was just right all along.

La Leche Group meets Aug. 12

"Nutrition and Weaning" is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tues., Aug. 12. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Ice Cream Social planned July 16

All Hamline Midway residents are invited to the annual ice cream social on Wed., July 16 from 6:30-8:00pm sponsored by Hamline Midway Elders. The free event will be held on the lawn

outside Hamline United Methodist Church (or inside the building if bad weather) at 1514 Englewood Ave. There will be musical entertainment, children's activities, door prizes - and of course plenty of ice cream and toppings, including sugar-free options and an ice cream making demonstration and sampling featuring an old-fashioned cranking ice cream maker. For more information, please contact Tom Fitzpatrick at tom@hmelders.org or 651-209-6542.

Co-ed Drum Circle scheduled July 25

A Co-ed Drum Circle will be held on Fri., July 25, 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored. All levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W. Cost is \$10 at the door. Drums provided. Info and registration can be found at their website at www.comensdrumcenter.org.

Area history is topic of luncheon

"History of the Hamline Midway Neighborhood" will be the topic for the Tue., Aug. 12 luncheon sponsored by Hamline Midway Elders. Steve Bailey from the Hamline Midway History Corps will share stories, information and scrapbooks going back more than 100 years. The luncheon is held at 1514 Englewood Ave. (Hamline United Methodist Church) and begins at 11:30am. Free blood pressure checks are provided, and free transportation can be provided to seniors in the Hamline Midway neighborhood. For more information, please contact Hamline Midway Elders at info@hmelders.org or 651-209-6542.

Free meals program goes through Aug. 22

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is providing free meals this summer to children 18 years old and younger, and people 19 years of age and older who have a mental or physical disability and who participate during the school year in a public or private non-profit school program for the mentally or physically disabled.

The Summer Food Service Program goes now through Aug. 22. Meals are available at more than 70 locations throughout the city, including 16 in the Midway Como Monitor delivery area.

For a list of participating sites and meal service times please visit www.2harvest.org/summerfood. Families and children can also call United Way's 2-1-1 information line (also at 651-291-0211) or text their location to

612-516-FOOD to find meals nearby. Call 866-3-HUNGRY or 877-8-HAMBRE (for Spanish speakers) to find a free, nutritious summer meal site near you.

Caregivers group meets monthly

The Caregivers Support Group meets on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30-8pm at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. This group is designed for caregivers to find support and exchange information, and is facilitated by Monica Gallagher from Hamline Midway Elders and trained volunteers. There is no cost to participate, and the group is open to anyone caring for older adults or persons of any age with special needs. Refreshments are provided. Contact Monica at monica@hmelders.org or 651-209-6542 for more information.

Local man is IP congressional candidate

Dave Thomas is the officially endorsed candidate of the Independence Party of Minnesota for U.S. House of Representatives in Minnesota's 4th Congressional District. He will be challenging Democrat incumbent Betty McCollum. Dave was the IP endorsed candidate for Minnesota State House of Representatives in District 66A in 2012, and is a member of the Falcon Heights Parks Commission. Dave Thomas's dedication to public service also includes serving in the United States military as an Iraq war veteran, working in the special education department of Brimhall Elementary School in Roseville, and volunteering as a local firefighter on the Falcon Heights Fire Department.

St. Columba Fun-Fest scheduled July 11-13

Saint Columba Church, 1327 Lafond Ave., will hold their 6th annual Fun-Fest, Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, July 11, 12 and 13. Hours are: Fri., 6-10pm; Sat., 3-10pm, and Sun., 11am-5pm. At the Fun-Fest you can enjoy some of the freshest, authentic Vietnamese cuisine around as well as traditional American favorites. There will be iced cold beer, soda and water. There will be an all-cash raffle, children's games, and live musical entertainment. This event will be held rain or shine and admission is free. Come for the food and stay for the fun.

"Our Shared Planet"



On June 18, Groovin' In The Garden concert series went to solar power when headliner Crankshaft and the Gear Grinders plugged into a mobile, solar-powered trailer that woodcarving artist Jim Ramsdell uses as his workshop for the 'Our Shared Planet' traveling exhibit. Ramsdell was on-hand welcoming concert goers and demonstrating his skills inside the trailer where he worked on his latest woodcarving creation, a mother giraffe and her baby. 'Our Shared Planet' is a wildlife woodcarving display dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of the natural world around us and fostering a reverence for all its creatures. It is currently on display in Como's Exhibit Gallery (in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory building) through Labor Day. The exhibit contains a number of highly detailed life-size wood sculptures, set against lighted interpretive backdrops, beautiful photographs and quotes along with nature sounds and music, all designed to raise the consciousness and awareness of its visitors.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

In Our Community

Continued from page 12

Light rail field trip for seniors

Metro Transit is providing free passes for a Hamline Midway Elders field trip on Thur., July 31 to experience the new Green Line. Participants meet at the Hamline Station (University Ave. at Hamline Ave.) at 12:30pm and take the light rail to downtown St. Paul where we'll get a guided tour of the renovated Union Depot. Space is limited, so call 651-209-6542 or email tom@hmelders.org to reserve space on this free field trip.

Creative Arts for seniors set July 22

In partnership with local arts program Leonardo's Basement, Hamline Midway Elders invites neighborhood senior citizens to attend a one-time Creative Arts program to be held on Tue., July 22 from 10-11:30am at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Seniors attending this free event will design and build a small kinetic sculpture for a yard, garden or flower pot. If enough seniors are interested in these types of creative arts projects, they'll schedule a 4-6 week class this fall at Leonardo's Basement. For more information, please contact Tom Fitzpatrick at tom@hmelders.org or 651-209-6542.

Local student wins state award

Alemu Slattery (Grade 5: Great River School, 1326 Energy Park Dr.) received 2nd place, Level 1, in the 2014 annual national Letters About Literature Essay Contest, co-sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Teachers of English and Common Good Books. Slattery received her award for her letter to Gary Paulsen, author of "Tucket's Travels."

The President Visits Minnehaha Park



Our reporter, Jill Boogren, was in the press corps as the President visited Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis in June. Clockwise: 1) President Obama arriving at Minnehaha Park; 2) President Obama answering guests' questions at a gathering at Minnehaha Park; 3) Air Force One ready for departure. (Photos by Jill Boogren)

The number of entries from Minnesota's students was 1,113, and 119 student letters made it through to the state round level of judging in the three levels of competition, where only 9 students were given state awards in the 3 levels.

SPP Federation holds NNO event

The St. Paul Police Federation is holding a National Night Out event on Tue., Aug. 5, from 5-8pm at 831 Como Ave. Everyone is welcome for provided food, beverages and fun.

Jehovah sponsors NNO celebration

Jehovah Lutheran Church, at 1566 Thomas, invites neighbors to its National Night Out celebration starting at 5:30pm Tues., Aug.

5. The event in the church parking lot will include music, games, food and giveaways.

HOURLCAR expands presence in area

HOURLCAR, the Twin Cities local car sharing program announced last month that they significantly expanded the number of neighborhoods served.

Although HOURLCAR already serves locations along the Green Line light rail route, with hubs in both downtowns, at the University of Minnesota, and near the stations at Raymond and Fairview Avenues. HOURLCAR has now place new locations at multiple stops along the route, including in our immediate area:

- Snelling Avenue, at Spruce Tree Centre, 1600 University Ave.;
- Near the Hamline Ave. Station (exact location to be announced);
- Lexington Ave., at the former

Saint Paul Public Library building, 1080 University Ave.; and

- Dale St., at Frogtown Square, 500 Dale St. N.

For details on how the program works and all the Twin Cities locations, visit <http://www.hourcar.org>.

Registration opens for library run/walk/stroll

Save the date for the Hamline Midway Library Association's 3rd annual Library Love 3K Fun Run/Walk/Stroll on Minnehaha between Snelling and Lexington, to be held on Sat., Sept. 27, 9am. Please check <http://librarylove3k.wordpress.com> in late July for details of the event and registration, or ask for more information at the library.

Local students place in contest

Local student Amy Vang, grade 2, Hmong College Prep Academy (1515 Brewster St) placed first in the first-ever Kids Create Contest, a contest supporting nutrition and health education in the classroom sponsored by CKC Good Food. Other area students receiving Honorable Mention were Nickolas Vang, grade 6, Hmong College Prep Academy and Suhayla Dirie, grade 3, Higher Ground Academy, 1381 Marshall Ave.

Bach cantata set at Jehovah Lutheran

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., will host a Johann Sebastian Bach cantata at its 9:30am worship service on Sun., Aug. 17. All singers are welcome to join an improvised choir to perform Bach's "Thy Will O Lord be Done for Me." Singers are asked to attend at least three of the five rehearsals at the church: 7-8:30pm Wednesdays, July 23, July 30 and Aug. 6; 2-3pm Sat., Aug. 9; and a dress rehearsal with the orchestra at 6:15-7:20pm Wed., Aug. 13. The score will be provided. More information is available from director Ben Wegner at wegnbe01@luther.edu.

Lex-Ham band plans concerts

The Lex-Ham Community Band will play many concerts this summer. Come and hear the band at the following concerts open to the public:

- 7pm, Wed., July 16 - Minnehaha Falls Park
- 2pm, Sat., July 19 - Hopkins Raspberry Festival
- 7pm, Sun., July 26 - Lake Como pavilion
- 5pm, Sat., Aug 2 - Vintage Band Festival, Northfield

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Development Updates

Continued from page 7

Hamline Station moves ahead

A \$2 million cost overrun isn't going to slow down Project for Pride in Living's (PPL) Hamline Station project on the northeast corner of Hamline and University avenues. The nonprofit organization is redeveloping the former Midway Chevrolet site at 1319-1333 University Ave. with two new buildings—a four-story, 51-unit apartment building on the east side and a four-story, 57-unit apartment building on the west side with 14,249 square feet of commercial property on the ground floor.

A busier than expected construction market, especially in the area of multi-family housing, pushed construction bids for the mixed-use project above \$31 million, according to PPL project

manager Chris Dettling.

The project had key pieces of its financing approved on June 11 by the St. Paul City Council acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board. PPL expects to close on the purchase of the property later this

summer and then break ground, according to PPL executive director Paul Williams. The plan is to have the buildings ready for occupancy by sometime next year.

The two buildings will be owned by separate entities affiliated with PPL. Hamline Station

Family Housing Limited Partnership will own the east building, and Hamline Station Limited Partnership will own the housing units in the west building. A company called Excelsior Bay will own, finance and lease the commercial spaces in the west building.

Both buildings will have one- and two-bedroom apartments with income restrictions for tenants and rents ranging from \$560 to \$1,317 per month. Plans call for a public plaza between the two buildings and underground parking spaces.



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Top authors for children and young adults to read at HU

Public invited to free readings by nationally acclaimed authors

From July 11 - 20, Hamline University invites the public to several book readings by nationally known authors of literature for young people as part of its Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Children and Young Adults (MFAC) residency.

The distinguished guest author featured this year is Newbery Medal winning author Clare Vanderpool ("Moon Over Manifest"). Faculty readings will be presented by Ron Koertge, Laura Ruby, Mar-

sha Qualey, Gary Schmidt, Jane Resh Thomas, Marsha Chall, Gene Luen Yang, Anne Ursu, Phyllis Root, Swati Avasthi, Claire Rudolf Murphy, and Jackie Briggs Martin. All readings are free and open to the public. Readings by graduating students will also be open to the public on July 16, 17, and 19, all from 6:45-8pm in Giddens Learning Center, Room 100E, 1556 Hewitt Ave. The July 20 graduation ceremony featuring keynote speaker and author

Vera Williams is also open to the public.

Scheduled readings are:
 —Fri., July 11, 6:45-8pm: authors Ron Koertge, Marsha Qualey, Laura Ruby
 —Sat., July 12, 3-3:30pm: author Clare Vanderpool
 —Sun., July 13, 6:45-8pm: authors Gary Schmidt, Jane Resh Thomas, Marsha Chall
 —Mon., July 14, 6:45-8pm: authors Gene Luen Yang, Anne Ursu, Phyllis Root

—Tues., July 15, 6:45-8pm: authors Swati Avasthi, Claire Rudolf Murphy, Jackie Briggs Martin

—Wed., July 16, 6:45-8pm: authors Ricki Thompson, Alicia Williams, Melinda Cordell

—Thur., July 17, 6:45-8pm: authors Sara Kvois, Mike Petry, Katie Knutson

—Sat., July 19, 6:45-8pm: authors Maria Macioce, Araceli Esparza

The readings are part of Hamline University's Master of

Fine Arts in Writing for Children and Young Adults, a program specifically geared at writers of literature for young people who hope to be published. With a faculty-to-student ratio of just five to one, the master's program provides an in-depth education in the field of children's literature and a high degree of individual attention. The faculty is comprised of well-known, award-winning authors who are experienced teachers.

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be in the Monitor before August 4 for the August 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

Monitor Want Ads are now \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Want ads must be in the Monitor before August 4 for the August 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

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Green Line Celebration!



It was an exciting day on June 14 when the Green Line opened, with celebrations and a party mood along the line. At the Hamline Ave. Station and the Raymond Ave. Station events were planned for the whole day. The Hamline Ave. Station used a "fair-like" theme, while Raymond Ave. Station called attention to themselves as the "Creative Enterprise Zone." Despite the nasty cold and wet weather, MTC reported that more than 107,000 free rides were taken on the opening weekend. (Photos by Kyle Mianulli, Raymond Ave. Station, and Julie Caruso, Hamline Ave. Station)

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STA operates a family of local companies in the U.S. and Ontario, Canada. Today we are the third largest student transportation company in North America and we are proud to announce we will be servicing St. Paul schools through our Como Park location at 1102 North Snelling Avenue.

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460 N Hickory Street Chaska, MN 55318



In Our Community

Continued from page 13

Two local youth to perform in Neverland

Circus Juventas, the largest youth performing arts circus in the country, announces its 20th Anniversary year summer production – "Neverland."

"Neverland" has an extensive schedule which includes 21 performances between Aug 1-17 at 1270 Montreal Ave. Tickets can be purchased at www.ticketworks.com.

Local resident Johanna Lies, daughter of Audrey Matson and Robert Lies, will perform in "Neverland" as the pirate Black Murphy, and will perform theater and an aerial act on the triple trapeze. Lies, who is 18,

has performed with Circus Juventas for 10 years.

Rachel Wilson, daughter of Jenny and Ty Wilson, takes the stage as the pirate Bonnie Elizabeth and will perform fire dancing, theater, 3-girl hand balance, dance, plus aerial acts on the duo trapeze, hammock, triangle and Mexican Cloud Swing. Wilson has also been a Circus Juventas performer for 10 years.

Join King Boreas Toastmasters weekly

If you want to improve your communication for any reason, join the King Boreas Toastmasters for a meeting. You even get a free cup of coffee and a donut when you visit. All are welcome to meetings every Saturday from 7:45-9:30am at Associated Bank, 176 Snelling Ave. N.

King Boreas Toastmasters is one of the oldest and most respected clubs in the Toastmasters

International Organization. They hold the World's record for "The most Consecutive Weekly meeting Held by a Civic Organization," We have met every week since Aug. 22, 1941--over 3800 weeks in a row!

Public speaking requires practice, an educational plan, and a supportive environment. Toastmasters is a great place to practice speaking skills. All of today's successful and respected leaders need to know how to communicate to others. By improving public speaking skills, you will more effectively convey who you are and what you're about and you can expand your circle of influence while making a great impression and/or advancing your career.

Bible study group meets at Jehovah

Old Testament studies continue Sundays at Jehovah Lutheran

Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., led via DVD by Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University. Bible study is at 10:46am in the air-conditioned lounge, with snacks and coffee available. Levine will cover the time of King David, the prophets, the Babylonian exile and more, with discussion following led by Pastor Bob Benke.

their own right. Potter, a practicing nurse for over 30 years, is a renowned faculty member and leader at the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota. Eisler is the author of "The Chalice and the Blade," an international bestseller, and is also founder and president of the Center for Partnership Studies.

Local resident authors new book

Published by Sigma Theta Tau International, the Honor Society of Nursing, "Transforming Inter-professional Partnerships: A New Framework for Nursing and Partnership-Based Healthcare" is the first book about interprofessional teamwork in health care written exclusively from the nursing perspective.

The authors, local resident Teddie M. Potter, PhD, RN, and Riane Eisler, JD, PhD(h), of Carmel, CA, are each known in

The book aims to empower nurses and healthcare professionals to reexamine the current state of interprofessional collaboration to build a more effective, caring, and sustainable healthcare system.

Eisler and Potter hope that this book will begin to change the social consciousness and encourage a movement that will invigorate the nursing profession, noting that nursing's unique contribution to healing has been marginalized for far too long.

Bike 'N' Ride

Continued from page 10

Tues.-Sat. (admission: \$11 adults, \$9 seniors, students, active military personnel, \$6 children 6-17, free for age 5 and under and Minnesota Historical Society members). www.historicfortsnelling.org

When it's not under water, Fort Snelling State Park (closed as this went to press due to flooding) is a great place to explore. To get there, follow the trail marked "MRT" (Mississippi River Trail) that begins at 54th St. just steps east of the Nice Ride bike station. Here you'll ride a beautiful shaded trail overlooking the Mississippi River 1.6 miles until you reach the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center. Park your bike and head indoors to learn more about life in a forested flood plain. Outside is a memorial honoring the 1,600 Dakota people who were imprisoned at Fort Snelling after the 1862 U.S. Dakota War. Take a walk on Pike Island to the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. Bald eagles, deer, and wild turkeys are spotted regularly here.

Check the website www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/fort_snelling for updates. If the park is closed, you can still ride the MRT and access the path that takes you up to the fort (most people have to walk their bikes up this one).

Tip for using Nice Ride Minnesota: The Minnehaha Park Nice Ride station is at the roundabout where Minnehaha Ave. meets Minnehaha Pkwy. Grab a bike here, then another at Coldwater (1.2 miles south at 54th St.). Park the bike at the fort (there's a station at the state park, too, that is currently out of service). Remember to dock your bike within 30 minutes of each ride to avoid fees. Must be 18+ (16+ if included in adult membership) to use Nice Ride bikes (www.niceridemn.org).

Tip if you have your own bike: Train cabs have vertical slots for parking your bike. If your bike needs servicing, The Hub Bicycle Co-Op (3020 Minnehaha Ave., two blocks east of the E. Lake St. Station) is open daily.

Happy pedaling!

Meet Michelle Nwabudike Certified Nurse Practitioner

Hometown: Decorah, IA

Specialty: Obstetrics/gynecology

Best part of my work: Building and maintaining lasting relationships and seeing the satisfaction my patients experience when making healthier, informed choices.

Why I became a provider: I've been fortunate to have exceptional mentors who go the extra mile and they have made a tremendous impact on the way I practice.

What I tell my friends and family: Life is about choices – make the best choices for your health. Exercise is the most potent and underused antidepressant – best of all, it's free!

How I spend my free time: Hiking with my golden retriever, spending time with family and friends, traveling, photography, pottery, scuba diving, skiing, fishing, gardening and cooking healthy with garden vegetables.

What patients say about me: Patients often say that I work hard to individualize their care to reach goals of optimal health to fit their needs.



Appointments:
Allina Health Bandana Square 651-241-9700

Learn more: allinahealth.org/bandanasquare

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