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North End

# Monitor



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## Many voters may not be prepared for school vote on Nov. 6 ballot

By JAN WILLMS

With all of the rhetoric this election season focused on the proposed amendments to the constitution, many St. Paul vot-

ers may not even be aware that a school referendum will be on the ballot.

Jean O'Connell, school board chair and also co-chair of

the Committee for Strong Schools, is trying to change that. With teams of supporters talking to neighborhood residents and putting up signs, the committee is working hard to educate voters about the importance of the referendum.

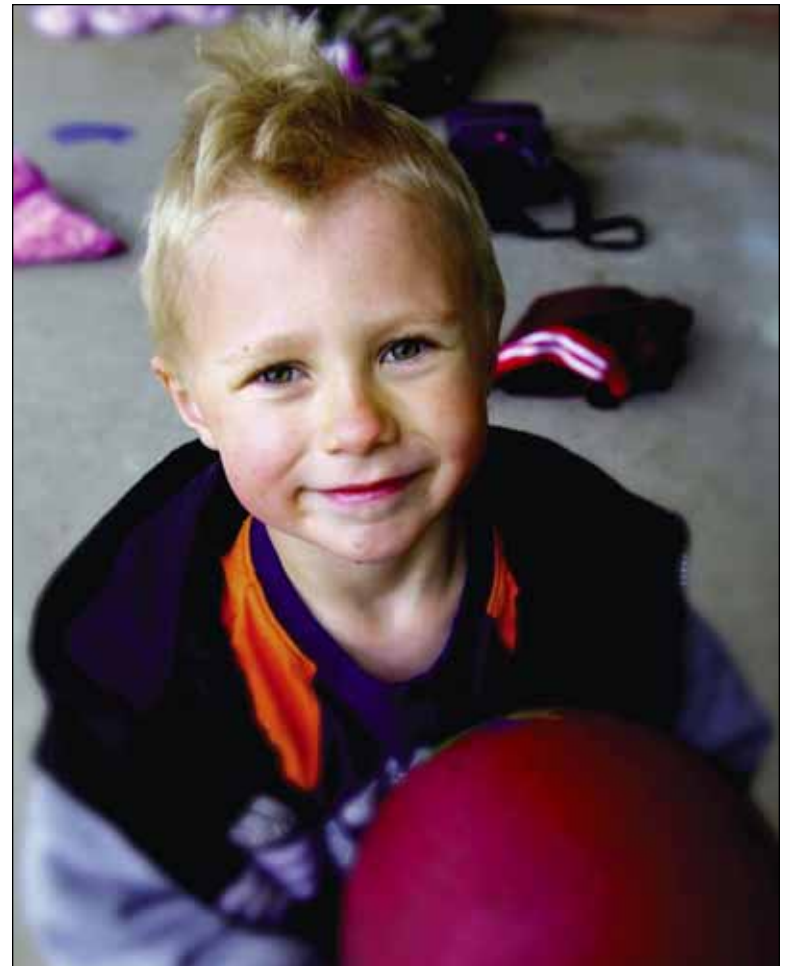
"Seventy-five per cent of this request is a renewal," O'Connell said. "The other 25 per cent is an investment in technology." She explained that the tax impact for the \$30 million levy would result in an increase of about \$5.10 per month on a median-priced home in St. Paul.

O'Connell said the renewal of the existing referendum, passed in 2006, is necessary to keep many programs functioning in the St. Paul School District. "Unfortunately, the state has not chosen to renew funding, and we need it," she said.

Early Childhood and Family



Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) would account for \$10 million of the levy. Funding provides programs for parents and children to come to class together, encouraging lower-income families to participate and providing bus transportation.



With grades 1-12, \$14 million of the proposed referendum would continue to increase elementary math and reading staff, reduce class sizes in math and science and provide for more secondary guidance counselors.

Education (ECFE) would account for \$10 million of the levy. She said funding provides programs for parents and children to come to class together, encouraging lower-income families to participate and providing bus transportation.

She said pre-kindergarten classes have shown excellent results. State-wide, only 50 per cent of children have been prepared for kindergarten; that number has grown to 87 per cent for the children enrolled in pre-K classes. "We're trying to reduce the achievement gap from the beginning," O'Connell said.

Full-day kindergarten classes have been provided through the existing referendum. "Prior to that, full day was only available at some schools on a fee basis," O'Connell said.

With grades 1-12, \$14 million of the proposed referendum would continue to increase elementary math and reading staff, reduce class sizes in math and science and provide for more secondary guidance counselors.

"Over the last five years we have really increased the understanding of secondary teachers in helping kids learn to read," O'Connell explained. "And at first we focused on reducing and now maintaining smaller class sizes in

math and science."

With an ever-increasing number of children for whom English is not their first language, \$6 million of the referendum pays for increased support services for English Language Learners. It also funds required special education services that are not funded by the state.

"We are asking voters for an additional \$9 million a year that will fund Learning Transformed by Technology," O'Connell said. "This is about building a platform where our students and teachers can personalize instruction in significant ways. Parents can learn about their children's assignments."

O'Connell said a number of students come in with cell phones, iPods and iPhones and are told to turn them all off. "In the future they can turn them on and use them to learn," she said.

She cited a fifth grade class with students having reading levels from grades 2 to 12. "We ask our teachers to work with kids where they are, but we don't really give them the tools to do that." She said the technology improvements would allow teachers to work with classes of 30 in more individualized ways.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Washington Technology students simulate surgery



Biomedical and anatomy students from St. Paul's Washington Technology Magnet School observed and participated in life-like surgical scenarios in Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare's new Surgery Simulation Center on Thursday, September 27. Students learned firsthand about careers in medicine from Gillette nurses, biomedical engineers and physicians in the areas of: Anesthesiology, biomedical technology, orthopedic surgery, nursing and surgical technology, instrument demo and laparoscopic surgery. Surgical simulation plays a critical role in medical staff training, education, and patient safety. It also supports continued innovation in patient care, providing a venue to train physicians in the latest surgical procedures and new medical technology.



# Monitor

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# Monitor In A Minute

## Episcopal Homes' plans move ahead

Episcopal Homes' quest to expand its campus at University and Fairview Avenues took another key step ahead September 12. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the housing and redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, unanimously approved the sale of up to \$10.5 million in senior housing and health care revenue refunding bonds.

The HRA action will assist Episcopal Homes to refund existing debt for two of its existing facilities, the Iris Park Commons assisted living facility and the Episcopal Church Home skilled nursing care facility. A portion of the bond proceeds will be used as equity to help Episcopal Homes pay for a new construction project. That project, on the former Porky's restaurant site at University and Lynnhurst, is a seven story building with three types of senior housing. This building will include 50 subsidized independent living units, 64 units of assisted living offering varying levels of service and 50 units of long-term care and memory care.

Episcopal Homes has spent the past several months pulling together funding sources for the project and seeking needed approvals from the city, including zoning changes. One of the next steps will be approval for the new building itself, for a height variance and any other needed variances.

The bond issue is a conduit bond issue and doesn't create any debt or financial obligations for the city.

The bond issue is acquisition, construction and equipping of improvements to the existing combi-

nation housing and health care facilities located at 1879 Feronia Ave., 490 E Lynnhurst Ave. and 1850 University Ave. The bond issue will be used to improve the 131 bed skilled nursing facility and an approximately 59 unit assisted living facility and to finance a portion of the cost of the acquisition, construction and equipping of additional housing and health care facilities to be located at 1890 University Ave. consisting of approximately 60 skilled nursing and memory care units and approximately 64 catered living units.

No one appeared at a public hearing to speak against the proposal.

This is one of two major projects in the works in Iris Park neighborhood. Habitat for Humanity is undergoing city staff site plan review for its new building at University and Prior avenues.

## Property should not be sold

A University Avenue property where the building was damaged in two fires should not be sold back to its original owner, the Ramsey County Board decided September 11. Commissioners denied the repurchase application for 1493 University Ave. Former owner RKL Landholding LLC wanted to repurchase the site, which is zoned for commercial use.

The property was forfeited for nonpayment of property taxes in August 2011. After two fires, the two-story commercial building at the property was demolished in 2009. The removal costs had to be assessed to the property taxes.

The property had been an auto parts business for many years. It has been eyed for redevelopment

but no plans have come to fruition. It is along the proposed central Corridor light rail line. It could become a new commercial or mixed use development.

City officials reviewed the site's five-year property code enforcement and police call history and determined that the building is a municipal problem, due to illegal activity and property blight. City officials recommended that Ramsey County deny repurchase of the property. Ramsey County property Records and Revenue agreed, noting that the building sat in a deteriorated condition for several years and that the former owner didn't address problems despite repeated requests to do so.

The next steps would include the county offering the site for sale.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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# Rice and Maryland site plan fight continues

By JANE MCCLURE

If the sign of a compromise is that no one is happy, welcome to Rice Street Market at Rice and Maryland. Debate over changed plans and the lingering aftermath of street reconstruction wound up before the St. Paul Planning Commission. The commission voted Oct. 5 to reject a site plan appeal by market neighbors Raymond and Susan Cantu.

The Cantus and other neighbors are frustrated that the existing Rice Street Market will remain in place at 1200 Rice St., instead of a new building going up. They have concerns about the placement of the new gas pumps and pump island in the site as well as adequate access space and traffic safety.

Neighbors have to option of taking their case to the St. Paul City Council. As of Monitor deadline no appeal had been filed.

But Rice Street Market owner Bilal Asadi is also frustrated, said his attorney, Ferdinand Peters. Asadi has been unable to sell fuel for several months because the Rice-Maryland reconstruction put his gas pumps too close to the property line. And although Asadi won a \$1 million settlement earlier this year in a condemnation dispute with Ramsey County, building a new building isn't feasible in part due to the costs Asadi has incurred over the past several months. On top of his legal fight with the county, Asadi has spent more



Debate over changed plans and the lingering aftermath of street reconstruction at the Rice Street Market at Rice and Maryland wound up before the St. Paul Planning Commission. The commission voted Oct. 5 to reject a site plan appeal by market neighbors Raymond and Susan Cantu.

than a year trying to get a site plan that city and Ramsey County officials will accept. Ramsey County is involved because Rice and Maryland are county and county-state aid roads.

Asadi's site plan was finally accepted by city officials in August, prompting the neighbors' appeal.

Peters also told the Planning Commission Zoning Committee that another reason a new build-

ing isn't practical is because a developer is making plans to purchase and tear down a number of buildings at the southeast corner of Rice and Maryland and redevelop the entire area. But neighbors question whether that is going to happen.

The reconstruction of Rice and Maryland has affected the North End for several years. The project made the intersection safer but it also took out Mary-

land properties east and west of the intersection. A longtime barber shop and bar to the west are gone. Rice Street Market lost maneuvering space by its gas pumps and neighbors to the east lost front yard space.

Rice Street Market is in a building that was originally erected as a Shell station, in 1940. The station was rebuilt in 1967. It operates as a convenience store and restaurant; the

service bays were removed and converted for store use many years ago.

Raymond Cantu told the Planning Commission Zoning Committee Sept. 27 that neighbors supported the original Rice Street Market plans with the understanding that the old gas station turned convenience store and restaurant would be torn down and replaced. The Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit for Rice Street Market in May 2012. But because a new building wasn't built, a new building and a number of conditions neighbors agreed to won't go into place.

Cantu argued that a conditional permit previously granted by the Planning Commission for a new building, pumps and island wasn't valid because the plans didn't materialize. But the Planning Commission and city staff said that means previous approvals are in place and Rice Street market can continue to operate.

"Neighbors thought we would have a new building on the corner," Cantu said. The District 6 (North End-South Como) Land Use Task Force approvals were also on the basis that there would be a new building. District 6 has also weighed in with concerns about the site plan, including alley access, parking and fuel deliveries and fencing. The district council unsuccessfully sought more time for neighbors to review the latest site plan.

District 6 Director Kerry Antrim said the district council is concerned that the latest site plan doesn't meet the District 6 district plan and the recently adopted Rice Street design guidelines.

City staff said the original site plan submitted in July 2011 did call for a new, larger building, with new gas pumps and a new canopy. But Asadi and his representatives have spent many months working with the city and county trying to get a site plan approved. One site plan was denied in July, and then changes were made to win approval in August, which the Cantus also questioned.

Plans now call for relocating the gas pumps, to get them back into operation. City staff said that doesn't require a new conditional use permit. The pumps won't have a canopy.

One key change in the site plan approved in August is that parking and the pump island were redesigned so that a tanker truck can pull in from westbound Maryland, fill the underground tanks and then exit via southbound Rice Street. City staff also indicated that the concerns raised by neighbors and District 6 were also taken into account before the latest site plan won approval.

One condition was that the Rice Street driveway be relocated. But Ramsey County officials wouldn't approve moving the driveway north due to concerns about traffic safety at Rice and Maryland. Asadi's representatives did point out to the Planning Commission that the street reconstruction reduced the number of curb cuts for Rice Street market from four to two.

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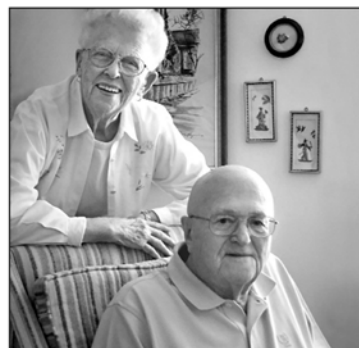


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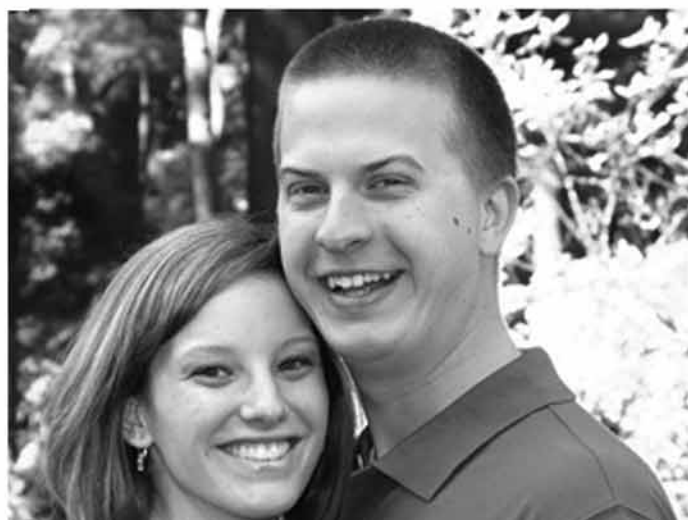
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# Hancock teacher instructs students about the value of money

By DEBORAH BROTZ

During a period of the American economy in which many people are losing jobs and not saving enough money for retirement, Travis Whiting is doing his part: He's teaching children about economics.

Whiting, who is a fifth-grade ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher at Hancock-Hamline Elementary School, will be honored by The Minnesota Council on Economic Education (MCEE) at its annual EconFest celebration on Nov. 8, 2012, at the 3M Innovation Center in Maplewood. He will receive the Thrivent Financial Personal Finance Educator Award, which recognizes educators who increase student understanding of personal finance through original learning activities at the elementary and secondary levels. Winning entries were chosen based on innovation of approach, emphasis on personal finance concepts, ease of replication, and assessment of student learning.

In recognition of his achievements, Whiting will receive a

\$500 award.

"One of the most effective ways to increase student understanding of economic principles is to make economics and personal financial decision-making skills come alive in the classroom," said MCEE Executive Director Donald Liu. "Every year, hundreds of Minnesota educators are doing just that. We look forward to recognizing their achievements and the outstanding work of Mr. Whiting and other award winners at our event on Nov. 8."

Whiting wasn't expecting to learn he had received the second place award in the elementary division.

"I was quite surprised," he said. "It was like a little pick me up for the day. I got this email and thought it was spam until I read through the whole thing."

In his learning activity, Whiting's students learn about Bessie Coleman, the first African-American woman aviator, using the children's literature book, "Bessie Makes a Decision." Students learn how to evaluate criteria

and alternatives to make a decision about a class game. In the second part of the learning activity, students examine the choices Bessie Coleman made and explore the possible impact if she had made a different choice.

Whiting decided to teach students about economics in his classroom after taking a class on teaching children economics and personal finance using children's literature through the U of M.

"I took the class because I didn't know anything about economics," he said. "The focus of the class was on integrating whatever you're doing and tying in economic concepts. You create teaching lessons and curriculum around that. We used the reading curriculum and had tied economic concepts into that."

Bessie Coleman and the children's literature book, "Bessie Makes a Decision," were chosen for Whiting's learning activity because it was already part of the curriculum.

"We worked on the literature and reading part of it," he said. "Then, we looked at it through the eyes of economic concepts. We take an event in history and focus on the economic decision-making. We look at what would have happened if a different decision had been made. We study biography. Bessie Coleman was an interesting choice to some students. They have a high interest in her story already."

In the first part of the learning activity, Whiting gave them concrete experiences, then they looked at literature.

"We used the idea of deciding on what game to play at recess to teach economic concepts," he said. "Then, we came back and looked at the literature using the same concept. We looked at the economic concept of how people make decisions."

Learning how to make decisions using economic concepts is valuable for students to know.

"It's a way of looking at



Travis Whiting, fifth-grade ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher at Hancock-Hamline Elementary School, will be honored by The Minnesota Council on Economic Education (MCEE) at its annual EconFest celebration on Nov. 8, at the 3M Innovation Center in Maplewood.

things," said Whiting. "It's a tool for being able to make a reasoned decision by weighing out different criteria. It's not I feel like this today. You consider what are the different alternatives. It gives them a tool for the future to make decisions in a more reasoned way than

an impulsive way. Adults have to do this all the time."

In the second part of the activity, students did some reading and discussing about the time in which Coleman lived.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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By COLETTE MULLENMASTER

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After working for some time in the area, Tony Ferrara went to St. Louis to sell heating equipment with Standard Heating in St. Louis; because he missed his home in the Twin Cities so much, he decided to come back and start Standard Heating & Air Conditioning in his parents' backyard.

Today, after more than 83 years, Standard Heating & Air Conditioning is still owned and operated by the Ferrara family. Todd and Ted Ferrara work hard every day to provide the Twin Cities with the highest professional service with the care of a family business.

**CM:** What is the best thing about doing business in this community?

**SP:** Standard Heating & Air Conditioning has been serving Midway/Como/North End communities since 1930. "We know the homes better than any other heating contractor" said Kelly, a Midway - Como sales representative. She also adds "I enjoy visiting the homes of the community because the residents of Midway/Como/North End are very active in the buying process; they always want to learn more. We strive to make homeowners better informed buyers when it comes to heating and cooling equipment. "Residents of this community are a pleasure to work with and like everybody else, are looking for a good value," said Dave, our most experienced Midway - Como sales representative.

**CM:** How does Standard Heating & Air Conditioning see itself in the community in the next five years?

**SP:** Standard Heating & Air Conditioning is an active community member committed to serving the community with professionalism and the expert care of a family owned and operated company. For more than 83 years, we have served generations of Midway/Como/North End residents, and we will continue to do that.

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# Hamline Midway Library celebrates 'nine lives,' neighborhood devotion

By JAN WILLMS

Some amazing results can happen when a beloved neighborhood institution is threatened.

Over the past several years, the Hamline Midway branch of the St. Paul library has faced extinction. Budget cuts at the state level have been a reality, and smaller branch libraries have felt the sting.

Four years ago, the Hamline Midway branch again faced the possibility of closure, and neighborhood residents and library patrons came together. They formed the Independent Hamline Midway Library Association (HMLA), a grassroots organization that has revolved around community support for the branch.

On Oct. 13, the organization is inviting everyone to its fourth annual Library Love Fest, with activities set from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.

The Love Fest features a book sale, silent auction, artwork and artisans and live music throughout the day. And for the first time, the BNSF Railway Library Love 3K Fun Walk/Run/Stroll will be held, commencing at 9 a.m.

Amy Schroeder Ireland is the primary organizer of the Fun Run, but she added that the committee planning the Love Fest helped a lot, also.

She said HMLA had been involved in the Minnesota Idea Open, coming up with ways to fight obesity. The library served as a meeting point for people to gather to talk about improving health. "We had a few speakers talk about health topics," Ireland said, "and having a walk/run tied



On Oct. 13, the Hamline Midway Library is inviting everyone to its fourth annual Library Love Fest, with activities set from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. (Photo by Stefanie Berres)

in with that."

She said there is a flat fee to register for the Fun Run. Kids' prices will cover the cost of their T-shirts.

"We're hoping to bring people together for a run down Minnehaha Avenue," Ireland said. "They can walk, run or stroll. We are encouraging people to bring strollers to the run."

"One of the reasons the library was targeted for closure is that a lot of physical things needed to be improved," Ireland said. She is hoping the Fun Run will bring in funds that can be used to make some of those improvements.

HMLA was formed four years ago to help with funding and to provide a visible sign of community support for the branch library.

"Carrie Pomeroy had people come to the library to spend the night writing letters to the mayor and the library board to show support for the branch," said Jean Thimany, another member of HMLA. "She gathered an email list, and started the organization. The only other one is in St. Anthony Park, and we modeled ourselves on that."

Thimany said there is a core group of about seven, but more

people become involved with events. She said the first Love Fest was held a month or two after HMLA organized, to celebrate being spared from budget cuts and demonstrating the neighborhood has a vital library people can come to.

HMLA dedicates itself strictly to working for the Hamline Midway branch, which differentiates it from Friends, a group that supports the public library system as a whole.

"We have purchased a public address system," Thimany said, "and we are trying to raise money

to address runoff issues in the alley. We generally ask Katrina, the head librarian, what's on the top of her list, and we try to help out."

Thimany said people in the neighborhood use the library and come with their kids all the time.

"You run into people you know, and it's the only gathering place that is free. You don't annoy others with your kids, and it is very community-oriented."

Thimany said she has come across so many historical photos from the early days of the library, and people remark that they remember coming to it as children and remember their grandparents using the library.

Ireland agreed that the branch has become a community fixture.

"I have three daughters who are 7, 4 and 2," Ireland said. "We use the library and go there quite often. They love getting books and using the little computer games there, while I look for books. Our oldest, especially, is an avid reader."

Ireland said she believes that one of the important things about St. Paul is that neighborhoods have amenities that people need, and she counts the library as one of those amenities.

She said having a branch in the community reduces the use of cars, and people can walk to the library and at the same time get exercise. "It's one of the benefits of living in the city," she said. "The library is like a community center."

"We're encouraging people to come to the Love Fest and have a good time," Ireland continued. "If you haven't come to the library before, this is a good time to check it out. We're here for the long haul."

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# Charles Avenue bikeway plans changed by MnDOT

By JANE MCCLURE

The recently adopted Charles Avenue bikeway plans have been changed, as a result of a request by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). The City Council made the plan changes Oct. 3.

The project is intended to turn 3.5 miles of Charles Avenue from Park Street to Aldine Street into a bike/walk boulevard. Plans were approved by the City Council. In September after sev-

eral months; review in the Hamline-Midway and Frogtown neighborhoods. The plans met protests from some residents who don't want to see the improvements and businesses whose owners are worried about loss of access along Snelling. Plans include signage, medians on busy streets, street marking and other changes.

One controversial change would shut the median at for area business and for traffic on

other neighborhood streets. The median at Charles and Snelling will be blocked as part of the plan. City officials had proposed opening the Snelling median at Sherburne but MnDOT officials objected to the changes., saying that total removal of the median there won't be allowed.

Instead, MnDOT and Public Works staff agreed to make partial median changes to allow southbound Snelling traffic to turn eastbound onto Sherburne.



The recently adopted Charles Avenue bikeway plans have been changed, as a result of a request by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). The City Council made the plan changes Oct. 3.



Hamline University welcomes the public to celebrate the legacy of gospel music in the Black community at the 23rd annual Gospel Night inspiration worship service on Sunday, October 14, at 6 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall, located at 1531 Hewitt Avenue, on Hamline University's St. Paul campus.

## Hamline University presents 23rd annual gospel night

Hamline University welcomes the public to celebrate the legacy of gospel music in the Black community at the 23rd annual Gospel Night inspiration worship service. The event takes place on Sunday, October 14, at 6 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall, located at 1531 Hewitt Avenue, on Hamline University's St. Paul campus.

This year, Darnell Davis and

the Remnant will be the special guests with additional performances by the Hamline University Gospel Choir, Javonta Patton and Deliverance for Youth, the Mighty Revivals, Joyful Noize, and gospel comedian Shed G. The program also includes a tribute to gospel music legend Hezekiah Walker.

"'Gospel' means good news,

and that is no greater 'good news' than today's youth pausing to pay tribute to the rich cultural, spiritual, and historical legacy of this unique musical art form that traces its history back to Africa," Carlos Sneed, assistant dean for diversity and community & director of the Hedgeman Center, said.

Hosted by PRIDE Black Stu-

dent Alliance, this event is free and open to the general public, but attendees may contribute to a free-will offering to support a local non-profit charity organization. For more information, please contact the Hedgeman Center for Student Diversity Initiatives and Programs at 651-523-2423 or hedgemancenter@hamline.edu.

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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.

### Holy Childhood holds sale October 25

Holy Childhood Rummage Sale will be held on October 25th, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday October 26th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday bag day, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held at 1435 Midway Parkway. There will be clothing, shoes, housewares, linens, furniture, books, DVD's, and many more treasures for everyone.

### Hamline Church Craft Sale

Hamline Church United Methodist Women host a Change of Seasons Craft Sale 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat., Oct. 27 at the church at 1514 Englewood Ave. Enjoy coffee, treats and lunch and buy crafts, collectibles and Christmas items. Tables space available. 651-646-3473, [www.hamlinechurch.org](http://www.hamlinechurch.org)

### Oktoberfest Friday, October 12

Oktoberfest at the Klub Haus, 1079 Rice Street, Friday, October 12th from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Saturday, October 13th from noon to 11 p.m.

### Paw Pals at Hamline Midway Library

Come join us for Paw Pals, where a child can read with our volunteers Marsha and Toby (our loveable volunteer dog). Sign up today at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 West Minnehaha. Dates are Saturdays, October 27th 1:30-3 p.m., November 17th 1:30-3 p.m. and December the 15th 1:30-3 p.m. Come have Fun with Toby!!!

Come join us at the Hamline-Midway Library for Creative Movement for Kids. Move with a variety of music to strengthen physical coordination and activate the mind. The event date is Saturday, October, 20th from 2-4 p.m. Registration is required for this event.

Join our Volunteers for both Kids and Teen Book Clubs. Young readers from 8-12 are welcome and Teens from 12-18 years of age. Kids Book Club is held from 1:30-2:30 p.m. and Teen Book Club is held from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

The date is Saturday, November the 17th. Check with Library staff for further dates and what titles and authors will be discussed.

The Saturday Club will be holding events on November the 10th and December the 8th from 1:30-3 p.m. Activities will include arts, crafts and fun for all!! Everyone is welcome.

Storytime is held at Hamline-Midway Library every Friday at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Computer help will be available at the Hamline-Midway Library on Mondays from 3-5 p.m., Tuesdays from 2-4 p.m. and Thursdays from 2-4 p.m. This can include any technology and job searching questions.

### Aging skin concerns to be addressed

"Caring for Our Skin as it Ages" will be the topic at a luncheon on Nov. 13, 1514 Englewood Avenue at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Joseph Shaffer, Dermatology Consultants, will present how heredity, the environment, personal habits, etc. play a role in what happens to our skin as we grow older, and what steps can be taken to maintain healthy skin. Attendees may have their blood pressures checked and/or get a flu shot from Recover Health. A free will

donation is requested for the meal; no charge for the speaker presentations which begin at 12:15 p.m. Call Hamline Midway Elders, (651) 209-6542 to make reservations and/or request free transportation.

### Exercise classes designed for painful joints

Free Joint friendly exercise classes will be offered Tues. & Thurs., Oct 23 - Dec 13, 2 - 3 p.m. at 1514 Englewood Ave. Instructors have been trained by the MN Arthritis Foundation. Exercises can be done either seated or standing. Call (651) 209-6542 to register or for more information.

### Women's Drum Center program November 3

Women's Drum Center announces Let's Rock: An Intro to Drum Set. This workshop introduces the basics of playing drum set. Let's Rock sessions include stick technique instruction, explanation of drum set terminology and playing along to popular music. Drums and sticks provided. Saturday, Nov. 3, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. 2242 University Ave W, St Paul, \$25. Register at [www.womensdrumcenter.org](http://www.womensdrumcenter.org).

### Bach Society presents concert October 19

The Bach Society of Minnesota is honored to present Weiland Kuijken, viola da gamba, and Eva Legene, recorder with Jacques Ogg, harpsichord, and Julie Elhard, viola da gamba in concert on Friday, October 19, at 8 p.m. at the Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University.

Four historic performers join together to create history in St. Paul. Wieland Kuijken, widely regarded as one of the most influential pioneers in the twentieth century revival of the viola da gamba and early cello, is one of the most sought-after Early Music performers of his generation. Eva Legene's irresistibly eloquent appearances around the world are based on her thorough historical research into Early Music practice. Harpsichordist Jacques Ogg has won awards for his sensitive and eloquent historic interpretation of Bach. Julie Elhard has been praised for her luscious historical playing.

The Bach Society brings all of these extraordinary performers together to present music of the Baroque, including Vivaldi, Marais, Couperin, and, of course, JS. Bach. Tickets, available online and at the door are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors (65+) and \$5 for

students. Contact us at [www.bachsocietymn.org](http://www.bachsocietymn.org) Don't miss what promises to be a historically memorable event in the Bach Society's 2012-13 musical calendar!

### Halloween Pancake Breakfast, Oct 27

The District 10 Como Community Council and the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center will be hosting the 4th Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 27 from 9-11 a.m. in the Job Corps cafeteria (1480 Snelling Avenue North).

Join the Council for ghoulish good eats and to help fundraise for future District 10 programs. Breakfast will include, pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk and juice. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for kids ages 3-12 and free for kids under 3. You may purchase a ticket in advance at the District 10 office at 1224 Lexington Parkway North, or on the day of the event. Free parking is available at the lot near the intersection of Arlington and Snelling. For more information, visit contact Jessie at 651-644-3889.

### Revelation and Reformation Bible studies

Sunday Bible studies on the book of Revelation continue through October, with an interlude Oct. 21 and 28 for a Reformation Bible study. All are welcome to the 9:30 a.m. Sunday sessions at at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas in St. Paul.

Lutherans observe Reformation to commemorate Martin Luther, a monk, priest and professor who in 1517 invited debate on whether salvation comes through good works or through faith in Christ. David Lump, a Reformation scholar at Concordia University in St. Paul and a member at Jehovah Lutheran, will lead the two Reformation sessions in person.

Sessions on the Apocalypse of St. John, better known as Revelation, are led via DVD by Craig Koester, a New Testament scholar at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

Sessions are free and open to all, with coffee and snacks provided. Information is available by calling the church office at 651-644-1421 or checking the church Web site at [www.jehovahlutheran.org](http://www.jehovahlutheran.org).

### Church suppers Wednesdays at Jehovah

Jehovah Lutheran Church invites everyone to free church suppers at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the

basement fellowship hall. A suggested donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children is welcome. Confirmation, choir and on alternate Wednesdays women's Bible study follow. More information is available by calling the church office at 651-644-1421 or e-mailing [jlc\\_dawn@msn.com](mailto:jlc_dawn@msn.com). The church is at 1566 Thomas.

### Have a voice in Como neighborhood

The District 10 Como Community Council is currently updating the Como neighborhood's planning document, and needs your help. The planning process allows citizens to discuss their vision and set priorities for the future of the neighborhood. An updated district plan will assist in the decision-making process surrounding long-term development and land use issues in our community. If you are a resident, business owner or otherwise involved in the District 10 neighborhood, you are invited to participate in community planning opportunities throughout October and November. An online survey will be available through November 9 at [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org). Also, the last community discussion session will be held on Monday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic Streetcar Station (1224 Lexington Parkway N). District 10 wants to hear your vision for the Como neighborhood!

If you are interested in any of the participation opportunities below please contact Planning Intern, Theo Woehrle at [theo.woehrle@district10comopark.org](mailto:theo.woehrle@district10comopark.org) or call 651-644-3889. We look forward to hearing from you.

### Sauerkraut Supper held November 10

The Annual Sauerkraut Supper put on by the Men's Club at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church will be held on Saturday, November 10, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the church, located at 739 Lafond (Lafond & Grotto. Adults: \$10; Children (5-12): \$5; (Children under 5 FREE); Family Household \$25.

Supper includes pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, bakery bread, and dessert served family style. A traditional dinner served for over 50 years! Chicken nuggets and French fries will be available for the kids. Craft and Bake Sale will be held during the dinner. For further information, please call the church at 651-228-1486.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12





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Prepared and paid for by the Committee for Strong Schools—888 Ivy Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55117

## Fall 2012 Como Curb Cleanup Oct. 13 - Oct. 21

What is the Como Curb Cleanup? Como neighbors work together during this week-long, community-wide event to cleanup leaves and other organics from our residential curbs and street gutters. In doing this we prevent significant amounts of phosphorus from leaching into our storm sewers that drain to Como Lake and the Mississippi River. Como Lake, as you probably know, is already degraded due to excessive phosphorus concentrations. The annual influx of new phosphorus only compounds the problem and works against current efforts to restore Como Lake to a

healthy, stable condition.

If you live in Como, you are invited to take part in the effort. Between the dates of Oct. 13th and Oct. 21st, clean up the "curb" debris in front of your home and/or pull together a small group of neighbors to clean up along your home block. Bags of "curb" debris can then be taken to one of the drop-off sites in the Como neighborhood. Go to [CLNN.org](http://CLNN.org) to see a map. At the end of the week-long event, bags collected by Como neighbors will be counted, weighed, and then taken to be composted. Then we'll announce how many total

pounds of organic debris our community prevented from leaching phosphorus into our local waters. Our goal is 1,000 pounds or more of "curb" leaves!

This project is organized by the Como Lake Neighbor Network (CLNN), District 10 and 6 Community Councils, and many other cross-sector partners (15 at last count!). We think we can solve this longstanding community problem together. We invite you to join us in our quest.

For more information on the Como Curb Cleanup go to [CLNN.org](http://CLNN.org)

## Hancock teacher

Continued from page 5

"It was a period of segregation, and we considered what life was like at that time," said Whiting. "This background knowledge stretches their thinking and stretches their language. They use a different language structure than they usually use. They're thinking of hypothetical structures. Our language structure changes when we're thinking

about something that has not happened yet."

Using different levels of thinking benefits students.

"It perks them up to higher levels of thinking," said Whiting. "They're putting different elements together and having to not just comprehend something but evaluate, analyze and synthesize information."

Whiting feels teaching elementary students about economics is important.

"I realized how important it was when I took this class," he said. "The professor in class spoke

to a group of legislators who didn't know anything about economics. We need informed people. These people are making our decisions. It's important for kids to understand how that works because it affects a lot of things."

Even with a full curriculum, Whiting hopes to be able to continue teaching economic concepts.

"I hope that they'll be able to take these concepts and apply them in a concrete way to their lives," he said. Hopefully, we'll give them tools to make decisions further on in their lives."

## Monitor in a minute

Continued from page 2

### Details sought on rec centers

Saying it's time for a review, St. Paul City Council members want more details on current lease agreements for city recreation centers. That request was made September 5 during a St. Paul Parks and Recreation budget presentation, at which the leasing out of McDonough and Conway recreation centers was discussed.

Parks and Recreation has a proposed \$56.8 million budget for 2013. That breaks down to \$26 million in general fund dollars and \$30 million from special funds. The budget calls for 567 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees but there will be shifts and changes in staff.

The city had 34 recreation centers a decade ago. There are now 25 where the city provides programming. Budget cutbacks have forced three centers to be torn down and replaced with smaller restroom buildings. Arlington Recreation Center on the East Side was recently closed to make way for the new Payne-Maryland Community Center. More than a dozen other sites have been leased to nonprofit groups or, in the case of spaces shared with schools, turned back to St. Paul Public Schools.

For 2013, the recreation centers that would be leased out would save the city \$393,762 through the elimination of 6.5 FTEs in recreation center staff.

Ward Five Council Member Amy Brendmoen said that while she understands the city's move toward larger community cen-

ters, the loss of smaller neighborhood recreation centers is a worry. "I am really concerned that we have created a system that short-changes the people who are the most in need of our services," she said. Ward Five has had several recreation centers closed or torn down.

She also said that while visiting Wilder Recreation Center on the East Side, staff there appears overwhelmed by the number of young people needing services. "We have kids lined up needing services." Yet the gym has to be closed when staff must be outdoors, fights have broken out and police have to be called.

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Hahm agreed that it is difficult to lose recreation center services. "It's our ongoing struggle with choices," he said. Overall, participation in recreation center programs is up despite having fewer centers.

### Historic hall must change plans

Trustees for a historic social hall for the deaf must decide this fall how to rectify building modifications made without proper building permits and review. After reviewing the issue August 23, the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) gave the trustees of Charles Thompson Memorial Hall, 1824 Marshall Ave., 30 days to take action. The commission denied an after-the-fact building permit and asked that another option to fill window openings be chosen.

The HPC asked the Thompson Hall trustees to submit details on next steps to be taken, and a project timeline. The commission also asked the trustees to consult a design professional on the work.

The hall, which is the nation's oldest social hall for the

deaf, is a locally designated historic site. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places, a designation hall trustees and supporters won last year. Historic designation means that any building permits and exterior modifications require HPC review and approval.

What dismayed some HPC members and Merriam Park neighbors of the hall is that work began to block the building porch window openings. Cement blocks were placed in some windows and bricked over. When city officials saw the work, a stop work order was issued. Neighbors have complained that the work isn't attractive and detracts from the building's historic character. In a letter, three Dayton Avenue neighbors called the work "sloppy and unprofessional."

Thompson Hall is three stories tall and made of brick, with stone and terra cotta features. The hall has a high basement and porch because when it was built in 1915-16, it was designed to allow in as much natural light as possible. The large windows and natural light make it easier to see people who are using American Sign Language.

HPC Commissioner Steve Trimble said that once the windows are blocked off, an important part of the building's history is lost.

Thompson Hall Trustee Douglas Bahl apologized for the problems. He was teaching overseas last year when the work on the windows began. He noted that the trustees are all volunteers and that new board members are added each year. But he pointed out that the hall building committee has used the same contractor for many years and the contractor is frustrated that work has had to be stopped for several months.

- Compiled by Jane McClure



# Classifieds

## Monitor

Want ads must be in the Monitor before October 29 for the November 8 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitors website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://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 pre-paid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to [denisw@aplacetoremember.com](mailto:denisw@aplacetoremember.com). Want ads must be in the Monitor before October 29 for the November 8 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitors website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com) 9-12

## AIR CONDITIONERS

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

## ANTIQUES

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## ATTORNEY

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## BATHROOMS

Bathroom/kitchens!! Basement finishing. Bad water pressure? Sinks, toilets and tub/surrounds, etc. Ceramic tile. Basement bathrooms installed. Call 612-275-9815. 10-12

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## HANDYMAN

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## LAWN CARE

Lawn/Snow Service, spring and fall cleanups, gutter cleaning and repair. 651-699-2832. B-12

## PAINTING

Painting, wallpaper removal, basement floors, paneling, porches, small wall repairs, small jobs wanted. Jim 651-698-0840. 10-12

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

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## PET SITTING

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## PIANO TUNING

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## ROOM FOR RENT

Room for rent in small house in Midway. Shared common space. Off street parking. No pets. No smoking. 651-483-2271. 10-12

## SERVICES

RAM Handyman Services - Good service, reasonable rates, no job too small. Contact Rich - 651-485-9680 or [rich@ramhandyman.com](mailto:rich@ramhandyman.com). 3-13

Bathrooms, General Carpentry, Trim and Doors, Sheetrock and Repair, siding and decks. Mike 612-578-1611, 651-762-4705. B-12

Need a handyman?? Any job, big or small plumbing? Remodeling? Decks? Etc. Call Dave 612-701-2272. Competitive prices! 12-12

Como Handyman: Your job, your price, done right, done on time. [www.comohandyman.com](http://www.comohandyman.com) getitdone@comohandyman.com 651-368-1791. 10-12

## SHOES

You're cute! Your boots and shoes should be also. Bring them in so we can refurbish or repair them. [www.HartlandShoes.us](http://www.HartlandShoes.us). 651-646-4326. 10-12

## THERMOGRAPHY

Safer alternative to mammography. No radiation, non invasive, painless. Schedule appointment 651-917-3990, [www.PictureMyHealth.com](http://www.PictureMyHealth.com). 12-12

## WANTED TO BUY

Paying the most for your furniture, dishes, glassware, knickknacks, costume jewelry, antiques, pictures, lamps, household items, etc., I make housecalls. Call Mary. 612-729-3110. 1-13

**\*\*WANTED\*\*** - Old Stereo Equipment, Hi-fis & Hams. Andy 651-329-0515. 12-12

Top Cash Paid! Furniture (1940s or older), rugs pictures bookcases collectibles Beer items miscellaneous. Antiques 651-227-2469. 11-12

## WINDOWS/SCREENS

Custom making/repairs. Thermal windows; fix frames, glazing. Kendall's-651-489-3210, 651-776-6996. B-12

## Registration begins for Northwest Como

Registration has begun for Northwest Como Center for Center. Registration has begun at Northwest Como Recreation Center for Youth Basketball ages 3-14. Call 651-298-5813 to see if there is still room.

Fall Classes for youth include: Tae Kwon Do, Orchestra Jam (Music), Tantalizing Taste (Science), Dry Ice Capades (Science), Babysitting Training.

New for adults: Cardio Kickboxing. Special Event: Dinner with Mr. & Mrs. Claus on Dec. 14th at Langford Recreation Center.

Register online at [www.stpaul.gov/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks), call 651-298-5813 or come into the Northwest Como Recreation Center Mon.-Thur. 3-8 p.m. and Fri 3-6 p.m.

## Women's Bible study on Jonah continues

A Bible study on the Old Testament book of Jonah continues from 6:30-8:30 p.m. alternate Wednesdays at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas in St. Paul. Upcoming dates are Oct. 17 and Nov. 7. Sessions are led on DVD by author Priscilla Shirer, discussing how to respond to big changes in life. Group discussion ensues. Cost for a workbook is \$13, with financial aid to students and other low-income women available. For information, call the church office at 651-644-1421 or e-mail Bridget at [bridgetkruchowski@comcast.net](mailto:bridgetkruchowski@comcast.net).

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# School referendum

Continued from page 1

"Kids can all better understand content and not be frustrated," she said. "As one example, they can read about volcanoes and then react to a video about volcanoes. There are a whole variety of learning examples."

With their efforts to encourage voters to vote yes for the referendum, the Strong Schools Committee has run into difficulties with signage for this election. About 500 signs left over from the 2006 referendum election proclaim "Vote yes for St. Paul kids." Also scattered throughout the state are signs with a "Vote no" message, asking voters to vote no on a proposed marriage amendment that would define marriage as between a man and a

woman, and signs calling for a No vote on a voter ID amendment that would require photo identification for all voters.

There is understandably some confusion with signs proclaiming Vote no and Vote yes. One young man, who considers himself politically aware, said he misunderstood the Vote yes for St. Paul kids sign and thought it was a sign promoting a yes vote on the marriage amendment.

"In some other states, there has been a push to get people to vote yes on the marriage amendment by saying kids are at risk," O'Connell said. "I didn't know this, but I can understand the confusion."

She said a lot of people don't understand the school referendum is on the ballot this year, and she sees the signs as an opportunity to talk to people. "Once we do that, the confusion disappears," she said. "We are asking voters to turn the ballot over and vote yes. The teachers' union is

running a 'No, No, Yes' campaign. We are trying to remain neutral and focus on our issue."

Although there has been concern by some that a vote for the school referendum will result in a 30 per cent increase in property taxes, recent comments by Chris Samuel, the county manager of Property Records and Revenue, indicate a different picture.

He said the owner of a typical St. Paul home can expect to pay less in property taxes in 2013 even if voters approve the Nov. 6 school district levy request. The total tax bill for a median-value home could drop by 5.6 per cent.

Samuel said that owners of median-valued homes in 12 of the city's 17 planning districts can expect tax reductions. These lower taxes are possible because some properties, such as commercial properties, are being hit with a greater share of the tax burden.

Greg Copeland, an opponent of the levy, said that he be-

lieves voting to renew the levy and voting for a 30 per cent tax hike are separate questions and should not have been combined into one question on the ballot.

"St. Paul is in economic distress," he said. "It is the leader in the Metro in joblessness, with 10,000 plus out of work and a 6.8 per cent unemployment rate, and foreclosures continue."

Copeland also expressed concern that the levy funding does not go directly to the classroom.

O'Connell said that if the levy does not pass, the school administration will have to deal with a \$27 million-\$32 million budget shortfall going into the next school year.

"We can't not provide mandated services, so other cuts would be significant," she said. "Three hundred sixty-four teachers' jobs would likely be cut."

She added that although St. Paul is Minnesota's second-largest school district, it has the

fifth lowest levy of the state's largest 37 districts with existing voter-approved levies.

Regarding contests between local candidates on the ballot, incumbent DFLer Sandy Pappas won a primary runoff and will face Republican Rick Karschnia in Senate District 65. DFL incumbent Dick Cohen won his primary race and is running against Sharon Anderson (R) in District 64.

John Marty (DFL), the incumbent, is being challenged by Republican Wayne Brooks in State Senate District 66.

House races in the November election feature incumbent Erin Murphy (DFL) against Andrew Ojeda (R) in 64A; Daniel Lipp (R) against incumbent Rena Moran (DFL) in District 65A; incumbent Alice Hausman (DFL) being challenged by Dave Thomas (IND) and Mark Fotsch (R) in District 66A and incumbent John Lesch (DFL) running against Ben Blomgren (R).

## In Our Community

Continued from page 9

### La Leche Group meets November 13

The Art of Breastfeeding and Overcoming Difficulties is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tuesday, November 13. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

### Library Love Fun Run or Stroll

Saturday, Oct. 13 from 9 to 10 a.m.: Walk Run or Stroll lovely Minnehaha Avenue free of traffic from the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., to Lexington and Minnehaha streets and back, and support your neighborhood library. Early bird event registration of \$20 adults; \$10 kids benefits Hamline-Midway Library; \$15 and \$25 to register day of event; registration open at 8 a.m.

Get your Library Love T-shirt

with registration at <http://librarylove3k.wordpress.com> or call Jean at 651-771-8421. Or register on site at the library at 8 a.m. day of event.

Join us afterward for the Library Love Fest and book sale, until 2 p.m., on the library grounds, inside and out.

### Feline Rescue holds Neighborhood Spay Day

Feline Rescue (593 Fairview Avenue N.) will hold a Hamline-Midway Neighborhood Spay Day and Community Open House on Sunday, October 14th from 10-1. Come tour our shelter, learn about Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), and find out how you can help when you see a stray cat in your community. We will also host a low-cost spay/neuter clinic that day at our shelter. All cats must be scheduled in advance by October 1st. For assistance with getting a community cat spayed or neutered, for more information, or to make a donation to support our efforts to help reduce the number of cats that are out on the streets or euthanized by animal control facilities, please contact Molly at 651-642-5900 ext. 4 or [outreach@felineerescue.org](mailto:outreach@felineerescue.org).

### Como Park Fall Bazaar and Meatloaf Dinner October 13

Como Park Lutheran Church Annual Fall Bazaar and Meatloaf Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 13, 1376 Hoyt Avenue West. Phone: 651-646-7127. Bazaar will run noon to 6 p.m.

Lefse, baked goods, jams, pickles, BBQ sauce, embroidered dish towels, aprons, knit goods (scarves, mittens, socks), baby goods, knit towel toppers, Halloween and Christmas decorations, jewelry, bird houses, wooden crafts, quilted items, and much more! The Meatloaf dinner will be held 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. \$8.50 adults; \$4.50 kids.

Proceeds from the meatloaf dinner go to the local Block Nurse Program. Proceeds from the bazaar support missions in Tanzania and Guatemala.

### Holiday Boutique Craft Sale October 27

Holiday Boutique Craft Sale will be held on Saturday October 27th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at North Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 301 Hatch Avenue, there are still a limited number of tables to rent so if you are interested in showing at the sale contact 651-489-5611 or Kathy at [sgt-jap@comcast.net](mailto:sgt-jap@comcast.net)

### Bethlehem Fall Craft Fair will be held October 27

Bethlehem Lutheran Fall Craft Fair will be on Saturday, Oct 27, 2012 at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will have a good variety of vendors. Lunch and Bake Sale plus a raffle.

Watch for our sign. The church can be reached at 651-646-6549. Everyone welcome to come!


### Visiting the doc with your wife

A free caregiver support group meets each second Thurs. from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at 1514 Englewood Ave. Sessions are specifically designed for caregivers to find support and exchange information. Facilitated by HM Elders staff and trained volunteers, the group is open to anyone caring for older adults or persons any age with special needs. Refreshments provided. Call HM elders (651) 209-6542 for more information. Caring for yourself is vital.

### Conservatory Fall Flower Show Oct. 6 - Nov. 25



This year's fall show will feature hundreds of chrysanthemums, ornamental peppers, and ornamental grasses that will fill the Sunken Garden with a stunning array of red, orange, yellow, gold, green, bronze, and maroon. The show will run October 6 through November 25 but the Conservatory will be closed Oct. 29-Nov. 2 for a show change.



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