



Native Plant and Expo Market planned June 4

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Center for Victims of Torture's international offices in Midway

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Transit for Livable Communities is all about movement

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# Midway Como

# Monitor



Your community newspaper since 1975

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## Galtier Elementary School headed for possible closure in 2017

Two years after "major renovation" Superintendent Valeria Silva says, "We cannot run small schools anymore"

By JANE MCCLURE

Galtier Elementary School families and supporters are fighting to keep their building open. Children, some dressed as superheroes, and their parents attended the Apr. 26 St. Paul School Board meeting to make their case to save the school at 1317 Charles Ave. They also packed an Apr. 21 community meeting at the school.

But, barring a change in heart by school district leaders, Galtier likely faces closure after the 2016-2017 academic year. That angers and frustrates parents who have worked tirelessly to bring new students to the school, with fundraising, door-knocking, and other outreach.

Galtier was extensively renovated two years ago, but many



Andrew Collins, assistant superintendent for elementary schools at St. Paul Public Schools, addresses parents, teachers and community members at an open meeting Apr. 21 on Galtier's future. (Photo by Kyle Mianulli)

parents say the district officials aren't doing enough to promote the school. They also contend that

the school district is focused more on wealthy neighborhoods and their needs, and not enough on

schools that serve an ethnically and economically diverse population. Galtier's enrollment is 89

percent children of color, with 88 percent of children receiving free or reduced-price lunches.

Galtier parents asked the School Board to hold off on a plan to expand St. Anthony Park Elementary, which is scheduled for a \$14 million expansion. But the expansion was part of the \$484 million facilities plan the board approved on a 5-2 vote Apr. 26. The Galtier parents also asked that Hamline Elementary be considered for a magnet and for the early education facilities that some school district officials have suggested could go into Galtier.

One stumbling block for Galtier is busing. Many neighborhood families opt to send

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### Story and photos

by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

After a quiet winter of training, Como Zoo's seventh Sparky the Seal is ready to take to the stage on Memorial Day weekend—kicking off the 2016 season.

The new Sparky has big flippers to fill. Her predecessor, a female named CC, retired last summer at the age of 25. Known for her elegance, CC was regarded as something of a seal diva.

Sparky VII has a very different personality, characterized by an exuberant style of swimming and diving. Her name is Subee, and she came to Como several years ago from a rescue center in California. One of her rear flippers had been severely damaged, almost certainly the result of a shark bite. The rescue center considered her unlikely to survive release, which made her an excellent candidate for zoo life.

Kelly Dinsmore is a zookeeper for Como's marine animal collection, which includes sea lions, harbor seals, polar bears, puffins, and penguins. "It's important to understand that our animals aren't taken from the wild," she said. "They're acquired either from other zoos or rescue centers."

"Our training methods are very humane," Dinsmore continued. "We don't ask the sea lions to do anything they wouldn't do on their own. Essentially, the 'tricks' Sparky performs in a show just build off of existing behaviors."

All of the training exercises are geared toward animal husbandry, and the sessions are



Subee's eyes are checked during a training session with zookeeper Becky Seivert. The zookeepers use training as a communication tool because, as they like to say, "we don't speak sea lion, and they they don't speak English."

short: only four to five minutes, three times each day. "Essentially," Dinsmore explained, "Sparky gets a full physical every time she trains. The trainer has a chance to

check her eyes, test her joints for mobility, perform an ultra sound, or even take a voluntary blood draw if needed. In captivity, a sea lion can live to be more than

30 years old (twice the average length of a life spent in the wild). By developing trust through training, we're able to manage the health care of our marine an-

### MN Legislative request

Como Zoo has requested \$14.5 million from the Minnesota legislature, as part of the current bonding bill. According to Como Friends, the zoo's nonprofit fundraising organization, the plan calls for several major upgrades including a salt-water filtration system, a shaded amphitheater, and underwater viewing areas. The multilayered habitat would give visitors more insights into the natural behaviors of marine animals, and would contribute in a positive way to zoo revenue and the local economy. It's not too late to write or call your representative to express your opinion about the bonding bill. Como Zoo applied in 2014 (the bonding bill process takes place every other year) and was denied funds.

imals in a positive way."

The training sessions are optional for Sparky and CC, but because they also serve as meal time, it's rare that a session is passed up.

CC's predecessor, Sparky V, was the first to receive a new kind of animal training at Como Zoo, called operant conditioning. This progressive approach to working with animals relies on positive reinforcement to stimulate the animal's natural behaviors and encourages them to participate in their own healthcare. Over time, the operant conditioning

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## Sparky show

Continued from page 1

program at Como was so successful that it expanded to include mammals, birds, amphibians and even reptiles.

Operant conditioning involves three steps. First, a behavior is named such as "sleep," in which the sea lion lies down as if going to sleep. Then the trainer clicks a clicker, which serves as a bridge between the behavior and the reward. Next, the trainer gives a reward: in the case of the sea lions, either a herring or a capelin fish treat.

The trainers have been practicing since early spring on the empty stage before the zoo opens, getting Subee ready for her debut. Shows will start Memorial Day weekend and continue throughout the summer. There will be one show daily Mon.-Fri. at 11:30am; Sat.-Sun. there will be two shows daily at 11:30am and 3pm.



Zookeeper Laura Engfer worked with operant conditioning on CC, using the "sleep" command. This gave her a chance to examine the surface of CC's skin and continue building trust with a gentle touch.



Zookeeper Kelly Dinsmore in front of the old large cat exhibit at Como Zoo, which was built in 1931 as a WPA Project. The concrete pens and iron bars are a reminder of how far zoos have come in education, conservation and species preservation.

## SEA LION? SEAL?

Why is Sparky a sea lion and not a seal? Sea lions have long front flippers and short back flippers. They can tuck their back flippers under and walk on land, making them much more mobile than seals.

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125 First Ave. NW, PO Box 168 • Minneapolis MN 55369  
651-645-7045

### Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

### Managing Editor:

Calvin deRuyter, editorial@deruyternelson.com

### Advertising:

Denis Woulfe (651-917-4183);  
denis@deruyternelson.com

### Production:

Tim Nelson

### Contributing Writers:

Jane McClure, Jan Willms,  
Tasha M. Christensen, Jon Knox,  
Kyle Mianulli, Jill Boogren,  
Margie O'Loughlin, Matthew Davis

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## Galtier Elementary

Continued from page 1

children to other schools including St. Anthony Park, which has almost 90 students on a waiting list for fall. Galtier parents worry that the planned expansion will draw away more pupils. District maps show more Hamline-Midway families choosing St. Anthony Park over Galtier.

Superintendent Valeria Silva made references to a possible closure of Galtier. She said that the renovations there two years ago hadn't attracted enough families. "We cannot run small schools anymore. As much as we would love to, we cannot open the doors. We don't have enough dollars."

"I think Galtier is a nicer building than the look of St. Anthony Park, but the parents say no," Silva added.

Families from Galtier and Hamline schools worked with district staff for many months to recruit students for the Hamline Midway neighborhood schools. While Hamline enrollment is on an upswing, Galtier enrollment remains low. The joint recruitment effort is on hold, although school district officials contend they continue to promote both schools.

Galtier parents don't want to merge with Hamline, which will gain more space in fall 2017 when the building's Jie Ming Chinese Immersion School moves to the Highland Park neighborhood. Some Galtier parents have said they'll take their children out of St. Paul Public Schools if Galtier closes.

At the community meeting, Galtier Principal Shawn Stebbins indicated that Galtier would need to attract at least 100 more children to stay open.



A packed room at Galtier Elementary Apr. 21, as everyone heard that the school might close after the 2016-17 school year. (Photo by Kyle Mianulli)

Selina Gante has two sons in kindergarten at Galtier. Her family loves the recently renovated building and the school staff, and she is outraged about the prospect of the school closing. "Why would you do this to a group of children who do not have enough stability in their lives?"

"There are so many reasons to tell everybody why this school is a gem and district doesn't take

advantage of it," she said. "This school is a safe and welcoming place for my kids and many others. What I'd like to say to the school board is why would you give us something so wonderful and then you take it away from us? Why would you pull the rug out from under us?"

"We as people of color have been disenfranchised for so long, in terms of the education system,"

Gante said. "It's just frustrating."

The Galtier issue has also drawn in the St. Paul Chapter of the NAACP, which urged school board members not to close Galtier and give the community more time to attract students.

Clayton and Kirstin Howatt are also Galtier parents. "We're not going to give up," Clayton Howatt said. "But keeping the school open will be an uphill battle." He said that indicating that the school could close isn't helping recruiting efforts.

Gante noted that some parents, worried about the school's uncertain future, are already looking at other options. Jackie Turner, who leads community engagement for the school district, said 17 Galtier preschool parents have chosen to send their students elsewhere for kindergarten in the fall.

"This is the first time that I have ever thought of leaving the district," said Kristin Howatt. She went K-12 through St. Paul Public Schools. "If Galtier closes, my kids won't be in St. Paul Public Schools any more. I have lost trust that kids matter."

The school district estimates put 144 students K-5 at Galtier for fall, plus 60 preschoolers. The building can hold 469 pupils.

Galtier was a science, math, and technology magnet before becoming a neighborhood school again. Galtier and other

schools were affected five years ago after the school district made sweeping changes to schools and school choice as part of the "Strong Schools, Strong Communities" effort. Some schools have grown while some neighborhood schools have suffered.

Hamline Elementary parents are watching on the sidelines. Hamline Elementary has a capacity of 583 students and a projected enrollment of 269 K-5 and 40 preschoolers for fall. After Jie Ming moves there would be room for Galtier students.

Hamline parent Jessica Kopp said parents there enjoyed working with Galtier parents on promoting neighborhood schools. "We are heartbroken for the Galtier community because we understand what it's like to wonder and worry about the future of a place you love," she said. "The Hamline community wondered and worried about their future from early May 2015 until the end of February 2016—that's a long time to have a worried heart, and it's a long time to work so hard for something and be unsure of the outcome. The Hamline Midway Community Schools process worked well for Hamline, and if it didn't work for Galtier, we hope they have more time and the opportunity and support to become a permanent fixture in the Hamline Midway neighborhood."

## Monitor In A Minute

### Sustainable St. Paul honors given

Area residents and groups are winners of the 2016 Sustainable St. Paul awards. Mayor Chris Coleman and City Council members presented the awards Apr. 20,

just before Earth Day. This is the tenth year for the awards, which are given to salute energy efficiency, natural resource conservation, environmental education, beautification, youth leadership, and environmentally sustainable partnerships.

Chris Duffrin was honored for energy efficiency and conservation. Duffrin was executive director of the Neighborhood Energy Connection (NEC) for eight years. Under Duffrin's leadership NEC, 1754 University Ave. W., expanded residential energy audits, energy-focused home loans, and the HOURCAR car-sharing program.

Frogstown Park and Farm was honored for natural resources conservation. The project is the culmination of a multi-year, multi-partner effort that started with a neighborhood dream to create an urban farm. The result is a 13-acre neighborhood park with a play area, nature sanctuary, and urban demonstration farm in what was Saint Paul's most park-poor neigh-

borhood. The Frogstown community now has a park with a farm situated on top of a hill, which will serve as a hub for health, recreation, local food, and a connection to nature. A new playground will be completed later this year.

### Places to gather

Watch in the future for "lawn chairs" of a different type. One of the St. Paul civic projects that won a Knight Foundation Knight Cities Challenge will transform the front lawns of homes and apartment buildings into places where people can gather. The grant for \$82,400 will be used at a couple dozen Hamline-Midway and Frogstown area homes, and will be partnered with the Friendly Streets Initiative.

The project is the idea of Max Musicant, a Minneapolis resident and founder of the Musicant Group. He wants to transform what are often empty spaces into places where people can meet and gather. He will offer advice and

kits to help neighbors transform their front yards.

### Shared-use trail eyed May 18

A dirt path along Pierce Butler Rte. could become a shared use trail. The St. Paul City Council will host a public hearing at 5:30pm on Wed., May 18 on the proposed trail, which would run from the southeast corner of the intersection of Pierce Butler Rte. and Dunlap St. to the shared-use trail along the west side of Lexington Ave.

The public can testify for or against the project. It would be city-funded, to the tune of \$160,000 in capital improvement bond dollars. Neighbors would not be assessed.

Pierce Butler Rte. is an east-west arterial roadway with one lane of through traffic in each direction. There are dedicated bicycle lanes in both directions and a two-way left turn lane. There is already a shared-use trail along the west side of Lexington Pkwy. from Minnehaha Ave. to Horton Ave., at the Como Park Zoo. Both Lexington Ave. and the shared-use trail that runs alongside it are grade-separated over Pierce Butler Rte.

The new trail would be paved with bituminous material and would be on the south side of Pierce Butler. The St. Paul Department of Public Works sees it as a needed connection between existing bicycle facilities. Bicyclists, walkers, and joggers already use the dirt trail.

Construction would take place later this summer or fall if it wins City Council approval. Any nearby ash trees would be removed, along with one or two coniferous trees and some shrubs. Two large deciduous trees that are near the trail's path would remain in place.

(Compiled by JANE MCCLURE)

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**Extreme rainfall.** Kenny Blumenfeld, a Senior Climatologist at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, told the recent Governor's Water Summit that our MN rainfall pattern is beyond the range of historical probability. Annual precipitation increased 10-15 percent from 1985 to 2007. Heavy downpours are twice as frequent as they were 100 years ago. "Unprecedented" rainfall events are possible in the coming years, and will become the norm by 2025.

Warmer temperatures increase the evaporation of water into vapor. Warmer air can hold more water vapor than cooler air. When the vapor condenses into rain, there's more of it to fall. Blumenfeld called the increasing intensity and frequency of rainfall the "smoking gun" of climate change.

What is extreme rainfall? A lot of rain falling in a very short time. It can be several inches within a few hours, or rain falling for days at a time. The July 1987 "Superstorm" dropped 9 inches of rain at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport in 6 hours.

While heavy rain can make travel dangerous and result in power outages, the real problem is stormwater runoff: when the rain cannot soak into the ground. Water runs off our yards, driveways, parking lots and streets. Sometimes it flows into our rain gardens and stormwater ponds, but too often it runs directly into our storm sewers.

Stormwater runoff threatens our water quality. Sediment, litter, leaves, pesticides, fertilizers and oil waste flow through our storm sewers into our waterways. Lakes and rivers are polluted, aquatic ecosystems impaired, and recreational use spoiled.

The runoff contributes to flooding. Infrastructure built for 20th-century precipitation patterns cannot handle the rapid influx of rainwater. Drainage systems, roads, and stormwater holding ponds are overwhelmed. Since 2000, federal, state and local government agencies have spent \$350 million in Minnesota to repair flood damage.

Finally, we need the rainwater to recharge our groundwater supply. Minnesota's groundwater use has increased 35% in the last 25 years. Rain held in the soil has time to filter contaminants and seep down to replenish aquifers. We need this water to prevent future water shortages.

What can we do to adapt to the extreme rainfall and stormwater runoff?

Let's start with our yards:

- **Aerate your lawn.** Residential lawns tend to be highly com-



Rain gardens slow stormwater runoff while adding beauty to our streets.

# Ready and Resilient Hamline Midway

By TRUDY DUNHAM

## Patterns tend toward extreme rain events as the norm by 2025

packed and absorb little water. Removing small plugs of soil or punching holes in the ground with an aerator helps the lawn to soak up more water.

- **Let your grass grow taller.** Grass roots are about as long as grass blades. Longer roots mean better water absorption, so consider letting your grass grow to a height of 2.5-3.5 inches.

- **Replace some grass with native plants.** Even if taller, grass is inferior to native shrubs and wildflowers at absorbing and retaining water. The extensive root systems of native plants keep soil from washing away and increase the amount of water the soil can absorb. Plants are especially important in areas where stormwater runoff collects. Consider installing a rain garden.

- **Add mulch and compost.** Cover any bare soil with mulch

or wood chips to reduce runoff and prevent soil from washing away. Compost can improve the soil structure and nutrient content, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers. It also retains a lot of water, reduces runoff and filters pollutants. Consider adding 2-4" of organic material each year.

- **Protect urban trees.** The root system of a single large tree can absorb up to 100 gallons of water in a day. Tree canopies also slow the rainfall and spread it over a larger area.

Some maintenance issues to consider:

- **Keep your trees trimmed.** Branches are more likely to break off in severe storms, falling on roofs, cars and power lines where they can inflict more damage.

- **Pick up pet waste.** When pet waste becomes part of the storm

runoff, it adds disease-producing organisms, further impairing the water quality.

- **Clean your gutters.** Flush your gutters to keep rainfall away from your house foundation. If they still overflow, consider installing wider "elbows."

- **Pick up trash.** Pick up litter in your street and along the boulevard so it isn't swept down the storm sewer in a storm. If leaf debris collects between City street sweepings, consider raking and recycling it. Clear debris from around the storm drains.

If you are considering renovation or landscaping:

- **Use permeable surfaces.** If you are replacing a driveway or patio, consider permeable pavers. Gravel, flagstones, and bricks allow water to soak in between them.

- **5% slope:** Make sure that the yard slopes away from the house



Rain falling on bare soil increases the sediment runoff and pollution of our waterways. (Photo by David L. Hansen, University of Minnesota Extension Service)



Stormwater holding ponds add water features to our urban landscape but were not built to contain the rainfall of an extreme storm. (Photo by David L. Hansen, University of Minnesota Extension Service)

a minimum of 5%, to minimize possible drainage into your basement.

- **Catch or slow the runoff:** If your lawn slopes, consider installing a rain garden or berm to prevent or slow stormwater from flowing into the street. Install a rain barrel or cistern to catch stormwater runoff from your roof.

- **Channel the water:** Direct your gutter downspout into your yard, not onto a paved surface. Consider incorporating slight slopes or ditches into your landscaping to slow the runoff, and channel it where you want it to go.

Be ready—the storms are coming! Do what you can to prevent stormwater runoff. We'll need it for the water shortages to come.

The Ready and Resilient Hamline Midway project is an initiative of the Hamline Midway Environmental Group (HMEG) to build climate change resiliency in our community.

# NeighborhoodLIFT program returns to the Twin Cities

Matching down payment assistance grants offered for eligible home buyers

Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE: WFC), NeighborWorks® America and its network member NeighborWorks Home Partners held a press conference on May 10 to officially announce the 2016 NeighborhoodLIFT® program for Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The press conference was the official kick-off to the 2016 NeighborhoodLIFT program expansion, a \$5 million commitment by Wells Fargo to help boost homeownership in the Twin Cities.

The NeighborhoodLIFT program is the single largest corporate philanthropic effort investment by Wells Fargo. Wells Fargo first launched the NeighborhoodLIFT program in the Twin Cities in 2012 which created 422 homeowners through home buyer education and down payment assistance grants.

Wells Fargo has committed more than \$292 million to LIFT programs with 42 home buyer events in communities across the United States to support the revitalization of communities.

The 2016 Twin Cities NeighborhoodLIFT program is estimated to create 450 additional homeowners with matching down payment assistance grants

up to \$7,500 for eligible home buyers. Interested home buyers will have an opportunity to attend a free home buyer event on June 10-11 in Minneapolis to determine eligibility and reserve matching down payment assistance grants ranging from \$2500 up to \$7500.

Registration is open at [www.NeighborhoodLIFT.com](http://www.NeighborhoodLIFT.com) where

home buyers can learn more about the matching down payment assistance program and eligibility requirements.

"Making homeownership more affordable will help hard-working families and individuals achieve homeownership and strengthen neighborhoods within the Twin Cities," said Joe Ravens, Wells Fargo's Communi-

ty Banking Minnesota regional president. "While mortgages are available at relatively low interest rates, the NeighborhoodLIFT program can help families overcome the barrier of coming up with a sufficient down payment to buy a home."



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• Como Park Robotics (aka BEASTbot Team 2855) participated in the 10,000 Lakes Regional Competition at the U of M's Williams Arena over spring break, and advanced to the State Tournament! Out of 200 Robotics teams in the state, the top 30 qualify for the culminating state event on May 21 at Mariucci Arena. BEASTbot also won the prestigious Entrepreneurship Award at the 10,000 Lakes Regional, earning an addition to Como's trophy case.

The Como Robotics team has 27 members this season and is captained by Senior Evan Hulick and junior Marie Wulff. The team's coaches are Como teachers Donna Norberg and Mike Fischer, assisted by former Como Principal Dan Mesick. For those interested in supporting the team, fans are invited to a pep fest on May 19 at 2:15pm in the Como Gym. Supporters are also welcome at Mariucci for the competition. Feel free to contact donna.norberg@spps.org with any questions.

• The Como spring play was a humorous and whimsical production called "30 Reasons Not To Be in a Play." Written by Alan Haehnel, Como's performers were directed by Allison Hartzell. The cast included Anna Anzaldo, Camryn Borrego, Alyssa Clark, Margaret Coyne, Grace Fick, Erianna Jiles, Madeline McPhee, Madison Moody, Nicolas Otte, Heather Rogers, Lillian Rogers, Minna Stillwell-Jardin, and Norah Vitalli. Audiences enjoyed the show in the Como Auditorium at the end of April.

• The Ordway Honors Concert was held on Apr. 19, with top performing students from across St. Paul joining forces for a fantastic night of music. Como Choir students selected for the Ordway were Olivia Berven, Rebekah Blesi, Alyssa Clark, Margaret Coyne, Angel Khang, Emily LaCroix-Dalluhn, Kou Lee, Chimgeng Jimmy Lor, Oo Meh, Nicolas Otte, Anthony Phelps, Justine Sanchez, Granda Sayavong, Adam Swanson, Patsy Thaiyeng, Divine Uchegbu, Sara Lee Yang, and Yue Pheng Yang. The Como Choir's Spring Farewell Concert is Thur., May 19 at 7pm in the Como Auditorium. It will be a chance to hear some of the music

# News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

## Como Robotics team earns trophy, moves on to State



The Como Park Robotics team, also known as "BEASTbot," poses with their state tournament qualifying robot at the 10,000 Lakes Regional at Williams Arena on Apr. 9. Out of 200 teams in Minnesota, Como finished in the Top 30, advancing to the state finals at Mariucci Arena on May 21 (see story).

the Choir's touring students will sing at Carnegie Hall on May 28, as the New York City trip approaches!

• Como Orchestra and Band students that performed in the Ordway Honors Concert included Mariah Williams, Christian Berger, Vincent Portuese, Peter Schik, Martin-malik Williams, Theodore Lucy, Henry Hanson, Ellie Thorsgaard, Joe McCune-Zierath, Bridget Proper, Eva Hanson, Max Narvaez, Shyann Salverda, Chrys Sowards, Tuomas Sivula, Thomas Quinn, Noah Frese, Dominic Wolters, Tyrin Anderson, Justin Rogers, and Jackson Kerr. In the most recent state high school festival, the Como Strings received a superior grade in the solo/ensemble category, and the Como Band received an award of excellence for large group ensemble.

• The Como Apps club completed and submitted their technology app, which is called "YOU, Because Your Mental Health Matters" to the Technovation Challenge on Apr. 21. Como Apps club members Marie Wulff, Josie Schermerhorn,

Hannah Rhee, Ellie Thorsgaard and CharDay Vincal, had after school meetings for months to plan, design, code, and create a business plan and pitch for their app, which is now entered in a global competition!

Their app has a mood tracking calendar, calming sounds, games, coloring, and resources to help the user take control of their mental health. As the *Monitor* went to press, the team was preparing to pitch their app at the Minneapolis Convention Center at an event called "Appapoolooza."

• Como French students participated in the annual "A Vous La Parole" language contest at the University of Minnesota on Apr. 28. Students presented Franco-phone songs, readings, poems, and theater skits at the event. Excellent and creative performances were fun to prepare, and were well received, as Como students earned a combined 47 medals for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place results.

• The first two weeks of May are an intensive time for students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) classes, as AP Exams are administered for 20 different courses at Como. In total, over 500 student exams will be taken at Como. The AP exams students choose to take are a culminating assessment of the study and knowledge gained from the rigorous and enlightening courses. AP courses are instructed by Como teachers and regulated by the AP College Board.

• A "Taste of Como" is an annual get together at Como when families bring food to share that reflects their home culture and del-

icacies. Over a hundred students and families gathered on Apr. 26 in the Como cafeteria to celebrate the diverse and delicious food experience.

• Facility improvements were also on the agenda Apr. 26, as the third design meeting for Como community members took place in anticipation of building construction projects slated to begin next school year. A new front entry, commons area, cafeteria, and classroom space are all part of the Facilities Master Plan to invest and upgrade in Como Park High School's physical space. The designs are exciting for students, staff and parents, and will create more functional, flexible and technologically advanced learning environments.

• 39 11th grade Academy of Finance (AOF) students culminated months of mentoring with

Federal Reserve Bank officers by spending a full "Day at The Fed." Fed employees came to Como monthly throughout the year to conduct mock interviews, analyze markets, and run a stock market activity. AOF juniors spent Apr. 29 at the Minneapolis Fed, including meeting Federal Reserve Bank President and CEO Neel Kashkari. The President explained key monetary policies, but also challenged students to advance their skills, study with discipline, and have a hunger for reaching their goals. Students also spent time in career networking simulations with Fed professionals, were given customized tours of the Federal Reserve facility, and enjoyed two high-quality first-class meals.

• Graduation is right around the corner for the Class of 2016! The Senior All-Night Graduation Party on June 9 is supported and sponsored The Como Park Booster Club. The Booster Club is accepting more volunteers and community partners willing to help. This event provides Como's graduating seniors with a safe, fun environment to celebrate with friends. Donations or questions can be directed to comoparkboosterclub@gmail.com.

### Registration now open for summer camps

Register NOW for summer camps and classes at [stpaul.gov/activityregistration](http://stpaul.gov/activityregistration). Note that the number in parenthesis following events is the Activity #.

- Adult Cooking From The Fields Classes: June 14 (18076) & June 15 (18077)
- Birding Camp, ages 7-12 (18186)
- Soccer Stars, ages 4-11 at Northwest Como
- Taekwondo at Northwest Como and North Dale
- Artist Workshop Camp, ages 7-16 (18125)
- Artist Workshop Classes, ages 5-18 at Northwest Como
- Archery Camp, grades 3-12 (12151)
- Outdoor Adventure/Science & Swimming Camp, ages 7-11 (3643)
- Minecraft Game Designer Camp, ages 6-10 (9268)
- Snag Golf Camp, ages 5-10 (9263)
- Adult Pickle Ball Camp (17949)
- Adult Doubles Tennis at North Dale
- Engineering: Pirate Academy, ages 4-6 (17960)
- Advanced Minecraft Using Mods, Redstone & Textures Camp, ages 10-15 (17935)
- Engineering Olympiad Camp, ages 7-13 (17961)
- Flag Football Camp, ages 6-12 (15003)
- Adults Sign With Your Baby (17994)
- Theatre: iPerform ages 5-14 (14189)
- Bike Basics for Students, ages 8-14 (18015)
- Girls Group, ages 8-13 (4332)
- Art Camp, ages 6-17 at Langford
- Mini Hawk Camp, ages 4-7 (12398)
- SchoolHouse Chess Camp, ages 6-12 (12406)
- Babysitting Training American Red Cross, ages 11-17 (17995)
- Bike Basics for All, ages 10-adult (18014)
- Basketball Camp, ages 7-12 (12493)
- Soo Bahk Do, ages 5 & Up (4556)

For questions or help with registration, call your Recreation Center:

Northwest Como (1550 Hamline Ave. N.), 651-298-5813  
North Dale (1414 St Albans St. N.), 651-558-2329  
Langford (30 Langford Park), 651-298-5765

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Spring is a great time to stroll over to the Hamline Midway Library at 1558 West Minnehaha and check out a wide range of special programs for all ages.

The library features Preschool Storytimes on Fridays from 10:30-11am, with upcoming storytimes on May 13, 20, and 27 and June 3 and 10. Storytimes include stories, songs, puppets, and more. They're a fabulous way for young children and their caregivers to enjoy bonding time together while building a foundation for learning success. Children of all activity levels are welcome.

The Kids' Book Clubs meet Sat., May 14 and Sat., June 4. Kids ages 8-11 meet 1:30-2:15pm, and kids ages 11-14 meet 2:30-3:15pm. Readers get a chance to share their favorite books, enjoy snacks, and celebrate reading through discussion, activities, and games. New members are always welcome.

The Hamline Midway Elders present Chair Yoga on Thur.,

## News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

### Spring events are flowering at the public library

May 19 and 26, and June 2, 9, and 16 from 10:30-11:30am. All movement is done while seated or using a chair for balance. The class is taught by Nancy Giguere.

On Sat., May 21, 1-2pm, join the Baby Boomers Book Club to discuss Mitch Albom's book "Have a Little Faith." This book club is designed to bring baby boomers together to discuss books relevant to the concerns and questions of their generation. Expect to laugh, connect, and come away with some new perspectives about life as a baby boomer. Co-sponsored by the Hamline Midway Elders.

Teens Reading Bravely meets

on Sat., May 21 and Sat., June 11, from 3-4pm. Teens grades 9 and up read and discuss books that would fall under the "Read Brave" genre of books that tackle challenging, timely topics in innovative ways.

Jody's Documentary Film Series continues on Wed., May 25, 1-3pm, with the POV documentary "All the Difference" directed by Tod Lending. Two African-American teens from the South Side of Chicago dream of graduating from high school and going to college, even though statistics predict they'll drop out. Oscar-nominated producer/director Lending follows the two

young men as they work hard, overcome setbacks, and discover that support from teachers, family, and mentors makes all the difference. This is a special opportunity to view this film before it premieres on PBS in September 2016.

The library will be closed from Sat., May 28-through Mon., May 30 for the Memorial Day weekend, so plan to stock up on your long weekend reading materials early!

Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club meets on Sat., June 4, 1-3pm. Contact Geraldine Balter at gerribalter@gmail.com or 651-224-5570 for more information.

Evening/Pajama Storytimes return on Tuesdays in June, with upcoming storytimes on June 7 and 14 from 6:30-7pm. Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animals and blankets to enjoy storytimes before bedtime.

On Sat., June 11, 2:30-4pm, the library hosts Optimal Well Being with educator Jim Rose. Rose will share a simple meditation technique that can help the body, mind, and spirit.

Finally, the Hamline Midway Library Association is seeking volunteers who'd enjoy working in the library's pollinator-friendly gardens to keep the grounds looking beautiful. If you're interested in helping, whether it's on a one-time basis or more regularly, contact Carrie Pomeroy at carriepomeroy@icloud.com or 651-645-1196. No gardening experience is necessary; volunteers are available to help train you on what's a weed and what's a desirable plant!

### Landlord or tenant workshops

District 10 is partnering with HOME Line to offer tenant and landlord workshops in June. The workshops are free, but registration is required: sign up at [www.district10comopark.org/rental\\_workshops.html](http://www.district10comopark.org/rental_workshops.html).

- The Tenant Workshop will focus on the three biggest sources of renter complaints: repairs, evictions, and security deposits. It takes place on Thur., June 2 from 5-6:30pm.

- The Landlord Workshop is designed for property owners and managers, whether they rent out a single-family home or multiple units. Topics include the application process, discrimination and fair housing issues, repairs, bedbugs, evictions, and requirements about when a landlord can or cannot enter an apartment. The Landlord workshop takes place on Tue., June 7 from 6:30-8:30pm.

Both workshops will leave plenty of time for specific questions. Both workshops are at the Como Park Streetcar Station, at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

### Tell us how to build better block clubs

The District 10 Como Community Council is partnering with the Como Park Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program to revitalize block clubs in our neighborhood. To do that, we need your opinions.

Please take our survey. Tell us your priorities so we can all do a better job of connecting with our neighbors and looking out for one another. You can take the survey online at [www.surveymonkey.com/t/blockclubs](http://www.surveymonkey.com/t/blockclubs).

## Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director

### Workshops, block clubs, garage sales, and ComoFest all in play

#### Neighborhood Garage Sale

The annual Como Neighborhood Garage Sale takes place this Sat., May 14. Last year, 50 homes participated—making it a great day to do browsing, buying and socializing while barely leaving home. To find out who's participating and who's selling what, go to the District 10 website at [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org). You can download a map and list of sales.

#### Stop taking your life into your hands

District 10, Saint Paul Police, and the citywide "Stop for Me" campaign will raise the visibility of pedestrian safety—literally—with a crosswalk event at one of our neighborhood's most dangerous intersections.

The safety and enforcement event on Tue., May 19 from 5:30-7:30pm, takes place on Lexington Pkwy. at East Como Lake Dr. That crosswalk, where park paths cross Lexington north of the Pavilion, is the second-most-dangerous intersection for pedestrians, according to a survey of neighborhood residents. The May 19 safety event will educate drivers that state law requires them to stop for pedestrians in every crosswalk, every time.

Como, Front, and Dale is the most dangerous intersection for pedestrians to cross, according to

District 10's survey of residents. A safety event at that intersection is planned for fall.

#### Share your garden seeds and more

District 10's Environment Committee is hosting the first-ever Como Seed and Seedling Share. The free event is Sat., May 21 from 11am-2pm at the Como Park Streetcar Station, northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

The exchange is a rare, inexpensive opportunity to share seeds, seedlings, advice, and gardening stories with neighbors—whether you've been gardening for years or are just getting started.

Organizers Alison Goetzman and Dawn Lamm encourage neighbors to share excess seeds, seedlings, and perennial divisions and add new variety to their yard, patio or window sill. For more information, email [comoseedsavers@gmail.com](mailto:comoseedsavers@gmail.com) or look up "Como Seed and Seedling Share" on Facebook.

#### New board members

Congratulations to the four newly elected District 10 board members, and to the four current members who won re-election during the 2016 annual meeting. On the new side of the equation: João Medeiros, the current secretary, was elected vice-chair; Mon-

zong Cha was elected in Sub-District 4; Melissa Finnegan and Melissa Liu were elected At-Large. Re-elected were treasurer Amy Perna, Jon Heyer in Sub-District 1, Kim Moon in Sub-District 2, and Deb Pursley in Sub-District 3.

#### ComoFest plans something new

There will be more to ComoFest in 2016, with family fun and events every weekend in July. District 10's annual Ice Cream Social on Fri., July 15, is one of the events. One of the new twists this year: outdoor bocce, sponsored by Half-Time Rec.

For a peek at this year's calendar, a link to sign up for the 5K Run and Walk, and a link to

register to exhibit at the Art Fair, go to [www.comofest.com](http://www.comofest.com).

#### Pick up a recycling bin

The Como Park Streetcar Station is back to its normal summer hours. That means the historic station is open from noon-4pm every Sunday between now and the end of September. A District 10 board member will be on hand to distribute recycling bins, organics composting bags, or just take your comments and suggestions. The Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

#### Get D10 news every week

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

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# Native Plant and Expo Market planned June 4 at Cub Pavilion

The annual metro-wide go-to event for native plants and educational exhibits is right on Larpenteur Ave.

By MARIA HERD

Looking to add flowers and greenery to your property? Hoping to attract butterflies and birds to your garden, or make a difference in helping Minnesota wildlife? Do you want to learn more about plants that are native to the state? If you answer yes to any of the questions, look no further than the Native Plant and Expo Market on Sat., June 4 at the Cub Foods Community Pavilion, 1201 Larpenteur Ave W., Roseville.

"This is the go-to event in the Twin Cities if you're interested in native plants," said Nancy Schumacher, who owns The Vagary, a native plant growing business. Schumacher has been growing native plants with her husband for over 30 years and has participated in the annual Native Plant and Expo Market many times.

Attendance has increased over the years. In 2011, there were 400 attendees. Last year 1,800 people purchased plants at the market.

"This is a robust event because it's hard to find native plants in the metro area," said Leslie Pilgrim, event organizer and a volunteer at the non-profit Wild Ones that promotes Native



The 2015 Native Plant and Expo Market saw great crowds. Last year 1800 people purchased plants at the market. Get there early to get the very best selection of plants for your yard! (Photo by Karen Eckman)

Plant education in the Twin Cities.

According to Schumacher, Twin Cities residents have to drive about 30-40 miles out of town to purchase native plants. Her business is located 30 miles south in Randolph. Many growers like Schumacher do not have a retail store and instead come to into the Cities for farmers markets and events like the Expo Market.

"The idea is: let's bring all these growers together in the cities for a one-day event," she said.

A total of 12 growers are participating this year, and will be selling everything from potted flowers to shrubs and trees.

### Why native plants?

"Native plants are multifunctional," explained Pilgrim. "They have deep roots, conserve soil, filtrate

water, provide pollen and nectar, and serve as a resource for birds."

Many factors nowadays threaten pollinators' habitats like climate change, land development, pesticides and non-native plants.

Choosing plants that are native to Minnesota and pesticide-free provides "clean food" for wildlife, said Pilgrim.

In addition, non-native plants "are not going to supply the same quality and quantity of nectar [as natives]," said Schumacher.

Many pollinators—like bees, butterflies, and birds—are dependent on specific plants for their survival.

"Insects are picky eaters," Pilgrim explained. "Sometimes they don't recognize these other plants [non-natives] as a food source or even a plant," she said. This is because native plants have co-evolved with native insects and birds for thousands of years.

For example, monarch butterflies are dependent on milkweed for food and to lay eggs; they cannot survive on other plants.

Their populations have declined by 90 percent in the last 20 years, says the National Wildlife Federation, which has prompted many communities to take action.

In March, Mayor Chris Coleman and Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges signed the Mayors' Monarch Pledge to restore habitats in the community and encourage citizens to join the cause. The Twin Cities are the 100th locale nationwide to take the pledge.

Monarchs will migrate from Mexico to the upper Midwest this summer, just in time for the Native Plant and Expo Market. Four types of Milkweed, which Monarchs naturally thrive on, will be available to purchase at the event.

Furthermore, native plants are more sustainable and ready to deal with Minnesota's harsh winters.

"They are the toughest plants you can get it because they're from here, so they have evolved to deal with our winters, climate factors, and soil conditions," said Schumacher.

These plants are like an investment, said Pilgrim, because you know that they will come back next year.

When enough people invest in native plants in a neighborhood, these small patches connect and are called habitat corridors, according to an event press release. These corridors allow an-

imals to move across the landscape and offset wildlife losses due to land development.

"If you don't have host plants, you don't have insects, and you don't have wildlife," said Pilgrim.

### Educating the community

The Native Plant and Expo Market is more than just a sale; it's an educational event for the community.

There will be a total of 12 exhibition educational participants at this year's market to educate the public on environmental issues and assist customers in choosing plants that would be right for their property and Minnesota wildlife.

"They are all there strictly as volunteers wanting to get the word out about native plants and pollinators," said Schumacher.

This year's participants include Restoring the Landscape, Sue Prints Plants, St. Paul Audubon Society, University of Minnesota Bee Lab and Bee Squad, Monarch Joint Venture, Wild Ones, Blue Thumb, Capital Region Watershed, Ramsey Conservation District, Minnesota Wildflowers Information, Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area and the Minnesota Native Plant Society.

These volunteers have a wide variety of expertise and are willing to share their advice for free, said Pilgrim.

According to Schumacher, this is a fairly competitive industry so plant prices at the market are about the same as they would be at a garden center.

She sells her smallest plants for a \$1 a pop in a six pack, \$3 for plants that are a little larger around 3.5 inches, and \$8-10 for gallon potted plants. Out-back nursery shrubs and trees sold by other growers are naturally more expensive. According to one of the grower participant's online catalog, smaller trees cost as low as \$21.45, and big trees can cost up to \$160.

While some large-scale environmental issues make people feel powerless as individuals, investing in native plants to restore wildlife is a "practical solution" according to Pilgrim.

"Even if you have a small space, a pot on the back patio or an apartment balcony, you can still make a difference. What you plant matters," she said.

# Roselawn Cemetery

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# The Center for Victims of Torture: “One of Minnesota’s best-kept secrets”

Story and photo  
by MARGIE O’LOUGHLIN

According to executive director Curt Goering, the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) is one of Minnesota’s best-kept secrets—and he and his staff are working hard to change that. With their international headquarters at 2356 University Ave. W. and offices in Atlanta, GA, Jordan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda, CVT staff are helping restore dignity to those who have suffered torture around the world.

CVT was founded 31 years ago by former Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich. Perpich’s son was a law student at the time, and came home one day to ask his father, “What are you doing in your role as governor to support the work of human rights?” Out of that conversation between father and son, CVT had its beginnings.

The human rights movement was coming into its own in the mid-1980’s. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch were becoming well established. As human rights advocacy continued to gain momentum, the need for rehabilitation of torture victims in all corners of the world was becoming clear.

CVT was the first, and is still is the largest, organization in the US dealing with the rehabilitation of torture victims. From the beginning, CVT established itself as a place where clients could receive the very best quality of care. Goering said, “Between them, our staff has hundreds of years of experience collectively.”

Separate from their adminis-



Curt Goering (left), executive director, and Beth Wickum (right), volunteer coordinator. Wickum said, “The staff and volunteers here at CVT make me believe every day that positive change is possible.”

trative offices, CVT has a healing center in the nearby Summit-University neighborhood. The building was specially designed with its clientele in mind. The therapy and meeting rooms aren’t square like interrogation rooms might be, and there are no bright lights overhead. The spaces feel warm and inviting, more like a home than an office.

“At any given time,” Goering explained, “we serve about 250 clients who may be suffering from chronic pain, PTSD, major de-

pression, and anxiety disorders. We estimate that there are between 30,000-40,000 torture survivors living in Minnesota. Not all of them require our therapeutic services but for those who do, we’re here to help.”

Volunteer coordinator Beth Wickum added, “Since the beginning, we’ve had a steady stream of volunteers eager to support human rights immigrants in any way they could. Most of our clients are backlogged in the process of applying for political

asylum. While that can be very overwhelming, we’ve learned that the small details of life can also be surprisingly hard.”

“I had a client call me from a grocery store not long ago,” Wickum said. “She had gone on a simple errand to buy a bottle of stain remover. There were 16 different kinds on the shelf, and she couldn’t figure out which one to buy. We have a dizzying array of choices to sift through in this country, so even a small decision can sometimes seem big. Every volunteer role with CVT is about building empowerment; we try to help our clients access their own resiliency.”

“Toward that end,” Wickum continued, “we may pair a volunteer with a client to help them learn to navigate public transportation. They’ll go out and practice riding the bus or train together, so the client understands what change to bring and how to use schedules and transfers. Our volunteers work on cultivating trusting relationships. The time spent with clients is a way to practice English conversation, to learn about amenities in the Twin Cities like the Como Conservatory, the library system, the parks and trails, the art museums.”

“Some of our volunteer roles include direct client contact and some, like working in the office or helping to organize a special event, do not. If you want to have a volunteer role that involves direct contact, be aware that the person you’re working with may or may not choose to share details about their past. So much

depends on culture and individual personality. You don’t have to worry about acting as their therapist—we already have plenty of those.”

Information about volunteering with CVT can be found online at <http://www.cvt.org/what-you-can-do/volunteer>.

Cynthia McArthur has been a volunteer with CVT for 19 years. “Our volunteers are a vital part of the rehabilitation process,” she said. “It’s one of the ways we welcome people not just into services, but into the life of the community here.”

McArthur heads up CVT’s bike program. Formerly a trained car mechanic, she brings a wealth of knowledge to the scores of used bikes CVT receives each year. Got a used bike, helmet, pump or light to donate? Contact Sarah Heneley, CVT’s direct response officer, at [sheneley@cvt.org](mailto:sheneley@cvt.org).

Instead of buying new bikes or equipment, please consider a cash or credit card donation to CVT. Local bike shops, Grand Performance and Boehm’s Cycle, have generously agreed to sell these items to CVT at cost.

Goering concluded, “The largest national populations we’re serving right now are Karen (a minority group from Burma), Bhutanese, Ethiopian, and Somali. They’re people who’ve already settled in this area, and some have brought with them the agony of having experienced torture. Their need is very real. CVT is working toward a future where torture no longer exists, and where victims have hope for a new life.”

## Upcoming summer events at Hamline University

**MAY 21**

### Commencement

Commencement ceremonies and other activities will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, for undergraduate and graduate students. We ask for your patience as we welcome friends and families of our graduates to the neighborhood.

[hamline.edu/commencement](http://hamline.edu/commencement)

**JUNE 20-24**

### Minnesota Private College Week

Attend an open house, go on a tour, and learn more about Hamline during this week for prospective undergraduate students and their parents.

651-523-2207

**JUNE 20**

### Graduate Programs Info Session

Join us at CHS Field, home of the Saint Paul Saints and Hamline baseball, for a fun and informative evening to learn about Hamline’s graduate degree programs in business, education, and creative writing. Networking, a program, and refreshments from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Securian Club inside CHS Field.

[hamline.edu/gradprograms](http://hamline.edu/gradprograms)

**JUNE 21**

### Summer Solstice Jazz Evening

Grab a blanket and join the Hamline Jazz Combo for music on the Anderson Center Patio at 4:30 p.m. and special guest, local jazz legend Debbie Duncan, at 6 p.m. This event is free and open to all.

For a full listing of events, please visit [hamline.edu/events-listing.html](http://hamline.edu/events-listing.html).





# Transit for Livable Communities working to better Midway Como

For Executive Director Jessica Treat, definition of 'transit' is about movement

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

A trip to Europe planted a seed that grew into a planning career for Midway resident Jessica Treat.

Treat grew up in suburban Bloomington, MN and then attended college in Tempe, AZ, a place of massive urban sprawl. When she had the chance to travel to Europe, she saw how things could be different.

Back home, she enrolled in a planning class. "I learned that the environment we have around us is of our choosing," Treat observed. "If you want to have a place that's oriented towards cars that's what you'll get, but you don't have to."

She also learned it takes a community to agitate for change.

Treat brings those lessons to her position as the executive director of Transit for Livable Communities (TLC), 2356 University Ave. W. She was named to the position this past January.

"Transit for Livable Communities is very enthusiastic about this next chapter for our organization," said board chair Adam Welle. "Jessica Treat is a smart, strategic leader and a passionate advocate for transit, bicycling, and walking in the region. Under her direction, Transit for Livable Communities will be well-positioned to advance our mission, grow our impact, and create



When Treat bicycles with her six-year-old daughter from their home on Snelling to her sister's house in Falcon Heights she heads all the way over to Lexington because she doesn't feel safe biking on Snelling. (Photo submitted)

positive change in Minnesota."

## Different level of vitality in the streets

Treat comes to Transit for Livable Communities from St. Paul

Smart Trips where she had served as executive director since 2007. In addition to her eight-year tenure at St. Paul Smart Trips, she previously worked at the Midway Transportation Management Organization and served as the executive director of the Lexington-Hamline Community Council.

It was during her stint with the community council that she was propelled into the discussion about Twin Cities transit. Residents were debating what should be built at the southwest corner of Lexington and University. They wanted something that would work well with future transit. In the end, the Wilder Foundation building was constructed.

For Treat, the definition of "transit" is a broad one. While some think of transit as being about trains and buses, Treat defines it as "movement."

She pointed out that big box stores are spread out and by their nature don't lend themselves to tight-knit communities. But when you have bus stops and train stops that people are walking or biking to, they rub shoulders with strangers with whom they might not otherwise interact.

"There's a difference," Treat insisted. "There's a different level of vitality in the street."

## Health and equity benefits

Treat is also passionate about transit because it offers her the ability to impact climate change directly. When she bikes, when she walks, when she rides the bus or the train, she's able to limit her footprint and be kinder to the environment.

"The impact of personal transportation on the environment is important," Treat stated.

Then there are the health benefits of transit that are important to her. "We live very sedentary lives in the United States and have significant problems with obesity and diabetes," she pointed out. Transit offers a way for people to build physical activity into their day. "If you take the bus, you have to walk or bike a bit," she said.

There's also the equity side to transit. Owning and operating a car costs about \$8,000 a year, which isn't affordable for many, she observed. Transit gives people options to get to jobs and school.

## Gaps in the Midway Como transit system

As a 12-year Midway homeowner, Treat has seen the big transit changes that came with the Green Line. She is looking forward to the start of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) A Line down Snelling in June. (Watch for article in next *Monitor* on the A Line.)

"It's a significant change and the first in the region," pointed out Treat.

But there are still some gaps in the system where things need to be buffed up. In particular, there are some bus lines that would benefit from greater frequency, especially at night and on the weekends.

Treat is paying attention to changes that will come with the proposed soccer stadium and hopes that it will include bicycling improvements.

There are also places where there are no sidewalks, such as in the industrial areas.

There's a significant gap in one's ability to get from the Midway to downtown Minneapolis via bicycle. The industrial areas and rail lines create real challenges there, according to Treat.

Snelling presents a barrier for those trying to cross it, despite the recent improvements of curb cuts and a wider median. The biggest problem is simply that vehicles don't stop at crosswalks, she pointed out. That's a city-wide issue.

When Treat bicycles with her

six-year-old daughter from their home on Snelling to her sister's house in Falcon Heights, she heads all the way over to Lexington because she doesn't feel safe biking on Snelling.

And she gets nervous when she bikes along Pierce Butler or Energy Park Dr. because there aren't designated bike lanes, and she can hear the cars close by.

Charles Ave., however, is a great roadway to bike on, and Treat would like to see more bicycle boulevards like it in the city. The roundabouts at intersections help slow cars down and allow bicyclists to avoid stopping.

"As a woman and a mom who rides, I'd like to see protected bike lanes," Treat remarked, such as those in Minneapolis with some kind of barrier between cars and bikes. She's not alone. TLC has heard from other women who feel the same way.

## Lobbying efforts

Founded in 1996, Transit for Livable Communities is dedicated to transforming Minnesota's transportation system to strengthen the community, improve health and opportunity for all people, foster a sound economy, and protect natural resources. TLC is the largest transportation advocacy organization in the state, with nearly 10,000 advocates and members, and a staff of 8 employees. TLC promotes a balanced transportation system that encourages transit, walking, bicycling, and thoughtful development.

TLC has been active this spring lobbying at the 2016 legislative session, pushing lawmakers for new investments in all modes of transportation in the Twin Cities, suburbs, and Greater Minnesota.

They've partnered with groups pushing for better streets and bridges. "I don't like potholes anymore than a driver does," Treat stated.

She added, "It's an exciting time for the work we're doing."

## Lutheran Social Services honored as transport leaders

Earlier this year, TLC recognized a number of organizations, including Lutheran Social Services (2485 Como Ave.), for their work as Transportation Leaders. Through a variety of ways, Lutheran Social Services is supporting transit, biking, and walking.

The benefits for companies are many, according to Treat. When employees are physically active, they are healthier and more productive. Transit, biking and walking help people save money, as well.

Some companies certified as transportation leaders offer transit passes at discounted rates. Others make sure they have a place to store biking gear and have a shower available. Others make a point of stating on their websites how to get there via car, bike and transit.

Treat pointed out that millennials want to live in a place where they don't necessarily have to own a car. "How you get around is part of the benefits package," said Treat.

Learn more at [www.tlcminnesota.org](http://www.tlcminnesota.org).

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# Public comment meetings planned on stadium and superblock

Community advisory committee rushed, and unhappy, to give input on plans that are wholly fluid and hypothetical

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans for a Major League Soccer stadium and redeveloped Midway Center are poised for public comment after release Apr. 29 by the St. Paul Planning Commission. A community meeting is set for 7-8:30pm, Tue., June 7 at Buenger Library (275 Syndicate St. N.), Concordia University. The Planning Commission hosts a public hearing on the plans and a related zoning code amendment at 8:30am, Fri., June 10 at City Hall.

The 180-page stadium site plan and master plan for the block bounded by Pascal St. and St. Anthony, Snelling, and University avenues are on a fast track for late summer City Council approval. The commission and council approvals will include an amendment to the city's traditional neighborhoods zoning to allow the stadium to be built on the proposed site.

One big unknown that could halt the plans is what the 2016 Minnesota Legislature will do. Stadium site property tax exemptions and a liquor license request have been heard this spring by House and Senate committees. But as of *Monitor* deadline, none of the measures had passed. That has to happen before state lawmakers adjourn May 23.

Minnesota United FC owner Bill McGuire has made it clear that the stadium project cannot proceed without the tax breaks. Because the stadium is considered to be the long-awaited catalyst for Midway Center redevelopment, one project hinges upon the other.

Some members of the Snelling Midway Community Advisory Committee, who are to make a recommendation on the stadium site plan and superblock master plan May 26, are frustrated about other uncertainties. At its Apr. 28 meeting, committee members expressed unhappiness that plans continue to be fluid, not just for the shopping center but for parts of the stadium-related infrastructure.

Some committee members balked at a city Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) report they were given as a draft Planning Commission recommendation. The report will be rewritten before the committee votes May 26.

An ambitious master plan unveiled earlier this year shows high-rise office buildings along Snelling Ave., with housing at University and Pascal. It also includes green spaces between University and the planned stadium, hotels and mixed-use buildings. Parking ramps would be built into the buildings. But drawings McGuire showed Apr. 28 looked less dense, with smaller buildings closer to the stadium. McGuire said the plans were concepts to show different design scenarios. He and city staff said that while the stadium needs to be built by 2018, shopping center redevelopment is on a longer and more uncertain timeline governed by everything from existing center leases to the economic climate for redevelopment.

"We've repeatedly said these are concepts," McGuire said. He said the center is set for redevelopment, "but it cannot all happen in two years."

While the soccer stadium, its infrastructure and a 300-space parking lot for team staff and select fans would be built in time for the start of the 2018 season, shopping center redevelopment has no set timeline. Existing leases and the need to relocate center tenants who wish to stay could mean gradual redevelopment, including the development of two green open spaces between the stadium and University Ave. "We're not going to tell anyone to kick out a tenant if they're not ready to go," McGuire said.

"We've always assumed the development would be phased," said Donna Drummond, planning director for PED. "We can't make somebody build something. We don't know how quickly redevelopment will happen here."

If what is built differs greatly from the master plan, "this to me feels like a disappointing outcome," said advisory committee co-chairman Eric Mohlo. He said community members have been asked to buy into a plan that may or may not happen.

"What happens if all we get is a stadium?" said committee member and Hamline-Midway resident Jonathon Oppenheimer.

Others spoke of lost opportunities for jobs creation and tax base improvements if center development doesn't happen as envisioned—or at all. Committee members said this was a chance to get longstanding neighborhood concerns about the shopping center, ranging from its appearance to the longstanding complaints about abandoned shopping carts in neighborhoods, addressed.

Several advisory committee members said that they want to hear more from New York-based

center owner RK Midway. The center owner and representatives have only been at a few meetings, and McGuire has done most of the master plan presentations.

Another concern committee members raised is that past shopping center redevelopment plans haven't materialized, and that generates questions about what will happen this time around. Committee member Becky Landon recalled lengthy debates several years ago over a later-shelved plan to replace the current Big Top Liquors building with a new liquor store and Walgreens. Neighbors wanted a more transit-friendly structure than what was proposed. She said the attitude seemed to be, "Well, you're a developer, and you must know what you're doing."

Others said redevelopment is more likely than in the past. "For me, this feels more real than any other plan we've seen," said advisory committee co-chairperson

Julie Padilla. She said the stadium is a driver for redevelopment and an opportunity for change.

Transportation studies for the site were wrapping up as of *Monitor* deadline. A separate study group on jobs creation completed its work in late April and planned to release a report soon.

City Planner Josh Williams said that the potential environmental impacts of redevelopment, such as traffic, parking demand, noise and other issues, are under study in an Alternative Urban Areawide Review or AUAR. This study will give city officials and developers direction as to how to mitigate impacts of redevelopment. "The document binds the city and its project partners to make sure mitigation measures will get done," Williams said. The draft AUAR is to be published in late May and released for a 30-day comment period.



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# In Our Community

## Monitor

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

### La Leche Group scheduled June 14

The next meetings of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tue., June 14. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers to discuss breastfeeding and mothering issues. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

### Como seed exchange planned for May 21

Share seeds, seedlings and gardening stories with your neighbors at the first annual Como Seed and Seedling Share, Sat., May 21, at the Historic Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Pkwy. N. Whether you've been gardening for years or just getting started, the Como Seed and Seedling Share will be your kickstart to the gardening season this year.

Neighbors are invited to bring their excess seeds, seedlings and perennial divisions and see what exciting new additions they can add to their yard, patio or kitchen window sill. "People who garden tend to have extra seeds and seedlings, and sharing them with others along with growing tips for them can mean success for everyone, especially new gardeners," says co-organizer, Alison Goetzman.

For those new to gardening, who may not have something to share, they will still be able to bring something home, returning to future events possibly with the seeds they saved. Experienced gardeners will also be at the event to share tips and tricks.

### Como Elementary Carnival set June 3

Como Park Elementary School, 780 W. Wheelock Pkwy., will host its annual Spring Carnival on Fri., June 3, from 5-7:30pm. The carnival is a community celebration and a fundraiser event that supports our literacy, field trip, technology, and enrichment programs.

This year they are again excited to have the Raptor Center with live raptors, and the Como Planetarium will again be offering free shows during the evening. There will be over 15 carnival games, two large bouncers, snack walk, basket raffle, bike raffle, silent auction, and our usual activities of pop ring toss, the dunk tank, crazy hair and face painting. For even more fun, there will be a climbing wall.

They will also offer a Big Prize Raffle the evening of the Carnival this year. One of the prizes is an iPad mini graciously donated by Gary Havir of Horace Mann! Stop by to see the other items available or place a bid on some awesome silent auction

### BLT to perform at Gingko on May 13

The group BLT (*pictured right*) will perform at Gingko Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., on Fri., May 13, 8pm.

For over twenty years, "BLT" has entertained folks all over Minnesota, the five-state Midwest area, and beyond. With three distinct voices, they blend a wide variety of music and songs to create a fun and wonderful evening.

Having been friends for even longer, Karl Burke, Rich Lindell, and Rody Tate bring to the stage a shared love of folk music and good times. Besides guitar, they share duties adding bass, mandolin, and banjo to selections, along with vocal harmonies, for a truly enjoyable show.

Tickets are \$10 plus tax. Call to make reservations or to buy tickets at 651-645-2647, or e-mail [kathy@ginkgocoffee.com](mailto:kathy@ginkgocoffee.com).

On Friday, May 20 at 8pm, Charlie Maguire and Steve Cormier will take the stage at Gingko. Tickets are \$15 plus tax.



items!

Food is available for purchase, and best of all the popcorn is free!

### Great River offers summer camps

Great River School, 1326 Energy Park Dr., announced that it will be sponsoring over 56 innovative summer camps in 2016. From "Girls & Power Tools" to "Funkiture" to "Soccer on Stilts"—Great River offers creative and engaging opportunities for kids to grow, learn and explore. This year will include several new camps such as Star Wars Galaxy, Tin Can Robotics, Rubberband Land and more. Other features are Teen Ultimate Frisbee Camps, Wilderness Survival and a ton of Teen Art Adventures. Morning camps run from 9am-noon and afternoon camps from 1-4pm. Teen camps run from 9am-4pm. Scholarships are available. For more information go to [www.greatriverschool.org/summer](http://www.greatriverschool.org/summer).

### Co-ed Drum Circle planned May 27

The Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., will present a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., May 27, 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm, and freedom of expression will be explored. The cost is \$10 at the door, and all experience levels are welcome. Drums are provided. Info and registration can be found at [www.womensdrumcenter.org](http://www.womensdrumcenter.org).

### Satire plays at Interact Center

"Hell is Empty and All the Devils are Here" is a raucous, biting,

satirical view of the extraordinary election cycle of 2016, and the unexpected rise to power of Donald Trump. In a divided and fearful country, where the media feeds on sensationalism and high drama, this master of manipulation throws a real monkey wrench into the political process: he calls upon the occupants of Hell to escape and help him fan the flames of chaos above.

Inhabited by the likes of Hillary as Brunhilde, Clowns as Valkyries, our old friend Sarah Palin, Ted "Dracula" Cruz, and a cast of outrageously wacky characters, "Hell" looks at the election through the lens of a fun house mirror. Interact's radically inclusive cast packs a political punch with a hard-hitting comedy that will have you side-splitting laughing, even while you know it's really not all that funny.

"Hell is Empty and All the Devils are Here" runs through May 21 at Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts (1860 Minnehaha Ave. W.). 7pm performances are scheduled May 12-14, 16, and 19-21. Matinees at 3pm are scheduled on May 14 and 21.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$5 DIS/Cover tickets: \$5 each for patrons with disabilities and their companion/staff. Purchase tickets at Brown Paper Tickets, [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2529949](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2529949).

### YMCA Garage Sale slated May 12-14

Shop and support YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord at the annual Garage Sale at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Merchandise Mart building from Thur., May 12, to Sat., May 14. More than 250 families contribute good quality camping equipment, clothing, household items,

toys, books, antiques, furniture, sports equipment, etc. All proceeds go to the YMCA camps, and admission is free. The sale runs from 9am to 7:30pm on Thursday and Friday. Saturday Bag Sale opens earlier, 8am to 4pm. For more information, call 651-645-6605.

### MMSA plans flea market May 19-22

Maternity of Mary St. Andrew Catholic School, 592 Arlington Ave. W., will hold a flea market May 19-22.

If you are interested in donating gently-used items for the flea market, items can be dropped off at the school May 15 (9:30am-1pm), May 16 and 17 (9am-2pm and 5-8pm) and May 18 (9am-2pm). To arrange a drop off outside of these hours, please call the school at 651-489-1459. Donations are tax deductible.

The flea market is open for business May 19, 4-8pm (\$5 admission this time only); May 20, 4-7pm; May 21, 8am-4pm; and May 22, 9am-noon. Flea Market Chair, Janet Nelson states, "Forget everything you've known about flea markets! Our sale is completely indoors and all merchandise is attractively displayed and organized."

### Arts and Crafts Sale scheduled May 24-26

Keystone Crafters' 8th Annual Arts and Crafts Sale will be held Tue., May 24 through Thur., May 26, 9am-3pm at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. Handmade one-of-a-kind items for sale by the crafting group at Keystone Community Services. Find lovely gifts including whimsical fairy garden furnishings, beaded jewelry, cross stitch, doll clothing, watercolors, etchings and hand-knitted items.

### Spring Carnival scheduled for May 20

Chelsea Heights Elementary, 1557 Huron St., will be hosting their annual Spring Carnival on Fri., May 20, from 5-8pm, rain or shine! There will be lots of games (with prizes!), food trucks, raffles, and lots of other fun activities. All proceeds will help finance student activities, classroom supplies and playground maintenance. Como Park and Midway neighbors are welcome!

### Health Services class scheduled May 19

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will hold a free class on Children's

Mental Health Crisis Services on Thur., May 19, from 6-7:45pm, at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. This session will give parents of children up to age 18 living with behavioral challenges, an overview of crisis services and how to access them. There will be ample opportunity for questions. To register (requested) or get more information, call 651-645-2948.

### Former HU VP named to new post

AdoptAClassroom.org, an award-winning national organization that gives teachers a hand by providing needed classroom materials, has announced the selection of former Hamline University (HU) Vice President Ann Ness as its new Executive Director.

"We are very pleased that Ann has accepted the position," said Doug Spong, AdoptAClassroom.org Board Chair. "We know that her extensive experience in both the private and public sectors will make her an effective leader and passionate advocate for the students and teachers we support."

Ness' resume includes several decades of executive leadership. Before AdoptAClassroom.org, she served as Vice President of Marketing and Enrollment Management at HU. Before that, Ness was Vice President of Corporate Brand Management at Cargill, launching a global brand-building program designed to elevate the profile of Cargill worldwide. Before Cargill, she led advertising and brand management for Radisson Hotels Worldwide. She began her career as a newspaper reporter.

"I am delighted to join this fine organization," said Ness. "Part of the beauty of AdoptAClassroom.org is its straightforward, uncomplicated mission. Our nation's teachers need and deserve our support."

AdoptAClassroom.org makes it easy for individual or business donors to provide funding and support to classrooms throughout America.

### Frogtown Farm Fair scheduled May 21

Frogtown Farm's Backyard Farm Fair will be held Sat., May 21, 11am-2pm. Come on down to "their backyard" to learn something new for your own space at St. Paul's newest park and farm. You'll get to ask questions, try your hand at new skills, connect to resources and tour the latest developments at the park and farm! Between activities you can enjoy park games, music, food, give-aways, or just relax in the 13 acres of Frogtown Park and Farm. This event is

*Continued on page 12*



## In Our Community

Continued from page 11

free and open to all. The park is accessible by foot, bike, bus and Greenline.

## Summer flower show open at Como

The 2016 Summer Flower Show is now open to the public at Como Park's Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. The show will run through Oct. 2.

In a beautiful coincidence only befitting Prince's worldwide prominence, his life and the significance of his artistic work, the Summer Flower Show presents a botanical color scheme of purple and lavender, featuring a new Oriental Trumpet hybrid Lily named "Purple Prince."

Some other prominent purples include Purpletop Vervain, Russian Sage, beebalm, butterfly bush, and heliotrope. Purple, white and lavender roses, caladiums, and petunias will continue the color theme.

The Summer Flower Show displays the greatest array of warm season blooming plants over the longest schedule of the five Sunken Garden Flower Shows.

## News from Hamline Midway Elders

The following events are planned by Hamline Midway Elders:

**Chair Yoga**—This popular free class, led by Nancy Giguere, returns on Thursday mornings starting May 19 through June 16 from 10:30-11:30am. The class will meet in the auditorium of the Hamline Midway Library (1558 W. Minnehaha Ave). Sitting in a chair or standing using the chair for support, you'll learn fundamentals of yoga postures and breathing, practice techniques to release tension in mind and body, and begin building strength and flexibility. Join us for the series or drop in when you can. New participants are always welcome.

**Baby Boomers Book Club**—Our next session will be held on Sat., May 21 from 1-2pm at the Hamline Midway Library (1558 W Minnehaha Ave) and will feature a discussion on the book "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom. If we have enough interest in this type of book club, we'll plan to start up again in the fall.

**Jody's Documentary Series**—Our partnership with the Hamline Midway Library continues on Wed., May 25 at 1pm with the POV film "All the Difference" about a 61-year-old woman with early onset Alzheimer's disease. She is filmed with love, dignity and shattering honesty by her eldest son. Jody Huber will introduce the film and lead a discussion after the showing. Snacks will be provided and all are welcome to this monthly last Wednesday series.

**Monthly Luncheon**: "Volunteering at Hamline Midway Elders"—On Tues., June 14, several current volunteers will share their experiences and Monica Gallagher, HME Service Director, will describe current volunteer needs. The meal begins at 11:30am at Hamline Church United Methodist (1514 Englewood Ave.) followed by the

presentation at 12:15. New attendees are always welcome at these second Tuesday monthly luncheons.

**Save the Dates**—Two large community events have been scheduled for later this year. Please join us for our (free) annual Ice Cream Social on Thur., June 23 and our Annual Lasagna Dinner and Silent Auction on Fri., Sept. 30. Look for details in upcoming editions of the *Monitor*.

For more information on any of the above items please contact Tom Fitzpatrick at Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or tom@hmelders.org.

## HMHM schedules meeting June 2

The Hamline Midway Health Movement (HMHM) invites Hamline Midway residents to attend their next monthly health event featuring Brad Bame, who will discuss planning your financial future.

The next monthly event will be held Thur., June 2 at 6pm at the Hamline Church United Methodist (1514 Englewood Ave). The event will feature a free healthy meal, and a program by Bame, a local Financial Planner.

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

HMHM is a grass roots group of Hamline Midway residents, sponsored by Vital Aging Network, who are striving to improve the wellness of the Hamline Midway community by engaging residents over the age of fifty in healthy activities and education.

Each month a new topic will be featured along with a free healthy meal. Watch the *Midway Como Monitor* and the HM Coalition website for upcoming events or visit us on our Facebook page at Hamline Midway Health Movement. You can RSVP at hamlinemidwayhealth@gmail.com for the June 2 event.

## SAP Arts Festival scheduled June 4

The St. Anthony Park Arts Festival will be held at the steps of the historic St. Anthony Park Library on Sat., June 4, 10am-5pm. The festival features more than 70 juried artists, along with art activities, book sale, plant sale, and music. Proceeds benefit the Reading Program of the St Anthony Park Library. For more information go to [www.sapfest.org](http://www.sapfest.org), or email [artsfest@stanthonyparkartsfestival.org](mailto:artsfest@stanthonyparkartsfestival.org).

## Vacation Bible School set July 25-29

Como Park Lutheran, 1376 Hoyt Ave. W., is putting on their annual Vacation Bible School for children who have completed preschool to 5th grade, July 25-29, 9am-12pm. The theme for this year is Deep Sea Discovery. Let your children join in for a week of fun, singing, laughing and making new friends. Children will participate in a community service project as well as learn about God through the mysteries of the sea. The fee is \$25/child before July 1 and \$30/child after July 1 (\$75 max/family).

## St. Paul Ballet gets \$30,000 grant

The McKnight Foundation recently awarded a two-year \$30,000 grant that will allow St. Paul Ballet to commission a new work for its professional company to present to Minnesota audiences in 2017. St. Paul Ballet has studios on Grand Ave. and at 655 Fairview Ave. N.

Choreographer and Artistic Director Zoé Emilie Henrot will reimagine the classic opera "Carmen." A local composer will be commissioned to adapt Georges Bizet's four-act opera score to a new storyline and music genre.

This grant is one of many made by the Minnesota-based family foundation, which granted \$88 million last year alone to a wide variety of programs, including arts and artists. The McKnight Foundation's Arts Program is based on the premise that "Minnesota thrives when its artists thrive," said McKnight Foundation representative Vicki Benson.

## Prior Ave. bridge closed until August

The Prior Ave. bridge spanning Interstate 94 closed to traffic on Apr. 28. During the closure, crews will rebuild the bridge deck, replace the sidewalks and replace the guardrail. The bridge is not expected to reopen to traffic until early August 2016.

## Great River student receives scholarship

Mela Nguyen, Great River School, has been awarded a \$5000 scholarship by the Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota. The award recognizes extraordinary young people who have overcome tremendous adversity in life to achieve academic excel-

lence, demonstrate leadership in their communities, and aspire to attend college by awarding them with a Beat the Odds scholarship.

CDF-MN recognized six students at its annual Beat the Odds awards celebration in April. The event featured KARE 11 News reporter Jana Shortal as emcee, special guest Gov. Mark Dayton, and Children's Defense Fund founder and president Marian Wright Edelman as keynote speaker. St. Paul City Council President Russ Stark and Fallon advertising agency co-founder, Fred Senn, presented the first annual Pat Fallon Memorial Scholarship to the St. Paul honoree, Mela Nguyen.

The Pat Fallon Memorial Scholarship will be awarded yearly to a Beat the Odds applicant interested in the arts and is named in honor of long-time Children's Defense Fund board member and co-founder of Fallon Worldwide advertising agency, Pat Fallon, who passed away in November.

## Locals win volunteer recognition awards

Congratulations to the local volunteers who were honored at the Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America, North Star District Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner in April.

District Awards Recipients included:

—Henri A. Eisenhower Award: Joan Connolly, Troop 218, Holy Childhood Catholic Church;

—Gordon F. Meeker, Webelos Leader Award: Brian Dehler, Pack 70, St. Columba Catholic Church; and

—Cubmaster of the Year Award: Greg Schabert, Pack 183, Maternity of Mary Catholic Church.

The North Star District of the Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America serves the youth of Saint Paul, preparing young people to make ethical and moral choices over their life-

times by instilling in them the values of the Boy Scout Oath and Law.

## Moths in focus at Como Gallery

"The Amazing World of Moths," a photo exhibit by Minneapolis artist Bill Johnson is now on display in the Como Park's Exhibit Gallery, in the conservatory, through June 30. Over 40 extreme close-up images will highlight the amazing colors, shapes, and diversity of these beautiful winged creatures. Admission is free.

Johnson specializes in plant and insect photography, from full-specimen to ultra-close-up macro photography. His images have appeared in over 900 national and regional publications, including nature magazines, gardening books, field guides, and most recently a children's book entitled "Minnesota Bug Hunt," which explore insects, friendly and fierce, that live as close as our backyard. His photography travels have taken him to a variety of geographic regions nationally and internationally.

## Join the walkers every week

The Como Health Club Walkers will sponsor group walks every week through Nov. 21 (excluding holidays) at two locations:

—Mondays at 7pm behind the Como Lake Pavilion (meet near the boat docks); and

—Saturdays at 9am at the lobby of HealthPartners' Como Clinic (2500 Como Ave.).

They will walk for 30+ minutes and everyone welcome. Walkers are grouped according to pace, so no one is left out.

Continued on page 15

# Grow with us. Open House, May 17, 5-7 p.m.



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The Hamline Midway community has an opportunity to help shape the future and safety of Hamline Ave. The City of St. Paul Department of Public Works will hold a public open house on Thur., May 26 from 6-7:30pm at Sejong Academy, 1330 Blair Ave., around proposed improvements to Hamline Ave.

The City plans to conduct a mill and overlay project in late 2016 on Hamline Ave. The work being proposed will involve removing and replacing the top layer of pavement and updating all non-ADA compliant pedestrian ramps. As this route is identified in the Citywide Bike Plan, the City is also proposing to install on-street bicycle lanes, which would require removal of on-street parking from one side of the street. A parking study recently completed by Public Works determined the remaining parking would be sufficient for demand, even at peak times.

Additionally, despite not being included in the original project, Public Works has presented the community with the opportunity to inform the decision of whether to install some form of bike infrastructure on Hamline Ave. from Minnehaha to Pierce Butler Rte.—another important bike route that serves the neighborhood. Some forms of bicycle infrastructure on this section of the route would also require removal of some or all on-street parking. This section of Hamline also serves the pedestrian bridge that crosses the train tracks North of Pierce Butler—the only dedicated railway crossing between Lexington Ave. and Snelling Ave.

This vital neighborhood route services four schools, public

## News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC Communications Coordinator

### Open House for proposed Hamline Ave. improvements slated May 26

housing, and a vibrant business community. As the neighborhood continues to grow, many neighbors have raised concerns about safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers alike, on Hamline Ave. This project offers the community an opportunity to create a safer, more vibrant route that serves all road users.

We recognize that Hamline Ave. as currently configured poses significant safety risks to many in our community, but are also sensitive to the fact that the loss of some on-street parking can be troubling to others. We hope that this open house will continue a productive community conversation about neighbors' priorities for this important route and how best to balance the needs and safety of all road users.

In addition to attending the meeting, you can also share your priorities for the project by taking a community survey available at [www.hamlinemidway.org/hamlineave](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/hamlineave). The results of this survey will be used to inform the recommendation made by the Hamline Midway Transportation Committee to the City of St. Paul regarding the proposed project on Hamline Ave.

The Transportation Committee of the Hamline Midway Coalition is doing direct outreach to businesses along Hamline Ave. and plans to also engage residents of Hamline Hi-Rise directly. In

addition to the mailing that will be sent by Public Works to all addresses along the project area, the transportation committee will also be flyer-ing the area to advertise the upcoming meeting. If you know someone you think should be involved in this discussion, please, don't hesitate to reach out to them directly and invite them to participate. You can find downloadable information to share with friends and neighbors at [www.hamlinemidway.org/hamlineave](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/hamlineave). Feel free to contact Kyle Mianulli at [kyle@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:kyle@hamlinemidway.org) or 651-494-7683 with any questions or to learn more.

#### Spring Festival postponed; A-Line Launch June 11

After initial plans were announced last month to combine the annual Spring Festival with the launch of the A-Line Bus Rapid Transit route, it has become clear that there is simply too much to celebrate in the Hamline Midway area to fit on the limited site at the southeast corner of University and Snelling. Rather than have to tell many of our terrific community groups, businesses, and valued partners that there would not be room to include them in the annual festival this year, we have decided to postpone the festival until this fall.

There will still be all manners of festivities at the A-Line Launch

on June 11, from 10am to 2pm, including music, food trucks, vendors and exhibitors, kids activities and more. If you're interested in being an exhibitor, performer, or otherwise participating in the launch event, please contact Kyle Mianulli at [kyle@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:kyle@hamlinemidway.org) or 651-494-7683.

The celebration at Snelling and University will be one of four throughout the route running from 46th St. in Minneapolis to Rosedale. Come out and join the fun and ride the line to explore all the great communities, businesses, and destinations it will connect.

The A-Line is a new kind of bus service for the Twin Cities' busiest urban streets. This rapid bus line has a package of transit enhancements that adds up to a faster trip and improved experience. Visit [www.metrotransit.org/a-line-project](http://www.metrotransit.org/a-line-project) to learn more.

#### Neighborhood Garage Sale

Registration is now open for the annual Hamline Midway Neighborhood Garage Sale on Sat., June 4, from 8am to 3pm. Visit [www.hamlinemidway.org/garagesale](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/garagesale) to register your sale now. Garage sales are a great way to meet new neighbors, reduce waste, and support the community economy. With more than 50 participating sales across the neighborhood in 2015, we're looking to have an

even bigger impact this year.

There will be a \$10 fee for participating sales to help with the expense of printing flyers, sale maps, and signs, as well as advertising in local newspapers and Craigslist. If you live within the Hamline Midway boundaries, start clearing out your closets and collecting your items for this year's sale! Want an even better turnout for your sale? Invite your neighbors to organize sales alongside yours to make an attractive cluster on the sale map. Visit our website for helpful tricks and tips for organizing a successful sale. You can also register your sale and pay online while you're there. Feel free to contact us with any questions or for more information at [garage-sale@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:garage-sale@hamlinemidway.org)

#### Hamline-Thomas Community Garden efforts

Now in its 10th year, the little and beloved Hamline-Thomas Community Garden at the northeast corner of Hamline and Thomas avenues continues to grow and flourish. Many neighbors have contributed time and care, and organizers are looking for a few extra hands to help continue to cultivate community and beauty at this well-used corner of the neighborhood.

Volunteer responsibilities might include coordinating a planting date and mulching; making sure there is regular watering; help with maintenance and weeding every few weeks; end of year cleanup; and informing neighbors of volunteer needs and opportunities. If you would like to help out, please contact Hannah Texler at [ekvadnais@hotmail.com](mailto:ekvadnais@hotmail.com).

#### Brewery wins needed licenses

Transformation of the former Silgan can factory at 755 N. Prior Ave. continues. Black Stack Brewing has been given licenses for a brewery taproom, malt off-sale, liquor on sale, Sunday liquor and Class A entertainment licenses by the St. Paul City Council. The owners went through a legislative hearing before winning council approval in April.

Hamline-Midway Coalition

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## Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

### All on the development front: brewing, BROWNstone, and biking

recommended city approval of the licenses. One neighbor raised concerns about spillover parking and noise, so the hearing was held to discuss license conditions. The entertainment license is for amplified or non-amplified music and singing by performers without limitation as to number, and group singing participated in by patrons of the establishment. That includes karaoke but doesn't include performer or patron dancing.

Black Stack Brewing has more than 60 adjacent parking spaces, with 338 surface and below-grade stalls planned as the entire facility

is redeveloped. The brewery will operate Sun., 11am to 10pm; Mon. through Thur., noon to 11pm; Fri., noon to midnight, and Sat. 8am to midnight. Live music will be offered some Fridays or Saturdays but not every weekend. As part of the renovation, the building has been insulated to absorb sound. New dual-glazed windows were also installed for sound insulation.

Conditions placed on the licenses center on the entertainment aspect of the brewery and restated what is allowed under the license granted. No opening date has been announced. The brewery will be part of a complex that includes Can Wonderland artist-designed mini-golf.

#### BROWNstone moving ahead

Redevelopment of a one-story University Ave. commercial building and parking lot into the Model Cities BROWNstone project took a key step ahead April 13. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), unanimously approved the issuance and sale of up to \$5 million in conduit housing revenue bonds, as well as project agreements with Model Cities.

This vote allows the nonprofit to redevelop 839-849 University Ave. The existing building will be

torn down, and a new four-story mixed-used transit-oriented development will be built next to the Green Line light rail Victoria Station. It will have 35 units of affordable rental housing units and approximately 20,415 square feet of commercial/retail space.

Part of the first-floor space will include a reading/ museum room dedicated to the history of the Pullman train car workers from the 1900s. Most workers were African-American and lived nearby in the Rondo neighborhood.

The second-floor space will be split between Model Cities offices and six rental housing units. The third and fourth floor will have 29 rental housing units. There will be 26 residential underground parking spaces. Model Cities already owns and operates an apartment building to the east of the planned development.

Rents will range from \$756 for a one-bedroom unit to \$1,126 for a two-bedroom unit.

Total development cost is \$14,762,926 for both the housing and commercial components. A combination of Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grants and loans, low-income housing tax credits, federal Community Development Block Grant, HOME program funds, tax increment financing and public and pri-

vate grants will be used to finance the project, along with the conduit bonds.

The city acts as a pass-through for the bonds, and there is no financial risk to the city.

#### Grants in the works

St. Paul city officials have their fingers crossed for a number of grants. The St. Paul City Council Apr. 20 approved a series of applications for bike and trail funding and redevelopment funding.

The St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) is applying for Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) grants for contamination cleanup and to Metropolitan Council for Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) grants for nine projects. Those include 2300 Territorial Road and RS Eden workforce housing, Union Park Flats, at 1509 Marshall Ave.

The grant applications were due in early May.

The council also authorized the St. Paul Departments of Parks and Recreation and Public Works to seek a federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for work on the Grand Round system of bicycle and pedestrian trails. Part of the Grand Round is in area neighborhoods and is complete. The grant would be used for East Side, North End and Midway area segments of the trail. The grant application notes that the Grand Round is increasingly used by bicycle commuters to get to work.

Word on all of the grants will be received later this year.

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# Neighbors meet to discuss concerns over stadium project

By JANE MCCLURE

As Minnesota United FC stadium plans and a master plan for Midway Center redevelopment move ahead, project neighbors continue to weigh in with concerns and support. More than 100 people filled a MidPointe Event Center room Apr. 19 for a meeting sponsored by Neighbors Against Corporate Subsidies and Neighborhoods First!

The meeting was organized so that advocacy groups and neighbors could raise questions including the use of tax increment financing, infrastructure, tax-base impacts, noise, traffic, parking, and other issues. Organizer Tom Goldstein said the forum should have been held months ago, before a March City Council vote on stadium infrastructure and pollution cleanup financing and property lease agreements.

But the greatest concern may be parking. When asked for a show of hands, more than half of those present indicated they are worried about spillover parking in the adjacent neighborhoods. When one speaker asked, "Where is parking going to be?" Someone else in the audience replied, "In front of your house."

St. Paul Director of Plan-



ning and Economic Development (PED) Director Jonathan Sage-Martinson repeatedly said that the stadium project isn't a done deal. Key steps must be taken before the two projects can move ahead. Master plans for the \$150 million stadium and the shopping center must be reviewed and approved by the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council.

"Nothing can be built before the master planning process is completed," Sage-Martinson said. That is expected to con-

clude in August.

In the meantime city officials are studying potential traffic and environmental impacts, including the use of an Alternative Urban Area-wide Review (AUAR) to identify potential redevelopment impacts and how those can be mitigated. That also has to be completed before the project moves ahead.

He said city officials were very much aware of the spillover parking concerns. "We've heard that throughout the process, and it's very much on our radar," he said. City officials hope an ongoing transportation study provides answers.

The property will have about 4,500 parking spaces, most in ramps built into the proposed retail and office structures. There's also a plan for a lot near Pascal and St. Anthony, which would have about 300 spots. That is for stadium personnel and what have been described as "select" guests. City officials are pushing transit options and remote parking.

Another key step is getting property tax relief and a liquor license passed for Minnesota United. Those issues have gotten through the 2016 Minnesota Legislature House and Senate committee process but haven't been

approved yet.

Several people said they appreciated the chance to ask questions and meet with city officials. Other than a 15-minute period at a community open house earlier this spring, the meeting was the first chance for discussion between city leaders and neighbors. Minnesota United FC and Midway Center owner RK Midway didn't send representatives.

But there was frustration that not all of the development-related questions could be answered, given the fast pace of the ongoing planning process. "The city does not have it figured out," said Goldstein. "The city does not have the answers tonight." Sage-Martinson and Deputy Mayor Kristin Beckmann said they would take the groups' questions and provide answers. Answers were recently posted on the group's Facebook page.

Ward Seven Council Member Jane Prince and Rep. Dave Pinto joined Sage-Martinson and Beckmann on a panel that fielded questions. Prince was one of two council members voting against the stadium agreements. She objected to a lack of time given to review the documents before approval and the project coming forward before community re-

view was complete. "I think this is a project that deserves much more public process," she said. She criticized the notion of a stadium as a catalyst for economic development, calling it "magical thinking."

Sage-Martinson said the success of CHS Field in Lower-town was proof that a stadium can spark development in a surrounding neighborhood. But several audience members objected, saying much of that redevelopment was happening well before the ball field opened.

Several people asked about shopping center redevelopment and the potential displacement of tenants. The plans call for replacing about 330,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space with two million feet of office and retail space, as well as housing and hotels. One man questioned whether development would happen at all, given the number of plans developed and then shelved. But because the stadium development would require the removal of Rainbow Foods and businesses to the east, there is an incentive for RK Midway to relocate tenants and start the redevelopment process.

**NEXT DEADLINE: MAY 30 • NEXT PUBLICATION: JUNE 9**

## Classifieds

### Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by May 30 for the June 9 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com).

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor by May 30 for the June 9 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to [denis@deruyternelson.com](mailto:denis@deruyternelson.com). Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

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### LANDSCAPING



## In Our Community

Continued from page 12

### Host families sought for youth

Youth For Understanding USA (YFU), a nonprofit educational organization, will continue its partnership with St. Paul Public Schools and is excited to announce that high school exchange students will be arriving in August. YFU is seeking families and volunteers to host and mentor these young people.

Teenagers from across the world have been selected to study in the U.S. and are waiting to hear which families will open their doors to them. Host families provide guidance, love and support while being supported by local YFU volunteers and staff.

Twin Cities Field Director Anna Peters does this work because she cares about building

cultural bridges. A host family's ordinary life is extraordinary to an exchange student. A trip to the grocery store can become a cultural adventure.

Students are from Japan, Germany, Finland, Spain, Thailand, Chile and many more. Peters says she is proud that the Twin Cities is also placing students who have won the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) scholarship, which awards an exchange experience to students from predominantly Muslim countries such as Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Families are needed to welcome students into their home next school year. YFU also offers study abroad programs for American students, adult cultural tours to Cuba, and volunteer opportunities. To learn more or to apply to host a student, contact Field Director Anna Peters at 651-646-8173 or apeters@yfu.org. Additional information and an online application are available at yfuusa.org.

### Collage honoring Porky's and automotive influence unveiled

The Terrace at Iris Park, 502 E. Lynnhurst Ave., hosted a public unveiling Apr. 30 of a photographic collage commissioned to honor the legacy of Porky's Drive-In Restaurant. Porky's stood at the corner of University and Lynnhurst avenues. The project was supported by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM). The public art concept involves a 45-foot-long photographic mural with historical images of automotive history and related businesses on University Ave. Sidewalk paving, in Porky's signature checkerboard pattern of maroon and peach, compliment the original Porky's Drive-In menu box re-installed on site. Dedication remarks were made by Episcopal Homes President/CEO Marvin Plakut and collage artist Giesla Hoelscher. For decades, Porky's was a landmark in the Midway area of St. Paul. The legendary neon pig sign beckoned people of all ages to this popular hang-out that was a cruising destination for street rod lovers near and far. In 2011, Porky's was moved to the Little Log House Pioneer Village, and the Porky's site has been developed into a new senior housing complex for Episcopal Homes. Porky's may be gone, but it is definitely not forgotten. The Preservation Alliance and Episcopal Homes worked together to design the photographic mural that pays tribute to the drive-in and the car culture that shaped the look and feel of University Ave. for most of the twentieth century. (Photo submitted)



## St. Paul Public Schools approves \$484 million in facilities improvements

The five-year plan will be re-evaluated every year and will increase an average property tax bill about \$30 annually

By JANE MCCLURE

A proposed \$484 million five-year facilities plan for St. Paul Public Schools would bring expansion and renovation projects to many area schools. The plan, which has had two years' community task force and school district review, won a final vote of approval Apr. 26. Projects would be implemented between 2017-2021.

The plan would increase property taxes by about \$30 annually for a median-value St. Paul home (or \$151,500). Once a plan is in place, the capital expenditures would be voted on every August as part of the schools' annual levy-setting process.

Tom Parent, director of facilities for St. Paul Public Schools, said that the master plan is crucial to align district facilities with today's educational needs. "We need to be responsible to unique buildings, communities, and programs," he said.

Several area schools are slated for technology and building mechanical system improvements, as well as site work. More than half of the \$484 million would be slated for such needs, many of which are the result of deferred maintenance. Buildings are in line for new roofs, heating and plumbing systems, parking lots and other needs.

The annual plan assessment will consider enrollment and other changes, Parent said. He and School Board members pointed out that state law doesn't require the school district to go to voters for approval of capital expenditures. The plan also doesn't affect the district's general fund. School leaders must soon decide how to address a \$15.1 million budget shortfall for 2016-2017.

The largest area project on the list is at Como Park High School, 740 Rose Ave. W. There is a \$30 million addition and renovation project on the drawing board, with design in 2016 and construction in 2017. A two-sto-

ry classroom addition, new common space and classroom and cafeteria renovations are included in the work plan. A \$1.843 million athletic fields' project would be designed in 2019 and completed in 2020, with an artificial turf field, new lighting, and new ball field dugouts. There are also longer-term plans for \$305,000 in building system upgrades.

Central High School, 450 S. Lexington Pkwy., has smaller projects in the five-year plan, with an eye toward major facilities work in the future. The largest project is new artificial turf at Griffin Stadium, at a cost of \$1.0870 million. The design would be in 2019, with installation in 2020. A stadium electrical system would cost \$229,000 with design in 2020 and implementation in 2021. The school's automotive garage is slated for a \$14,000 electrical system upgrade, as are building automatic systems, security cameras, audio-visual equipment, theater

lighting, and stage curtains. Gordon Parks High School, 1212 University Ave., is slated for building renovation and an addition, at \$3.854 million. The design would be done in 2017 and work done in 2019.

St. Anthony Park Elementary, 2180 Knapp St., is slated for a \$14 million renovation and addition, with design in 2016 and work in 2017.

Other area schools including Chelsea Heights, Como Park Elementary, Agape, Four Seasons, Hamline, Hubbs, Galtier, LEAP High School and Maxfield are in line for smaller projects, for building mechanical and operational systems, classroom technology or facilities maintenance. Hamline has the largest project, with a new entry and addition at \$2.336 million. Planning would not be until 2019, with work in 2020.

For details on each project, including the work proposed and design/construction timelines, go to [www.spps.org/Page/22538](http://www.spps.org/Page/22538).

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Creativity/innovation:</b> Assist individuals with varying abilities search out and obtain gainful employment. Teach job skills and promote positive work ethics.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Teamwork:</b> Community outreach and employer client relations</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Advocacy:</b> Be part of the persons team helping them achieve their goals</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Leadership:</b> Manage and Coordinate work schedules, job training, and meetings</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Communication:</b> Promote and provide effective communication and follow up</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Honesty and integrity:</b> Earn trust and maintain confidence</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Work ethic:</b> Possess a strong willingness to work hard and overcome challenges</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Attention to detail:</b> Attention to detail is an integral part of our client's success</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Professionalism:</b> Be a strong representative for the organization and the person served</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

**Our Community Support Specialists are eligible for travel reimbursement, Flexible Hours, Use of Ipad and other Technology, and various other bonus'!**

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AA/EOE

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40 hrs/wk; flex hrs + GREAT BENEFITS!

Must have own car.

Wk with DD/MI indiv in their community jobs. Primary support for managing orientation, teaches skillmentors, reg. check in, employer contact, follows progress; instrumental in prob solve for both indiv/employer.

Builds rapport both indiv/employer.

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Travels daily MN Dr. Lic req'd, pass backgrd/drivers study

EOE/AA

**Kelly: 651-288-8947**



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