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## ‘SPROUT’ project germinates perfect union of soil, water and community partners

By JAN WILLMS

Margaret Shields called it the perfect moment. You might even call it the perfect germination.

Shields, a student at Hamline University, said the organization she founded, Students Proposing Real Options for Underutilized Territory (SPROUT), was looking around for land to use for growing produce. And Rolfe Leary, a member of Hamline United Methodist Church at 1514 Englewood, said the garden plot behind the church was getting out of control.

"It needed constant watering, and shrubs and trees were dying," he said. "It was becoming quite a hassle."

He said one of the church members, Amy Schultz, had an idea to plant vegetables. The thought was that the church could grow them and give them away. But the continual need for upkeep and maintenance of the garden was presenting quite a challenge.

"Out of the blue, SPROUT showed up looking for some land," he said. Leary said the Hamline students had some ideas on what to plant and grow for the best nutrition.

"Those of us at the church stepped back and tried to support the youth," he said. "And the produce needed to go somewhere, so it was arranged to give it to the older folks in the neighborhood."

born.

"We had been talking to the Hamline Midway Coalition," said Shields. "They had said there was a space right behind the church." The group approached the Hamline Midway Environmental Group that connected the volunteers with the Hamline Midway Elders, housed in the church, and a plan was

**"I felt like I really wanted to do something in the neighborhood and community I lived in..."**

- SPROUT organizer Margaret Shields



Margaret Shields called it the perfect moment. You might even call it the perfect germination. Shields, a student at Hamline University, said the organization she founded, Students Proposing Real Options for Underutilized Territory (SPROUT), was looking for produce. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

born.

"They were ecstatic about the idea of collaborating," Shields said.

SPROUT is a very new organization, according to Shields.

"We have been meeting and active since January," she said. "But the idea has been a long time coming." She said there is a core membership of 12-15 active members who come to meetings and workdays. "We have about 60 friends on Facebook," she added.

"This is something I have

been thinking of for a really long time," she said. "I worked on a farm last summer and was in Latin America for a year." She is getting her major in Latin American studies and Spanish with an economic minor.

"My time abroad definitely affected what I wanted to do," she said. "I felt like I really wanted to do something in the neighborhood and community I lived in and that I had the ability to affect. It all fits together in my mind."

She said the organization's idea has morphed and changed over time, as discussions were held about what people wanted to do and what the needs are.

The group grows the produce, with students or anyone else willing to help maintaining the garden, weeding and watering the plants. There is kale, a variety of lettuce, tomatoes, broc-

coli, spinach, turnips and corn. Two harvests have already been gathered.

The Hamline Midway Elders have made connections with a younger youth group, who provide assistance to some of the elderly in the community by mowing lawns and performing other chores. They help with the harvest of the garden and help distribute the produce, according to Shields.

"The produce is distributed on a needs basis," Shields said. She said the produce is divided into Community Supported Agriculture shares.

"Hamline Hi-Rise gets eighteen shares on a weekly basis and three private residences in the Hamline-Midway area are receiving shares," she said.



The group grows the produce, with students or anyone else willing to help maintaining the garden, weeding and watering the plants. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

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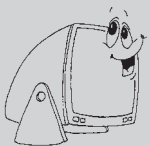
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# Long-awaited east extension of Pierce Butler Route moves ahead

By JANE MCCLURE

It's official – the long-awaited east extension of Pierce Butler Route is moving ahead. The St. Paul City Council took two actions on the \$52 million project July 1. The Council approved spending \$5 million to purchase two businesses.

The council also upheld an appeal by St. Paul Public Works and overturned Planning Commission approval of an expansion of non-conforming use permit for an auto salvage and parts business, Capitol Car Company, 388 Como Av. The commission had given the company the go-ahead to rebuild at the old A-1 auto parts and salvage site. The commission noted that plans for Pierce Butler hadn't been finalized at the time the expansion was sought. But Public Works appealed, saying the land is needed for the road extension.

Now, affected business owners and the Thomas-Dale Planning Council say that if the road project must go ahead at the chosen route, businesses need to be compensated quickly and fairly. It's a frustrating situation for many Frogtown residents. While they have pushed for years for Pierce Butler to be extended and take truck traffic off of Minnehaha Avenue and Dale Street, previous plans would have put the road closer to railroad tracks.

Now, not only does the neighborhood lose businesses and jobs, there are fears that an expanded Pierce Butler Route would prompt railroad officials to put in a new intermodal freight yard in Frogtown, bringing even more



The long-awaited east extension of Pierce Butler Route is moving ahead. The St. Paul City Council took two actions on the \$52 million project July 1. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

community disruption. Land the railroad owns had been eyed for years as the possible roadway extension location. But city officials have said it would be too difficult and costly to acquire that land.

But there are still many unknowns. The city is in the process of requesting city capital funds, and \$7 million in federal money, for the first phase of Pierce Butler extension. That would extend from Grotto to Arundel, for a \$10 million construction cost.

The second is from Arundel to Phalen Boulevard and will cost roughly \$42 million. The first phase should start in 2011 and on the second phase a year later.

There's no money budgeted for the second phase, which would extend Pierce Butler to I-35E and Phalen Boulevard.

The \$5 million OK'd July 1 is for Super Foods and Golden Globe Mall, 630 Pierce Butler Route, which are owned by Daisy Huang. The other business is Capitol Car Company, 388 Como Av. But business owners question whether that will be enough money. Another huge potential obstacle to roadway expansion is Veolia, formerly Vasko, a garbage hauling firm, garbage transfer station and drop point for citizens with recyclable materials. Finding a new location for Veolia could be a huge challenge.

The uncertainties hang over Frogtown, said neighborhood resident Brianna Klapoetke. She said a guarantee is needed that phase two will happen, before businesses make way for phase one.

She also pointed out that only building the first phase of roadway expansion wouldn't benefit the community, as it won't take truck traffic off of neighborhood streets.

Tait Danielson-Castillo, Executive Director of the District 7 council, said the council has been discussing Pierce Butler expansion for more than a decade, but wasn't

aware of the change in plans until recently. At a meeting in June community members voted 36-17 in favor of the expansion but many of those present were from a competitor to Super Foods and Golden Globe.

Danielson-Castillo said council members need to consider a number of issues, including the timing of the road project and how it will impact the community.

The other issue is the potential loss of jobs and businesses. Tim Poirer, attorney for Superfoods and Golden Globe owner Daisy Huang, said his client bought property and made significant improvements, only to learn last February that the road project had changed. Now his client, who has a number of small restaurants and vendors in Global Market, is losing tenants to other markets.

Poirer and Leland Frankman, an attorney for Capitol Car owner Gennadiy Yermolenko, said the city needs to take action now to compensate businesses. But Franken doubts the \$5 million is enough for both businesses. Yermolenko spent considerable money tearing down old buildings and cleaning up pollution before he found out his property was in the path of Pierce Butler Route.



While Frogtown residents have pushed for years for Pierce Butler to be extended and take truck traffic off of Minnehaha Avenue and Dale Street, previous plans would have put the road closer to railroad tracks. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

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# 'Leopard-print' shuttle opens doors for public transport

By DEBORAH BROTZ

If you've been frustrated circling parking lots and residential streets in Como Park looking for a parking space, you now have another fun option. A new leopard-print shuttle bus has begun operating at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory on Memorial Day weekend.

The shuttle service will expand parking options for the nearly 2 million annual visitors to the Zoo, Conservatory, and children's amusement park. Picking up families at parking lots at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds and the St. Paul Public Schools District Service Facility both off of Como Avenue, the shuttle will drop them off at the Visitor Center at the Zoo and Conservatory. The buses will run 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. every weekend through September.

"The new free service will ease traffic congestion in and around the park, improve neighborhood safety and air quality by reducing vehicle emissions, and reduce the frustration of circling the parking lot in hopes of nabbing one of the rare open parking spots," said Matt Reinartz, marketing and public relations manager for Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. "In the summer of 2008, a survey was conducted and found that out of the 92 percent of visitors who drive to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, 68 percent would likely utilize the shuttle bus service."

The City of St. Paul and Hoglund Bus Company officials leveraged a \$1.6 million federal grant with the help of some of Minnesota's Congressional delegation to purchase three low-emission diesel shuttle buses, which are wheelchair and stroller accessible. Along with the support of rented shuttle buses, they will be in continuous operation during the weekends.

"Anybody who has ever come here knows parking is an extreme challenge," said Reinartz. "The shuttle service is a great way for folks to not have to circle for parking. It's great for the environment. People take a low emission shuttle. It helps people in the neighborhood because they will not have cars in front of their house."

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A new leopard-print shuttle bus has begun operating at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory on Memorial Day weekend. Mayor Chris Coleman was on hand for the opening weekend.

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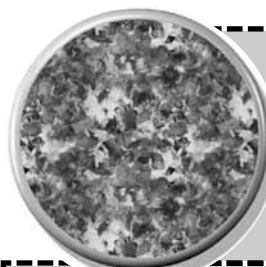
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# Emerald ash borer will ravage St. Paul trees, city budget

By JANE MCCLURE

The emerald ash borer not only threatens to devastate the city's trees, it also is likely to take a bite out of the city's budget for years to come. Removing and replacing city trees affected by emerald ash borer could cost the City of St. Paul \$2.8 million per year, with about 3,000 ash boulevard and park trees replaced each year.

Council members worry that the looming loss of trees will be a burden in light of pending city budget cuts. Another fear is that many private property owners will be hard-pressed to pay for removal of their diseased ash trees. Removal on vacant or foreclosed properties is another worry.

"It's going to be a long-term issue," said St. Paul Parks and Recreation Director Mike Hahm. Hahm presented an update on emerald ash borer control updates June 17 to the St. Paul City Council.

The city, which is facing cuts in state funding, doesn't have the budget or the funding reserves to handle tree removal and replacement on its own. Council members and staff are also concerned that controlling emerald ash borer shouldn't diminish ongoing forestry operations, such as tree trimming and replacement of other boulevard trees. Council President Kathy Lantry said residents who have waited a few years to have their missing boule-

vard trees replaced shouldn't be bumped to the back of the line by the need to replace ash trees.

Other council members had questions about replacement species, noting that some choices such as ginkgos have proven unpopular. The female ginkgo trees bear a fruit that emits a foul odor when it is damaged or crushed. Ward One Council Member Melvin Carter III said it's also important that the city plant a variety of trees as replacement, rather than mono-cultures of several blocks of the same species. The monocultures were planted for ease of maintenance but council members said that practice has to change.

Parks and recreation is also updating the city's diseased tree ordinance, which was developed more than 30 years ago to address trees affected by Dutch elm disease. The existing ordinance and state law allow the city to enter private property to inspect trees, order the removal of diseased trees and if necessary, remove trees and assess the costs back to the property owner. Changes to the diseased tree ordinance will be the topic of a public hearing later this summer.

But the city really doesn't have a choice to not remove affected ash trees. Diseased and dead trees must be removed, said Hahm. As the insects infest the trees, limbs are weakened and can fall, creating a danger. He



Throughout area neighborhood, purple traps have been hung in trees to track the spread of the ash borers. The traps are hung from ash trees. They will be taken down later this year. (Photo by Andrew Fossbinder)

said doing nothing isn't an option.

There are about 120,000 ash trees in St. Paul, with about 60,000 of those on land the city owns or manages. That includes parks, boulevards and golf courses.

Throughout area neighborhood, purple traps have been hung in trees to track the spread of the ash borers. The traps are hung from ash trees. They will be taken down later this year.

Council members acknowledged that the city is likely to lose its ash trees, just as most of its elms have vanished. "To stop it appears to be impossible," said Ward Six Council Member Dan Bostrom.

No city has successfully eradicated emerald ash borer once it has been discovered, said Hahm. "It's here and it's something we're going to have to deal with systematically over a period of

years." He described the city's approach as one of slowing the ash borers' spread and managing tree removal and replacement before the losses get out of control.

Emerald ash borers are tiny, iridescent beetles. They lay eggs on bark and the eggs hatch into larvae. The larvae tunnel beneath the bark and feed there, cutting off the supply of water and nutrients along the tree trunk. That kills the tree.

Emerald ash borer-infested trees were discovered in the Hampden Park area of St. Anthony Park neighborhood in mid-May. It's believed the insects had been in St. Paul as long as four years before they were discovered.

Hampden Park has the unfortunate distinction of having the first ash borer outbreak in Minnesota; emerald ash borer was first found in 2002 in Michigan.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and other state

agencies worked with Parks and Recreation to survey the Hampden Park area and surrounding neighborhoods this spring. Initially about 60 cases of the disease were found in public and private ash trees in that neighborhood. State officials helped with costs of removing more than 60 trees on public and private land.

But the state won't be able to assist with removal of trees on private property over the long-term, said Hahm. Nor is federal funding available at this time. The city is seeking outside funding to help cover the anticipated costs.

Although some tree firms are marketing injections or chemical treatments, widespread use of chemicals may not be feasible due to costs. Treating 500 trees annually would have a cost of about \$75,000 a year, said Hahm. Another issue raised by chemical use is the potential for chemicals to wind up in the soil and groundwater.

Parks and Recreation is looking at allowing residents to buy and use chemicals to save their individual boulevard trees, at their own cost. This is already done with other species of trees, with a city-issued permit. Hahm said chemical use on public land would be targeted, such as using chemicals on trees on golf course, where the loss of many trees at once would affect play.

Short-term removal plans to control the infestation and long-term management plans are in the works. At this point much of the planning focuses on tree removal as a means of slowing the insects down.

City officials would like to implement a long-term plan to remove and replace diseased trees. One of the steps Hahm would like to implement as soon as July is to hire four tree inspectors, at a cost of \$200,000.

The proposed plan calls for removing about 3,000 trees a year or 5 percent of the ash. The estimated cost of monitoring and inspecting trees, using pesticides where needed and removing trees is \$1.16 million in 2009 and \$2.81 million per year in subsequent years. The 2009 figure doesn't include the cost of reforestation.

Part of the plan calls for hiring two new removal crews and renting needed equipment. Tree inspectors would have to be hired. Of the possible costs the largest share of the budget is tree removal, which is estimated to cost \$1.93 million per year in 2010 and beyond.

Parks and recreation's forestry section currently has a budget of \$3 million per year. There are 31.2 full-time equivalent people on staff. Workers already trim about 10,000 public trees each year, on a 12-year cycle. They remove about 2,500 dead, diseased or dangerous trees and grind 1,400 stumps. About 1,600 replacement trees are planted each year.

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# University Avenue businesses brace for parking, customer losses

By JANE MCCLURE

Construction of the Central Corridor light rail line may be a year or more away for University Avenue businesses. But it is not too early for businesses to start preparing – and to be ready in case a claim for damages must be filed.

More than 40 people, many of them business and property owners, were told June 18 to start keeping track of revenues and customer traffic now so that they would have information later for comparison purposes. The June 18 meeting was sponsored by University Avenue Business Association (UABA), a group with more than 170 members.

“Our goal is not to stop light rail,” said Larry Peterson, a UABA Board member and attorney with Peterson, Logren and Kilbury. The law firm is on University Avenue, in the Wright Building.

UABA’s goal is to help businesses understand their legal rights as involved in rail construction and operations, and to seek funding to help businesses through the construction period. Construction on the 11-mile line is to begin in 2010, with rail operations starting in 2014.

Metropolitan Council is in charge of building Central Corridor, which will extend from downtown Minneapolis to downtown St. Paul. At this point there is no schedule for exactly when and where University Avenue construction will begin, said Dan Soler of the Central Corridor project office. Some initial work is already underway in downtown St. Paul. Next year the early project work will take place around the University of Minnesota. It is likely University Avenue in St. Paul would see the most work in 2011-2012. Businesses should see a schedule of construction by the end of 2009.

The project’s final environmental impact statement was published June 26, starting a 30-day comment period. The document can be accessed through the Metropolitan Council Web site and in area libraries. Metropolitan Council hopes to get the document reviewed and approved later this year, so the project can get underway.

Some business and property owners said they are unhappy to see the impacts of a project they don’t even support. Bill Miller owns a commercial building at the southwest corner of University and Raymond. His building has no off-street parking and he fears losing tenants. “It just seems like they want to take away our legal rights and tell us this has to happen.”

Attorneys at the UABA meeting said there are steps businesses and property owners can take to protect themselves. The group is trying to pull in other resources for businesses to know their rights and to find outside funding to compensate businesses for loss of revenue during construction. Right now there are no dedicated funds in the Central Corridor budget for that purpose.

Alex Pham owns Pho Ca Dao restaurant at 439 University Av. He said that past street construction projects in St. Paul have cost businesses “dearly.” His other worry, besides loss of access, is that of potential property damage. His building, like others, is old. He is worried about vibrations. “Right now we don’t know what that im-

pact will be.”

Miller is concerned about loss of tenants. His building will lose on-street parking, which acts as a buffer between pedestrians and traffic. “To have traffic eight to 12 feet from the front door of businesses is just insane,” said Miller.

Jim Toner, who owns property in the 200 block area of University, asked how many at the meeting ever were in favor of light rail on University. Only about half a dozen hands went up, with only about half of those being business and property owners.

One potential resource for businesses and property owners affected by light rail construction is the William Mitchell College of Law’s business law clinic. Professor Diane Dube is teaching a class this summer that is looking at light rail issues and the property tax issues related to the project.

Business and property owners were urged to be proactive. “A phrase we use in litigation all of the time is document, document, document,” said Peterson. Businesses should be keeping track of customer numbers and revenues now, long before construction starts. When the street is torn up, business owners need to have something to compare to when sales and foot traffic slow down.

“Obviously there will be days when there is no access to your property,” said Peterson.

The greatest worry among business owners is the loss of parking, with University losing about 85 percent of its on-street parking. But the loss of on-street parking doesn’t appear to be something businesses can seek compensation for.

Attorney Brett Kleffman of Peterson, Logren and Kilbury said there is no case law in Minnesota on parking loss. In other states, it’s been found by the courts that businesses cannot be compensated for the loss of on-street parking. The rationale is that the ability to use on-street parking is a privilege and not a right.

Attorneys Peterson, Kleffman and Stuart Alger of Leonard, Street and Deinard discussed eminent domain or condemnation of property, potential relocation benefits, and what is called “inverse condemnation.” Central Corridor plans don’t call for any University Avenue businesses to be taken as a result of rail construction, although a few off-street parking spaces could be lost due to signal and power equipment structures placed along the line.

Inverse condemnation is used to describe a situation in which the government takes private property but fails to pay the just compensation required by the Constitution. In order to be compensated, the owner must then sue the government. Legal dictionaries indicate there can be different issues in inverse condemnation cases. In these cases taking can be physical or what is called a regulatory taking, when regulations are so onerous that property can no longer be used for economically viable purposes.

“The law is rather sketchy and vague as to what damages can be awarded if your land is not taken,” said Peterson. Courts are just starting to take actions in the area of inverse condemnation.

But businesses can legally challenge property tax assessments

and can bring up loss of business and access in arguing that taxes should be decreased and not increased. Peterson said that the potential for increasing property taxes, at a time when business access is hampered, is a huge fear for many property owners. Some community groups have called for a freeze on property taxes during and after construction but that is a very complicated proposal.

Another issue property own-

ers need to watch for is damage caused by light rail construction and possibly vibrations from operations. Those at the UABA forum were urged to document the condition of their properties before construction begins. They were also urged to work with project outreach coordinators from metropolitan Council on potential property damage issues.

The vibration issue is one that troubles some business owners.

Metropolitan Council planning and studies for the light rail indicate there are a few locations along University where vibrations could be a problem. The University of Minnesota and Minnesota public radio have had the most attention paid to their worries about impacts of vibrations, in terms of funding and Metropolitan Council staff time. But Peterson said other businesses need to be mindful of that potential problem as well.



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The greatest worry among business owners is the loss of parking, with University losing about 85 percent of its on-street parking. (Photo by Andrew Fossbinder)

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'New neighborhood' of Raymond and University garners residents...

# Some merchants embrace bright side of LRT coming to University Avenue

By JAN WILLMS

As increasing concerns have been raised about the light rail coming to University Avenue and what upheaval this may bring, there are some property managers seeing rays of hope in the area, its development and growth.

Sandy Jacobs, who operates Update Company at 2324 University Avenue in the Midtown Commons Building, along with her two brothers and sister, said the area along University Avenue and Raymond has taken on a life of its own.

Jacobs, whose parents started Update 30 years ago, said the company provides building renovation, developing and leasing.

"We own and operate eight commercial properties in the neighborhood," she said. One new building was built, and the seven others have been renovated.

"We've always been linked to this area, and I have seen a lot of changes," Jacobs said. Midtown Commons stands directly across the street from where the Raymond Avenue Station will be built for the light rail.

"This part of University Avenue used to be rundown," Jacobs noted, "with a lot of vacant buildings."

She said that currently a lot of nonprofits and artist groups call the area home. "A lot of the older buildings have been renovated and turned into offices," she said.

She said that her company's 80-85 tenants include lawyers and chiropractors, as well as about 25 per cent who are nonprofit programs.



Sandy Jacobs, who operates Update Company at 2324 University Avenue in the Midtown Commons Building, along with her two brothers and sister, said the area around University Avenue and Raymond has taken on a life of its own. Above, Jacobs is pictured with her two brothers, Jim and Jack McCann, outside their latest project at 700 Raymond Avenue. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

"Many have been with us for 15-20 years," she said. She added that although they will lose parking in front of their buildings with the light rail, they are better prepared than most.

"We had to tear down part of the building, when we renovated, to make sure we had plenty of parking. It's what people want. They don't want to have to drive around the block three times," she said.

"There's been a lot of bad publicity and nervousness about the parking, with the arrival of light rail," Jacobs said. "We want to make sure we are not scaring people off. A lot of people are excited about it, according to what I have heard."

She said the Hiawatha line has

seen a large number of riders, people who don't normally use public transportation.

"Light rail on University Avenue will be good for students and people who work all the way down the avenue," Jacobs said.

Jacobs said that Update Company, despite the gloom and doom of today's economy, is looking at this period as time to reinvest in the Midway and University Avenue. Most recently, Jacobs said a little building came up for sale around the corner from Midtown Commons, and her company is starting another rehab project.

"We are just starting to renovate, and it should be ready at the end of the year. We're anticipating some nonprofit group will be interested in being in the area," she

added.

Jacobs mentioned that Hampden Park Co-op is expanding, and the Lyric at Carleton Place is building a 171-unit apartment complex, scheduled to open in March 2010.

Mark Krogh, owner of Java Properties, a brokerage firm, agrees that University Avenue is seeing a lot of activity.

"Right now properties are selling really cheap," he said, "and there are some big things happening." He said he has been in business a little over a year and a half, and his company is focusing on University Avenue and Southeast Minneapolis.

"We know most of the owners on University Avenue," he said. "Prices are good, and pricing is realistic. I see lots of activity and lots of

renovation." He said he is aware of 10 properties currently being renovated.

"The future looks bright for University Avenue, and it will be a great day for some of these business owners," Krogh said.

He admits that a resolution for parking is a tough call.

"Building without parking limits the tenants who can be in there," he said. "Variances are needed, and it's a catch-22. Ramps cost so much money, and people have to pay for the use of parking."

He said one solution is to buy houses a block back from the avenue and tear them down to provide parking space.

"I'm a big believer in University Avenue, especially long-term," Krogh said. "Some businesses will benefit from the light rail station, and all of them will benefit in the long run." He said building the light rail won't be as traumatic as some people may expect.

"You're always going to have some who are opposed to everything," he said. "They're anti-development, anti-everything. But look what the light rail has done on Hiawatha. Everybody wants to be there."

Krogh said most neighborhoods go through phases, and he considers University Avenue is on the upswing right now. He especially sees a lot of businesses going in around Raymond and University.

Jacobs said she sees the area as having lots of potential.

"Building the light rail is like taking medication," she noted. "It's tough to take during construction, but good for you in the long run."



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By JANE MCCLURE

Rice Street Festival is 99 years old. This year's festival, Three Cheers for 99 Years, is July 22-25.

What began as a fall harvest festival is now one of the oldest continuous community festivals in the Twin Cities. This year's festival occurs as organizers have an eye on 2010 and the event's centennial.

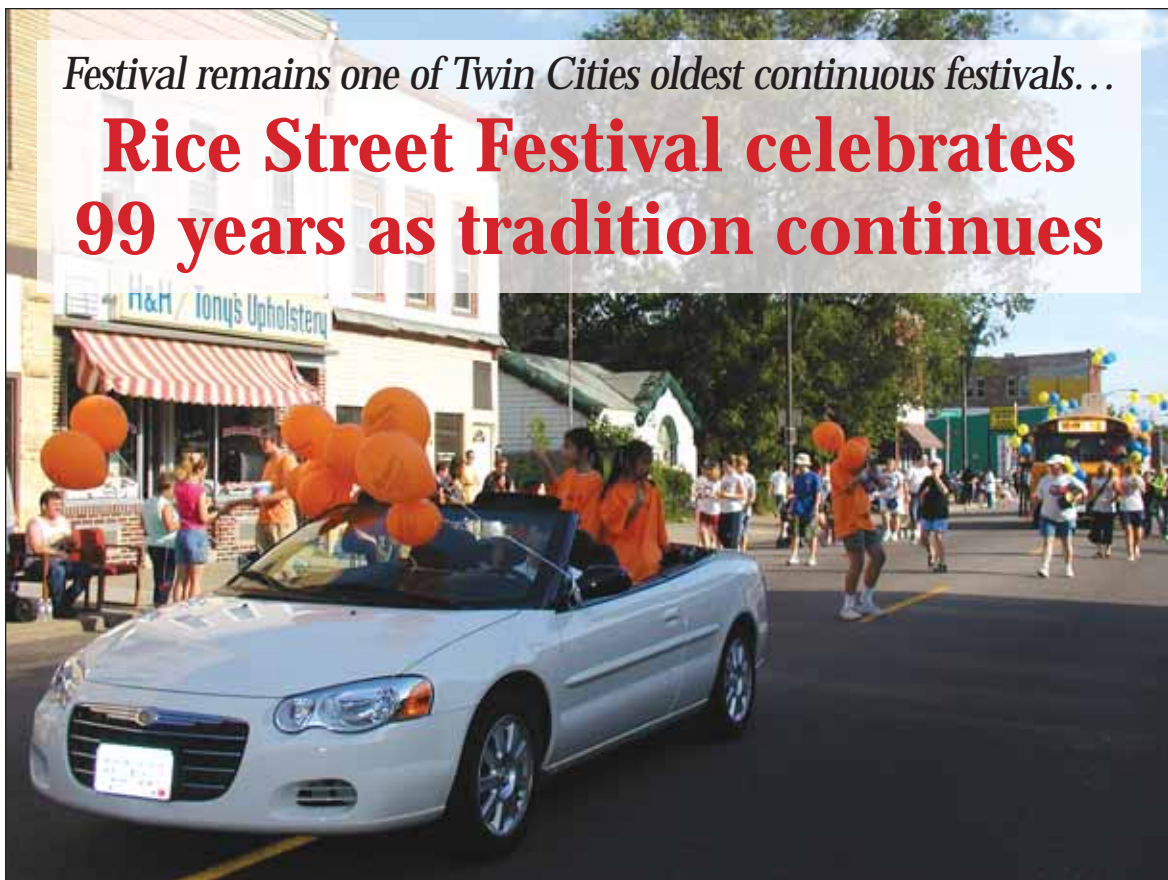
It also is happening at a time when part of Rice Street itself is detoured due to reconstruction of the bridge over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad.

"We've made some changes to prepare for next year and to deal with this year's bridge construction," said Festival Director Fred Huerta.

One key change is that of the parade date. This year's parade is 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 23. The parade route is on Rice, from Atwater to Ivy streets. The parade typically extends to Rice and Arlington, but is truncated in 2009 for bridge reconstruction.

Another change is the day of the parade itself. For many years the parade was on the fourth Wednesday night in July. For a time a Saturday parade was tried, to see if that would attract more entries and spectators.

Community sentiment meant the parade was moved back to a weeknight. But Huerta noted that in recent years, other communities and festivals began holding parades and events on the same Wednesday night. "We were conflicting with Shoreview, the Minneapolis Aquatennial and other



*Festival remains one of Twin Cities oldest continuous festivals...*

## Rice Street Festival celebrates 99 years as tradition continues

events."

Huerta found that no other regional festival had major events on Thursday night so the parade was moved. "Moving it to Thursday this year puts everyone on notice that we'll be Thursday night in 2010 and beyond," he said. If groups cannot participate in the 2009 parade, this gives time to be ready for 2010.

Another one-year change due to the bridge project is that the 2009 festival won't include the Rice Street Mile, which is run from on Rice Front to Arlington. Bridge construction and the difficulties in marking out and certifying a new race course for just one year prompted the festival and run organizers to shelve the event.

"But we want everyone to know that the race will be back in 2010 and that this is just being done for one year," said Huerta.

Here's a look at other festival

activities:

\*Old-Timers Softball, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 22, Rice-Lawson fields. The game is sponsored by Born's Bar and features teams from Schally's, a longtime Rice Street bar/restaurant and Knights



Promotional. Some of the players have stepped to the plate for many years and the game is chance for friends and family to reconnect.

\*Rice Street Parade, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 23, Rice Street from

Atwater to Ivy. After the parade there will be professional wrestling at Lonetti's.

\*Movie in the Park, 6 p.m. Friday, July 24 at Rice Recreation Center, 1021 Marion St. St. Paul Parks and Recreation and Comcast team up for the movie, a climbing wall, inflatable castle and the unveiling of the new recording studio at the recreation center. Concessions will be for sale. The movie "Hotel for Dogs" will be shown at dusk.

\*Rice Street Royalty Fashion Show, 6 p.m., Klub Haus, 1079 Rice Street. Come meet Rice Street Royalty candidates.

\*Kickball tournament. This new co-ed event is organized by Parks and Recreation and will be hosted by Rice Recreation Center. Contact Randy Graff at or randy.graff@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-558-2392.

\*Rice Street Festival Softball



Tournament, July 25-26, Rice/Arlington fields. Entry fee is \$135 and softballs are provided at this event, which promises teams at least three games. Entries are accepted until July 22 or the field fills up. Men's, women's and co-rec teams welcomed. FFI: 651-558-2255.

\*Eighth Annual Talent Show, noon-5 p.m. Saturday, July 25. This event attracts a wide range of performers. Prizes are given in several categories. The event is held at Washington Middle School, 1021 Marion St.

\*Treasure Hunt, noon-5 p.m. Saturday, July 25. Follow posted clues and hunt for the treasurer. Clues are posted at Washington.

\*Second Annual Car Show, noon-5 p.m. Saturday, July 25. The show is hosted by Dar's Double Scoop and Mike's Complete Auto Care, and held at Capital Bank, 1020 Rice St.

\*Rice Street Festival Royalty Coronation, 4 p.m. Saturday, July 25 at Klub Haus, 1079 Rice St. The new Miss Rice Street and her court will be crowned.

For festival information and event entry forms, go to [www.ricestreetfestival.org](http://www.ricestreetfestival.org)



## Rice Street Festival • July 22-25



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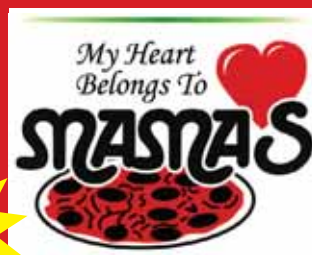


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Grand Marshal Maggie Doran with her friend Rome Hanson and Rice Street Festival Director Fred Huerta. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

## Maggie Doran named Grand Marshal of Rice Street Parade

By JAN WILLMS

It took Fred Huerta three months to ask Maggie Doran to be the Grand Marshal of the Rice Street Parade. Huerta, who has been director of the Rice Street Festival for the past four years, was searching the community to find someone to serve as the Grand Marshal for the parade to be held July 23.

"I learned from the previous director that you find people who have contributed to the neighborhood," Huerta said. And in his searching, he came upon Doran.

Doran's son, Benjamin, was beaten to death six years ago by two strangers who later said they mistook him for someone else. The fifteen-year-old was walking home with friends from a basketball game when they were attacked. They all scattered, but Benjamin was chased down and beaten and left to die.

Shortly after his death, Doran and friend Rome Hanson co-founded the Ben Doran Foundation to provide assistance for the families of murder victims. Doran has become a community activist over the past several years, using the foundation to address the rights of murder victims. The Foundation works with crime victim issues at the legislative level and in the Twin Cities community.

Huerta said the Grand Marshal selection is not necessarily based upon someone being a business owner, but also a coach or a volunteer as well.

"It's people who have contributed to the neighborhood," he said. "For example, one year the Grand Marshal was a dentist who contributed free dental care."

"We had a committee to choose the Grand Marshal, and ask questions," Huerta said. He said the committee does background checks on nominees and finds out how long they have participated or volunteered in community activities.

"We feel we made a wonderful choice in selecting Maggie,"

Huerta said. "Going into this, I didn't realize the great things they are trying to accomplish."

Huerta said people need to recognize that bad things happen. "Maggie's only son was murdered," he said. "I wasn't quite sure how to approach her, and how she felt. I had friends bring it up to her, and she loved the idea."

Doran said she found out she was nominated in April and was called the first week in June and officially asked. She and Ben, represented by his photo, were officially knighted June 10 by Huerta, who is also involved with the Winter Carnival festivities.

"I look at it as me being able to stand up after the worst tragedy a parent can go through, being able to stand up for Benny," she said. "Life can be so unfair, but I feel like I have come full circle."

"Fred Huerta based his decision on walking up and down Rice Street," Doran said.

"He wanted to know who in the community was civically involved," added Hanson. "It's a testament to him that he sought someone out who is not a business leader, but involved in the community."

"Because we have a foundation, I definitely feel I can lend my voice to anything," Doran said. She said that after a tragedy such as her son's murder has happened, people want you to shut up about it.

"I don't dwell on Ben's murder, but it's the reason I have become an activist," she said. "I need to reflect on what is here and now, not so much on what has happened."

Since her son's death, Doran has started working as a caregiver for a little girl who has Rett Syndrome, a genetic neurological disorder that occurs almost exclusively in girls. Doran has used Ben's Foundation and its website to draw attention to this disease and seek to find a cure for it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# In Our Community

## Lyngblomsten holds conference Sept. 17

Join us for the Lyngblomsten Annual Wellness Conference from 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m. on the Lyngblomsten campus (1415 Almond Avenue). Enjoy an evening of learning, laughter, exhibits, sensory experiences, and more. This year's focus is on the issues men and women face over age fifty. Admission is \$15 (\$10 for Lyngblomsten volunteers), including a catered supper buffet. For more information or to download a flyer (with a registration form), visit [www.lyngblomsten.org](http://www.lyngblomsten.org) or contact Cindy Albing, Community Education Coordinator, at 651-414-5292 or [calbing@lyngblomsten.org](mailto:calbing@lyngblomsten.org).

## 'Color and Draw' at the Library

"Color and Draw Storytime Tuesday, July 28 at 6 p.m. at Hamline Midway Library (1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.) Books about color and art then create your own world with your very own magic crayon...just like Harold. For more information about Storytime, contact the library at 651-642-0293."

## National Night Out at Zion

"Have a Good Time Getting to Know Your Neighbors" on National Night Out, August 4, 6:00 to 8:00, at the Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Avenue. All are invited. Bring chairs, and come and greet your neighbors. Refreshments will be provided. Call 651-645-0851 or visit [www.zlcmidway.org](http://www.zlcmidway.org).

## VBS at Zion Lutheran Church

"The Rain Forest, Vacation Bible School with A Tropical Theme" will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Avenue, July 21 - 23, 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Each night will include a different Theme, Games, Snacks, Crafts, and Bible Stories. Activities are for kids 3-12, but all children and families are welcome.

Call 651-645-0851 or visit [www.zlcmidway.org](http://www.zlcmidway.org).

## St. Columba Fun-Fest July 18 & 19

St. Columba welcomes the Midway Community to our first ever summer Fun-Fest. Our popular Fall Festival has moved to the summer sunshine (we hope and pray!), and we would love to have our friends and neighbors drop by.

There will be many fun activities, such as Live Music, \$2500

## Rice Street Car Show July 25

The Second Annual Rice Street Festival Open Car Show will be sponsored by Dar's Double Scoop Ice Cream & Coffee Shop, Lonetti's Lounge and Mike's Complete Auto Care on Saturday, July 25th at Dar's at 1046 Rice Street. Classics, low riders and muscle cars will be featured. The sponsors are hoping for 100 cars to be on display this year, and it's not too late to call for exhibiting. There is no entry fee, no pre-registration, and a free lunch for all participants. There will be trophies awarded, live music and door prizes. Call Kevin at 651-283-7009 for more information.



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St. Columba Fun-Fest will be held rain or shine, Saturday and Sunday July 18 & 19, and begins following the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday until 10:00 p.m. and Sunday following 10:00 am Mass until the winning raffle ticket is drawn at 5:00 pm. St. Columba is located at 1327 Lafond Avenue.

## National Night Out: America's Night Out Against Crime

NNO is August 4, 2009. Abetto's, Como Avenue Block Club and District 6 Planning Council will be hosting an event at Abetto's, 560 Como Avenue beginning at 6 p.m. If you want to host your own gathering there are many ideas from root beer floats to barbeques. District 6 has a NNO packet to help you out. Last year about 17 block clubs or neighbors got together. If you want to join a gathering or host one give Marisa a call at 651-488-7684 for information!

## District 6, Helgen initiate 3-stage Project Blue

Project Blue is a 3-stage community building and sustainability plan for the North End/South Como neighborhoods initiated by Councilmember Lee Helgen and the District 6 Planning Council.

Project Blue is a community building and sustainability plan that addresses the three most criti-

cal gaps between the neighborhood's current conditions and the future success envisioned by residents and other stakeholders. It reflects the neighborhood's priorities and establishes a plan for addressing them. Look for your future mailing and learn more about blue yonder, blue collar and blue door.

## Churches host picnic July 21 at two locations

The community is invited to a free picnic at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, at two locations in the Midway area: Jehovah Lutheran Church at Thomas & Snelling (651-644-1421) and St. Stephanus Lutheran Church at Lafond & Grotto (651-228-1486). After the food and fellowship there will be a discussion of community wants and needs asking for community input for future community programming. The discussion runs from 7-8 p.m. and insights and suggestions are heartily encouraged. The evening is a follow-up to earlier neighborhood walk/talk and is organized by Lutheran Inter-city Network Coalition, Central Lutheran School, St. Stephanus Lutheran Church and Jehovah Lutheran Church. Another contact: [info@lincwincities.org](mailto:info@lincwincities.org) or 651-270-4600. Bring your neighbors, family and friends.

## "That's A Good Question"

Good God questions are the topic of the Summer Bible Study at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Avenue, Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. following the worship/fellowship hours. Pastor Bob Benke leads the discussion after a short DVD by theology professors on the topic for the day. Come for

all or one of the topics, enter at the Thomas Avenue door and go to the lounge. For a list of topics see the Education link at [www.jehovahlutheran.org](http://www.jehovahlutheran.org).

## Wednesday Prayer & Praise

A Wednesday night service of prayer and praise has been added for the summer months at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Avenue, starting at 6 p.m. with a light supper. Music and devotions at 6:30 p.m. are led by the two Jehovah bands Dynamic Joy and Spirit Freed — on alternate Wednesday evenings. Neighborhood friends are welcome to this time together. Check the Worship link at [www.jehovahlutheran.org](http://www.jehovahlutheran.org) for more information.

## Diabetes Refresher course July 14

A Diabetes Refresher (Diet, Footcare, Meds, etc.) Plus Pre-Packaged Med Set Up." HM Elders Program Nurse, Cheri Fiola, RN & a representative from Moudry Apothecary will both present on these current subjects at a luncheon for seniors on July 14 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 1415 Englewood Avenue (lower level, Hamline Methodist Church). Call the office of Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542 to make reservations or request free transportation. A free will donation is asked for the meal. If you are a senior, caregiver or neighbor and would like information about our services or volunteer opportunities, visit [www.blocknurse.org](http://www.blocknurse.org).

## Summer activities planned at the library

The Hamline Midway Library has lots of fun activities and programs planned for this summer. Please join us! Drop-in craft time will take place every Friday, July 10th through August 28th from 3-5 p.m. Bring your friends!

On July 22nd at 2 p.m., join us to watch the movie Twilight and enter our Stephanie Meyer book give-away.

Come to a special Color and Draw Storytime on Tuesday, July 28th at 6 pm. Explore books about color and art then create your own world with your very own magic crayon... just like Harold!

Join Capt'n Curley on his search for the world's greatest treasure in "Treasure Beyond Measure" on Monday, July 13th. Enjoy music, dancing and songs about color with Ross Sutter on Monday, July 20th. On Monday, July 27th, the Como Zoo will present "Rabbit Gets Creative." And the Science Museum of Min-

nesota will present hands-on activities on Monday, August 3rd. All programs begin at 2 p.m. and are part of the St Paul Public Library's Summer Reading Program.

Teen Game Days start in July with Dance Dance Revolution and Guitar Hero on July 15th. On July 29th, teens can come play board games and August 5th will be Wii Games. All teen events are on Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

Regular storytimes are offered every week. Storytimes are a wonderful way for children to experience the joys of reading. Bedtime storytime is every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Toddler and Preschool storytime is every Friday at 10:30 a.m.

The Hamline Midway Library is located at 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. and can be contacted at 651-642-0293. Library events are free and open to the public.

## Hamline Midway Elders celebrates Year 8

Hamline Midway Elders will celebrate its eighth anniversary at an ice cream social for HM residents of all ages on Wednesday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m. on the northwest lawn (corner of Englewood and Asbury) of Hamline Methodist Church. In case of inclement weather, neighbors are asked to come to the south door of the building. Call 651-209-6542 for free transportation.

## 4th Annual Parade of Gardens August 22

As part of the 4th Annual Parade of Community Gardens on Saturday, August 22nd, Midway Greenspirit Garden welcomes anyone interested in seeing the vegetables, flowers, herbs and native plants being grown by local gardeners. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be gardeners available for tours and questions. Refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to taste what has been grown at the Midway Greenspirit Garden. A fun craft activity that kids can take home will be provided. The beekeeper, Virginia Lindgren, will be available to answer questions, and she will give a special bee-hive demonstration at 1 p.m.

The Midway Greenspirit Garden is located at the intersections of Albert and Pierce Butler (near Hamline Avenue).

The event is coordinated by GardenWorks, a program of The Green Institute. The Parade of Community Gardens is designed to showcase the many benefits of community gardening—from beautification and food production to education and community-building. Information about all the gardens participating in the event, including maps and garden descriptions can be found at [www.gardenworksMN.org](http://www.gardenworksMN.org) or 612-278-7123..

Ripple effects will cross the state...

# Unallotment takes effect July 1

By JANE MCCLURE

The \$2.7 billion unallotment of Minnesota's budget took effect July 1, with ripple effects that will be felt in every corner of the state. St. Paul and Ramsey County officials have a better idea of what that all means for 2009 and beyond, and are taking steps to address looming budget shortfalls.

St. Paul will lose an estimated \$5 million in Local Government Aid (LGA) in 2009, with a cut of \$11.6 million in 2010. Both cuts are less than city officials had anticipated, said Finance Director Margaret Kelly. The city had expected to lose as much as \$7.7 million this year and \$16 million in 2010. The city was slated to receive \$62.6 million in LGA for 2009 and \$64 million next year.

The city has been able to manage cuts through a number of measures including a hiring freeze, clamp-down on purchaser and other savings. Almost 140 city positions are vacant. Mayor Chris Coleman and his staff have taken 5 percent pay cuts.

The savings mean city officials don't expect to announce budget adjustments until August, when the 2010 city budget will be presented to the City Council. In June Coleman announced he is setting aside a plan that called for closing three recreation centers, reducing op-

erations at two and finding non-profit partners to run three others. The centers can stay open until at least year's end. Front and Sylvan had been slated to close; Griggs would have been turned over to a new partner and South St. Anthony would be run by a new partner or sustained service cuts.

Still unclear is the fate of Hamline-Midway Branch Library, which is also slated for closure. City officials and neighborhood residents are looking at the idea of a nonprofit group running the library or sharing the building. Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark and area residents have formed a task force to study options.

Kelly said that the city has been able to manage the 2009 shortfall. "But for our 2010 budget it's a much bigger challenge."

Earlier this year city departments were asked to prepare budget reduction scenarios at 5 and 14 percent of operating budgets. The reductions, when they are made, won't be at the same level for each city department. Kelly said the intent is to keep public safety personnel on the street. "But it's going to be difficult, given the 2010 challenges."

Coleman has warned that the unallotment impacts will be felt by many, for a long time. He

and other state mayors have waged a high-profile campaign, criticizing Gov. Tim Pawlenty and the unallotment process. Pawlenty, in turn, has responded that he had to use unallotment because legislators didn't get budget decisions done. He has also criticized city leaders and told them to tighten their belts.

"Minnesota communities were critically hurt by the governor's action, and nearly every Minnesotan will personally be affected. It could be in the form of no cop in their kid's school, higher property taxes, or a local library that is no longer open," said Coleman. "Many Minnesotans will think in the coming year that this is not the state they knew, or the state they want it to be."

St. Paul City Council members began discussing goals and objectives for city operations June 24, in a series of policy sessions. Council President Kathy Lantry said the sessions will help set goals and decide which services should get priority when funding decisions are made. The first session focused on public safety.

Ramsey County officials are also trying to get their arms around the effects of unallotment, getting a look at some of the numbers last week. "The picture for the county is a tough one to figure out," said Terry

Lindeke, director of public affairs and special initiatives for Ramsey County. That's because county programs and services draw on a wide variety of funding sources, as compared to the city's lump sum payments of LGA.

Because the county receives not just general aid but also numerous program-specific grants and other funding, county officials still don't have a total picture of the unallotment effects. Some numbers may not be fleshed out until mid-July.

Overall, Ramsey County government fared slightly better in the reduction to county program aids than was anticipated, but slightly worse overall in the reductions to other programs. Lindeke noted that none of the cut was unexpected and that ways to handle them were being discussed before the budget ax fell.

In County Program Aid (CPA) Ramsey County will lose \$3.225 million in 2009 and \$6.549 million in 2010. The county was slated to receive \$18.2 million this year and \$18.9 million in 2010. CPA dollars are used for a variety of programs.

Numerous other programs are losing funding. Of individual county departments, human services will see some of the deepest service cuts. One area

sustained a major hit is the Children and Community Services Grant. Ramsey County has a base state allocation of \$8.736 million. With federal funds and other adjustments, this was to be \$12.913 million for 2009 and with a similar amount likely for 2010. The estimated 2009 reduction is \$2.191 million, with a reduction of \$2.8 million anticipated in 2010.

Mental health grants will lose \$400,000 in 2009 and \$896,000 in 2010. The grant award was set for \$11.9 million before unallotment.

In human services the county will see trickle-down impacts as state programs, including emergency general assistance and emergency Minnesota supplemental aids and general assistance medical case are cut. The report to county officials indicates that more people are likely to be homeless and go without medical care, although no firm numbers are attached to these projections.

The county also will lose funding for child support enforcement, losing an estimated \$157,534 in 2009, \$370,900 in 2010 and \$157,534 in 2011. Counties use the grants to pay administrative costs of collecting child support. Community Corrections would lose an estimated \$100,000 in various grants.

## Maggie Doran

Continued from page 10

The Foundation has also gained passage of Benny's Law, a law that provides that gang members convicted of a crime against a

person under the age of eighteen should serve their full sentences without time off for good behavior. The law, introduced by Rep. John Lesch, DFL-St. Paul, was passed in 2005.

A Day of Remembrance was proclaimed on Sept. 25 by the governor as a day to honor the memory of murder victims.

"Minnesota is the only state in the union to have this memori-

al day," Hanson said. "No one speaks for victims of murder like we do."

He said Ben's Foundation gives a bigger voice to the community, and to the families of murder victims.

"You have to talk about what happened because it is so real and so devastating," Doran said. "It takes awhile to transfer from devastation to living again."

"There is no such thing as going back to normal," Doran said. "But our organization is getting stronger, and we are connected all across the state. We feel we are the only voice legislating for a victim's bill of rights."

Doran said she doesn't look at Rice Street and say Rice Street killed her child.

"I hate it when everyone looks at an area and labels it un-

safe," she said. "You can't let evil and nastiness win - you can't."

She said a friend once told her "Don't let Ben's killers kill you, too."

"It's like I have got to hold my head up for Ben," she said. "I try to not get involved in politics. The Foundation has helped me move on, take Ben's name and work for something else. Being Grand Marshal—it's Benny's moment, too."



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# Shuttle

Continued from page 3

Reinartz says a survey they took revealed 100 percent of people who took the shuttle would take the shuttle again for a future visit. Asking people to rate the shuttle on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being poor and 5 outstanding, 84 percent voted the experience waiting for the bus outstanding; 87 percent voted the length of trip outstanding; and 86 percent voted overall satisfaction outstanding.

"Not one vote voted poor for any of the three," said Reinartz. "We're pretty proud of that."

The first shuttle unveiled is a leopard print.

"That's all part of our new marketing campaign called 'Get Closer to Como,'" said Reinartz. "At Como, you can get closer to animals and flowers and events. There will be a sunflower bus and a zebra. You can see the get closer message within the pattern."

As a work in progress for some time, the shuttle service is important to Como Zoo and Conservatory.

"It's another amenity for the nearly 2 million folks who come to visit every year," said Reinartz. "Guests can come to the front door without the hassle. We want to help with traffic congestion for the neighborhood. We're lucky to have partners like the State Fair and St. Paul Public Schools, who let us use their parking lots. We're excited by the survey results that folks enjoy it as well."

Although traffic and parking problems were discussed long before Chris Martineau, chair of the District 10 Neighborhood Rela-



tions Committee, moved to the Como neighborhood, he hopes the shuttle works to help solve these problems.

"I hope it helps with parking, vehicle traffic, and helps neighbors concerns about safety issues," he said. "The shuttle is a great idea going forward. It's got to help. There will always be somebody who is going to drive around to find a spot. I think it's a good likelihood it will be a successful project for everybody."

Dennis O'Rourke, a former District 10 board member, has been working on Como Park's traffic and congestion issue for about six years.

"I was one of the neighbors Chet Mirocha talked to about starting a committee to deal with traffic and congestion," he said. "Out of that committee came a proposal for a shuttle at many parking sites Como is surrounded by. We came up with proposals to have a circulator, which at some

point would include the Central Line."

The committee also suggested that one or two lots in the park could be metered when the shuttle is running.

"There is no money to maintain the shuttle over time," said O'Rourke. "We could have a weekend pay booth where people spend a dollar an hour. It could help maintain Como Park outside of the campus (Zoo, Conservatory, amusements) such as McMurray Field and the rest of the park."

O'Rourke says they wanted to find a solution considering the finite parking. With only 1,400 parking spots, an estimated 20,000 used Como Park on Memorial Day.

"We don't want any more parking," said O'Rourke. "It's a park, not a parking lot. We want people to use it. We don't want to build any more parking. There's parking all around us."

Not wanting to see more

parking lots in Como Park prompted O'Rourke to join other residents to try to find a way to reduce congestion.

"You can barely get through it," he said. "There's the danger of children running out in the street. It's taking away from the park experience. The whole ambiance is tainted by people looking for parking."

Chai Insook, a former District 10 board member who is now actively involved with the Neighborhood Relations Committee, thinks the shuttle is just one of the answers to relieve traffic and congestion in the neighborhood. He also wants to see fee parking in Como Park lots.

"I see the shuttle as one critical part of the equation," he said. "I see parking getting worse even with the shuttle. The number will continue to increase by a few hundred thousand every year. There's an effort to make Como Park more of a year-round attraction."

The next thing Insook would like to see happen is a permit for restricted parking within the neighborhood.

"Not everyone is going to take the shuttle," he said. "The problem is too many cars in the park. A lot of park visitors are parking in the neighborhood. Neighborhood residents can't plan events in the neighborhood. I think only with permit parking and fee parking will we see a reduction in congestion and traffic."

Insook feels that to suggest the shuttle solves a problem depends on what people see the problem is.

"I don't think the shuttle is an answer," he said. "There has been no change in the number of cars on the street. People are still parking on our side. As a solo solution, the shuttle will not work to solve the problems we face."

According to Insook, not everyone benefits from the shuttle.

"The shuttle is good for some park visitors because it offers them a solution," he said. "It's good for the Park because it gives them more access to visitors. It doesn't offer neighbors anything. They need some mechanism to deter visitors from parking on the street."

While several neighbors feel the shuttle is not an end-all solution to traffic and congestion in Como Park, park officials have high hopes of its success.

"It expands parking options for all visitors to Como Zoo, Conservatory, and the children's amusement park," said Reinartz. "We hope that it eases traffic congestion and improves neighborhood safety in the park and surrounding neighborhoods."

## Ginkgo hosts Woody Guthrie celebration

There probably isn't a Kindergarten child in the entire United States that can't sing a little bit of "This Land is Your Land" if you ask. There is likely no senior citizen over 70 that would not recognize the refrain to "So Long, It's Been Good to Know You."

Such is the range and staying power of a songwriter whose voice, author John Steinbeck once described as sounding "like a tire iron on a rusty rim," Woody Guthrie.

Minnesota folkies, Pop Wagner, Charlie Maguire, and bluesman Tony Glover come together for the first time in their careers to the Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 North Snelling, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14 to sing and perform Guthrie's songs on what is Woody's 97th birthday. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For information call 651-645-2647.

Additionally, the program will pull deeply from a well of over 132 songs that were recorded 65 years ago in April of 1944 in a tiny recording studio on West Forty-Sixth Street in New York by Woody, his closest friend and harmonizer, Cisco Houston, and often backed by legendary blues harmonica player Sonny Terry and others. There are songs of hard traveling, being lonesome, being broke, and the sights, and sounds, and certain freedoms of the road.

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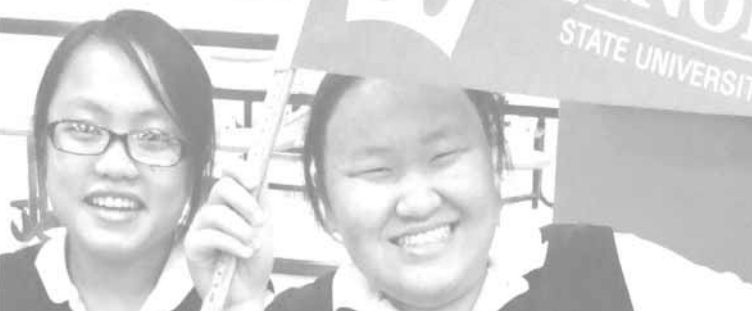
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Organizer Margaret Shields says although the garden behind Hamline United Methodist is SPROUT'S main project, the organization also has a smaller garden behind some houses on Minnehaha. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

## SPROUT

Continued from page 1

"With the excess we hope to hold some community potlucks or supply fresh vegetables for a Tuesday lunch at the church provided by the Hamline Midway Elders," Shields said.

Although the garden behind Hamline United Methodist is SPROUT'S main project, the organization also has a smaller garden behind some houses on Minnehaha. These gardens contain several kinds of herbs.

There are also 10 container gardens on campus, featuring ornamental edibles. There are nasturtiums, chives and marigolds in these gardens.

"In the spring, we hosted a documentary film series at the Hamline Library, open to the public," Shields said. "We showed movies about environmental food justice and had a pretty good turnout. The group is active all year long, and we are looking forward to our second year."

She said the community collaboration does require a lot of extra work and thought. "We're trying to be inclusive," she said. "And since we're such a new organization, we have no budget at all. We have been trying to get donations."

Shields said she made a connection with Urban Farming, a

national nonprofit, that also has several community gardens in St. Paul.

"They donated tools, seeds and some soil," she said. "They have been really helpful in getting us material resources."

She said the gardening has made her much more aware of the weather.

"When it's warm and muggy, I think of the weeds creeping up," she said. "I'm always grateful when it rains. I used to think of overcast days as being rainy; now I realize there is a big difference when it actually rains. And super-hot days also go into the development of a productive garden."

"I am starting to learn my flowers," Shields said. "My mom used to have a huge flower garden. But I think what got me interested in vegetables is that you go from seed to plate. You can say the same for flowers, but I'm an eater. I love to be able to eat the fruits of my labor."

Shields said she thinks members of her generation had kind of lost the knowledge of gardening.

"A lot of students just don't understand how things grow, but they are receiving that knowledge," she said. "It's really an important education process that takes quite a bit of work."

She said her group is trying to start small, but do really well.

"We hope to continually be growing and expanding our reach," she added.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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# Classifieds

Continued from page 15

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I buy scrap metals, gold, silver, copper, brass, aluminum, etc. Also, non working vehicles, old books and other stuff. Cash paid. Call George. 651-340-2874. 7-09

# Back to the 50's at the State Fairgrounds

The 36th Annual Back to the 50s Weekend held at the State Fairgrounds by the Minnesota Street Rod Association (MSRA) was in full swing Saturday, June 20th. Visitors spent a day in the sun checking out more than 11,000 street rods, customs, classics and restored vehicles from 1964 and previous years. The event was sponsored by O'Reilly Auto Parts. (Photo by Andrew Fossbinder)



## Writing Program Brings Top Children's Authors to Hamline

Hamline is kicking off its writing for children master's degree program summer classes by inviting the public to attend several book readings by well-published, nationally known children's and young adult authors. Readings are free and open to all.

### AUTHORS:

Lisa Jahn Clough, Marsha Chall, Eleanor Tate, and Ron Koertge

Friday, July 10

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Giddens Alumni Learning Center, Room 100E  
1556 Hewitt Avenue

### AUTHORS:

Mary Logue, Jackie Briggs-Martin, Kelly Easton, and Gary Schmidt

Sunday, July 12

7-8:15 p.m.

Giddens Alumni Learning Center, Room 100E  
1556 Hewitt Avenue

### AUTHORS:

Anne Ursu, Phyllis Root, and Jane Resh Thomas

Tuesday, July 14

7-8 p.m.

Giddens Alumni Learning Center, Room 100E  
1556 Hewitt Avenue

### AUTHOR:

Susan Marie Swanson

Thursday, July 16

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Law School Building, Room 101  
1492 Hewitt Avenue

### AUTHOR:

Christopher Paul Curtis

Saturday, July 18

7-8 p.m.

Sundin Music Hall  
1531 Hewitt Avenue

### ACADEMIC LECTURES

For those interested in attending lectures on the elements of craft in writing for children, a limited number of lecture passes will be available for purchase. For more information call 651-523-2047.

### WRITING PROGRAMS AT HAMLINE

The readings and lectures are a component of the Hamline University Graduate School of Liberal Studies master of fine arts in writing for children and young adults program. It is geared toward writers of literature for children and young adults who hope to be published. The faculty is comprised of well-known, award-winning authors who are experienced teachers. To learn about Hamline's MFA and MFAC writing programs visit: [www.hamline/gls](http://www.hamline/gls).



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