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Midway Como

Monitor



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Parents seek solutions to save neighborhood schools

Steady enrollment decline threatens the future of Hamline Elementary or Galtier community schools

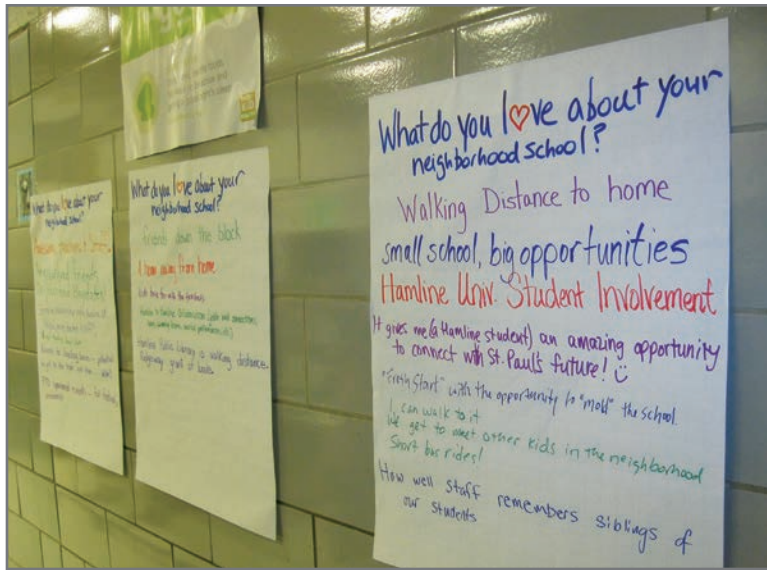
By JAN WILLMS

Declining enrollment in Hamline Elementary and Galtier Community schools has raised concerns among parents. They gathered June 8 at Hamline Elementary, 1599 Englewood, along with representatives from the St. Paul Public Schools, to discuss the matter.

Expressing satisfaction with the opportunities and offerings of both schools, parents wanted to know how to raise enrollment figures and make sure that one of the schools would not face closure in the next couple of years.

Jessica Kopp, who has a daughter at Hamline Elementary, said that when her daughter started school, every teacher she talked to was inspiring and amazing.

"I know that every day my daughter has come here for the past few years, she has been well taught," Kopp said. "She's a smart kid, and she is not being short-changed coming here. She is being challenged. Her teachers recognize her ability and also offer her opportunities in areas she needs to improve. They have taught long enough and



Parents, public school officials, and concerned community residents met June 8 to discuss the continued declining enrollment at Hamline and Galtier schools. It was a brainstorming/working session. (Photo by Jan Willms)

have experience and intuition. I can't imagine a world where my daughter doesn't get to have an awesome teacher."

Kopp also praised the Hamline to Hamline collaboration, a partnership between the elementary school and Hamline University. "The University has

people and services our kids can access," she said. She described the 5th-grade class pairing with the college law school, holding a mock trial on campus in which the elementary students play the roles of defense and prosecuting attorneys. The grade schoolers can also use the pool at Ham-

line University. "It's like a second campus," Kopp said.

Kopp commented on the Hamline University students who come over to assist with classes at the elementary school. "These are enthusiastic young people who are patient with the children," Kopp said. "I have watched how they crouch down and engage with children at their level, helping with schoolwork or comforting them when they have a bad day. You don't get that at many places."

Mara Martinson, a Galtier parent of a kindergartner, said she had been a student at Hamline University and had been a part of the Hamline to Hamline collaboration. She said she had initially heard Galtier had gone through changes, and there were concerns with behavior problems and test scores. She added that after starting her child there, she had decided to stay.

"The change in principal and staff could not be better," Martinson said. "The principal knows every child's name; he knows my husband's name and what he likes to do in his spare time." She said she was happy with the chil-

dren's behavior and their support for each other.

"My personal experience has been nothing but positive," Martinson added, "and my daughter has shown a lot of growth in the last three years." The Galtier Community School parent said she grew up in a small town, and the Midway offers that same small-town feeling. "I want urban, but also the experience of my kids' riding bikes down to their friends' houses," something that goes along with a community school.

"I can't say enough about my experience at Galtier and what it means to my daughter," Martinson said.

Jackie Turner, chief engagement officer for St. Paul Public Schools, told the parents at the meeting that she was excited about the opportunity to collaborate with them on a solution.

"No decisions have been made about Hamline or Galtier," she assured them. "We do know we have some realities to face, but it is an opportunity for us at the grassroots level."

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Como author writes book on transgender child

By JAN WILLMS

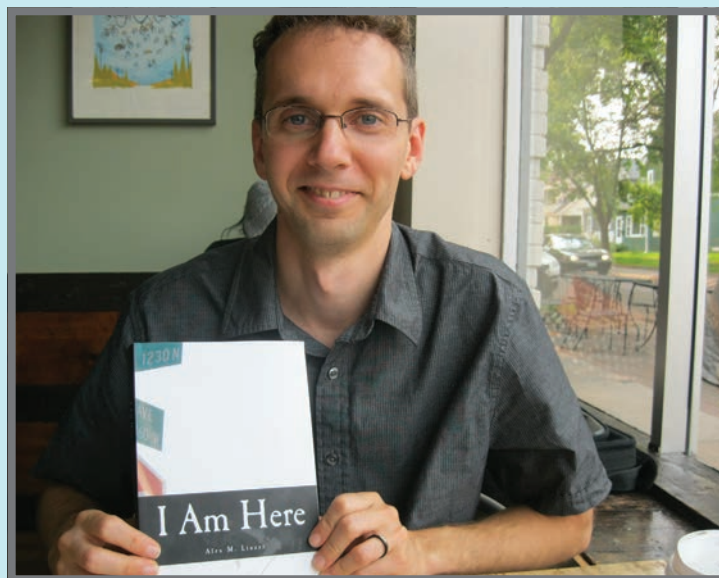
The struggles and emotions of Joey, a nine-year-old child who is dealing with the knowledge that she is a girl growing up in a boy's body, come alive on the pages of Alex Liuzzi's book, "I Am Here."

Como area resident Liuzzi said he has been writing since he was 12 and has explored a lot of different styles of writing, but he has found that taking on the voice of a child has helped him reach emotions much more easily.

"They are more raw, without a sense of vagueness behind them," he said. "You get what the child is feeling immediately, and how they can react to these emotions."

For this book, published in April, Liuzzi drew on his teaching experience, as well as his experiences in high school and college.

About ten years ago he was teaching at a middle school. "I had a rainbow flag on my door and often allowed very open



Alex Liuzzi's book, "I Am Here," is about a transgender child. It is Liuzzi's third published book. (Photo by Jan Willms)

conversations with my students," Liuzzi recalled. "Some students felt very discriminated against based on their sexual orientation, so they asked me to start a Gay Straight Alliance

with them."

Liuzzi said these students opened up about the struggles they faced that adults didn't

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2015 Hamline Midway Spring Festival

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Monitor

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Business Spotlight

IN COLLABORATION WITH WARD 4 OFFICE AND HAMLINE MIDWAY COALITION

From lingerie to bolts, fans to mosaic tiles, Snelling is the place to shop

"This content is part of an ongoing series promoting local businesses—starting with Snelling Ave. It was produced collaboratively by the Ward 4 office and Hamline Midway Coalition."

Hamline Hardware Hank



Hamline Hardware Hank has been a community fixture at 755 Snelling Ave. N. for 89 years. Today, the Gildner family—Jon, Matt, Jim and Jan—works hard to ensure the shop maintains its community focus by serving neighbors and local businesses with a personal touch that sets them apart from other big box home supply retailers.

From small engine repair, a rental center, window and screen repair and much more, Hamline Hardware Hank has what you need for your latest home project or repairs. They are a TORO Dealer, carry Weber grills and more. They also offer pickup and delivery services. Whether you need a key copied or paint mixed, Hamline Hardware Hank is your one-stop neighborhood shop.

Jon Gildner says his favorite thing about owning a business

is "helping members of the community solve problems." When his family purchased the business six years ago, they doubled the inventory and added more than 150 different rental tools and equipment. "The store is completely remodeled, cleaned and stocked," he says, for those who have yet to stop in.

The family is continuing to expand and grow the business, adding new inventory and improved services every week, and they look forward to continuing to serve the Midway community for years to come.

"We consider ourselves a neighborhood store and would like to thank the community for supporting us and helping us grow over the last five years," Jon Gildner said.

Great Fans and Blinds



As a family run business, Great Fans and Blinds has been providing area customers with ceiling fans, lighting, and window treatments for 27 years from its catching storefront at 678 Snelling Ave. N.

Their favorite thing about the business is providing their customers with the customer service and knowledge they just

can't get anywhere else, say Don and Nick Curtis.

As the fan that turns in the breeze high above the street on the exterior of their building, Owners Don and Nick Curtis hope the turning face of Snelling Ave. this summer will help usher in a new era for both the communities and businesses alike along this vital corridor.

"[Our] hope for the future of Snelling Ave. is that it will provide a new, improved look and that it will serve its community well into the future," they say.

Mosaic on a Stick



Mosaic on a Stick has been on Snelling Ave. for ten years though they more recently moved to their wonderful space in the Hamline Park building at 1564 Lafond Ave. This business provides mosaic art supplies and classes, as well as an art gallery and community art space. Owner Lori Greene's favorite part of her business is her customers and community.

"We try to make our community a more beautiful place to live, through community and public art projects," Greene

says. "Everyone is welcome, we strive to inspire people around ideas about art and community."

Her hopes for Snelling Ave. are that it becomes more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. One surprising tidbit about Mosaic on a Stick is that they always have free projects for children.

Flirt Boutique



Flirt Boutique at 177 Snelling Ave. N. has been at its current location for six years. They are an elegant lingerie shop and offer free bra fittings. Owner Jessica Gerard loves how happy Flirt makes her customers and enjoys providing excellent customer service.

Flirt carries a wide range of sizes and prices. Bras range from A-E cups and 30-38 bands, prices start at \$48 and go up to \$132. They carry lines from all over the world with some only being available in Minnesota at Flirt.

Money spent at Flirt stays in the community! Flirt gives silent auction donations to 35-40 community groups (churches, schools, etc.) each year. Gerard's hope for Snelling Ave. is that traffic slows down so that the charming corner of Snelling and Selby can be enjoyed rather than avoided.

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In The Zone

By MATTHEW DAVIS

State 110-meter hurdles champ Clay looks for more

Trevon Clay already has his sights set on bigger things for next year's track season with Como Park.

Why not? He already has one state title.

Clay won the 110-meter hurdles at last month's Class AA state track at Hamline University. He clocked 14.45 seconds in the finals and dropped five hundredths of a second from his preliminary time of 14.50. He won the event by 0.06 seconds.

"It was very, very exciting especially running against these guys," Clay said.

Moreover, Clay won the event in a senior-heavy field – seven seniors and two juniors for the finals. The only junior beside Clay, Jacob Johnson of Owatonna, finished fourth at 14.82.

"I was pretty nervous at first," Clay said about the 110. "Then, it went away. I got very excited because I'm in the state finals with all these good hurdlers."

In the 300 hurdles, Clay could see many of the same quality hurdlers again next year. Clay took third in the event, which had only five seniors among the nine entrants.

Juniors include second-place Clayton Johnson from Hastings, who had a 38.17 prelim time and a 38.20 in the finals. Clay stuck close to Johnson in the prelims at 38.21, but the Cougars hurdler's time dropped to 38.58 in the finals.

"I'm pretty tired," Clay said after the event. "I left it all out on the track."

Overall, Clay made big strides after not making out of prelims in either hurdles event the year before. He wants to keep



Trevon Clay took home a state title in the 110-meter hurdles, and third in the 300 hurdles, at the Class AA state track meet this year. (Photo by Matthew Davis)

doing more in his senior season ahead.

"I got a lot better this year," Clay said. "A lot of hard work; a lot of dedication to get where I am today."

The Como junior became the third hurdler from the school to win a state title and the first since 1994.

"It means a lot just to be the only one from my school, and I got here to the state finals," Clay said.

Clay also hopes to get more teammates to state next year. With Clay alone, the Cougars finished in a three-way tie for 13th among the 59 teams represented by scoring 20 points.

As a team, the Cougars took fourth in the St. Paul City Conference this past spring with Clay winning titles in the 110 and 300 hurdles along with the long jump.

Como finished seventh in the Section 4AA meet in late May, but sophomore Innocent Myrwaash showed some state meet potential in addition to Clay's strong showing. Myrwaash just missed state in the 1600 at 4:24.8 for third place, less than four seconds back of second. He also took fourth in the 3200 and missed state by less than eleven seconds.



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- Snag Golf Camp, ages 5-10, #9263
- Kumihimo Bracelets, ages 10-14, #16652
- Crazy Chemworks, ages 6-12, #16575
- Ultimate Frisbee Camp, ages 11-15, #3834
- Knitting Class, ages 10-14, #16651
- Game On Camp, ages 4-6, #16648
- Lacrosse Camp, ages 6-9, #16649
- Dance for boys and girls, ages 5-12
- Minecrafting Basics, ages 7-11, #9268
- Minecraft Coding w/Python, ages 10-15, #16580
- Tie Dye, ages 4-9, #16650
- Cheerleading Camp, ages 5-9, #12139
- Schoolhouse Chess, ages 6-12, #16577
- Flag Football Camp, ages 6-12, #3578
- Gone Fishing Sewing Bag, ages 10-14, #16653
- Basketball Camp, ages 7-12, #12137
- Mini Hawk Camp, ages 4-7, #12238
- Art Academy, ages 7-12, #14763
- How To Train Your Dragon Art Class, ages 4-6, #14700
- Ahoy Matey Art Class, ages 4-6, #16573
- Badminton Camp, #14813
- Volleyball Camp, ages 8-14, #12138
- Messiest Art Camp Ever Part 2, ages 6-9, #16572
- Story Time Art, ages 4-6, #16571
- Senior Gamers

NORTH DALE (1414 St. Albans St. N.):

- Art: Take my Dolly to Camp, ages 5-10, #14144
- Computer: Extreme Movie Making Fun for Girls, 6-12 #16881
- Dance, ages 4-10
- Art: Lego Mania, ages 4-8, #14766
- Robotics: Star Wars Droid Builder, Babysitting Class, ages 11+, #14160
- Tae Kwon Do, ages 4-adult
- Science: Grossology, ages 4-7, #16921
- Senior Fitness for adults/seniors
- Yoga for adults/seniors
- Pilates for adults/seniors
- Senior Cards

LANGFORD (30 Langford Park):

- Soo Bahk Do, ages 6-adult
- Clay, ages 3.5-5, #9421
- Art: How to Train Your Dragon, ages 3-5, #16876
- Art: Super Sloppy Fun, ages 3.5-5, #10508
- A Camping We Will Go, ages 3.5-5, #3349
- Mini Hawk Camp, ages 4-6, #12398
- Art Class, ages 6-up
- Schoolhouse Chess, ages 6-12, #12406
- Computer: Digital Film Making Star Wars Jedi Movie, ages 6-9, #16871
- Star Wars, Avengers, Ninja Turtles & Minecraft, ages 6-11, #12438
- Computer: Minecraft Movie Making, ages 7-12, #16875
- Science: Flight Academy, ages 6-12, #12462
- Science: Kaleidoscope, ages 6-12, #12437
- Science: robotics Builders, ages 5-8, #3563
- Pilates for adults
- Senior Gym Bowling & Darts

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- North Dale Movie Night: Fri., July 31 showing "Paddington," activities begin 7:30pm
- North Dale Summerfest: Tues., Aug. 11, from 5-8pm
- Langford Movie Night: Thur., Aug. 20, showing "Big Hero 6" activities 7-10pm

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Group plans strategy against housing demolition

The group, Historic Hamline Village, hopes to engage the new president at Hamline University

By JANE MCCLURE

Neighbors concerned about Hamline University's demolition of homes vow to stay involved. Several also want to continue to see what they can do to save 1549 Minnehaha Ave., although there are still questions as to accomplish that. There is frustration with the slow pace of community-university talks and how to save homes from wrecking crews. There are also concerns that the city isn't doing enough to help the neighborhood.

More than two dozen neighbors attended an update meeting June 25 at Hamline Church United Methodist. The activists' group Historic Hamline Village organized the meeting. Neighbors heard information on 1549 Minnehaha as well as efforts to have a historic properties survey completed for the neighborhood.

They also reviewed two upcoming city efforts. One, which will be heard by the St. Paul City Council at 5:30pm Wed., July 15, will set residential design standards for new infill housing in Ward 3. If that standard is expanded citywide, it could affect Hamline Midway and other neighborhoods.

The second effort is a St.

Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) study of campus boundaries and the issue of Hamline University and other schools buying land outside of their city-approved boundaries.

While discussions June 25 were wide-ranging, there was agreement that more public meetings are needed. There was also discussing of getting neighbors involved with anti-residential teardown efforts citywide and efforts such as putting neighborhoods in conservation districts.

There is also eagerness to engage with a new Hamline University president as Fayneese Miller took office July 1.

Demolition of five properties including the former "White House" university president's residence prompted an uproar last year. Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark's office stepped in. After a large community meeting in September 2014, neighbors hoped for a process to discuss the issues of demolition and campus expansion. The university also agreed to a one-year moratorium on tear-downs, which expires Oct. 1.

But a five-month delay before a university-requested facili-

tator could step in was one frustration, said Historic Hamline Village member Tom Goldstein. He and others said that while they understand that the University is transitioning to a new administration, neighbors are unhappy with the slow pace of talks.

"We feel there is a disconnect," Historic Hamline Village member Roy Neal said. Neighbors would like to see Hamline University do what other St. Paul schools have done, such as have a formal neighborhood liaison staff position or even provide funds to improve housing near campus.

Neal said there are two parallel threads of discussion. One is that of neighborhood preservation. The other is community engagement. "We should be working hand in hand with the university to promote the neighborhood," he said.

Another concern is that while neighbors were told that an 1880s-era home at 1549 Minnehaha Ave. would be sold for \$1 or turned over to nonprofit for rehabilitation, they learned that was not a formal offer, but a suggestion. The home is classified by the city as a Category II vacant

property and needs a long list of property code violations corrected before it can be sold.

University officials didn't attend the meeting. Spokesperson Jacqui Getty said the university doesn't have plans to remove the house in the foreseeable future and that, in November, University trustees will consider a viable offer to purchase and rehab the property. But Goldstein said it's a great source of frustration that there is no formal offer to transfer house ownership.

In an email, Getty said, "We had purchased the property a few years ago with a plan to remove the house. It is in significant disrepair and was that way when we bought it. Over the past several months, however, we've been in discussions with neighbors, some of whom have expressed an interest in coming up with a proposal to purchase the property from the university so they can rehab the house. Our Facilities Committee of the Board of Trustees is willing to consider that, and the committee members will review any such proposals at their November meeting. It is possible that the committee may determine that before they can make any decision about divesting of

property that we may need to update our campus master plan. The last time we updated such a plan, it took a year."

Attendees at the meeting said they also want to see the university reopen discussions of its 2008 master plan. It shows plans to add student housing, parking, classroom space and green space, much in places where 27 structures stand or stood. Some neighbors hoped the University would revisit the issue in light of stagnant university enrollment and the recent law school merger.

Getty said, that the next steps forward, as advised by the facilitators, likely will entail the creation of a neighborhood engagement or advisory group and a community update meeting this fall. She said that the engagement/advisory group would be a good vehicle for ongoing discussion of issues and opportunities that are important to both neighbors and the university. That discussion could include campus master planning. She added that the fall meeting would also be a good opportunity to talk through broader community engagement plans.

Zoning changes approved

Changes to zoning in mixed-use corridors in Hamline Midway neighborhood won St. Paul City Council approval June 24. Approval follows a public hearing, at which one person testified. Earlier this year the plan won a recommendation of approval from the St. Paul Planning Commission.

The intent is to change zoning to promote long-term redevelopment as denser, mixed-use corridors. Current property uses will not have to change and can continue indefinitely.

Property owners were notified of the changes, and there was little public comment. Only one neighborhood resident, Benita Warns, has testified on the plan at City Council and Planning Commission public hearings. She has asked that Thomas between Hamline and Pascal St. be rezoned from two-family residential to single-family residential, saying that was discussed several years ago in the community. City staff has countered that such a rezoning would make several duplexes in that area nonconforming and recommended against the change.

In December 2013, the Planning Commission passed a resolution initiating the District 11 Hamline Midway Mixed-Use Corridors 40-Acre Zoning Study. The resolution called for a study area defined as including all blocks with street frontage on Snelling and Hamline avenues between University Ave. and Pierce Butler Rte., and all blocks with street

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Only one resident comments at public hearing on zoning changes

frontage on Thomas and Minnehaha avenues between Hamline and Snelling avenues. Almost a year later the commission released its findings.

Some properties along Snelling, from Pierce Butler Rte. to Sherburne Ave., will be rezoned from various commercial and residential uses to a traditional neighborhoods designation. Along Hamline Ave., properties near Minnehaha, Van Buren and Thomas avenues will be rezoned for traditional neighborhoods use.

Along Minnehaha, the Hamline Midway Branch Library, and former Knox Presbyterian Church will be rezoned. The rezoning of the library is not intended to change its use, according to city staff, but to create a contiguous zoning parcel. Another parcel rezoned for traditional neighborhoods use is the former Samaritan Hospital site, now an office and parking ramp complex, on Thomas.

To see maps and read a city staff report of the zoning changes,

go to <http://stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=5545>

More funds for Skyline Tower

Skyline Tower's improvement project has gotten a needed boost. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), voted unanimously June 10 to approve a deferred \$750,000 loan for the high-rise building at 1247 St. Anthony Ave.

The loan will be part of a larger funding package to rehabilitate the building, which provides housing for low-income families. The 504-unit building opened in 1971 and offers efficiency, one, and two-bedroom units. Most of the units are Section 8 housing. The building also includes staff offices and community gathering/common areas.

Skyline is the largest single HUD-subsidized building in Minnesota. Its original owner, Sentinel Management, sold the property in 1999 to Common-

Bond Communities. CommonBond addressed some immediate building maintenance needs after the purchase but has plans to do more work. In 2010, CommonBond refinanced the first mortgage debt through the use of a refinancing program to reduce the interest rate of its first mortgage. The capital needs assessment completed as part of the refinance identified some immediate items to be completed within 36 months. That timeline has passed so work needs to be done to keep the building from going into default with HUD.

One big need for the high-rise is to replace all windows, replace all plumbing/riser supply valves and waste and vent piping. The HRA action would allocate \$750,000 of federal Community Development Block Grant funds toward the project.

Total project cost, which is being covered by number of sources, is \$12.7 million.

Saxon site gets funding

An area project is among those that will be helped as the Metropolitan Council June 23 awarded more than \$3.5 million in brown-field cleanup grants as part of the Livable Communities program. The funding helps create jobs, clean up land for redevelopment, increase tax base, produce affordable and market rate housing, and promote other public and private investment in the region. The council approved 16 grants to five metro area communities. The awards will help clean up 22 acres, create or retain more than 900 jobs, increase the net tax base by more than \$2.8 million, help to produce and preserve 800 affordable homes, and encourage more than \$338 million in private investment.

"These grants provide a remarkable return on investment and serve as a critical redevelopment tool," said Council Chair Adam Duinick. "The funding leverages an additional investment of both public and private dollars, and the projects support job creation, increase the tax base, create housing opportunities, and promote a more livable environment."

In addition to grants for contamination investigation and polluted site cleanup, this

Continued on page 6

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Local student wins essay contest

Hamline Midway fifth grader Claire Horsman recently won a regional essay contest for Minnesota and the Dakotas on the topic "Why I Am Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants." The contest, sponsored by the American Immigration Council, intends to "inspire educators to bring U.S. Immigration history and lessons into their classrooms, and gives fifth graders the opportunity to explore America as a nation of immigrants."

Horsman's poem (below), titled "Immigration" was chosen as the winner from a pool of over 70 submissions. Horsman is a fifth grader at L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School.

"Immigration"

By Claire Horsman

It started with the Pilgrims
Sailing from far away
Looking for a new life
And the right to worship and pray
Welcomed and befriended
By the people of the land
"Indians", they called them,
As they were given a helping hand.

Many others followed
With adventure in their hearts
A new country, with wealth and land,
And they could do their part.
It wasn't always easy
To be away from home
They weren't always treated well
And sometimes felt alone

My grandparents' grandparents' grandparents
Were immigrants too
They came from France and Ireland
Sailing the ocean blue.
They wanted their children's children
To have a life so rich and free
I think they would be so happy
To see a girl like me
Who has friends from all around the world
And studies French in school
So many chances to learn from others —
America is cool!

I'm so glad my country is
A place where all can live
A place where all can freely worship,
Speak, and love, and give
Their talents and experience
To make this place so grand
I love the way the world has come
To make this a better land.

Immigration is a wonderful thing.
It makes me feel free, and smile bright
It makes me want to dance and sing
Through the day and through the night.
Thank you, everyone who comes
And melts in this great pot.
We welcome you and hope that you
Will love this place a lot.

Local projects gain, others stumble, in developing CIB funding process

By JANE MCCLURE

Improvements to May Park, planning for Fire Station 20, a play area for Frogtown Farm and a bicycle connection along Lexington Pkwy. to Pierce Butler Rte. remain among the 2016-2017 Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) projects recommended for approval to Mayor Chris Coleman and the St. Paul City Council. The mayor will release his capital spending picks along with the 2016 city budget in August, and the City Council will make final decisions in December.

But work on Dickerman Park, improvements to Hamline Midway Branch Library and completion of the Charles Ave. Bicycle Boulevard didn't fare as well when the CIB Committee wrapped up its rankings June 8. Committee members may not have agreed on projects to be funded, but they did agree that the list of worthy proposals far outweighed the money available.

After hearing from citizens at a packed hearing, the committee made its recommendations. Committee members were able to add some smaller project by cutting funding to rebuild Frogtown's aging Scheffer Recreation Center and Fire Station 20 (2179 University Ave. W.). Those projects will receive planning funds but will have to come back in the 2018-2019 cycle for construction dollars.

The committee also made some trims to several annual programs including play area, tennis, basketball court and other parks and library maintenance programs.

The committee and its citizen task forces spent several months reviewing more than 130 projects and city programs. Requests totaled more than \$166 million—almost four times more than what was available. For the two-year funding cycle, the Committee allocated \$22 million in capital improvement bonds, \$14.8 million in Municipal State Aid (MSA) and \$8 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars.

CIB Committee Chairman Paul Sawyer said that while it's difficult to make cuts to needed

larger projects, giving design and engineering funds for those projects does free up money for smaller projects.

Much debate centered on Scheffer, a 1970s-era recreation center on Marion St. A recent St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation plan identified it and Merriam Park Recreation Center as the two buildings most in need of replacement or major rehabilitation. Scheffer was initially listed for \$6.8 million, but on a split vote the committee cut that amount to \$1.2 million for design and engineering. Some committee members said that setting aside a large amount of money for one project, without a specific plan, could all too easily allow the Mayor and City Council to raid the Scheffer funds for other projects.

"Scheffer deserves to be rebuilt, but we should also looking at funding projects we can do now," said CIB Committee Member Mary Morse Marti.

The committee and the council and mayor have tangled over projects in the past. May Park, located on Clayland St., and the Lexington bike connection, lost funding to other projects in the 2014-2015 cycle.

Another project that was cut back was Fire Station 20 replacement. The station, which is just west of the Cretin-Vandalia-University intersection, is more than 90 years old. It is small and has had access affected by Green Line light rail. A new site was offered by the Rock-Tenn paper recycling company, but it would cost \$5.6 million to build. That was cut to \$1.5 million for engineering and design.

Committee members expressed worries that some projects are left half-done. Those include the Charles Ave. Bicycle Blvd. and Dickerman Park. Part of the Charles work is done, but another \$750,000 was sought for work including traffic circles. Work on Dickerman continues this summer with the city's 8-80 Vitality Fund, but another \$3 million is needed to continue park improvements.

For 2016-2017 the commit-

tee broke out projects by funding source, rather than ranking projects as a group as had been done in some past cycles. The 26 projects making the cut for capital improvement bonds include May Park (\$240,000), the Pierce Butler-Lexington bicycle connection (\$598,000), and Frogtown Farm and Park play area (\$522,000).

There was disappointment among area residents when the \$1.9 million Hamline Midway Branch Library modernization failed to make the cut. It is one of the last neighborhood libraries awaiting work.

MSA money from the state will fund 15 projects and three annual programs. Area projects include another phase of Pierce Butler Rte. extension, from Grotto Ave. to Arundel St., at \$4 million. Raymond Ave. reconstruction from Energy Park Dr. to Como Ave. was also recommended at \$255,000, as was lighting for a stretch of Como Ave., at \$81,000.

CDBG federal funding will cover 17 projects and programs. One question mark is whether work on Victoria Theater on University Ave. is eligible for the \$540,000 it is penciled in for. It ranked seventh in that category. Model Cities' Central Exchange mixed-use development near University and Victoria, is recommended for \$400,000. Area programs recommended for CDBG funds are Restore St. Paul's Commercial Facade Improvement program (\$200,000) and the St. Paul Green Line Home Improvement Loan Fund (\$500,000).

Projects that finished out of the running include: Snelling-Selby area pedestrian safety work; Pelham Blvd. reconstruction; Orchard Recreation Center soccer complex; Montgomery St. reconstruction; Vandalia St. bridge improvements; Westgate bike lane project; Como Park intersections and crosswalk changes; North Dale refrigerated ice rink modernization; Merriam Park improvements; McMurray Fields improvements; Central Corridor sidewalk completion; and, work on Territorial Road to make it safer for biking and walking.

Read about all of the projects at <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=217>.



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License request to hearing

Target Corporation's request for an off-sale liquor license at its Midway store is en route to a St. Paul City Council legislative hearing, most likely in July. The Union Park District Council (UPDC) Land Use Committee voted June 8 to seek the legislative hearing, citing uncertainty as to how required distances are met. A 45-day comment period on the license ended June 26.

The distance issues have been debated since the license request was brought forward last year. Target wishes to replace the café at its Midway store with a liquor store.

Midway SuperTarget is at 1300 University Ave. Big Top Liquors is part of Midway Center, at 1574 University Ave. St. Paul has distance requirements for off-sale liquor licenses, with licensees required to be at least one-half mile apart. But there is disagreement as to how to measure that distance. Jonathan Redberg, a licensing analysis for Target, said corporate officials believe they meet the distance requirement. Target measured the distance from Big Top to the planned new store space.

"In fact we exceed the half-mile distance," he said. Target did its measurements from what is now the store's café because that

Monitor In A Minute

By JANE MCCLURE

Liquor, liquor, and more liquor

is considered a separate premises, Redberg said. The liquor store would have its own entrance and exit doors and cashiers, as required by state law. Patrons would have to pay for alcohol in the store and could not purchase liquor store items from the main store's cashiers.

But Big Top representatives are challenging how the distance is measured from the Big Top building to the Target building. Attorney Scott Banas, who is working with Big Top, said those issues need to be explored more fully.

"What's left open is the question of what measuring building to building means," Banas said. He said the measurement, depending on how it is made, "could be a matter of inches."

Last year city Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) officials asked Target to verify the measurements before the license request could go ahead.

Grabbing a growler got easier

Beer drinkers hoping to grab a growler in St. Paul on Sunday will be able to do so soon. On a 5-1 vote May 27, the St. Paul City Council amended city liquor ordinances to allow Sunday growler sales. A growler is a large bottle or jug of beer, typically holding 64 ounces. The change takes effect in this month.

Council President Russ Stark brought the change forward at the behest of craft brewery owners in the Midway. Craft brewery owners argue that Sunday sales of growlers will help their fledgling businesses become more viable.

During the 2015 legislative regular session, Gov. Mark Dayton signed a bill that allows breweries to sell their own beer in the refillable jugs.

Growler sales will be allowed 8am to 8pm Sundays. Another amendment also bene-

fits those who like a mimosa or Bloody Mary with Sunday breakfast, moving the sale of liquor at restaurants on Sundays from 10am to 8am.

Liquor licenses under study

Area restaurant owners who full liquor licenses could be in luck. Allowing more restaurants to obtain full liquor licenses, and changing a mandatory food-to-alcohol ratio, are under study in St. Paul. Discussions of possible city ordinance and charter are underway and are expected to continue for several months.

Restaurant owners and city licensing officials said the demands for new regulations reflect everything from how bars and restaurants have changed over time, to how people eat out. "We have restaurant owners who choose not to come to St. Paul because they cannot obtain full liquor licenses," said Dan

Niziolek, deputy director of the St. Paul Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI).

But in parts of St. Paul, where on-sale liquor licenses are more plentiful, there are worries that relaxing regulations to benefit some neighborhoods will hurt other places that have coped for years with problem bars and rowdy behavior.

St. Paul's city charter restricts the number of liquor licenses by ward and has a citywide cap of 215. The caps were set through an old system of liquor patrol districts. About 20 are available, according to DSI staff.

Ward Four has only 16 liquor licenses, and all are spoken for.

One idea being discussed is that of redefining restaurants, in a way that excludes new restaurants from the current ward caps. Another change sought by restaurant owners is to change the city's requirement that 60 percent of restaurant sales be for food. The so-called 60-40 rule is meant to keep restaurants from operating as bars. But given the popularity of more costly craft beers and the rise in beer costs, restaurant owners said meeting the cap is a challenge even for places serving wine and beer.

Development Update

Continued from page 4

round of grants includes just under \$200,000 in awards for a new pilot category of grants. These grants encourage development on sites in areas of concentrated poverty that show potential for job creation. One went toward work at the former Saxon Ford site on University Ave. in Frogtown. The city received \$22,500 to help fund environmental site assessments and a hazardous materials abatement plan at a one-acre site on University Ave. that included both residential and commercial uses. A portion of the site once housed a gas station and was used more recently for detailing new cars.

The Council received 24 applications this funding round, requesting more than \$7 million.

Ground broken for project

Ground was broken June 23 for a long-awaited housing project at 2700 University Ave. The \$54 million mixed-use building will include commercial space and housing. It is being developed by Flaherty & Collins.

The six-story building will have 248 apartments, 3,000 square feet of main floor retail space and two levels of underground parking. It will include a saltwater swimming pool and a cyber café.

The site has been eyed for several years for redevelopment because of its proximity to Green

Line light rail. Wellington Management had plans to build there several years ago, but those plans stalled in an economic downturn. The site is being sold to the new developers based in Indianapolis.

Most of the apartment units will be market rate, although about 50 will be reserved for people who earn 50 percent or less of the area median income.

The project has drawn on a number of financing options. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), voted unanimously in May to approve issuance of conduit housing revenue bonds in a maximum amount of \$9 million for the project at 2700 University Ave.

Developer Flaherty and Collins plans a mixed-use project on a 1.8-acre vacant site, with 198 market rate housing units, 50 affordable housing units and 3,000 square feet of retail space.

With conduit bonds, the city serves as a pass-through source of financing. Such financing doesn't affect the city's credit rating.

In October 2014, the City Council and HRA approved a tax increment financing (TIF) district for the site. The project will receive \$8.3 million in TIF, as well as up to \$1 million in HOME funds. The project also has about \$1.9 million in financing through a Metropolitan Council Livable Communities grant.

Vacation Bible School set July 27-31

Children from pre-K through 5th grade are invited to the Everest Vacation Bible School, July 27-31. The program is planned at Como Park Lutheran Church, 1376 Hoyt Ave. W. Between 9am-noon each day, students will learn about conquering challenges with God's mighty power. They will meet new friends, have amazing experiences and enjoy games, snacks, and more. Registration is \$30 per child with a max of \$75 per family. Registration forms can be found at <http://comoparklutheran.org>. For more information contact Dan at dan@comoparklutheran.org.

District 66 DFL picnic planned for July 16

The Senate District 66 DFL Annual Potluck Picnic will be held July 16, 6pm. This fun summer social event, a potluck picnic is scheduled at the Foundation Shelter in Central Park in Roseville. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors, and a side dish or dessert to share. Hamburgers, brats, and beverages will be provided. Children are welcome. There will be balloon animals, games, activities, face painting, and there is a

large play area nearby. Be sure to stay for the door prizes.

The Picnic is a chance to meet and greet old and new friends. Meet elected officials and candidates, including Attorney General Lori Swanson, State Auditor Rebecca Otto, Sen. John Marty, Rep. Alice Hausman, Rep. John Lesch, Commissioner Janice Rettman, Supervisor Gwen Willem, and others.

Donations for the food shelf will also be collected at the Picnic. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please contact stpaulforum15@gmail.com.

Como Fest 2015 planned July 10-12

The District 10 Como Community Council, together with community partners and sponsors, will hold Como Fest 2015, July 10-12. Each year, Como Fest events attract approximately 3,000 attendees.

In addition to the sold-out movie and camp-out night on July 10, there will be A Midsummer Festival on Sat., July 11 from 11am-6pm at the Lyngblomsten Campus (1415 Almond Ave.). See page 12 for more details.

In addition to the Run and

Walk (registration closed) on Sun., July 12 there is an Art Fair with various media for sale, along with a free Children's Make-and-Take Craft. It will be 10am-2pm under the Como Lakeside Pavilion. The Watershed District will have a lake clean up and climbing wall. The day ends with Music in the Park at Como Lakeside Pavilion at 3pm with Stan Bann's Big Bone Band.

Donations needed for Congolese refugees

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., continues to gather clothing and other items for Congolese refugees. These refugees have been living in refugee camps for up to 10 years and are now arriving in Minnesota. Donations of bus cards, cleaning supplies, microwave, used TV or radio, and summer clothing are urgently needed, says the Rev. Justin Byakweli, executive director of the Center for Employment and Education Development Services, a group founded to help refugees, which has an office at the church. More info is available by calling 651-230-8957 or 651-239-7581. Donated items can be left at the church.



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Make it Here!

Many hands at work in St. Paul's Creative Enterprise Zone

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ) is one of six newly established cultural and business districts along the Green Line Corridor. It extends from Prospect Park on the west to Prior Ave. on the east, and from Energy Park Dr. on the north to I-94 on the south.

At most recent count, according to writer Catherine Reid Day, board chair of the Creative Enterprise Zone, there are more than 500 creative enterprises within its boundaries. Reid Day said, "We are actively working on retaining and attracting light manufacturing and new creative enterprises to the CEZ. Our motto is: make it here!"

Reid Day explained that visioning for the CEZ began more than two decades ago, coming out of conversations between working artists and makers. "This is a cultural and business district that was already well-established," she said. "The intention now is to maintain what's already here with artist and maker studios, residences and live-work spaces."

In 2009, one of the neighborhood anchors, the C&E Building on the corner of Pelham and University, was purchased by developers. It had long been home to floors of artist studios, and the loss of it was a real blow to the local community. People quickly re-



The Carleton Artist Lofts between Hampden and Carleton streets in the Creative Enterprise Zone. These subsidized, affordable apartments for people connected to the arts offer many amenities including studio and rehearsal space, a close-knit community and easy access to the Green Line. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

alized that if they didn't organize, other buildings with the affordable, ample space artists and makers need would soon be slated for re-development.

"We've always known that the formal establishment of the CEZ would take the work of many people," Reid Day said. "All along we've partnered successfully with government officials and planners and have enjoyed an especially good relationship with the St. Paul City Council."

Resident artists, makers and light manufacturers in the neighborhood started the momentum for the CEZ, and with the help of government and finance partners it has become a solid reality.

Erik Pearson of Shipwrecked Studio is a longtime resident of the CEZ. He makes

art at his studio in the Dow Building at 2442 University Ave. and then walks home to the Carleton Artist Lofts (CAL) across the street where he lives with his wife, Deanna. They moved to the CAL building in 2006, just a month after it opened.

Pearson, a painter/muralist, sculptor, and musician, said CA provides subsidized, affordable housing for artists. "I've never lived in a place where I've known so many people," he added. "Everyone here is connected to the arts in one way or another: as a working artist, a passionate hobbyist, an arts administrator or what have you. There are about 175 apartments in our three buildings, and we've built a strong sense of community. Watch for arts and culture events happen-



The Superior, WI native named his creative enterprise Shipwrecked Studio. He said, "The big lake just stays with you," and professes to have a love for all things nautical. In addition to being a talented painter, sculptor, woodworker and sailor, Pearson is a dedicated musician and gigs regularly with his band The Old Smugglers. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

ing here throughout the year, including our art crawl in the spring and fall when we turn our apartments into galleries and art-making spaces."

Pearson realized from the beginning that he would need a studio space separate from where he lived. Since his early days in the art department at the University of WI in Superior, his hometown, Pearson's paintings have just gotten bigger and bigger. His largest installation to date has been an exterior mural commissioned by the Bloomington Theatre

and Art Center that measured 38' high and 65' wide. Pearson uses a 4" brush and loads of scaffolding to produce his stylized characters inspired by German expressionist Max Beckmann, Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, and contemporary poster art.

Nicole Fierce of Fierce Design Studio is a glass blower and a brand new resident of the CEZ. Her 3,200 square foot gallery and in-process workspace are located in the Midwest

Continued on page 16

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Hamline Midway Spring Festival is huge success

All Photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Hamline Midway Spring Festival took place at on the fields behind Hancock Recreation Center on June 16th. There were opportunities for good deed-doing at the festival. On arriving, picnic-goers could bring a non-perishable food item to the Franciscan Brothers of Peace Food Shelf, or give old electronics to Tech Dump, or drop off old shoes with Shoe-Away Hunger. Art making, resource information and eclectic, delicious foods were plentiful. The Festival offered up a great taste of what makes Hamline Midway such a lively and thriving community.

Page 1 cover photo: Festival attendees had fun walking, looking, playing, and getting their faces painted.

Photo left: There was something to smile about at every turn at the 2015 Festival, no matter one's age.

Photo right: Neighborhood artist Adam Reef showed his hand-painted, leaded glass artwork.



Photo upper right: People were invited to write a wish for their neighborhood on the Community Wishing Pole. Wishes ranged from the practical (more food trucks!) to the whimsical (community music nights).



Photo lower left: Crafting opportunities abounded.



Photo above: Human Foosball sponsored by Can Can Wonderland—the next Olympic sport?

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Hamline Midway Spring Festival 2015



Photo above: The St. Paul Police Mounted Patrol Foundation consists of six full-time officers and six horses. They are a regular presence at St. Paul festivals. While providing law enforcement, they also educate and interact with the public to build positive community relations.

Photo right: Egg Plant Urban Farm Supply brought a real, live chicken to the picnic. They offer classes in raising chickens, honeybees, edible mushrooms and much more at their Selby Ave. Store.



Photo left: Hamline Midway Elders is the one-stop resource to connect elders, caregivers and neighbors to resources that will help seniors live independently at home.



Photo left and photo above: The family-friendly event offered something for everyone. Smiling was probably the most universal activity to be found on the Festival grounds, located this year at the Hancock Recreation Center next to Hamline Elementary School.



Photo above: The Arthritis Foundation welcomed young and old to interactive games at their booth. Through classes, events, research grants, and advocacy activities, they're raising awareness and funds to help reduce the pain of arthritis.



Readings by children's authors at Hamline

Each July, celebrated authors gather at Hamline for the MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults residency. During this 10-day event, the authors, graduates of the program, and current students will offer free readings of their published and in-progress works. All readings will be held at Giddens Learning Center, Room 100E.

Friday, JULY 10, 6:30 P.M.

Faculty reading: Ron Koertge, Laura Ruby, Marsha Chall

Sunday, JULY 12, 6:45 P.M.

Faculty reading: Jane Resh Thomas, Anne Ursu, Claire Rudolf Murphy

Monday, JULY 13, 6:45 P.M.

Faculty reading: Swati Avasthi, Gary Schmidt, Phyllis Root

Tuesday, JULY 14, 6:45 P.M.

Faculty reading: Emily Jenkins, Gene Yang, Jackie Briggs Martin

Wednesday, JULY 15, 6:45 P.M.

Grad assistant reading: Ricki Thompson, Desiree Middleton, Jackie Hesse

Friday, JULY 17, 6:45 P.M.

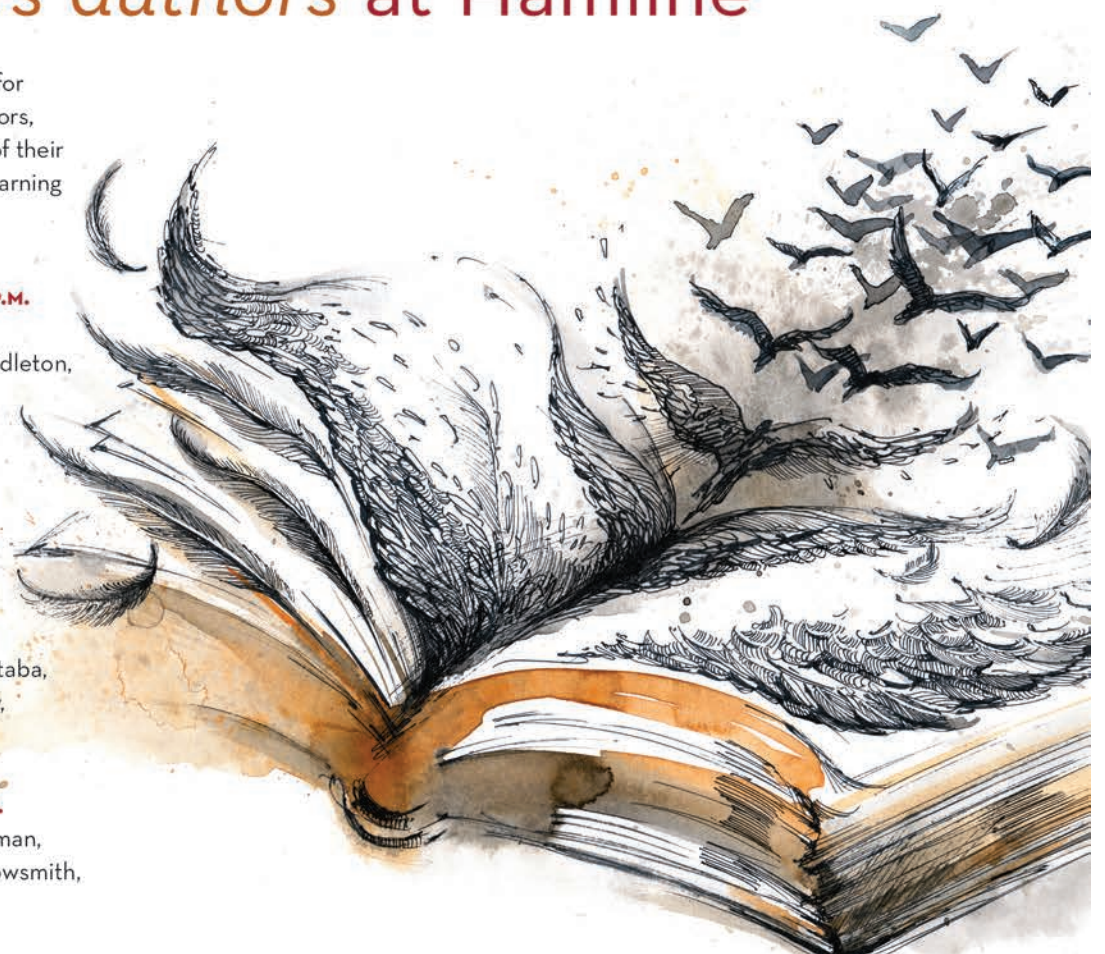
Grad reading: Katie Kunz, Judi Marcin, Tamara Rubin, Olivia Ghafoerkhan

Saturday, JULY 18, 1 P.M.

Grad reading: Tashi Saheb-Ettaba, Tiffany Grimes, Orin Hanratty, Sonja Solter

Saturday, JULY 18, 6:45 P.M.

Grad reading: Donna Koppelman, Kate Heberlein, Zachary Arrowsmith, Cheryl Minnema



Local team Orange Crush measures success in teamwork

It's baseball season, and if you've driven by Toni Stone Stadium (1221 Marshall Ave.), it's likely you'll see the bright orange jerseys of the Orange Crush baseball team.

Orange Crush is a 14-Under baseball team playing for the St. Paul RBI program and also participating in various baseball tournaments. Coached by Matt Dehne, Todd Johnson, and Jim King, the team has been together for several years, and often enjoys success in their tournaments.

The boys developed their love of baseball by playing for the Midway Ball program in St. Paul. They love playing together, particularly when the focus is more about developing the player and ensuring all the members play every game, instead of the number of wins on record.

"When the coaches focus on the subs on the bench, then we know the team will be successful," commented Maureen Freberg, mother of player Tommy Freberg. "A team can only be as strong as the back-up players. I love when this team makes every player feel they are an integral part of the success of the team."

The team has received support over the years from Billy Peterson, loyal baseball enthusiast and volunteer for the St. Paul Municipal Athletics. Peterson maintains the Midway baseball field and Dunning Toni Stone Stadium. The team met with Peterson



Midway resident, Tommy Freberg and the Orange Crush team, receiving last-minute advice from Billy Peterson, before traveling to Omaha for a tournament.



Tommy Freberg gets a "hi-five" from Coach Matt Dehne after a successful inning.

for encouragement just before traveling to Omaha for the Battle of Omaha baseball tournament. The team placed fourth in the tournament, and recently placed first in the PHDbaseball University Classic wood bat tournament.

Photo right: Tommy Freberg, Midway resident and Como Park High School student receives coaching advice from Head Coach Matt Dehne.



Rice St. Festival invites everyone for the fun!

Festival Runs July 22-26

The run up to the 105th Rice Street Festival begins with preliminary fundraising events. July 10 the Annual Rice Street Royalty Fashion Show will be held at TST Ideal Hall at 1494 Dale St., and July 18 the Royalty Car Wash will be held at Advance Auto Parts, 1111 Rice St.

The official kickoff for the festival will be on Wed., July 22 at 6pm with the Old Timers Game at Rice and Lawson Fields.

The Rice Street Parade will begin at 7pm, Thur., July 23, starting at Atwater and ending at Nebraska/Washington Technology Magnet School.

Sat., July 25 will feature a car show, kickball tournament and family fun area at the Rice St. Recreation Center across from Dar's Ice Cream near the Wellstone Elementary School.

Festivities come to a close on Sun., July 26 with the Queen Coronation at 1pm in the Community School of Excellence.

For more information visit www.ricestreetfestival.com.

Schedule of Events:

Fri., July 10, 6:30-9pm — Fashion Show, TST Ideal Hall (1494 Dale St. N.), \$15 Admission

Sat., July 18, 12-3pm — Royalty Car Wash, Advance Auto Parts, 1111 Rice St. Serving hot dogs and pop for \$2

Wed., July 22, 6pm — Opening of the Rice Street Festivities, Old Timers Game, Kamps vs. Stasny's at Rice and Lawson Fields. Stop by Tin Cups After The Game!

Thur., July 23, 7pm — Rice Street Parade

Sat., July 25, 8am — Kickball Tournament, Rice and Lawson Fields. Register @ Dar's Double Scoop Ice Cream (1048 Rice St.)

Sat., July 25, 12pm — Car Show, Rice St. between Lawson and Jessamine

Sat., July 25, 1pm (12:30pm Registration) — High Heel Race, Rice St. between Lawson and Cook. Register at Dar's Double Scoop Ice Cream (1048 Rice St.)

Sat., July 25, 5pm — Free Family Fun Night, Rice St. Recreation Center. Rock Climbing Wall, Pony Rides, Dunk Tank, Jump Castles, Carnival Games & More!

Sun., July 26, 1pm — Queen Coronation, Community School of Excellence (170 Rose Ave. W.). RSF Button Required For Admission.

Next Issue of the Monitor: Aug. 13
Deadline: Aug. 3

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• The Academy of Finance (AOF) at Como Park High School continues to successfully place students in summer internships.

Twenty AOF students began full-time internships this summer at employers including 3M, Ameriprise Financial, St. Jude Medical, Health East, and several other corporate partners.

Additionally, 45 Como students received positions with St. Paul community-based organizations through Right Track, which provides youth career development and professional skills training.

• Como teachers recently participated in the Carleton College AP Summer Institute.

The College Board requires that trained and audited instructors teach Advanced Placement courses.

Carleton's nationally renowned summer institute provides training for both new and experienced AP teachers.

Completing the June Institute were Lindsey Lowther in Chemistry, Dylan Adair in Environmental Science, Lisa Griffin in European History, Eric Erickson in Comparative Government and Politics, and Liz Paone in World History.

Como Park provides a complete and comprehensive AP program featuring 23 College Board courses.

National Night Out at Jehovah Aug. 4

Jehovah Lutheran Church will host its annual National Night Out celebration Tue., Aug. 4, with music, food and activities. The event will be in the church parking lot, weather permitting, and will include a free giveaway of clothing and other items. The church is at 1566 Thomas.



News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Summer internships, teacher training, travel and more



Como Park MCJROTC cadets traveled across the country from June 14-20. The cadets are pictured with the Marine One Presidential Helicopter at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. (Photo by Erwin Photography)

• 42 Como Park MCJROTC cadets traveled east in mid-June to explore national landmarks, museums and historical sites in the quest to value citizenship as responsible, informed and patriotic Americans.

An aggressive itinerary included the Adler Planetarium and Willis Tower in Chicago, and Gettysburg National Battlefield, Arlington Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the Lincoln Memorial, National Mall and Virginia Beach out east.

At Marine Corps Base Quantico, the cadets toured the hangar and aircraft of Marine One (Presidential Helicopters), officer candidate school, and the martial arts instructor-training site. The cadets lodged at the group camp-



Como Spanish students planted a garden with local children in Costa Rica, as part of their home stay program from June 24-July 1.

ground in Prince William Forest.

The entire trip only cost cadets \$300 which included meals, museum fees, bus transportation and billeting.

The tour's final night concluded with viewing the Pres-

ident's Marine Corps Concert Band, Drum and Bugle Corps, and Silent Drill team at Marine Barracks Washington's evening parade.

• Advanced Spanish students traveled to Costa Rica from June 24-July 1 under the leadership of Spanish teacher Kirsten Peterson. Students Mackenzie Olson,

Ella Rouillard, Betsy Woodis, Ella Calatayud, and Elianna Weirsma stayed with Costa Rican families to maximize the cross-cultural exchange. In addition to working with children, highlights included visiting an organic pineapple plantation and zip lining over the Sarapiquí River.

• As previously reported in the *Monitor*, Como junior Trevon Clay qualified for the State Meet in multiple events. He made the most of his moments on the big stage. After blazing through the preliminary races at Hamline University, Clay became a State Champion, crossing the finish line first in the 110 Meter Hurdles. Clay also added a bronze medal, finishing third in the 300 Meter Hurdles. Clay represented Como with great pride at the top of the podium, culminating an amazing year on the track.

• Como Boys Soccer players and Coach Jonah Fields are leading 70 of the community's youngest players this summer in the

"Soccer Stars" program.

The program is offered in Como Park's West Picnic Grounds, in coordination with St. Paul Parks and Rec. The program gives local high school players an opportunity to connect with kids ages 4-11.

Miles Whitcomb, an 8-year-old, said, "it's cool because Como Park has a really good team, and that helps me because I have really good people teaching me."

Como Soccer players like Kevin Yao enjoy sharing their skills with the children of the Como Park community. "I didn't get opportunity to learn soccer when I was so young, and I love playing with the kids," says Kevin, a junior at Como.

• The "Fall Athletics" season begins on Aug. 17, three weeks before the first day of school.

Several Como teams and coaches are conducting voluntary workouts during June and July, in the summer waiver period.

Fall sports at Como include Soccer and Football for boys, Volleyball, Soccer, Tennis and Swimming for girls, and Cross Country running for both genders.

All students interested in a sport are welcome and encouraged to participate. More information is available at comosr.spps.org

• Save the date! An all school open house is planned for Thur., Sept. 3, 5-7pm. All incoming 9th graders and families are invited to meet Como staff, get class information, and see Como's facilities and opportunities. Returning students and families are also invited to get oriented for the new school year and reconnect with Como staff and families.

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Local student wins national history award

Jillian Brenner, Grade 7 at Murray Middle School, qualified for the National History Day competition; Leadership & Legacy in History with an exhibit entitled "Thrust the Warlords Back. . . The Torpedo Squadron Eight at Midway."

Brenner competed and won four different levels of history day competition. The first round was at Murray, then on to the Saint Paul Public Schools Regional competition, State History Day followed to earn the highly coveted National History Day position. Brenner entered the Junior Individual Exhibit category. She researched, wrote and created a stand-alone exhibit detailing

the Torpedo Eight's actions at the Midway Battle in the Pacific Front during World War II.

Two entries from each category advance to Nationals. Two. In a state where over 50,000 students work on a history day project. It is a very high honor to qualify, and Brenner put in hundreds of hours to get to Nationals.

Jillian reworked her exhibit between each level of competition. Reworking new research into her project and creativity adjusting her exhibit to capture attention while telling the story of the Torpedo Eight Squadron's actions. This unit of aircraft attacked the Japanese aircraft carriers and although only

one of the men survived the attack, they pulled the Japanese planes down from defending the skies high above the Japanese carriers which opened the skies for the next wave of American planes. Midway was a turning point battle and after Midway, the USA was winning more battles than it was losing, which meant we were pushing or thrusting the warlords back to Tokyo.

At Nationals, Jillian was chosen for the Salute to Courage Award and a trip to the WWII Museum in New Orleans. The Museum is planning an opening of The Campaigns of Courage, and Brenner will research a Minnesotan who served in the Pacific campaign, similar to the men of the Torpedo Squadron Eight.

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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 and enter your information in the online Event Calendar



Dr. Don Saliers

Saliers to speak at Hamline Church

Rev. Dr. Don Saliers will be giving the sermon for the 10am service at Hamline Church (1514 Englewood Ave.) on Sun., July 19. Saliers is an influential theologian, author, composer, scholar and ordained United Methodist pastor known for his work on theology and worship practices. In demand as a speaker, preacher, educator, and musician, he is also the Theologian-in-Residence at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He is in Minnesota this summer teaching a graduate course in Hymnody and Psalmody at St. John's University. Saliers recently co-authored a book, "A Song to Sing, A Life to Live," with his daughter Emily Saliers, founder of the Indigo Girls..

Co-Ed Drum Circle planned July 14

There will be a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., July 24, 6:30pm at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored. All levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. Cost is \$10 at the door, and they provide drums. Info and registration at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

Summer festival planned for all ages

The community is invited to an intergenerational day of arts performances, artist demonstrations, and creative activities with some of Minnesota's finest arts organizations and artists.

The Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival is planned for Sat., July 11, 11am-6pm at Lyngblomsten, 1415 Almond Ave. Admission is FREE, and food, games, and creative activities are priced for affordable fun.

A few highlights include:

- Six stages of live entertainment, music, and dance representing many cultures
- More than 100 Minnesota entertainers, demonstrating artists, and arts organizations
- Opportunities to experience the arts in a variety of ways—in-

teracting with artists at work and hands-on creative activities with artist instructors

- Local food vendors including Grand Ole Creamery, Como Park Grill, The Underground Music Cafe, and more

For all the details and a complete Festival Guide, visit www.MSF2015.com.

Local students participate in engineering program

Two local students, Sarah Petschl of Central High School, and Marie Wulff from Como Park Senior High School participated in Michigan Technological University's Women in Engineering youth program in June. The grant they received covered room and board, supplies and transportation to and from the program on the Michigan Tech campus in Houghton, Mich. They were two of the 18 female high school students in the region accepted into the program.

The program offered a week-long look at careers in engineering fields such as mechanical, computer, environmental, electrical, chemical, biomedical, civil, geological and materials. The girls participated in engineering classes, group projects, and special presentations with a diverse group of young women from across the country and around the world.

New Open Space Planner named

The City of Saint Paul announced that the two-year position of Open Space Planner for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) has been filled. The city was awarded a grant from the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative to help fund a position focused on increasing open space along the new Green Line transit corridor, specifically encouraging the addition of Privately Owned Public Space (POPS) as development occurs.

The position is an extension of the collaborative efforts of the City and The Trust for Public Land to establish and meet open space goals based on the increasing number of people living and working along the transit corridor.

This two-year, half-time position will involve collaboration with the city's TOD Manager, the Department of Planning and Economic Development, the Department of Safety and Inspections, The Trust for Public Land, and other Central Corridor stakeholders.

The work will be carried out by Ellen Stewart, ASLA, who works for the Parks and Recreation Department and has been actively involved in Central

Corridor planning for over seven years, including station area plans, the Greening the Green Line report, and designing both Iris Park and Dickerman Park.

Discussion July 18 on child exploitation

Individual community members are invited to give input as part of the larger Minnesota community working to end child sexual exploitation and trafficking. If you have been active or are just curious about what you can do, please join your neighbors on Sat., July 18, 1:30-3pm at the Roseville Community Library Community Program Room.

The group will talk about how individuals can help in practical ways—even if they can't volunteer or give money—to make a difference in their families and neighborhoods. Possible ways might be detection, reporting, prevention, education, etc.

Local organizations and groups will also be present to discuss existing efforts. HeroSearch.org is sponsoring the event.

Register at <http://www.herosearch.org/events.html?appSession=64653924789315>.

Community Band plans concert

The Lex-Ham Community Band will be playing music at Como Park on Sun., July 26, at Como Park. A special feature this summer is that the band—in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln—will perform Aaron Copland's Lincoln Portrait. The band is excited that Michael Barone from Minnesota Public Radio will be the narrator for the piece.

If you'd like to play with the band, there is still time to contact band@lexhamarts.org and come to a rehearsal. We welcome people of all, ages as long as they can perform at a high school music level.

Keystone schedules summer events

Keystone Community Services is a community-based service organization located in the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. Keystone offers a variety of services for people of all, ages, including a comprehensive program for seniors. The phone number for senior services is 651-645-7424. Here are offerings for seniors this summer:

Meals on Wheels: Keystone offers fresh, hot, cold, and frozen, home-delivered meals on Mon.-Fri. for people who are

The incredible edible garden open



Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is serving up scrumptious garden fun for the fifth year in a row with the opening of the Edible Garden.

The Edible Garden features an array of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers. All plants are grown from seed and every plant in the garden has at least one edible part. It is an exhibit for visitors of all, ages, designed to teach about planting and preparing foods that can be grown at home.

The exhibit will run through the summer. Trained staff and volunteers will be on-site from 10am-6pm to answer guests' questions. At noon and 3pm, Mon.-Fri., the Conservatory gardening staff will give gardener talks about growing techniques, ways to harvest and prepare food from your garden, natural pest control, and creative edible landscape design. The garden display covers more than 8,000 square feet and is south of the Visitor Center.

In 2014, the Edible Garden staff harvested 119 lbs. of produce for the Saint Paul Recreation Centers' various cooking classes and summer programs. They also harvested 666 lbs. of produce that they fed to Como Zoo animals, and 657 lbs. of produce that was donated to Keystone Community Services..

The goal for 2015 is to exceed last year's harvest, which totaled 1444 lbs. Some of the more interesting plants grown in the garden this year include Jerusalem Artichoke, Tiger Melon, vegetable spaghetti squash, Polar Bear Pumpkins and a wide variety of peppers.

homebound. There is a fee on a sliding scale.

Exercise for those over 50: Great for improving your strength and flexibility. Classes are Mon., Wed., and Fri. from 10-11am. And, they're free! Monday classes focus on strength and flexibility; Wednesday on Fit and Fabulous instruction; and Friday on gym exercise, walking, and light weights (Friday's class runs until 11:20am). Drop in and check them out.

Zumba Gold: Here's a fun and lively exercise program based on dancing to a variety of musical styles—a great aerobic and toning workout. Participants with all levels of exercise experience are welcome. Classes are Fridays from 12:30-1:30pm. There's no set fee, but donations are appreciated.

Summer cards and games: Have fun and meet new friends. Here's the schedule:

- Mexican Train Dominoes—second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 1pm.
- Cribbage—Tuesday at 12:30-3pm
- Keystone Krafters—Tuesday at 1-2:30pm
- Brush-up Bridge—Thursdays at 10am-3:30pm
- Advanced Bridge—Thursday at 12:30pm
- Scrabble—Fridays at 11am

Summer movies: Summer is the perfect time to catch up on movies. Movies are every Wednesday, 12:15pm. Call for each week's movie titles.

For information about any Keystone program, or about all the services available for seniors, call 651-645-7424, visit www.keystonecommunityservices.org, or pick up a copy of the Keystone Senior Program's quarterly newsletter Keystone Senior Hi-Lites.

La Leche Group scheduled July 14

The next meetings of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tue., July 14 and Tue., Aug. 11. 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.

TC Labor Chorus in song July 28

Before there was karaoke, there was Joe Hill.

The Twin Cities Labor Chorus pays tribute to the legendary union songwriter on Tue., July 28. The annual sing-along and concert begins at 7pm at the

AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion, on the corner of Dan Patch and Cooper on the east end of the fairgrounds.

Labor Sing 2015 features classic and current workers' songs – and the stories and struggles behind them. Emmett Doyle and other guest musicians will join the chorus. Admission and parking are free, but the chorus will pass the hat to help offset expenses for its 2016 performances at the Western Workers Labor Heritage Festival.

Chair Yoga planned for Mondays

The North End South Como Block Nurse Program is sponsoring Chair Yoga every Monday, 11-11:45am, at the Como by the Lake Apartments, 901 E. Como Blvd. This class is great for improving strength, flexibility and overall mobility. Designed to meet the specific needs of senior in a structure to benefit everyone at any level of health and fitness. The yoga poses are adapted and are done either standing or seated. Chairs are provided to keep everyone safe and supported. The class is free.

Hamline Library plans summer fun

The Hamline Midway Library will be busy throughout July and August with activities to keep all ages learning, having fun, and connecting with their community.

The librarians host Preschool Storytime every Friday from 10:30-11am. Upcoming storytimes are July 10, 17, 24, 31, and Aug. 7 and 14. Storytimes feature songs, puppets, and, of course, stories for preschoolers and their caregivers. Children of all activity levels are welcome.

The Summer Spark program encourages kids to read and brings family-friendly programs to the library every Thursday from 10:30-11:30am throughout July:

—On Thur., July 9, the Roe Family Singers bring toe-tapping old-time "hillbilly" music to the Midway;

—RADZOO, the Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Zoo, brings fascinating live salamanders, frogs, snakes, lizards, and more to the library on July 16.

—On July 23, Como Zoo Frog-a-Wocky dives into the wild (and sometimes noisy) world of frogs.

Kids can also earn a free book through Summer Spark by reading for ten hours—or trying ten fun activities—and tracking what they've done on a Summer Spark time sheet, available at the library. If they do a second round of reading for ten hours or completing activities, they can earn a second free book.

In August, the Summer Power program picks up where Summer Spark left off, with activities at 10:30am every Thursday. The Hamline Midway Library Association sponsors all Summer Power activities, supported by donations from our community. On Thur., Aug. 6, just in time for Irish Fair weekend, Rince Na Chroi Irish Dance will perform and teach attendees a few simple, fun steps. Aug. 13 and 20, activities are still to

be arranged, but check in at the library closer to the date to get details. On Aug. 27, Greg Renstrom of the River Bank Players presents music and a theatrical reading of *The Wind in the Willows*.

Adult mystery lovers can join the Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club on Sat., July 11, 1-3pm to discuss "Under a Silent Moon" by Elizabeth Haynes. On Sat., Aug. 1, 1-3pm they will discuss "The Black List" by Robin Burcell. Interested people can contact Geraldine Balter at geribalter@gmail.com or call 651-224-5570 for more information.

Ground broken for housing project

Kraus-Anderson Construction Company (KA) held a groundbreaking ceremony on June 23 for its 248-unit, 345,000-square-foot housing development at 2700 University Ave. Fifty units will be affordable housing.

Owned by Indianapolis-based Flaherty & Collins Properties, the multifamily housing development is located near the Green Line LRT Westgate Station on University Ave. just west of Highway 280.

The building will also house commercial space, including The Bike Shop, which will feature biking and fitness products, trainers, and a TV lounging area. The site will also include 3,000 square feet of wireless amenity space, which will feature a fitness center, tanning salon, cyber café, business center and leisure room. A resort-style pool, wet deck, and surrounding landscaping will be located on the interior of the area, providing residents with an "outdoor living room" inclusive of fire pits, commercial-grade grills, and outdoor furniture.

The development's high-quality residential apartments will have nine-foot ceilings, luxury wood-style flooring in kitchens and entries, 42-inch cabinets, Roman soaking tubs and other amenities. The development includes underground parking.

The development is designed by UrbanWorks Architecture and will include an entry plaza across from Westgate Station with a public art installation, pedestrian-scale site lighting, public park with seating areas, bike racks and community play areas. The site is accessible and served by bus routes, and aims to return an emphasis to human-scaled activities rather than automobile uses, which have historically dominated University Ave.

The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2016.

Support group for partners & spouses

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota is sponsoring a support group specifically for partners or spouses of someone who lives with a mental illness. The Partners & Spouses support group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm, at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St. (Holton & Garden). For more information, call Melissa at 651-354-0825.

Music in the Park announces continuing summer schedule at Como

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of musical experiences for all tastes and pleasures. Jazz, folk, blues, concert bands, world, electronic, and pop are just a few genres included feature at Music in the Parks 2015. All performances are free except for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening theater style musicals* at Como Lakeside Pavilion in July and August. The following performances are scheduled at Como Lakeside Pavilion:

Thur., July 9, 7pm – Rosetown Theater Group* (Community Theater)
 Fri., July 10, 7pm – Rosetown Theater Group* (Community Theater)
 Sat., July 11, 7pm – Rosetown Theater Group* (Community Theater)
 Sun., July 12, 3pm – Stan Brann's Big Bone Band (Big Band)
 Sun., July 12, 7pm – Minnesota Sinfonia (Concert Band)
 Mon., July 13, 7pm – Beasley's Big Band (Concert Band)
 Tues., July 14, 7pm – GTCYS (Youth Symphony)
 Wed., July 15, 7pm – Bend in the River Band (Concert Band)
 Thur., July 16, 7pm – Rosetown Theater Group* (Community Theater)
 Fri., July 17, 7pm – Rosetown Theater Group* (Community Theater)
 Sat., July 18, 7pm – Rosetown Theater Group* (Community Theater)
 Sun., July 19, 3pm – Star of the North Concert Band (Concert Band)
 Sun., July 19, 7pm – No Limits the B-Side Band (Soul//R&B)
 Mon., July 20, 7pm – Brooklyn Community Band (Concert Band)
 Tues., July 21, 7pm – North Star Barbershop Chorus (Chorus)
 Wed., July 22, 7pm – Bend in the River Band (Big Band)
 Thur., July 23, 7pm – Highland Park Community Center Theater Performance* (Community Theater)
 Fri., July 24, 7pm – Highland Park Community Center Theater Performance* (Community Theater)
 Sat., July 25, 7pm – Highland Park Community Center Theater Performance* (Community Theater)
 Sun., July 26, 3pm – Como Pops (Concert Band)
 Sun., July 26, 7pm – Lex-Ham Community Band (Concert Band)
 Mon., July 27, 7pm – River City Chorale (Choral)
 Tues., July 28, 7pm – The Medalist Concert Band (Concert Band)
 Wed., July 29, 7pm – Minnesota State Band (Concert Band)
 Thur., July 30, 7pm – Highland Park Community Center Theater Performance* (Community Theater)
 Fri., July 31, 7pm – Highland Park Community Center Theater Performance* (Community Theater)
 Sat., Aug. 1, 7pm – Highland Park Community Center Theater Performance* (Community Theater)
 Sun., Aug. 2, 3pm – Twin Cities Show Chorus (Chorus)
 Sun., Aug. 2, 7pm – The 1st John Philip Sousa Memorial Band (Concert Band)
 Mon., Aug. 3, 7pm – Lakewood Cemetery (Acoustic)
 Tues., Aug. 4, 7pm – Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra (Orchestra)
 Wed., Aug. 5, 7pm – Minnesota State Band (Concert Band)
 Thur., Aug. 6, 7pm – Café Accordion Orchestra (Orchestra)
 Fri., Aug. 7, 7pm – Continental Ballet Company (Ballet)
 Sat., Aug. 8, 7pm – VitaMN and Amserdam Presents Music & Movies in the Park (Music and Movies)
 Sun., Aug. 9, 3pm – The Peace Life (Singer/Songwriter/Folk)
 Sun., Aug. 9, 7pm – Honeywell Concert Band (Concert Band)
 Mon., Aug. 10, 7pm – Just for Fun Singers (Choral)
 Tues., Aug. 11, 7pm – Katy Vernon Band (Sinner/Songwriter)
 Wed., Aug. 12, 7pm – Minnesota State Band (Concert Band)
 Thur., Aug. 13, 7pm – The Pan Handlers Steal Drum Band (Concert Band)
 Fri., Aug. 14, 7pm – Nikki Becker (Indie Folk)

Farmers Market open in North End

The District 6 Planning Council is sponsoring a Farmers Market twice a week at 168 Front Ave. The market will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8am to noon beginning Tues., June 23 through the end of October. There is room for one more vendor, so if you are interested or if you have questions contact District 6 at 651-488-4485 or district6ed@dist6pc.org.

Dance club to celebrate 100 years

Sun., Aug. 16 celebrates the 100th Anniversary season conclusion of the Linden Hills Dancing Club. This historic summer event will take place at the historic Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy. All dancers of every skill level are welcome to attend a social hour from 5:30-6:30pm. Guests will then enjoy dancing under the stars from 6:30-9:30pm to the popular ballroom dance music of the Rod Cerar band.

Today the club continues to grow and welcome dancers from throughout the Twin Cities and beyond. Couples still show up in dressy, though not necessarily formal attire. The group often hosts theme parties, complete

with buffet-style meals. Winding up the season with a festive dance party underscores the Linden Hills Dancing Club's primary theme for the past 100 years – hospitality and fun.

Anyone who loves to dance can learn more and make reservations for this special hundred-year celebration at www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org.

Driver review class offered June 25

There will be an AARP Driver Review Class on Mon. July 27, 10am-4pm. This class consists of an overview of safe driving. There is no writing or driving test required. Minnesota law mandates a 10% reduction in car insurance premiums for persons 55 years and older who complete a defensive driving class like this. The class will be held at Merriam Park Community Center (2000 St. Anthony Ave.) and is sponsored by Keystone Community Services. Cost is \$18, and you can call 651-645-7424 for more information or to reserve your spot.

Midway Murals Project in full swing

Mark your calendars now to save Sat., Aug. 29 from noon-6pm, scheduled date for the Midway Art Festival and Midway Murals

Unveiling Celebration! The Midway Murals project will celebrate the unveiling of its four murals with music, live art, interactive art projects, and a walking tour of the murals along Snelling Ave. The community is invited to this day-long event that will showcase the vibrancy, creativity, and diverse cultures of the Hamline Midway neighborhood.

The Midway Murals Art Crawl and Mural Making Parties are taking place July 24, 4-8pm, and July 25, 11am-4pm. The central location for food and information will be Mosaic on a Stick.

Leading up to the event, Midway Murals will highlight the many artistic talents that reside in the Hamline Midway neighborhood. All Hamline Midway neighbors, employees, and students are invited to submit their original visual artwork pieces that will be displayed in businesses and other public spaces along Snelling Ave. beginning July 25. The art will remain on display through the end of August. To submit artwork—all skill levels and, ages encouraged—and to get more information, email Midway Murals coordinator Jonathan Oppenheimer, at jonathan@midwaymurals.com.

For events in the neighborhood that were not submitted in time for this issue of the Monitor, check out the online calendar at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com.

Neighborhood schools

Continued from page 1

She described Hamline and Galtier as looking different in the school year of 2012-13. "Hamline was a district-wide magnet, and so was Galtier," she said. "That meant that families from all over the district could choose to come to Hamline or Galtier." She described Galtier as a technology magnet and Hamline as a language academy. She said Hamline had 550 students at the time. In 2013-14, Jie Ming, the Mandarin Immersion Academy, and Hamline were located at the Hamline school, with 490 students. She said that in 2014-15, Hamline Elementary was down to 291 students, excluding pre-K. They project 250 students for the Hamline community school for the coming school year.

"The enrollment has steadily declined over the past three years," she noted, "for no particular purpose, just different types of programming."

Turner said the school district is looking all over the city at different growth patterns. The elementary population is growing on the east side, with a little bit of a bump in the Highland and Groveland areas. She said the most significant growth is on the east side, and they will need a new middle school. "We don't always have the

right buildings in the right places," she stated.

Turner said more numbers of kindergartners are needed at Hamline Elementary, enough so that two classes could be formed.

"If we can have some commitment from parents, we might be able to work hard and get a second section of kindergarten," Turner noted. "We're going to be as flexible and open as you want us to be."

She said the district will be surveying parents to find out why they may have left St. Paul public schools.

Talking in small groups, parents attending the meeting June 8 came up with some ideas to promote their community schools. Getting the word out about the Hamline to Hamline collaboration was a top recommendation. Another was getting prospective families together to visit the school and feel more comfortable with it.

Some said that as parents, they were excited about having an art and music curriculum in the school.

Being proactive and marketing Hamline and Galtier was also emphasized. Suggestions were made to have a table at the Fair in conjunction with Hamline University, and to be a presence at community events.

"We need to have a show of force and a show of love for our community schools," one parent stressed.

Green Line exceeds expectations

Metro Transit officials celebrated the 1st year of the Green Line by noting that ridership far exceeded projections and seeds of economic development began to blossom.

While the 11-mile stretch of track has served more than 11.1 million riders in its first year, and there has been about \$3 billion in development along the Green Line corridor since construction began, Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb said the line is about more than numbers.

"The Green Line is about improved access to jobs," Lamb said, citing a recently released Accessibility research from the University of Minnesota, which indicated the line gave improved access to about 2,000 jobs. "It's also about access to entertainment and we celebrate with all of our businesses up and down the Green Line."

Metro Transit officials distributed commemorative anniversary buttons to riders at some Green Line stations on June 15. Throughout that week, dozens of businesses along the University Ave. Corridor are offered promotional discounts to anyone wearing the button.

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman hailed housing develop-



ment taking place near the Green Line, which he attributed to the transportation service.

"The Green Line has proven to be what we always knew it would be—a key part of a first class transportation system that provides access and opportunity throughout the corridor, our city, and our region" Coleman said.

Signs MTC cited as success along the line include:

- Initial projections for the Green Line predicted about 27,000 rides on an average weekday. That figure was not projected to top 41,000

until 2030. On Wed., Apr. 15, the line had a ridership of 44,651. In May, we had a week where average weekday ridership topped 40,500.

- Combined ridership on routes 16, 94 and the Green Line is double what it was when service was provided by buses alone.
- When the line started, it wasn't unheard of for a trip to hit 60 minutes end-to-end. Now, with scheduled times at 45 minutes end-to-end, we are within 5 minutes of that mark about 85 percent of the time.
- In March, the East Bank Station hit 1 million total boardings, the first station to do so.
- Riders are using us to get to special events:
- Vikings at TCF: 24 percent of fans used the Green Line.
- Rolling Stones: About 7,500 fans took a total of 15,000 rides.
- Saints opening: 31,764 fans, 1,900 took the Green Line.
- Twins: 900 more per game using Metro Transit than did last year, which can be largely attributed to the Green Line.

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by Aug. 3 for the Aug. 13 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

Monitor Want Ads are \$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 before Aug. 3 for the Aug. 13 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to 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

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Como author

Continued from page 1

seem to be helping with or even allowing them to participate in. He said the students in middle school were just starting to face their sexuality, but for many of them it was gender confusion.

"How do they have that conversation with adults, and how do other kids see them?"

Liuzzi said he switched from teaching at a public school to a private Quaker school, which had very open values and conversations with students, with mutual respect for everybody.

"It seemed like things were changing. But then I switched back to teaching in public schools and while there was more openness, there was a little anger from some kids when other kids stepped outside the established norms."

Liuzzi said he also drew on his experiences during high school and college with the gay commu-

nity in writing this book and creating some of the characters.

Liuzzi said he started the book with the premise that the core character, Joey, was a child who was confused about her gender. "But as soon as I started writing, I knew the book would be about more than gender confusion. This child was going to know she was in the wrong body."

Liuzzi said as he progressed with the book, he let the other characters come in, and the story unfold.

"With some novels I have gone back, and made lots and lots of edits and taken out some of the characters," Liuzzi explained. "That wasn't the case with this one." He said it felt like every character was doing something for the transition in Joey's life.

"There was a purpose for every character, and it doesn't always happen that way," Liuzzi continued. "Some characters feel right when they're coming out, and then I go back and they feel like they're a waste of space."



Author Alex Liuzzi's writes at night or early in the morning while the rest of the family is asleep. (Photo by Jan Willms)

This book is Liuzzi's third published novel. His first was "Center of the Universe," a second person narrative written in a "you do this, you do that" sort of voice. "It's about a 24-year-old who is going through a life crisis, and it's a little quirky," he said. His second novel was called "Over Mud Creek" and is told in the first-person voice of an eight-year-old. His family takes in and fosters a homeless child, and the story is about his interaction with that child and his family.

"That book and the current one are the only two younger voices I have used, of the many books sitting on my shelf that are not published," Liuzzi said with a smile. "They still need lots of editing."

Doing the editing is the hardest part of the writing process for Liuzzi. "It's going back and seeing how I can help say things better, have an order and flow. It's always felt unnatural."

He took a class at the Loft 10 years ago that he said was essential

in helping him see that editing is a necessary part to make the book readable and not just a voice coming through.

"Writing is the easiest part," Liuzzi said. "As soon as I get a character that speaks to me, it is the easiest thing in the world. I sit down, and I don't want to stop. The character becomes very separate from it. It is me making sure their voice is heard vs. me working to write."

Liuzzi's first writing experience at 12 was a Halloween story about two characters wanting to push each other down a well. "It was sort of a scary story of how it was going to happen," he said. "I haven't read it in a long time, but I think it was pretty horrible. But the teacher read it to the class, and I remember thinking that maybe I could tell stories in that way."

He wrote short stories for a few years and then started writing poetry in high school. In college, it was back to short stories, and he wrote his first novel when he was 21.

Liuzzi got his undergraduate degree in history and taught social studies for many years. He left teaching to do a Ph.D. in international development. "After finishing half my program, we became pregnant with another child," he

said. "I have two teenagers. Now I stay at home and watch my five-month-old part-time and work at the Minnesota Board of Teachers part-time. So the amount of time for writing has actually shrunk."

But no matter what he has been doing, Liuzzi has kept writing. "Writing is the one creative expression I have to do," he said. "I have done other creative things in my life, but they come and go. Writing is some part of me that needs to be released."

He usually has written at a desk in his bedroom, but a recent move provided him with an office. He writes at night or early in the morning while the rest of the family is asleep. "I can't write when other people are around or awake," he noted.

Liuzzi has already started his next novel, a science fiction story about a woman who has lost her father.

Although Liuzzi usually has his characters struggling with some issue, he said he always likes there to be some lightness to his books.

"I'm a happy ending person," he explained. "When I read or write, I like there to be some sense of hope at the end."

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Creative Enterprise Zone

Continued from page 7

Commercial Building at 2500 University Ave. Fierce searched for the new space for months. A bright green door on Cromwell Ave. opens directly into her gallery and it was this street presence, along with easy access from the Green Line, which sealed the deal.

Fierce has been repurposing her space since she moved in last January. She has gutted rooms, removing dropped ceilings, installed track lighting, skim coated and painted concrete floors and, last but not least, hired three graffiti artists

to make the walls shine. Her eye-catching logo, painted on the side of the Midwest Commercial Building says it all: FIERCE GLASS. Beauty born in fire. Never fragile - always classy.

When her two furnaces are up and running this fall, Fierce plans to roll the garage doors open on Franklin Ave. so people can see what's going on. She understands as well as anyone how mesmerizing molten glass can be, and she appreciates the "chemistry of interest" when people walk by.

Asked how she became a glass blower, Fierce answered, "I took one class four years ago and was completely hooked. I blew for a year, continued to learn from community glass artists, and then jumped in with

everything I had."

That seems to be the sentiment of many artists and makers working in the CEZ. The beauty of the formalization of the district is that it will foster even more cooperation and shared opportunities for artists, makers, and light manufacturers.

Photo right: Fierce always blows glass with a partner. "It's like a dance," she said, "when two people are really in sync with each other. With my best apprentices, we don't speak in full sentences, just nods, and grunts. We're working with glass that's been heated to 2,200 degrees. We need to be very observant and responsive toward each other."

Photo right: Nicole Fierce holds one of the \$20 polka dot cups that built her business. The spritely cup is, Fierce said, "How people often enter the world of her hand-blown glass. If you buy a set of six, the sixth one is free." See the polka dot cups and much more at upcoming summer events: www.fiercedesignstudio.com.



Every glass object is shaped and smoothed with a wad of newspapers. According to Fierce, "The NY Times is best, having the lowest percentage of clay components in the newsprint. The Star Tribune holds up okay, the Pioneer Press falls apart, and the community papers are just too small."

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