



# Midway Como monitor

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SEPTEMBER 2005

Vol. 30 No. 1  
20,000 Circulation



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## Family, friends mourn loss of Hamline sophomore

By JANE MCCLURE

September 18 will be a sad day for the family and friends of George Wesley Linares. Instead of celebrating his 22 birthday, they'll be missing him. The Hamline University student and Hamline-Midway resident died more than eight months ago as a result of a hit-and-run accident on Snelling Avenue near Van Buren.

St. Paul Police have been unable to make an arrest in the case, despite briefly detaining a suspect late last year. The suspect, a Mid-

way area resident, reportedly failed a polygraph test. Police still need more evidence before charges can be filed. Police are asking for the public's help in solving what has become a cold case.

of him every day. They recall a personable, talented young man who wasn't afraid to ask tough questions and dissect complicated issues in class. They remember a talented young musician and world traveler who enjoyed exploring other cultures.

"George gave me such joy," said his mother, Maggie Ingalls. "He was just an amazing kid. George was a very, very special person."

"I will always miss him," said George's father, Juan Linares. Los-

"He (George Linares) had a special perspective on things and was mature beyond his years."

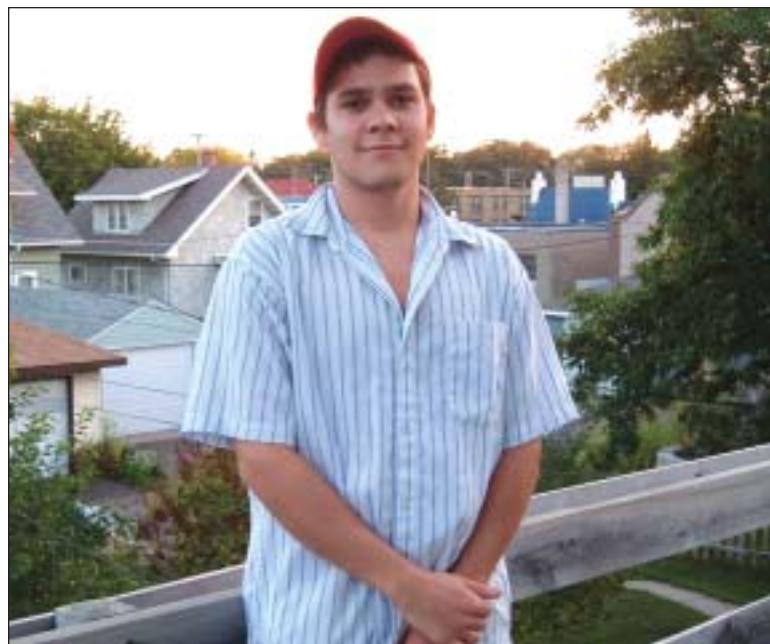
- Hamline University professor Russell Christensen

way area resident, reportedly failed a polygraph test. Police still need more evidence before charges can be filed. Police are asking for the public's help in solving what has become a cold case.

George's family members and many friends in the Hamline University community say they think

ing a child "is just something you never get over."

Russell Christensen, a Hamline professor of modern language, was George's first-year seminar advisor. George was one of a group of about 18 students who formed a group during their initial year at the university. The sem-



George Linares' family members and many friends in the Hamline University community say they think of him every day. They recall a personable, talented young man who wasn't afraid to ask tough questions and dissect complicated issues in class.



St. Paul Police have been unable to make an arrest in the case of George Linares, despite briefly detaining a suspect late last year. The suspect, a Midway area resident, reportedly failed a polygraph test. Police still need more evidence before charges can be filed. Police are asking for the public's help in solving what has become a cold case.

inar groups not only provide support and friendships for incoming liberal arts students as majors are chosen, they also help faculty get to know students better.

"I think of him as having the smile of statues," Christensen said, recalling a student whose facial expression could convey the question "Are you sure?" without saying a word.

"He had a special perspective on things and was mature beyond his years," Christensen said.

Christensen said he enjoyed George's ability to respectfully disagree with or be skeptical of ideas raised in the classroom. Comments from George could often get a lively discussion started.

"I used to say, 'George, send me a bill for your service,'" Christensen said.

George is from a diverse family background, and friends and family members say he was proud of his intercultural heritage. His father's family is Mexican and he still has family members in that country. His mother describes herself as a mix of European cultures. He also had a Syrian great-grandfather.

Christensen said George used to joke about being a little suspicious of "pale people." But he was able to form close bonds with students and faculty of all backgrounds, which also impressed those who knew him.

Ingalls said it is difficult to think of George's Hamline friends, many of whom are leaving for studies abroad this fall. George loved to travel. After graduating from the International School in Minneapolis, he took time off between high school and college to travel. He worked three jobs to raise money for a trip to Mexico, to explore the country and visit his father's family in Mexico City.

He also worked to raise money for a trip to Europe, visiting France, the Netherlands and Germany.

Juan Linares said his son loved to travel and enjoyed new experiences. "He learned so much and got so much from his travels," he said. Linares is specially pleased that his son was able to visit Mexican family members before his death.

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1885 University Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651-645-7045

**Publishers:**  
Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

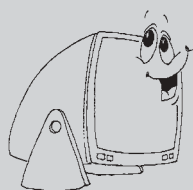
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The Midway Como Monitor is a  
monthly community publication in  
the Midway and Como areas of  
St. Paul, owned and operated by  
deRuyter-Nelson Publications, Inc.  
All correspondence should be sent  
to the Monitor, 1885 University  
Ave., #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Ed-  
itorial and advertising offices can  
be reached at 651-645-7045. Our  
fax number is 651-645-4780.

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## Midway Como in a Minute

### Police increase pres- ence at Midway Center

St. Paul Police will have an in-  
creased presence at the Midway  
Shopping Center, with an agree-  
ment to put a small kiosk office  
there. The St. Paul City Council  
unanimously approved an agree-  
ment August 10 between the po-  
lice and mall owner RK Midway  
Limited Liability Corporation. The  
agreement is being signed at no  
costs to the city and its police  
department. The move is expect-  
ed to provide an increased police  
presence in the area. A recent  
University UNITED survey of  
Midway shoppers indicated that  
safety and perceptions of safety  
are a concern for those who visit  
area businesses.

The changes should be seen  
soon. The shopping center and  
some individual businesses al-  
ready employ private security  
personnel. That isn't expected to  
change.

There has never been any  
kind of police storefront or sub-  
station at the shopping center.  
The closest storefront was in the  
Spruce Tree building at Universi-  
ty and Snelling, but that hasn't  
been used in some time.

### Townhouses planned for prior Larson's

The former Larson's Garden Cen-  
ter on Maryland Avenue will  
sprout with townhouses in the fu-  
ture. The St. Paul City Council, ac-  
ting as the Housing and Redevel-  
opment Authority (HRA), voted  
unanimously August 10 to ap-  
prove Sparc's request for a  
\$600,000 deferred loan to get the  
Willow Reserve Townhomes pro-  
ject rolling. The project will be  
south of the Willow Reserve wet-  
lands area in the North End, on  
the north side of Maryland be-  
tween Arundel Street and Western  
Avenue.

Sparc is buying the former  
greenhouse and an adjacent sin-  
gle-family home. The community  
development corporation, which  
serves the Hamline-Midway,  
North End and South Como  
neighborhoods, will conduct the  
project in two phases. Acquisition  
of the property is underway, with  
executed purchase agreements.  
Demolition of the structures on  
the site will be completed by year's  
end. The greenhouse closed a few  
years ago after operating in the  
North End for many years.

During the second phase of  
the project Sparc will build 36  
owner-occupied townhouses. The  
mix will include two, three and  
four-bedroom units, with four or  
five units grouped in each build-  
ing. Each unit will have its own  
garage.

Sparc is working with Twin  
Cities Habitat for Humanity and  
Rondo community Land Trust on  
ways to make some of the town-  
houses affordable. Habitat is being  
asked to build five of the units,  
with another four co-developed by  
the land trust. The goal is to have  
all but 16 of the townhouses af-  
fordable to lower-income house-  
holds.

If all goes as planned, con-  
struction would start in spring  
2006.

The Greater Metropolitan  
Housing Corporation is providing  
\$535,000 toward the project.  
Sparc is putting in \$15,000. With  
the HRA loan, the total is \$1.150  
million for the total land acquisi-  
tion and demolition phase.

Sparc has worked with civil  
engineering firm Rani Engineering  
and the Capital Regional Water-  
shed District to make sue any de-  
velopment has a minimal impact  
of the Willow Reserve wetlands.  
Longtime area residents may re-  
member the battle to save the wet-  
lands many years ago.

### Victoria Crossing bus shelter to Dunning

Dunning Field, home of Midway  
Little League and other sports pro-

grams, will be feeling a little bit  
like Grand Avenue. A large brick  
bus shelter removed to make way  
for Grand Place at Grand and Vic-  
toria will find a new home at  
Dunning Field.

The Grand-Victoria bus shel-  
ter, a project of the Summit Hill  
Association (SHA) and Grand Av-  
enue Business Association (GA-  
BA), will be donated to the Dun-  
ning Boosters. When the shelter  
will be moved still isn't known.  
The structure has been in storage  
since it was taken down to make  
way for the mall and parking  
ramp at the southwest corner of  
Grand and Victoria.

"We would welcome the op-  
portunity to display the beautif-  
fully constructed shelter as a picnic  
pavilion at our park," said Boost-  
ers President Monica Langevin  
Rangel. She wrote a letter to the  
seven-member bus shelter plan-  
ning committee, as well as SHA  
and GABA, in late July.

The Dunning Boosters, which  
began as a small booster club in  
1979, serve kids in the neighbor-  
hoods around the Dunning Recre-  
ation Center. The boosters' pro-  
grams and activities for youth in-  
clude Little League baseball, which  
has grown from 60 youth in 1990  
to 250 youth in three age divi-  
sions.

Not only would the move  
provide a needed amenity at Dun-  
ning, it would solve a dilemma  
that shelter supporters have wres-  
tled with for more than five years.  
The shelter was proposed by GABA  
and SHA members and was  
awarded a \$20,000 Neighborhood  
Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR)  
grant in 1997.

Getting the shelter built took  
several months of additional  
fundraising and planning by a se-  
ven-member volunteer committee,  
as well as permission from Metro  
Transit, city officials and the prop-  
erty owner. Much work was donat-  
ed or provided at or below costs.

The shelter was designed to  
complement other buildings in  
the area, with brick construction  
and a mansard roof. It was built at  
a time when the Grand-Victoria  
corner was a surface parking lot.

One challenge in finding a  
new location is the shelter's large  
size. Since it went into storage  
SHA and GABA members have  
looked for a different spot for the  
shelter. The search expanded to  
other St. Paul neighborhoods  
when a new Grand Avenue loca-  
tion couldn't be found. Various  
sites were proposed including cor-  
ners downtown, along University  
Avenue, on West Seventh Street or  
on Kellogg Boulevard across from  
the Minnesota History Center.

### Frogtown garage OKed by City Council

A Frogtown family will be allowed  
to build a larger garage than usual-  
ly allowed, as a result of a compro-  
mise forged by the St. Paul City  
Council and adopted August 3.  
The decision should put to rest a  
disagreement that has gone on for  
more than a year.

The St. Paul Board of Zoning  
Appeals (BZA) rejected the re-  
quest of Alan Butts, who wished  
to build a 24 by 33-foot two-sto-  
ry garage behind his family's  
home at 1083 Sherburne Av. The  
original request was for a 20.5-  
foot garage; the maximum allow-  
able height in the property's zon-  
ing district is 15 feet.

The Thomas Dale Communi-  
ty Council had supported the  
height variance as had several  
neighbors. The BZA had rejected a  
previous variance request for the  
garage in 2004. But when Butts  
and his supporters went to the  
BZA for a public hearing last sum-  
mer to speak for the minor vari-  
ance, the supporters weren't called  
on to speak. Although the board  
apologized for the error, it upset  
many of those present.

City staff recommended de-  
nial of the variance because of the  
garage's large height and the po-  
tentially significant impact it  
could have on neighboring prop-  
erties, as well as the garage height  
as compared to the house on the  
property. Yet another concern city

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# Hamline-Midway mystery writer makes conflict his 'stock-in-trade'

By JAN WILLMS

Local author William Kent Krueger loves to write, and it is evident in his voice, his manner and the easy smile that flashes across his face as he discusses his art. This man truly enjoys what he is doing.

He has recently completed *Mercy Falls*, the fifth mystery he has written about Cork O'Connor, the Irish and Ojibwa sheriff. In this novel, O'Connor deals with a murder of the rich and powerful while also coming to terms with the reappearance of a man who figured strongly in his wife's past.

"What any writer of fiction looks for most in a story is conflict—conflict is at the heart of a great story," Krueger related.

"I knew I was going to be writing about Ojibwa and whites, and the conflicts they face," he continued. "I thought it would be wise to create a character who is himself mirroring that conflict between the races."

Krueger said he tried to determine what nationality O'Connor would combine with his Ojibwa blood. "It could have been Welsh, Finnish or Swedish," he noted. "But then I met a woman who was half Irish and half Ojibwa, and I was very impressed with her." And Corcoran's nationality was established.

"Who Cork is, emotionally and spiritually, comes a lot out of me," Krueger admitted. "What he believes in, the commitments he makes in life and the spiritual path he follows come out of me."

He also cited specific differences between himself and the lead fictional character in his books. "He's Irish and Ojibwa; I'm not. He's Catholic, I'm Episcopalian. He's a sheriff, and I once spent a night in jail."

Even before he wrote his first novel, Krueger said he had his character in mind. And he knew he would be named Cork, because he was going to be the kind of guy who, no matter how far life pushed him down, would always bob back up.

Krueger began his writing career by publishing a number of short stories, and he was the 1989 recipient of a Bush Artist Fellowship. "If you're chosen as a Bush Artist Fellow, you get enough money to live for a year or a year and a half and just focus on your writing or your art," Krueger said. "I wrote a novel, but it was horrible."

He persevered, however, and started to write his first mystery, *Iron Lake*, with Cork O'Connor as the leading character.

"When I sat down to write *Iron Lake*, I realized I didn't know anything about ballistics, forensics or the minds of killers," Krueger said, "but there were two things I did know. At the age of 40, I knew a lot about human nature. I also had come to know a great deal about Minnesota."

"Human nature and home. I thought if I could do that well, I could get away with murder," Krueger said with a wry smile.



Edmund Avenue resident William Kent Krueger has recently completed *Mercy Falls*, the fifth mystery he has written about Cork O'Connor, the Irish and Ojibwa sheriff. In this novel, O'Connor deals with a murder of the rich and powerful while also coming to terms with the reappearance of a man who figured strongly in his wife's past. (Photo by Terry Faust)

He won several awards for his first novel, published in 1998.

"The process of getting a book published is such that by

the time you hold the book in your hand, it is not such a big impact," Krueger said. "Seeing it in the bookstore is more exciting. And the most exciting thing

was when a bidding war broke out on that book—that felt just terrific!"

In his latest novel, Krueger said he wanted to consciously tackle one of the taboos of mystery writing as he left his main character in an uncertain and unfinished situation.

"Mystery readers come to this genre for a number of reasons, but the main one is that the world can be set right and justice can be done," Krueger claimed. "Mysteries are comfort reads for a lot of people."

He said that all his previous books had been neatly tied up at the end, and he did not want to do that this time around. "I knew I was taking a great risk in

leaving my character in the lurch, but readers will have to wait about a year for the resolution," he acknowledged.

The risk seems to have paid off, as Krueger said he has had a better response to *Mercy Falls* than to any book he has written. Sales are doing extremely well, and he receives three to four e-mails a day from readers wondering when the next book will be coming out.

Krueger said he wrote *Mercy Falls* after reading the *Great Gatsby* and wanting to create a story in which a figure from a character's past re-emerges, in this case a former lover of Cork's wife. "I wondered what Cork would do," Krueger mused.

He said that the books he likes to read give fully dimensional characters.

"If you write a villain who is nothing but evil, he is not interesting or believable," he said. "The villain believes in a justification for what he does."

Although Cork's wife is a blonde attorney, like Krueger's, he said the resemblance of the characters stops there. He said it is amazing, however, that people identify with characters, even though he does not base them on real persons.

As he travels around the country for book signings, Krueger said the question he is asked most frequently is "Where do you get your ideas?"

He said he often travels on these tours with another author, and she offered that mystery authors are like vacuums; they suck everything up. "If you are really open, the ideas just come to you," Krueger added.

For his next book, *Copper River*, he said he had a single intriguing scene that came to him.

"I was walking along a river with my wife at sunset, and the river was gold and black. I see a river like that with a body float-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

"What any writer of fiction looks for most in a story is conflict—conflict is at the heart of a great story."

- Author William Kent Krueger

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Every month, as the deadline approaches, I sift through my ideas for what to write about. Life always has a way of taking care of it. Something comes up, or I hear a question, or I see something that perks my thoughts. This month, I've been hit with a sledge hammer. Unfortunately, this month, I know exactly what to write about.

A couple of months ago, I wrote about both of our children getting married in the coming year. What a thrill! I was consumed with questions about the money, when and where the weddings would take place, and wondering if my children would be happy. Some of the answers are clear now. One is still getting married, one is engulfed with sadness and anger.

It happened Wednesday night. I came home from my first anti-war protest, and I was so thrilled. My son was sitting in the backyard, having a beer when I bounded in to tell him of my experience. It was dark. At first, I didn't notice the tears on his cheeks. Then, he said those terrible words,

"Ma, you'd better sit down, we need to talk."

I sat down slowly, not knowing what was coming next, dreading his next words.

"I've decided to call off the wedding."

At first, I was relieved that he wasn't dying of some rare disease, then the rush of sadness washed over me. My only son, my little boy, was suffering. It had been a secret he'd kept to himself for five days. I was shocked. I couldn't believe he hadn't come to us sooner.

Sean explained what had happened. I can't go into details, as I promised him I wouldn't tell anyone. He deserves his privacy, and he wants time to tell our family himself. I think he needs to let it soak in for a while before he can speak about it.



## The Best Years

By SHERRI MOORE

### Beer and sympathy a part of life

As I sat there hearing his words, disbelief kept me from letting those words sink in. I heard myself say:

"Are you sure? Did you really see it right?"

His response was to look at me like I was crazy, but I've always reacted that way to outrageous conversations. I reacted that way when my old boyfriend from high school called me in February to tell me that his cancer was back, and it didn't look good. I reacted that way when my husband told me in April that his younger sister was dying, and I reacted that way when my mother called me at work to tell me Senator Wellstone's plane had crashed. I've been told my psychiatrists that my reaction to bad news is common, but it's still disturbing. It's like my disbelief will make it disappear.

A minute later, I jumped up and hugged my son. He cried, I comforted. He needed me and I was there to help him. Then I woke up his father from a deep sleep, and he immediately came downstairs to talk to Sean. He heard the news himself, and had no response. He was as dumbfounded as I was.

The three of us sat there, in the backyard, talking quietly until well after midnight. We listened to him, and comforted him while he decided what he was going to do. All the while, my heart ached because I knew what lay ahead for him. He was worried about me getting back the deposit I'd put down for the reception. I told him that

school with a black eye a girl had given him, I knew how to comfort him. When our children are grown adults, the problems are worse. We can't make it go away with a hug and a popsicle.

Isn't it funny? When they're growing up, all we want is an uninterrupted bubble bath. Forget about fame and fortune; just a bath please. Then they grow up and leave you, which is a good thing. Then when they come home, it's on a different level. I don't make his decisions for him anymore. He's in charge of his own life now. All I can do is stand on the sidelines and cheer now. We're like assistant coaches. How did life go so fast?

A couple days after he was on the back deck, he had called the reception place, and shared his news with his friends. Luckily, the wedding plans hadn't proceeded too far. Another week went by, and he was working on a project with me, and joking about it. He still looks sad now and then, but he's coping.

I'm mourning the loss of a daughter-in-law in training. She seemed to enjoy the same things I did. It was fun having another woman around the house for a while. The family liked her too. When I told my little nephews, they said they were mad at my son for hurting her feelings. I told them it was hard for him too, and we should hug him and love him. They said they still loved him. Family sticks together.

First, there were just a few red leaves I found falling in my backyard. Probably a byproduct of the weather dramatically cooling down from our summer highs (thankfully). Then, I was at my uncle's farm in Illinois this past weekend, and he gave me a carload of colorful gourds and ornamental pumpkins. Football, soccer, and volleyball teams are revving up for their seasons, and the Minnesota State Fair is in full swing. All of this can mean only one thing: it is that time of year which parents love and kids hate—back to school time.

Now, I have a little confession to make. When I was a kid, I was always one of those brainy, nerdy types who loved going back to school. Or maybe it was that I loved football so much, and the football season and school year commenced around the same time. In any event, my love of back to school time has carried over to today. For many of us Saint Paul parents, Early Childhood classes and programs are about to begin. Jonah and I are both very excited!

But despite the excitement of a new beginning, there is



## New to the Neighborhood

By NATE HAMILTON

### One last hooray for summer

always a side of us that wants to squeeze in one last ounce of summer fun before the leaves fall. One last trip to the beach, or to the cabin, or one last ride on the giant slide at the fair, or savoring that last fried cheese curd.

With the passage of another season, we are usually excited to be a little older, a little wiser. But, as I see my own son growing, I think that maybe there is a small sadness that comes from another sunny season past. My little two-year-old Jonah is starting to talk more, do things he has never done on the playground, begin to get himself dressed, and all the other things that mark the natural progression from babyhood to kidhood. My little blonde baby is gone, and a stout, fast, little preschooler is emerging. So I've begun to look for ways to savor the last few moments

of young Jonah's third summer. For example, Jonah was helping me dub over some home videos the other day. We were watching one from this summer of him giggling and splashing away with the neighbor's girls in our kiddie pool. He was really getting a kick out of seeing himself at play—which I must say, I found uproariously funny. As I watched him laughing at himself

on the video, I was granted the unique opportunity of being delighted by him twice over—in both moments. It was pretty cool. Well, the first day of school here in Saint Paul is Tuesday, September 6th. Como High School's varsity football team starts its season out by hosting Saint Paul Central. The Cougar volleyball girls will have their first few matches under their belt by the time this goes to print. As will the boys and girls soccer teams. All the sports activities I have to look forward to as a parent.

But as much as I can, I am trying to live in the now. Veteran parents all tell me how quickly it all goes. Blink—and all the fun has past you. Like a Minnesota summer.

## Neighborhoods weigh potential impact of CIB recommendations

By JANE MCCLURE

Neighbors of the Pierce Butler Route may have more questions than answers, as \$1 million for a possible redesign and extension of the street is part of the city's proposed 2006-2007 Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget. But Jimmy Lee Recreation Center/Oxford Pool supporters can breathe a little more easily, knowing that their project has full funding again. Mayor Randy Kelly's 2006-2007 CIB recommendations restore \$685,000 that the CIB Committee trimmed from Jimmy Lee/Oxford in June.

The mayor released his CIB recommendations August 11, as part of the proposed 2006 city budget proposal. The St. Paul City Council will review the recommendations and make any changes before year's end.

Under Kelly's capital budget the city would spend \$65.2 million on capital projects in 2006 and \$68.3 million in 2007. That's more than the \$63.3 million the CIB Committee recommended for 2006 and the \$51 million recommended for 2007. Technical changes in how street programs are paid for account for

part of the budget increase. What those changes could mean is more timely completion of paving of older paved or oiled neighborhood streets.

Of the neighborhood-supported projects that came through the lengthy capital budget review process, the one Kelly changed most dramatically is Jimmy Lee/Oxford, expansion renovation of the recreation center and indoor swimming facilities.

In June the CIB Committee reduced Jimmy Lee/Oxford by \$685,000, shifting the dollars so

that an East Side linear park and trail project could be completed. But Kelly cut the \$685,000 for Furness Park back to \$204,000 and made a number of other funding shifts to restore Jimmy Lee/Oxford back to its full funding request \$8.25 million in 2006-2007. Kelly said he is committed to fully funding the project and getting the recreation center and pool facilities rehabilitated and expanded. The mayor has the option of changing the CIB Committee's recommendations.

Ward One City Council

Member Debbie Montgomery said she is pleased that the Jimmy Lee/Oxford funds were restored. She said that after 13 years of planning and community process, the project needs to get done.

The mayor chose not to drop any projects, but did adjust funding on several others. Kelly added only one project in the 2006-2007 CIB, allocating \$1 million for the Pierce Butler Route realignment and extension. The idea of extending the route to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## The Food Snob

Alas, I no longer work in the Midway-Como area. It wasn't my choice, but I'm not grieving the change one bit. What has me grabbing for the Prozac—and the Pep-to Bismol—is the food in downtown Minneapolis where I now earn my living. Instead of an international village of culinary delights: "Shall we have Cambodian or Afghan today?" I'm faced with an endless gauntlet of sub shops: one cottony roll after another, garnished with over-processed deli meats and limp lettuce. I've had one—just one—good lunch in two months, and the price was a shocking \$22.

That's why I was so delighted with our visit to Bui's Cuisine, a new pan-Asian restaurant on (of course) University Avenue. Or it's one reason anyway. Let me count the others: great food, low prices, attractive décor, friendly staff, and good company. Now that I no longer see the Cheapskate and the Bachelor every day, their wit, integrity, and warmth shine all the brighter.

Bui's, which took over the old Mai Village location, serves a variety of Asian dishes for lunch and dinner. But for weekend brunches, it offers one of my favorite dining experiences: dim sum. For the uninitiated, dim sum is the Chinese version of tapas, small plates of mostly savory foods, many wrapped in dough, and almost all incorporating pork or shrimp. There is no menu; instead, servers push carts around and you select the items that appeal.

I've eaten dim sum from sea to shining sea, with some memorable experiences in San Francisco and Boston. Bui's is by far the best in the Twin Cities, topping the former east metro champ My Le Hoa in Little Canada. Most local dim sum parlors simply heat up frozen dumplings, dab on a little sauce and send them out. Bui's employs a specialized dim sum chef, who rotates more than 50 dishes.

On our visit, we sampled



## Without Reservations

Great "dim sum" in St. Paul

some of dim sum's greatest hits, but couldn't possibly try everything. Nor did we care to try a favorite of many connoisseurs: chicken feet, sometimes called dragon's claws. Instead, we feasted on shrimp dumplings, taro root balls festooned with a whole shrimp, thousand corner shrimp balls and curry shrimp in their shells. On the non-shrimp side, we had tofu rolls with Worcestershire sauce, sticky rice flour buns with minced pork, turnip cake, sweet bean sesame balls, custard tarts, soft tofu in caramel sauce and stir-fried Chinese broccoli. All of them were fresh and, to use the technical term, yummy.

The four of us, including the bottomless Bachelor and our guest, another notoriously big eater, were stuffed to the gills and left food on the table. Even so, we didn't taste everything, which means a return trip is essential. Bui's is a great culinary asset to a neighborhood already rich in taste sensations. See you there this weekend. I'm the one jumping for joy as the dumpling carts roll up to the table.

### The Bachelor

In case you whizzed past it in frantic desperation to get to my portion of this review, let me draw your attention back to a certain comment from the Snob: "Now that I no longer see the Cheapskate and the Bachelor every day, their wit, integrity, and warmth shine all the brighter." Do you smell that? A bit fishy (or "shrimpy" would be the better term at Bui's). I've known a few folks who've taken jobs in down-

town Minneapolis, and they certainly didn't morph into overly emotional lumps of unrestrained sap. Something tells me that the Snob needs a favor, and that your beloved Bachelor may soon be pulling weeds or carting someone off to the airport if he isn't careful.

Since I am now at the hyper-vigilant DefCon 2 level of the favor alert warning system, it's a good thing that I've been fueling up at Bui's. Talk about your feeds. As I remarked with awe to the Snob, dim sum is essentially a moving buffet. Why risk burning even half a calorie standing up and waddling over to the sneeze guard, when you can dim sum it and have the buffet wheeled right over to your gaping maw. Now this is gluttony. No, wait, gluttony is the time I consumed an entire large deep dish "supreme" pizza in the janitor's closet of the Highland Park Pizza Hut. However, Bui's dim sum is dang close. God bless America.

However, unlike with the comfort foods of most stationary buffets, I had to be coaxed into trying some of the dim sum dishes. "Here, Bachelor, try some turnip cake," says the Snob. Uh, turnip cake? Well, alright. It looked kind of gelatinous and soap-like, but it turned out to be one of my favorites.

And although I'm not typically a big fan of shrimp (don't much care for rubbery sea insects), I found myself greedily stuffing one after another of these shrimp-filled egg-roll-like things into my mouth.

Speaking of rubbery sea monsters, the only thing I didn't care for at Bui's was the super hot and

spicy mussels. It's bad enough trying to gnaw your way through those weird little dollops of leather, but even worse when you scorch your mouth in the process.

All in all, I like this new world of moveable buffets. I'll be back to Bui's, unable and unwilling to move.

### The Cheapskate

Dim sum was all that and more. However, it is the Cheapskate, not the Snob or the Batch, who holds the purse strings for our vast trans-global restaurant review operations, and thus it was the Cheapskate alone who saw the bill. This is not a \$9.95 all-you-can-eat affair. Those delectable and intriguing dishes each come with a price tag—not overpriced, but definitely

priced. We paid between \$15 and \$20 apiece for our four-person all-out gorge, including a bottomless pot of excellent jasmine tea. So when you go for dim sum at Bui's—and by all means go—do not necessarily hand over the reigns to a Food Snob-like entity at your table who keeps beckoning every time the food trolley goes by. It does add up.

But let me talk weekday lunch, served 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The price list is Cheapskate material, and the food is delightfully fresh and flavorful. Lunch items all cost between \$5 and \$10, and the \$6.25 daily special comes with soup or salad, white rice or fried rice, and egg rolls or cream cheese wontons. I tried Thai Basil Pork (delicious) and my companion had a super-fresh plate of Pad Thai without a hint of greasy or overly sweet heaviness.

The Snob and the Batch have gone on and on as usual, so I'll end with a brief comment about the beautiful new décor (I wouldn't have recognized the old Mai Village) and the excellent service. I recommend Bui's Asian Cuisine—without reservations.

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## Mystery writer

Continued from page 3

ing in it," he said. The idea for a previous book came to him one day as he watched the weather, a bleak February day, all drizzly outside. "An idea came fully in a vision," he said.

Of Krueger's six novels, one called *Devil's Bed* does not feature O'Connor. It is about an assassination plot by an escaped mental patient against the First Lady of the United States.

"I wrote a thriller because I wanted to do something different, and I was 'Corked' out. I had been writing him for eight years," Krueger said.

He said the two parts he likes best about writing is when he comes up with the seed idea for a book and when he does the actual writing of the book.

"My sense is some authors don't like this part, because they hack their story," he said. "I already know the story."

He does his writing now, as he did when he began, at the St. Clair Broiler in St. Paul. He goes there early in the mornings, and

he writes long-hand in a wire-bound notebook. He has reached the point in his career when he can write full-time without needing to work another job to support his writing.

While writing his first three books, he worked at the University of Minnesota, but upon publication of the third book he felt he could venture out into the writing world. "We went broke right away," he said, "but things slowly improved."

He said that very seldom does he reach a point where nothing works when he is writing. "I know my story," he said, "and if things are not going well, I use techniques. I imagine a scene for later in the book, and I work on that."

Krueger said he enjoys the traveling to promote his books, also. He also does some teaching at the Loft in Minneapolis, conferences, writing workshops and the University of Minnesota.

"I tell students to write because it's what you love to do," Krueger said. "And God, I enjoy it. Everything you imagine about writing full-time is true. But it's not an easy thing to do. I wrote for 20 years before my first book was published."

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# Midway in a minute

Continued from page 2

staff cited is the quantity of vehicles, equipment and materials in the yard. The city has received complaints about the property and questions about whether a business is being illegally run there.

However, Butts said the vehicles and equipment are for his use and not for any type of business. He has extensively landscaped part of his yard and has a number of hobbies. But he lacks space to store items and would like to use the new garage for that purpose.

The St. Paul City Council heard the appeal in July, then laid the matter over to seek a compromise that Butts and city staff could agree to.

## St. Anthony Park building granted exemption

A South St. Anthony Park office building has been granted a change in non-conforming use status and parking and sign variances. The St. Paul Planning Commission unanimously recommended the changes for 856 Raymond Condominiums at 856 Raymond Av. August 26. The commission's decision is final unless it is appealed to the St. Paul City Council.

The original request had par-

tial support from the St. Anthony Park Community Council. The district council supported the change in nonconforming use, on the condition that adequate parking be provided nearby. SAPCC also supported some of the sign variance request, opposing a 30-foot chimney stack sign and a rooftop sign. The district council also asked that any new signs not be backlit.

The beauty shop would purchase and occupy space previously used by a video equipment firm.

The change has generated a mixed reaction in the surrounding area. Residential neighbors and some neighboring business owners expressed concern about the amount of traffic and parking demand a beauty shop would generate. Alley traffic is one concern as some signs were seen as promoting more vehicular use of the alley.

The building was erected more than 50 years ago and has housed a number of different businesses. When the property was rezoned residentially it became legally nonconforming.

The Planning Commission Zoning Committee heard public testimony on the requested changes August 4, then laid the matter over to allow the building owners time to negotiate a lease for parking spaces at the Baker School building across the street, and to make changes in the sign plan. The final parking variance OK'd is for three spaces, not the seven originally requested. The chimney sign and rooftop sign were dropped, and the number of signs reduced from nine to

seven. Only two signs are allowed under the zoning code.

## Rock-Tenn effort gains state support

Efforts to keep Rock-Tenn (Waldorf) Corporation's paper recycling operations moving have gained support from the state of Minnesota. On August 24 the St. Paul City Council accepted a \$250,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Minnesota Investment Program. The city applied for the grant earlier this year.

The funds will be used for the plant at 2550 Wabash Av. The city will provide a match for the state funds of \$250,000, along with \$200,000 from the St. Paul Port Authority.

Rock-Tenn has recycled paper and manufactured cartons in St. Paul since 1908. The plant is currently powered with steam generated by Xcel Energy's High Bridge Power Plant. The five-mile steam line runs along Ayd Mill Road and CP Railroad tracks. But the steam line and steam power will be cut off when the new High Bridge plant goes on-line in 2007.

Rock-Tenn and city officials have been seeking assistance to fire up an older power plant at the recycling facility, to be used on an interim basis until a new, permanent power source can be found. One option Rock-Tenn officials are exploring is to build a biomass plant.

On August 25 mayoral can-

didate Chris Coleman held a press conference outside of Rock-Tenn to announce his environmental agenda. One of the former City Council member's goals, if elected mayor, is to help Rock-Tenn build a new biomass energy facility. he also has suggested that any power distribution lines could be built along University Avenue to provide power for other area industries

## Pierce Butler Route work still under debate

Objections to the notion of a rebuilt and extended Pierce Butler Route continue to be heard at City Hall. A request for \$5.5 million in federal funds was yanked from a 23-item request the St. Paul City Council OK'd August 17.

Ward Four City Council Member Jay Benanav said the city has no business discussing Pierce Butler changes without discussing those changes with affected neighborhoods. "We're going to have another Ayd Mill Road," he said, referring to the decades of controversy over rebuilding and extending that street.

Reconstruction of Pierce Butler and an extension to Interstate 35E and the new Phalen Boulevard has been discussed in the Frogtown and North End neighborhoods for more than a decade, as part of the Great Northern Corridor plans. But an extension to the west that would affect Hamline-Midway and St. Anthony Park residents has not

been through any kind of community review process.

St. Paul Public Works wants \$5.5 million in federal funds to extend Pierce Butler from Grotto to Arundel. While that isn't controversial, Benanav objected to an additional \$5.5 million sought for bioscience transportation improvements, a joint project with the City of Minneapolis. Part of that part could involve the west end of Pierce Butler. Currently the street curves south and ends at the Cleveland-University intersection.

Other area projects that will move ahead for funding include:

\*Lexington Parkway off-street bicycle and pedestrian trail. The \$1 million project calls for construction of an off-road bike-way/walkway along the west side of Lexington Parkway between Minnehaha Avenue and Energy Park Drive. This would extend the existing Como Park bikeway to the Minnehaha Avenue bike lanes.

\*Extension of the Ayd Mill Road off-road bicycle and pedestrian trail northwest to connect across the Mississippi River to the Minneapolis Midtown Greenway. A total of \$6 million would be sought. The trail would extend from the north end of Ayd Mill Road through Snelling-Hamline, Merriam Park and Desnoyer Park neighborhoods. One challenge is a river crossing. A railroad bridge or existing street bridges have been eyed in the past as potential crossings.

Any federal funding wouldn't be available until 2009 or 2010 and would require a local match.

## Hit and run

Continued from page 1

After George's death his family found a red striped box of photos he had taken on this travels, using disposable cameras. The photos are sharp and professional in appearance. "They're out of this world," Maggie Ingalls said. "He really had a good eye for photography."

"Thank God he got to travel," Ingalls said.

Christensen said he'll always remember a much shorter trip taken with George, to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. George missed a seminar group trip, but went to the museum later with his advisor. "It was an enjoyable visit, discussing everything we had seen. He was just the kind of student who wanted to see more and do more and learn about everything."

Travel and the arts were just two of George's interest. He was a self-taught guitar player, who also played bass and saxophone. He

was someone who was always open to hearing new and different types of music.

Linares was a sophomore history major at Hamline University when his life ended so abruptly. He had left a party and was crossing Snelling Avenue at Van Buren early in the morning of December 5, 2004 when he was struck and fatally injured by a hit-and-run vehicle.

A passer-by found him lying in the street at about 1:55 a.m. and flagged down a passing police

officer. The vehicle hit Linares so hard that one of his shoes was left lying in the street. Linares was transported to Regions Hospital where he later died.

"We really need the public's help in solving this," said Sgt. Rick Kline of the St. Paul Police Department's traffic and accidents unit. Kline has heard many stories about George and said it's a shame that a young and very promising life was lost.

Police do have a suspect and did arrest and incarcerate him

briefly in mid-December. The suspect, a 26-year-old man who lives in the area, also failed a polygraph test. But more evidence is still needed before charges can be filed.

"Someone out there has to know something," Kline said. "You shouldn't be able to drive away from something like this and not face the consequences. Someone needs to do the right thing."

Kline said some hit-and-run cases are sometimes solved when a personal relationship changes. In the case of a young woman struck and killed by a vehicle several years ago on Rice Street, a former girlfriend eventually turned a suspect in.

But other cases, such as the death of a young East Side Hmong boy, Long Thao, have gone unsolved for almost a decade.

Anyone with information is asked to contact St. Paul Police at 651-291-1111.

Family and friends have discussed the possibility of offering a reward for information in connection with George's death. All would like to see the hit-and-run driver pay for his crime. Juan Linares said he would like to know who hit and killed his son and would like to ask why George was left to die in the street. George's brother John believes strongly that the person shouldn't be driving and should be brought to justice.

"He (George) didn't even see the car coming," said Ingalls.

But everyone agrees that even with justice, nothing will be the same. "Nothing will bring George back," said Ingalls. "I just wish this person understood who he killed and the life he took from this world."



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# St. Paul property owners to see affect of 3 percent property tax

By JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul property owners will see the effects of a 3 percent property tax increase in 2006, in Mayor Randy Kelly's proposed budget. If approved by the City Council September 14 it would be the first hike in the city's levy in 12 years and would bring an additional \$1.88 million for the police and fire departments.

Council members began their budget review August 17. The council must adopt a maximum levy by September 15 to meet state truth-in-taxation laws. After that date the levy can be decreased but not increased.

The proposed levy increase raises the amount of money levied for city operations, library and Port Authority from \$63.9 million to \$65.8 million and supports budgets totaling \$518,283,141. The increase is expected to add \$22 to \$40 to the property tax bill of a typical home owner.

It's not clear yet what the 3 percent increase will mean when property value increases are factored into the mix. Despite the city's much-touted hold-the-line position for more than a decade, most area residential and business property owners have seen their property taxes increase every year. Increase by other units of government, such as Ramsey County and St. Paul Public Schools, are one factor. But so are increasing market values, especially home values.

Kelly presented the budget August 11 in an address that focused largely on the city's public safety needs and what the future could hold in terms of crime trends. In this fall's mayoral race public safety and the rise of serious crime has been become an issue of debate between Kelly and DFL-endorsed candidate Chris Coleman. Figures for the first half of 2005 show an overall increase of 7.7 when compared to the first six months of 2004. Aggravated assaults rose 10.6 percent, robberies are up 16.1 percent and rapes up 20 percent.

In his budget address Kelly emphasized that St. Paul is a safe city. But he pointed out that "there can be no security with prosperity" and that the city needs to act now so that the increase in crime doesn't grow into a public safety crisis. He cited the growing crime problems locally and nationally related to methamphetamine manufacture, sales and addiction. Kelly noted that in 2004 20 percent of the murders in St. Paul were methamphetamine-related.

Kelly said the 3 percent increase would be devoted exclusively to public safety, to cover the costs of adding 25 new police officers and three new firefighters. If a federal grant is obtained, the city could use the levy increase as a match and add a total of 9 firefighters.

The mayor said the 2006 budget is built around a five-

year public safety plan, meant to put a total of 100 additional officers and 25 firefighters on city streets by 2010. However, specifics for funding those positions beyond 2006 haven't been laid out yet.

Raising the levy is an action Kelly said he didn't take lightly. "I have fought it with every in-

keeping recreation centers open until midnight every Friday and Saturday.

Ward Three Council Member Pat Harris and Ward One Council Member Debbie Montgomery said they like the focus on public safety. (Council members Dan Bostrom and Dave Thune didn't attend the budget

**"I have fought it with every instinct of my body. This is not a change in my lifelong commitment to fiscal responsibility. It is an extraordinary measure to meet an extraordinary challenge."**

**- Mayor Randy Kelly**

instinct of my body. This is not a change in my lifelong commitment to fiscal responsibility. It is an extraordinary measure to meet an extraordinary challenge."

One positive Kelly cited in his budget address is the 2005 Minnesota Legislature's action to include local government aid to St. Paul by \$7.5 million. It's the first increase since 2002 and reverses a trend that brought \$56 million in cumulative losses over the past few years.

He bluntly warned City Council members that he would veto any property tax increase not linked to public safety. While most council members said they support the additional police officers and firefighters, some were put off by Kelly's tone. They also questioned why they weren't invited to have input on the budget before it was presented.

"Last year we proposed a property tax increase (of 2 percent) for public safety and the mayor vetoed it," said Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen. At that time the council was trying to add police officers, firefighters and public safety communications center workers. "Now we've seen a rise in crime this year. When do we get to be proactive with city problems, rather than reactive?"

City Council President Kathy Lantry also recalled the 2005 levy increase veto. "It wasn't the mayor's idea (to add police officers) so it was bad," said Lantry. But she also admitted that it will be good to not have to fight for police officers, as the council had to last year.

Ward Four Council Member Jay Benanav called Kelly's budget policy "alarmist" and "short-sighted." "The mayor would like us to think he's some kind of hero by adding 25 police officers," Benanav said.

"If we're going to impact crime, we need to give people—especially young people—more to do," Benanav is suggesting

address or first council budget session.)

"I'm just hoping the hiring of more police carries over into the Highland and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods," Harris said, noting he has concerns about some crime trends seen in Ward Three.

Beyond public safety, there are few new initiatives or posi-

tion in the 2006 budget. Most city services, including libraries and parks and recreation, will remain largely unchanged. No hours of service will be cut. The city does have to factor in costs of added operations for the new Dayton's Bluff Library and Rondo Community Outreach Library when it opens in mid-2006, as well as the costs of opening the expanded Wellstone/El Rio Vista Recreation Center on the West Side and the new Tropical Encounters exhibit at Como Zoo.

Kelly was to present the 2006 library budget August 22.

Here are other budget highlights:

\*Several fees and charges will increase in 2006. Property owners will see a 2.5 percent increase for street maintenance, tree trimming and street lighting. Water and sewer charges would rise 1.5 percent.

If you are injured or become ill and need an ambulance in 2006, you'll pay 5 percent more. City Budget Director Matt Smith said that fee increase is meant to offset a decrease in reimbursements for ambulance services.

If your motor vehicle is impounded during a snow emergency—the impound lot fee will go up by \$25, as a means of rais-

ing an additional \$325,000 per year

\*Prepare to pay more to park at downtown meters. Parking currently is free after 4:30 p.m. The 2006 city budget calls for raising an additional \$700,000 per year by pushing back the start of free parking to 8:30 p.m. This proposal has already sparked debate among downtown residents and business owners, and calls are already rolling into city offices for and against the proposal.

\*Parents and kids would have to check the schedule of their neighborhood recreation center before dropping in. The city would save about \$46,000 by closing centers for short periods for maintenance and cleaning. This is a priority for Parks and Recreation as a way of catching up on deferred maintenance issues.

This would be done late in the summer, a time when recreation center summer activities wind down and fall sports get started.

The City of Minneapolis already closes many of its recreation centers for two weeks every August. This is the third year Minneapolis has closed its centers and used that down time for building maintenance and cleaning.

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Church, Hamline University share long-term relationship...

# Hamline Church member looks back on 125 year history

By JAN WILLMS

*Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The founders of Hamline United Methodist Church (HUMC) forged a new path and left a trail for many others to follow, 125

years ago. The church held its first service Sept. 12, 1880, in University Hall on the Hamline University campus. This was 10 days before classes began at the university's new St. Paul location.

The University and the church have been closely entwined ever since, and Scott Johnston, one of those who followed in the founders' footsteps, has found his

life closely connected to both.

As HUMC is wrapping up its year of celebrating its 125th anniversary, Johnston, who served on the church's anniversary committee, reflected on his long-term relationship with the church and the university.

The long-time connection between the two institutions may be on the cusp of a new chapter in their respective histories, and they may be even more closely aligned in the future.

Johnston was raised by his paternal grandparents who lived about a block and a half from the church's present location, 1514 Englewood, St. Paul, MN. The original church was built in 1900 at the corner of Asbury and Englewood, after services had been conducted for the past 20 years on campus. That church was in operation until 1925, when it was destroyed by fire.

Services were then held in Old Main, the oldest building on the Hamline University campus.

"My memory as a little kid was meeting at Bridgman Hall on the second floor of Old Main," Johnston recollected recently, "while the new church was being built. The new church also had a community building, where the present education building is located. That was supposedly put up in one day, and it looked like it. Sunday School classes were taught there, and neighborhood events took place there. It wasn't taken down until the 1950s."

In 1928, the new church was completed, and it has been on Englewood Street ever since.

Johnston grew up in the church, then attended the University of Minnesota for his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He served time in the military and also taught high school at Cloquet, MN.

He met his wife, Laura, at the



The University and the church have been closely entwined ever since, and Scott Johnston, one of those who followed in the founders' footsteps, has found his life closely connected to both. (Photo by Terry Faust)



As HUMC is wrapping up its year of celebrating its 125th anniversary, Scott Johnston, who served on the church's anniversary committee, reflected on his long-term relationship with the church and the university. (Photo by Terry Faust)



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9:30 a.m. traditional worship, with choir and our Casavant Frères organ

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. hospitality and fellowship

11:00 a.m. contemporary service (begins October 2nd)



More information on our web site at <http://www.hamlinechurch.org>

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September 11, 9:30 a.m. - Rally Day. Kick off for the year!

September 25, 3 p.m. - The Great Hamline Church Get-Together. Hymn sing, concert, and reception. All are invited!

September 29, 7 p.m. - Hamline University Commitment to Community. Keynote speaker, Dennis Banks



Hamline United Methodist Church

1514 Englewood Avenue

St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

(a block east of Snelling, parking lot on Minnehaha)

Phone: 651/645-0667

U of M while both were students there and attended a YMCA dance. They married while he was home on furlough.

"I was actually the one who got him the job at Hamline," Laura reminisced. "I was in line waiting to vote for a city election with the president of Hamline, who at that time was Charles Nelson Pace. I told him my husband had just finished his master's, and wondered if he was supposed to come and ask for a job. Dr. Pace asked what field he was in, and said he should come around to see him."

Johnston interviewed for a teaching position in history and political science.

"He asked me how much money I wanted, and whether I were a church member," Johnston related. "I reminded him that he

and I attended the same church, Hamline Methodist."

This was the beginning of Johnston's tenure at Hamline University. He started teaching in 1947, and retired as a full professor in 1992. However, he continued to teach one class until 1998. He is today professor emeritus.

"My grandfather told me that when Dr. Pace was hired for the presidency, it was the shortest presidential search in history," Johnston said. "Dr. Pace was in Duluth, and they called him to see if he was available to take the position. He responded yes a few hours later, and he was hired. He said he did not seek the presidency, but my grandfather told me later that Pace had asked for his support."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## Hamline United Methodist Church celebrates 125th Anniversary with fall events

In September, 1880, just days before classes were to begin on the new Hamline University campus in St. Paul, a group of faculty members met for worship in Bridgman Hall. The Civil War and tough economic times had prompted the closure of the campus at Red Wing. The new site sat in the middle of an undeveloped prairie, near a railway station and midway between the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. For those faculty members and their families, a church was a necessity. From that modest beginning, the Hamline United Methodist Church (HUMC) has influenced the lives of thousands of people, from all walks of life, in all parts of the world.

Did you know that the street names in the neighborhood have a distinctive Methodist flavor resulting from the St. Paul City Councilmen who were church members, or that church members led the way for the building

of the local branch of the St. Paul Library, the nurturing of the business community and good public transportation in the Midway area, continuing education for adults with literary discussion groups, musical entertainment, and spiritual leadership? We have an impressive history!

HUMC will celebrate that history in September and October with a variety of events. Mark your calendars now! Make your plans to attend and bring your friends and neighbors!

September 11, 8 a.m./9:30 a.m. Rally Sunday marks the beginning of the fall program and a new church year. Join the celebration!

September 25, 3 p.m. The Great Hamline Church Get-Together will feature a broad range of musical expressions and styles, with a hymn sing and featured musicians. It's an exciting program: soprano Annette Peterson will sing, Kris Langlois will re-

turn to the organ bench to play Langlais' Te Deum, Bob and Jane Nienaber will perform a piano/organ duet, Steve Anderson will add his jazz touches, and Brad Althoff will play a piece commissioned especially for Casavant organs. We're inviting anyone who wants to sing in the choir to come a little early - rehearsal begins at 2 p.m. And following the program, all are invited to the Fireside Room for a reception and conversation with friends. You'll see the premiere of Glimpses of Hamline Church - Past and Present, a spectacular potpourri of images and music from the HUMC Archives. It's something you will want for those on your Christmas shopping list.

All are welcome, always. Invite your friends and families and bring them with you! Our long-standing tradition of faith, food, fellowship, and fun continues into the future.

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September 2005 • Midway/Como Monitor • [www.MidwayComoMonitor.com](http://www.MidwayComoMonitor.com)

# Catholic Charities to open Midway Residence for homeless, alcoholics

By JANE MCCLURE

Homeless and chronic alcoholic men will have new quarters when a 120-bed facility opens its doors two years from now.

Almost a year's negotiations and discussions came to an end August 24 as the St. Paul City Council took two actions to move the project ahead. Acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, the council authorized construction of the planned Midway Residence, executed a lease with Catholic Charities and agreed to purchase an existing shelter Catholic Charities is already leasing. The council authorized the expenditure of \$1,656,162 for land acquisition, building demolition and environmental cleanup for the project.

Later that day, the City Council gave final approval to a zoning study that allows Midway Residence to be built in an industrial area. The 4.3-acre industrially zoned site typically wouldn't allow this type of housing without city adoption of the zoning study.

"A lot of people have worked very hard on this project," said Ward Four City Council Member Jay Benanav. He praised the St. Anthony Park neighborhood for its willingness to accommodate 120 single-room occupancy units.

"You can't find a lot of places that would take these housing units," he added.

The total cost of the Midway Residence project is \$14,164,392. The total HRA commitment is \$4.9 million.

Other funds will come from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), and Catholic Charities.

The new 50,400 square-foot facility will be at 2286 Capp Road in South St. Anthony Park. It will eventually replace the smaller, 55-bed St. Anthony Residence shelter Catholic Charities currently operates at 2300 Wycliff. This shelter houses chronic inebriates.

The HRA resolution also authorizes the city to own the new building as a condition of receiving \$12.9 million in state general obligation bonds and state housing trust funds that will cover facility construction costs. Catholic Charities will rent the facility from the city and will provide services in the new building. Until Midway Residence is built, the city will own St. Anthony Residence and lease that building back to Catholic Charities.

Planning and Economic Development (PED) Director Susan Kimberly said the cost of the city buying the Wycliff building is \$844,000. Catholic Charities will pay \$259,000 in rent over the next two years, making the net costs \$580,000.

The 120-bed Midway Residence facility will house men in two separate wings. Sixty beds replace the current St. Anthony Residence shelter. Another 60 beds are for men coping with

long-term homelessness.

Many of the homeless men are expected to be transferred in from other facilities including the Dorothy Day and Mary Hall programs downtown. Many of the 60 homeless men who will live at Midway Residence are the working poor, holding jobs that don't pay enough to allow rental of a typical apartment. All residents who do work will make 30

that is reasonable."

Helgen and Ward Three City Council Member Pat Harris noted the Wycliff building is aging and deteriorated. Helgen called conditions there "lousy."

"Wycliff is the cost of doing business on a difficult project," said Harris.

The August 24 vote ends several months of discussions with neighboring businesses and

Although the district council and neighbors agreed to support Catholic Charities' request for a new facility, there were concerns that the Wycliff building not be used for any other type of community residential facility in the future. Allowing that reuse would have meant up to 180 community residential facility residents in one neighborhood, a very high number.

But that in turn prompted objections from the Wycliff building owners, who argued that no other use for their building was feasible. They have leased the facility to Catholic Charities for many years.

The zoning study and ability to allow community residential facilities in an industrial area also met objections from other neighborhoods where over-concentration of community residential facilities has been a problem. Some Planning Commission members themselves questioned whether allowing community residential facilities in industrial areas was setting a bad precedent, and whether industrial land should be preserved for job growth and creation instead.

City and Catholic Charities staff and community members have been discussing the need for Midway Residence for more than a year. In November 2004 the HRA Board OK'd a resolu-

tion that set the project in motion. At that time city staff didn't anticipate the need to purchase and demolish St. Anthony Residence.

The Midway Residence project is not without financial risk to the city. The state bonds, approved this year as part of renewed efforts to house the homeless, require local units of government to own the new facilities. Ward Five City Council Member Lee Helgen asked what would happen if Catholic Charities couldn't operate the facilities. City staff explained that the city could sell the property to another operator.

"We have great confidence (Catholic Charities) would continue," said Kimberly.

The lease and operating agreement for Midway Residence do not require Catholic Charities to pay rent for the use and occupancy of the project. Catholic Charities is responsible for the operating and maintenance costs. Because the low rents aren't expected to cover operating costs, operating deficits have to be covered by other sources. Catholic Charities is seeking operating assistance from Ramsey County and the MHFA. The operating gap, even with assistance factored in, is \$136,379. The city anticipates covering this with a developer fee requested from the MHFA.

"A lot of people have worked very hard on this project....You can't find a lot of places that would take these housing units."

- Ward Four City Council Member Jay Benanav

percent or less of the area median income and will be expected to pay no more than 30 percent of their income for rent. These residents will have a housing coordinator available to help link residents to community services.

The chronic inebriates have a more structured program, receiving three meals per day and having access to case management and medical services.

As a whole Midway Residence will have 24-hour front desk staff to monitor the building and assist all residents as needed.

The city will purchase the Wycliff facility for \$844,000 and lease the space to Catholic Charities, which will continue to house men there until the new building is erected. Once the new building goes up, the Wycliff building will be razed and a city decision made on reuse of the land.

Kimberly noted the issue of housing the homeless is one the City Council wrestled with when she sat as a member 35 years ago. "In some ways the issues have not changed a bit," she said.

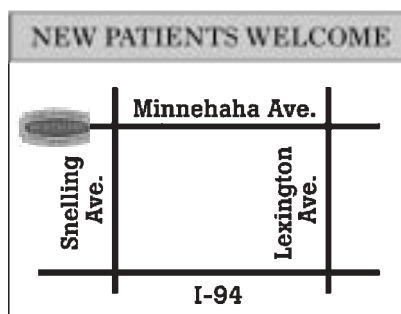
Midway Residence is just one way to help the homeless. In other projects the city has helped families struggling to break the cycle of poverty and get on their feet. With Midway Residence, the focus is on those who have very few options.

Ward One City Council Member Debbie Montgomery questioned the demolition of the Wycliff building, saying that takes affordable housing units away. But Kimberly said the concerns about over-concentration of community residential facilities is a legitimate one.

"St. Anthony Park is already accepting 60 more units of (community residential facility) housing," she said. "We think

industries and the St. Anthony Park Community Council. The decision to site a larger community residential facility into the neighborhood has been contentious.

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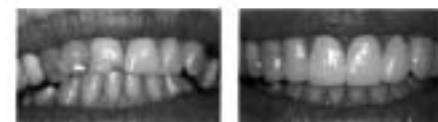


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# Hewitt Crisis Residence offers calm to folks in the 'eye of the storm'

By NANCY HEDIN

Two white, Victorian houses connected by a walkway flank the northern side of Hewitt Avenue, a stone's throw from Snelling Avenue. On an open front porch people chat with one another, play dominos or catch a smoke. From the sidewalk it looks like just two typical Hamline Midway homes.

Hewitt Crisis Residence doesn't stick out—there are no neon lights or EResque dramatic scenes. But while tragedy and mayhem make headlines, People Incorporated's Hewitt House is quietly helping people with chronic mental illness manage their crisis in the community.

People Incorporated is a non-profit corporation established in 1969 that has 36 programs in five counties. Their agency's mission is to promote and secure independence for person's with mental illness and other brain disorders. In a partnership with Ramsey County, People Inc. opened Hewitt Crisis Residence in 1970.

It's easier to conjure up a picture of how people get treatment for a crisis with an illness like diabetes or cancer. How do people get treatment if their illness is a mental illness? Here's what's happening at Hewitt Crisis Residence. Inside, people talk, laugh, eat together, attend groups, see a doctor and learn about managing their symptoms.

The uniqueness of the approach at Hewitt House—as it's commonly called—to helping people with mental illness, is their staff philosophy that a crisis can be managed in a "homelike" atmosphere. There's 24 hour a day staff but they aren't wearing uniforms and carrying jangling rings of keys. The door is unlocked.

Does the homelike atmosphere make an impression or a difference? Ask a resident of Hewitt House. Larry, a distinguished, articulate man in his 50s, sits at a table on the front porch. He has just savored a homemade turkey



Cullen Johnson, who was employed as a Clinical Specialist at Hewitt House, recently became Hewitt's Program Director. He credits the forward thinking of leadership at People Inc. and the County for the way Hewitt is able to cater to individual needs. (Photo by Terry Faust)

burrito and is now having a quiet smoke before afternoon group sessions.

To look at him, he could just as easily be at a Starbucks discussing art, music or the stock market. But, as with anything, looks don't always tell the complete story. Larry, in fact, candidly shares that he wasn't doing this well when he was first admitted to a 30-day bed.

"If Hewitt House weren't available, I would have had to

check myself into a hospital." Instead, Larry has made progress in dealing with his mental health issues.

"I get the discipline of staying on my medications which isn't always easy. Being manic can feel so good!"

Like many, Larry struggles with bipolar disorder. People with that illness can experience times when they have incredible amounts of energy, feel very creative and motivated for lots of ac-

tivity.

This energetic time can feel really good, particularly in contrast to the times of depression. The downside of this up cycle is that people can be up all night, overspending, being hypersexual, or using excessive chemicals leading trouble in relationships, maintaining employment, or problems with the legal system.

Larry went on to describe morning check-ins with staff, the availability of one-on-one ses-

to get a doctor and start her medications but many clinics weren't taking new patients at all or there was a long wait. In desperation she called Ramsey County Mental Health Crisis program and they helped her get to Hewitt House.

"Beats the hell out of being lonely and scared. There's people to talk to and relate to. I don't feel like I'm crazy here." Then tearing up, Lora said that she wished she could stay longer because she is afraid of the break-ins and drug

**"If Hewitt House weren't available, I would have had to check myself into a hospital."**

- Larry, a Hewitt Crisis Residence client

sions with staff and the home cooking as making Hewitt House, as its called by its residents, stand out in his mind. "I came here for physical safety." Larry ended up feeling safe to work on emotional issues and he got financial approval for a chemical dependency treatment program.

Like many things related to mental health, there's not a "one size fits all" when it comes to a mental health crisis. For some people just a break from their everyday life can make a huge a difference.

Lora, barely in her 40s, has an infectious laugh and good sense of humor. She describes how she came to Hewitt House a couple days prior because she was so fearful and depressed at her apartment. She wasn't sleeping, she was crying all the time and she had run out of her anti-depressants because her doctor changed clinics and nobody would disclose to her where her doctor went.

She tried calling other clinics

deals that go on at her apartment building.

Hewitt House has twelve crisis beds and people stay 1-3 days. There are four 30 day beds but typically they are used by people transitioning from a hospital stay. Even though Lora couldn't stay as long as she wished she was grateful to have had time at Hewitt House to start her medications again and she would also get help with finding a doctor to continue prescribing her medications.

One to three days for crisis resolution is a short period but that is the reality of the current state of resources. The TV portrayal of people spending months or years resolving their angst strolling the rolling green hills of a sanitarium campus made good fiction but doesn't exist. There are approximately 144 inpatient psychiatric beds in St. Paul and lately, more often than not, those beds are full. Hewitt House will serve over a 1,000 clients this year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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# In Our Community

## Friends School annual Bulb Sale set October 1

Friends School of Minnesota, home of the premiere spring plant sale, is at it again, this time with bulbs! Friend's third annual fall bulb sale will offer 232 varieties of bulbs or bareroot plants-134 new ones. On Saturday October 1, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., the public will be able to come to Friends School to buy an incredible array of hand picked bulbs from the world's top growers.

New this year, Minnesota Grown lily bulbs and peony roots! From the Crocker Farm in Rochester come 12 kinds of unique hybridized lilies. Well-known around the world for their ability to create new varieties of lilies, Hugh and Ruth Crocker have supplied Friends School with some of their finest varieties. These lilies are very rare; you won't find them in your average bulb sale catalog!

Free educational seminars taught by the Daffodil Society's master gardener, Margaret Macneale, will be offered to help people achieve beautiful blooming gardens next spring! Clem and Elizabeth Nagel of Soul Gardening will teach a gardening seminar on designing and making a peace garden.

Order bulbs ahead of time! On Saturday, October 1st, people can simply drive up to Friends School and pick them up without leaving their car. Students and volunteers will have orders packed and ready to go! Catalogs are available at [www.fsmn.org](http://www.fsmn.org) or by calling Friends School at 651-917-0636 to have one mailed.

## Surfing, Origami, more at Hamline Midway Library

Hamline Midway Branch of the St. Paul Public Library will be hosting a Senior Surf Day, introductory Internet training for seniors, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 6. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Fall storytimes at the library will begin on Tuesday, October 11, and continue through Wednesday, November 16. Bed-time storytimes for elementary aged children will be offered on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. Children are encouraged to wear their pajamas and bring a favorite bear or blanket.

Preschool and toddler storytimes will be offered on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Both storytimes will include storytelling, songs, fingerplays, and much more. Pre-registration for storytimes is requested, but not required.

Halloween Origami, for ages six and older, will be offered at the Library on Saturday, October 15, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. Carol

Martinson, the library's Supervisor, will be the instructor for the session. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.

Hamline Midway Branch Library is located at 1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue. For more information or to register for any of these events, please call the library at 651-642-0293.

## Caregiver support group meets at Iris Park

This support group provides family caregivers with the information, affirmation and inspiration they need to take better care of themselves and their loved one.

The fall session will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Iris Park Commons, 1850 University Ave. W. on the Episcopal Homes campus in Saint Paul's Midway (1/2 block West of University and Fairview).

The six fall sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings: Sept 20, Oct. 4, Oct. 18, Nov. 1, Nov. 15 and Nov. 29. Family caregivers are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions free of charge.

Co-facilitators are Janice Barrett-Menzel, RN, and Alys Wilson. Janice is a former hospice and home care nurse who has been facilitating caregiver groups for 14 years. Alys is the wife of an Episcopal priest and is deeply experienced in working with family caregivers. Both are members of the Episcopal Church Home Board of Directors.

## Showing of 'Peace One Day' at Coffee Grounds

A film project that documented and inspired the establishment of the United Nations International Day of Peace on Monday, September 12, 6 p.m., at The Coffee Grounds, 1579 N. Hamline Ave. For more information call 651-644-9959.

The film will be shown as part of Twin Cities Peace Month sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers.

## Knox Church holds Fall Festival October 15

The annual Fall Festival of Knox Presbyterian Church will be held Saturday, October 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Baked goods, jams, books, crafts, white elephants and plants will be available. New this year is chair massage by a licensed therapist. Lunch will be served beginning at 11 a.m. Proceeds support mission projects. The church is located at 1536 W. Minnehaha. Enter at the Asbury Street door. Handicapped accessible.

## German Dinner and Silent Auction September 24

Bethel Lutheran Church invites the neighborhood to a German Dinner and Silent Auction held on September 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs fellowship hall. This fund raising event will benefit The Dwelling Place, a Christian shelter ministry for women and children, which provides support services and counseling groups.

Tickets for the event are priced at \$8 per adult and \$4 per child or \$18 per family. This event provides the opportunity to get to know your neighbors better while supporting a local business ministering to families in crises.

Bethel Lutheran Church is located on the corner of Wheelock Parkway and Maywood Street, one block west of Dale Street. For ticket information, questions or if you would like to donate an item for the silent auction, please call 651-488-6681 M-F 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

## Como-Midway La Leche League meets October 11

Baby Arrives: The Family and the Breastfed Baby is the topic of the next meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche League, to be held on Tuesday, October 11, at 7 p.m.

Mothers-to-be, mothers, babies and toddlers are invited to attend. La Leche League meetings provide breastfeeding information and support on an informal, mother-to-mother basis.

A lending library on a wide variety of related topics is also available. For meeting location or more information, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

## 'No charge' services available for seniors

The Hamline Midway Elders Program has funds available to help caregivers of Hamline Midway seniors age 62 and above. The funds may be used to help alleviate respite workers and may be used to hire companions, home health aids, or even a friend or relative when the primary care giver needs relief. Call 651-209-6542 for more information.

Hamline Midway Elders will sponsor free blood pressure checks and consultation time with a registered nurse each second Tuesday of the month from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood beginning September. There will also be a luncheon that day featuring a speaker from the Arthritis Association and the topic will be "Pain Management." A goodwill offering is taken for the meal and free transportation is available by calling 651-209-6542.

## Walk from Obesity at Como Park on Sept. 24

HealthEast Bariatric Care is the host and lead sponsor for Minnesota's first annual "Walk from Obesity," scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 24, around Como Lake in St. Paul's Como Park. The non-competitive walk is an American Society of Bariatric Surgeons (ASBS) Foundation fundraising event designed to reduce disability, death and discrimination against people who struggle with the disease of obesity.

Obesity is the second leading cause of preventable death in the United States, second only to tobacco smoking. The number of overweight children and adolescents, as well as obese adults, has doubled over the past two decades. Obesity is an underlying issue for many other serious health problems - heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and bone and joint problems.

"We are seeing tremendous interest in the walk, especially for a first-time event," said Denise Hinrichs, RN, Director of HealthEast Bariatric Care. "As health care providers committed to helping people deal with the disease of obesity, we walk beside our patients on their lifelong journey toward better health, and this event is symbolic of that journey. We are very proud to be the host organization and platinum sponsor for this inaugural year in Minnesota."

HealthEast Bariatric Care, located in the Gallery Building adjacent to St. Joseph's Hospital in downtown St. Paul, offers both non-surgical weight loss programs and several types of bariatric (weight loss) surgery, generally for patients who are 100 pounds or more above their ideal weight. For more information about HealthEast Bariatric Care and the Walk from Obesity, visit [www.health-east.org/careservice/1\\_Specialties/1\\_Bariatric\\_Care/index.cfm](http://www.health-east.org/careservice/1_Specialties/1_Bariatric_Care/index.cfm). Online registration for the walk is available at [www.healtheast.org/Transact/registration/registration\\_01.cfm](http://www.healtheast.org/Transact/registration/registration_01.cfm).

This is the third year that the ASBS Foundation has sponsored the "Walk from Obesity" event in cities across the nation. Walkers raise money by asking friends, family and co-workers to sponsor them. Additional funds are raised through sponsorship, matching gifts, corporate contributions and other fundraising activities.

The American Society for Bariatric Surgery Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that promotes obesity research and raises professional and public awareness of bariatric surgery and its role in treating the devastating disease of severe or morbid obesity. Its mission is to educate the public about weight management, physical activity and obesity-related health conditions. For more information visit [www.asbsfoundation.org](http://www.asbsfoundation.org).

## St. Columba holds Fall Festival Sept. 25

Sunday, September 25, 1330 Blair Avenue. (Corner of Hamline and Blair) Holy Mass at 9:30 a.m. - Festival begins 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Raffles, Cherry Tree, Food, Country Store, Silent Auction, Bingo and many kids' games.

## New Bluegrass Worship at Jehovah Lutheran

Bluegrass music in church? Yes, indeed. Starting Sunday, September 11th at 5:30 p.m. Jehovah Lutheran Church offers its newest worship service—"2nd Sunday Bluegrass Worship and Food." As the name implies the service is once a month on the second Sunday and good food and fellowship follow the worship.

The service features musicians who live in the Midway area and sometimes play at Stub and Herbs in Minneapolis. Pastor Bob Benke's message rounds out the service. The community is invited. Please enter by either the Thomas Street or Snelling Avenue entrances.

Also on September 11th the fall education programs begin with Sunday School at 9 a.m. for children and Bible class for adults at 9:15 a.m. Former missionary to Korea, Dr. Maynard Dorow, will lead a four-week series on missionary Paul's Letter to the Ephesian Christians entitled, "The Church, God's Plan, and You." Join the group starting with coffee in the library/lounge at Jehovah, corner of Snelling and Thomas.

## Cartoonist at Hamline Midway Library Oct. 22

Local professional cartoonist Christopher Jones will be at Hamline Midway Branch of the St. Paul Public Library for a presentation on Saturday, October 22, beginning at 1 p.m. Mr. Jones' current project is doing the drawing for the Batman Strikes series. His appearance at the library is in celebration of Teen Read Week, October 16 through 22.

Geared for teens, Jones' presentation will describe how comics are made, including the contributions of the different kinds of artists working together. Depending on participant interest, he can include drawing, how to create your own comic book, or even comics as a career.

The session will be in the auditorium of the library, which is located at 1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue. For more information, please call the library at 651-642-0293.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

# Salvation Army Booth Brown House renovation adds 17 efficiency apartments in Como Park

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Although Victoria Washington, 18, never considered herself homeless, she loves having her own room at The Salvation Army's Booth Brown House on Como Avenue, just east of the State Fairgrounds.

Living with a friend, she moved out of a difficult situation with her mother, younger sister and her mother's boyfriend last spring just two months before she was to graduate from Como Park High School.

As her grades fell and she became more withdrawn, her teachers and school counselors came to her aid. In mid-June, Washington moved into one of 10 existing efficiency apartments available through the Foyer Program at Booth Brown, which in addition to housing, provides supportive services to its 16- to 21-year-old residents.

Recently, The Salvation Army announced a plan for a \$1.8 million renovation to the shelter to add 17 to 21 additional dorm-style apartments for homeless youth.

On Aug. 25, Mayor Randy Kelly pledged the city's support in renovating unused space at Booth Brown House to triple the number of young people it can serve.

Kelly proposed that he would seek a \$675,000 allocation, about a third of the project cost, from the City Council to help with the project. The City Council already agreed to expand the current Conditional Use Permit for the additional 7-11 units since the permit issued in 2002 allows for up to 20 units.

The Foyer Program is designed to help vulnerable or disadvantaged young adults ages 16 to 21 make the transition from dependence to independence.

"We estimate some 400 of our teens are without a permanent home each night," said Mayor Kelly. "This project is a giant step toward my goal of ending youth homelessness. What excites me most about the Foyer Program at Booth Brown is that it is much more than a shelter. Young people who come here are starting to rebuild their lives. This is not just a place to sleep. This is a place to be safe while learning life skills and job skills."

Booth Brown House tenants rent a single-room apartment with a kitchenette and bath on a month-to-month basis. By providing a safe, stable and affordable environment, The Salvation Army offers young adults the opportunity to learn the steps to successful independent living. The staff includes resident assistants, a rent administrator/property manager and a case manager to assist tenants in setting and achieving their goals. The Booth Brown House offers tenants a full range of supportive services including social work, education, employment, housing, case management and healthcare.

"We decided to go another 17 units because of the amount of kids applying to the program," said Steve Gallagher, program director of the youth housing program at Booth Brown House. "For every opening, you have approximately 25 kids apply. These are

kids who are homeless on the street, who have aged out of foster care, or who can't live at home with mom or dad. These are highly motivated kids who want to be on their own."

After an assessment is done, Booth Brown House offers independent living skills classes. Kids can learn how to fill out a job application, balance a checkbook, shop for groceries, or cook a healthy meal. The goal is to teach kids skills so they can be successful in making it on their own.

"If I see a need a child has, the staff and I develop a curriculum for that need," said Gallagher. "There's not a barrier that a child can come in with that we can't help with."

A Wilder Foundation study estimated 500 to 600 Minnesota

youth ages 8 to 17, were on their own on any given night in 2003, based on a head-count survey conducted in October 2003. The February 2003 study also found that about 64 percent of homeless youth are girls, two-thirds are minorities and nearly half have been physically or sexually abused.

The Booth Brown House, built in 1913 as a hospital for unwed mothers, also offers 11 emergency shelter beds for adolescent girls ages 11 to 17. It has been offering transitional housing and support for about 10 homeless youth between the ages of 16 and 21 since December 2003.

Although the Star Tribune reported Ward 4 Councilmember Jay Benanav, who represents the area, is backing the project, he says the St. Paul Housing and Re-

development Authority (HRA), which he chairs, had not been contacted.

"The project is a wonderful idea," he said. "Unfortunately, it happened a little backwards. HRA was not aware of this. The mayor neglected to determine if the project was financially feasible. He didn't contact the Housing Redevelopment Authority."

There are other projects the HRA has been working on for some time.

"I don't know if the financial resources for the project will be available," said Benanav. "Probably, they can get on the list for next year. It may not happen as quickly as they want. We need some community involvement in the process, which hasn't been there yet."

Supporting the project in principle, Benanav feels Booth Brown House fills a need in helping homeless youth.

"I hope they continue to provide the quality services they have for so many years and assist young people to become productive members of society," he said.

Planning to move out of Booth Brown when she starts classes this fall at the University of Minnesota, where she has earned a scholarship, Washington hopes to be on her way soon.

Gallagher looks forward to Booth Brown being able to help more homeless youth get their life back on track and become self-sufficient.

"I hope we can open as soon as possible and help more deserving youth," he said.



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# Hamline Church

Continued from page 8

All of the earlier presidents of Hamline University were ministers, up until about 1934, according to Johnston.

"In the earlier days of the church, most of the faculty were church members at Hamline United Methodist, but that is not so much the case anymore," he said.

Johnston said the suburban growth contributed to less faculty as church members. "People used to have just one car, and the mothers stayed at home. As both parents became employed, and families used two cars, things changed," he said.

Johnston said students used to be compelled to attend chapel at HUMC, but members of the religion department did not think attendance should be required, and so this policy changed in the 1940s or 50s.

"Students still come for Sunday services, however," he noted.

His wife commented about one student who came to services barefoot during the time of the Vietnam War.

"He stuck his feet out, wanting to make sure we noticed they were bare," she said. "After services, we all said a nice good-bye to him, and he looked pretty disgusted. He didn't get his point made."

"He had expected to be disapproved of by the good ladies of the church," Johnston remembered. "He wanted to have a good fight. I remember he was a Maoist."

Over the years, HUMC has drawn many well-known figures to speak and debate within its halls.

"Gene McCarthy debated one of his opponents, and we filled half the space of the fire-side room for discussion and dinner," Johnston recalled. "We also had a debate between An-



One of the windows at Hamline United Methodist Church is dedicated to Scott Johnston's grandmother. (Photo by Terry Faust)

gela Davis and Linda Chavez. We have had Thomas Friedman speak, and Dennis Banks is coming in September."

Johnston said the church has always held a forum for both sides of the question.

Compared to other denominations, the Methodists have always been big on freedom of thought, justice and honor. This has been reflected in the issues that have been discussed in the church, and the programs that have been offered.

Johnston said the church has held chapel programs, including both Hamline faculty and outsiders giving presentations. In the 1930s there was a meeting called the 6 o'clock Club, in which the church brought speakers to the Midway area.

"Public transportation was never ideal, and this group was part of the community discussion in the Midway," he noted.

He added that currently there is a program called the "Life Today" Hour, held after Sunday services, that is an adult forum with speakers brought in. Johnston said he was asked to give a presentation on the impact of World War I, and a colleague did one on the Great Depression.

Hamline University has also enjoyed the ability to use the church as an extension of its own campus for programming and special events.

Another major part of HUMC has been its dining hall on the State Fairgrounds, celebrating its 108th year.

"It began as a way to help with financial costs of the church," Johnston said. "It took one year to build the first building; the dining hall has had four locations over the years. The dining hall paid for mission work and operating expenses."

The Hamline faculty wives

began the dining hall. It serves full meals each year at the State Fair, with ham loaf one of its specialties.

Reminiscing about the dining hall brought up the memory of some misbehavior on Johnston's part, which he sheepishly admits to today.

"When I was in my teens, a bunch of us boys were washing dishes at the dining hall," he said. "The church paid you after you came in. There was a tall fence with barbed wire around the fairgrounds, and these guys and myself went over the fence without a ticket. We were then reimbursed by the church for a ticket we didn't need."

Johnston said he was almost caught by a mounted patrolman, but he ran into one of the animal buildings.

Looking back at the university and the church, he sees both as beacons for initiating new ideas.

"Hamline felt more free than the University of Minnesota, because the U of M was more under the glare of the legislature," Johnston said. "Hamline was one of the first institutions in the country to graduate women and blacks."

Johnston said today the congregation is smaller; there used to be more potluck dinners at the church, and there was more overt mission work. But it continues to offer all types of programs for the community, and to work closely with Hamline University.

This connection between the church and university may reach a new level as attempts are made to deal with major repair required by the church. Over the years, it has developed problems. It requires over \$5 million in repair to the church building and educational wing.

In 2004, church members and Hamline University worked on resolving these financial needs, and the congregation voted to consider a transfer or purchase of the church by the university. This concept continues to be explored today.

"I think our current pastor, Greg Renstrom, has one of the best relationships with Hamline University of any I can recall," Johnston said. He added that the new University president, Linda Hanson, is impressive. "I feel we can expect cooperation from her," he said.

Whatever happens, Johnston said he believes the church and University will continue to have a strong relationship over the coming years.

The trail that was forged a long time ago by the founders of HUMC that intermingled with Hamline University continues to be followed today, and new paths have been developed by Johnston and other church leaders. Whatever direction they take, it is likely that the two institutions, like two old men trudging through a forest, will rely on each other to continue moving forward.



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## Neighborhoods

Continued from page 4

connect with Interstate 35E to the east and west farther into the Midway. The CIB Committee recommended no funding. A CIB task force recommended \$50,000 for preliminary studies.

One impetus for the extension is to create another east-west route through the Midway after the central Corridor light rail line is built on University Avenue.

Ward Four City Council Member Jay Benanav objected to funding Pierce Butler, saying there has been no community process and study of an extension at the street's west end. Benanav also said that other streets need work more, including Prior Avenue, north from St. Clair Avenue.

He said the city should be replacing its worst streets, not supporting some "wacky idea" like extending Pierce Butler. "This is going to end up like Ayd Mill Road again."

Benanav and other council members did like one of the other CIB changes that supports more street paving.

Instead of using a 10-year bond issue to pay for street paving, Kelly is recommending that a 20-year general obligation

bond be used. "Using 20-year street improvement bonds better matches their repayment with the useful life of the streets," said Kelly, "and allows the city to undertake an additional \$1.2 million in street projects with the same amount of annual debt service as if the RSVP projects had been paid for with Capital Improvement Bonds." That means issuing \$11 million in capital improvement bonds, rather than the traditional \$19 million per year.

The CIB Committee had recommended \$9.9 million in 2006 for street paving and 410 million in 2007. The mayor's budget increases that to \$10 million in 2006 and almost \$11.5 million in 2007.

City Council members said they are pleased to see acceleration of the street paving program, which began almost a decade ago. Over the years neighborhoods waiting for paved streets have had their projects pushed back as the CIB Committee, mayors and council members took dollars away from street paving to pay for other projects.

No other area projects had their funding recommendations changed by the mayor. Barring

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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# American Indian leader speaks at Hamline Sept. 29

American Indian leader Dennis Banks will deliver Hamline University's 2005 Commitment to Community keynote address on September 29. Banks, an American Indian of the Ojibwa Tribe, has been noted as one of the most influential Indian leaders of our time.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. at the Hamline United Methodist Church, located at 1514 Englewood Ave. in St. Paul. The lecture is free and open to the public but passes are required for admission. Free passes will be available beginning September 19 and can be picked up in advance at the Hamline University Student Center, located at 1561 Hewitt Ave. in St. Paul, or by calling 651-523-2420.

Born in 1937 and raised by his grandparents on the Leech Lake reservation in Minnesota, Banks grew up learning traditional Ojibwa lifeways. As a young child he was torn from his home and forced to attend a government boarding school designed to assimilate Indian children into white culture. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, shipping out to Japan when he was only 17 years old.

After returning home, Banks lived in poverty in the Indian slums of Minnesota until he was arrested for stealing groceries to feed his growing family and was sent to prison. There he became determined to educate himself. Hearing about the African American struggle for civil rights, he recognized that American Indi-



American Indian leader Dennis Banks will deliver Hamline University's Commitment to Community keynote address on September 29.

ans must take up a similar fight. Upon his release, Banks became

a founder of the American Indian Movement (AIM) which soon inspired Indians from many tribes to join the fight for American Indian rights. Through AIM, he sought to confront racism with activism rooted deeply in Native religion and culture.

Banks's inspiring life story includes his role in the 1972 "Trail of Broken Treaties" march to Washington, D.C., which ended in the occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs building, to the 1973 standoff at Wounded Knee, when Lakota Indians and AIM activists from all over the country occupied the site of the infamous 1890 massacre of 300 Sioux men, women and children to protest the bloodshed and corruption at the

Pine Ridge Lakota reservation.

Years later he was sentenced to two years in prison for his role at Wounded Knee. He was paroled after serving one year. He then taught Indian history at the Lone Man school at Pine Ridge. Since then, Banks has organized "Sacred Runs" for young people, teaching American Indian ways, religion and philosophy worldwide. Now operating a successful business on the reservation, he continues the fight for Indian rights.

The lecture is part of Hamline's Commitment to Community program. The student-based organization works to advocate for the appreciation and awareness of diversity through creative and inventive program efforts.

## In Our Community

Continued from page 12

### Central Class of '75 plans 30 year reunion

Central Class of 1975 is planning a 30 year reunion for late 2005 or early 2006. Anyone interested in attending or that has information on former classmates please contact Jake Huberty at 651-690-2915 or Veda Huberty via e-mail at VedaHuberty@yahoo.com

### Free Ice Cream Social, Fireworks at Jehovah

Enjoy a free ice cream cone as you chat with friends and neighbors on the parking lot of Jehovah Lutheran Church, Snelling and Thomas, Saturday, September 10. Cub Scout Pack 243 will be selling hot dogs, chips, pop and cookies starting at 6:30 p.m. The free ice cream will be scooped starting at 7 p.m. and then a booming display of ground fireworks begins about 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

### Central Class of 1985 holds reunion

Hello Fellow Classmates & Friends of the Central High School class of 1985. It's time to reunite with old friends and fill in the details of the last 20 years by joining us on September 30th and October 1.

Here are our 20 Year Reunion Events! Meet and Greet on Friday, Sept. 30, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.; The Cabooze - In "The Loft," 917 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

## Neighborhoods

Continued from page 14

any changes by the City Council that means the dollars are in place for projects including the new Western District Police Offices, Dale Street/Interstate 94 bridge replacement, Fire Station 22 improvements, Ayd Mill Road

Continental Breakfast at Central High School to be held from 10-11:30 a.m. on Saturday and includes a tour of the school.

A 9 Hole Golf Tournament at Highland Park Golf Course on Saturday starting at 1 p.m.

There will be a Reunion, Dinner & Dance on Saturday Oct 1, 5 p.m.-12:30 a.m., The Days Inn Airport Mall Of America, 1901 Killebrew Drive, Bloomington, MN 55425.

Our reunion also includes classmates from the classes of 1984 and 1986. Please send your name, address, phone, and email address to Tom Redmond at centralreunion85@aol.com. You can also find complete details at <http://central.spps.org/information/alumni/reunions/1985.html>

### Bethlehem Lutheran holds Craft Fair October 22

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the Midway is having a Craft & Collectable's Fair on Saturday October 22, at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 20 Vendors, Big Raffle over 30 items, Holiday and Baking Nuts. Lunch will be available also. Please come and join us at 436 North Roy St, 1 blk. south of University and Snelling.

### Walk for Children held Sept. 10 at Lake Como

On Saturday, September 10, Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota (PCAMN) will hold its fifth annual Walk for Children. Walkers will convene at the Black Bear Crossings Lakeside Pavilion in Saint Paul beginning at 9 a.m. for a family-friendly, 1.6-mile walk around Lake Como.

Walkers will work to raise funds to support PCAMN's child abuse and neglect prevention

programs, including Circle of Parents™, its network of free parent and children's support groups that meet weekly across the state. The support groups help parents improve their parenting skills and strengthen their family relationships. In 2004 alone, the network offered help to more than 75 groups and 1,780 participants.

PCAMN also hosts the 1-800-CHILDREN help line, provides parenting materials to families and those who work with families, and hosts year-round abuse prevention training programs, including the annual Minnesota Child Abuse Prevention Conference each April.

"Child abuse and neglect is entirely preventable when people and communities become involved in solving this serious problem," said Connie Skillingstad, Executive Director of PCAMN. "The Walk for Children offers a great opportunity for people to rally in support of

healthy Minnesota children and families in a fun, family-friendly environment."

The Walk's entertainment starts and exhibits open at 9 a.m. as the first walkers arrive. The Walker West Music Academy's Little Big Band, as well as clowns, team mascots, and other surprise guests will cheer on participants as the Walk kicks off at 10 a.m.

Walk registration is currently open. For more information or to register online, visit [www.pcamn.org](http://www.pcamn.org). Event brochures and registration forms are also available at the website, local retail establishments, or by calling 651-523-0099. Walkers can register on the day of event, but there is a discount if they register by August 12.

To volunteer at the Walk, participate on an event committee, or become a walk team leader, call Mark Matthews at 651-523-0033, ext. 15.

## Holy Childhood holds Rummage Sale Oct. 13

Holy Childhood Rummage Sale will be held Thursday, October 13, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, October 14, 9 a.m. to noon. The church is at the corner of Midway Parkway and Pascal, St. Paul.

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NEW PROGRAM

'Ugly Homes' sign cited as image...

# St. Paul billboard debate is back

By JANE MCCLURE

Maybe it's a sign of the times. Proposed new sign permit fees and regulations are getting mixed signals from the St. Paul City Council. A number of concerns raised by the St. Paul City Council meant the proposals are back in the hands of the city's Planning Commission.

The commission's Zoning Committee will discuss the council's concerns and take public testimony on more amendments at a public hearing at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, September 29 at City Hall.

The original set of changes are a result of the ongoing battle over billboards in St. Paul neighborhoods, including billboards along University Avenue, Dale Street and Selby Avenue. The city was initially forced to revise its regulations after Clear Channel sued St. Paul over its efforts to regulate billboards. One result of that legal settlement is that the city can no longer charge an annual registration fee for each billboard. Those fees were meant to help support inspections and enforcement costs.

Signs under six square feet in size, such as those that would go up for a garage sale, wouldn't

be a subject of the fee schedule. But the proposed changes do cover a myriad of other signs, ranging from off-site directional signs for a church to repair of huge freeway billboards. The fees proposed would range from \$48 for a 180-day billboard extension to more than \$1000 for repairs of large billboards.

The new fees are questioned by Ward Three City Council Member Pat Harris. "I'm having trouble with this whole thing," he said. "I think we're taking it a step too far. To charge people for all of these things. . . it's onerous." But other council members said more regulations are needed, especially when it comes to temporary signs and banners.

Yet another issue the council is raising is that of banners attached to street light poles, which have gone up downtown and in some neighborhoods. While the banners may be legal for a community festival, controversy has flared over Minnesota Wild banners downtown and whether or not a for-profit entity like the Wild can be promoted on the banners.

The Planning Commission adopted the original set of recommendations in March and

sent them on to the council for final approval.

More than a dozen people attended the August 3 hearing, including representatives of Clear Channel. The billboard company representatives didn't testify and declined comment after the hearing. Last spring Clear Channel and Fairway Outdoor Advertising objected to the permit fees, accusing the city of ramping up its charges and requiring permits for small repairs that billboard companies should be able to make on their own.

The new fees and regulation changes are sought for several reasons, said License, Inspections and Environmental Protection (LIEP) Zoning Manager Wendy Lane. One is the need to balance the LIEP budget. The office is fee-supported, but only recovering about half of its sign enforcement-related expenses when time spent versus costs are compared.

Another factor is the time needed for billboard and sign complaint or permit enforcement. St. Paul has 17 special sign districts, meant to control all types of signs in a specific area. Most of the districts were created several years ago in response to

efforts to ban new billboards and force old ones to come down. Having so many special sign districts complicates the city's ability to enforce regulations, said Lane.

Added to this mix is a dramatic increase in complaints about billboards and signs, Lane said.

Another issue LIEP is facing is increased complaints about temporary signs. These require no fee or permit and can range from anything from a church festival's overhead street banner to vinyl signs a bar would post to announce drink specials.

The city wouldn't go our of its way to enforce temporary sign fees, said Lane. "We don't have the staff to drive up and down our business streets, looking for signs." But having a fee in place would allow the city to better respond to complaints about signs. Enforcement of such complaints averages about \$52 per sign, which is what the fee would be.

One concern Harris raised is that the city would be charging organizations for temporary banners, such as street banners announcing a festival. He called such fees onerous.

Another new fee would be charged for billboard extensions, when a billboard is made higher or longer by a temporary addition. These are only allowed to be up for 180 days but sometimes remain in place for longer periods. The city currently allows extensions but doesn't charge a fee.

"There seems to be no accountability for how long extensions go up," said Snelling-Hamline resident and community council member Travis Snider. Although Snelling-Hamline is the city's smallest district council area, its proximity to Interstate 94 means the neighborhood has large billboards that are often made larger with extensions.

Other proposed regulations would force businesses that close their doors to take down or paint over signs within 30 days. If the property isn't used as a business for more than a year the sign structure itself would have to come down.

Another change would allow places of worship, schools, community centers and to put up directional signs on private property. This change is being brought forward in part at the urging of Macalester College and Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1648 Lincoln Av. The church is adjacent to and shares parking with the college. But that can cause confusion for people trying to find the church for community activities ranging from voting to classes. Macalester College officials are willing to post a directional sign on Grand for the church. But that isn't allowed under current regulations; the ordinance changes would allow that.

Council members questioned why it would be OK for a church to have a directional sign but not a private business. "Are we opening the door to a legal challenge?" asked Ward Four Council Member Jay Benanav. "How can we tell Business XYZ that they can't have a directional sign?"

"And if everyone decides to do this, we could end up with a lot of sign clutter," he added.

Community activists support many of the proposed changes, although they'd still like to see the city do more to regulate dilapidated or peeling signs. "Sign clutter hurts businesses," said Brian McMahon, executive director of University UNITED. He cited a recent survey on Midway's retail area, noting that many respondents dislike the area's jumble of billboards and other business signs.

McMahon questioned the value of having so many signs in an area. He drew chuckles when he said, "I have yet to hear anyone say that they want to move to a neighborhood where the billboards proclaim 'We Buy Ugly Houses.'"

Other issues McMahon raised include making rooftop business signs nonconforming. He pointed out that Johnson Brothers Liquor has kept its large liquor advertisement rooftop signs in place, even though the liquor distributing business itself moved to Highland moved a few years.

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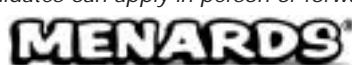
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Anyone who has purchased a prescription drug—or seen ads for them on TV—knows that every cure has its cost. If you take time to read the list of possible side effects of medications, you might be tempted not to take your medicine at all. Drug companies must report any possible side effects of their product. Just because the list looks long and sometimes frightening, keep in mind that you may not experience any of the problems listed on your drug information sheet. In fact, most people don't have unpleasant side effects with their prescriptions.

However, I would like to tell you about some common side effects of frequently used medications, and offer tips on avoiding problems. Ultimately, you and your physician and pharmacist should decide how to manage any problems you might be having.

Antibiotics are prescribed for bacterial infections such as bronchitis and some ear, skin or other infections. The goal is to target a particular site of infection and kill the bacteria causing the problem. It might surprise you, but not all bacteria are bad. Our bodies have useful bacteria in certain areas.

Your intestines house lots of bacteria. They help with digestion so that you can use the nutrients in your food. When you take antibiotics for one infection, the drugs also kill off some of the good bacteria in your gut. The result is diarrhea. To avoid diarrhea when taking antibiotics, you can

## Cares and Cures

By JANE KILIAN, M.D.

### My medicine is making me sick!

take acidophilus pills. These are available at a pharmacy or health food store and you can buy them without a prescription. The pills help to replace your natural gut bacteria. Eating yogurt with live cultures helps as well.

Many women develop yeast infections when taking antibiotics. If this happens for you, try over the counter creams or suppositories to relieve your symptoms. An even better idea is to talk with your health care provider at the time you receive your prescription for antibiotics. They may prescribe a prescription pill or cream that you can use if you do get a yeast infection.

Medicines for high cholesterol (the "statins" such as lipitor, zocor, crestor) and for diabetes (metformin) can cause diarrhea for the first week or two of usage. This problem usually resolves with time. Bananas can be somewhat constipating, so if you are having diarrhea as a side effect, eat more bananas.

Narcotic pain pills can cause constipation. If you are using a prescription pain medicine for

more than two days, drink some prune juice every day. Drinking lots of water and eating plenty of fiber also keeps your stool soft. You may want to avoid eating bananas and cheeses because these can worsen constipation.

Interestingly, fiber is the cure for both constipation and diarrhea. Why? Well, if you have loose stools it is because there is too much water in your intestine. The fiber helps absorb the fluid. On the other hand, constipation happens when your poop is too dry. The fiber in your intestines helps to draw water into your intestine to soften your stool. So no matter what, fiber is your friend.

When a woman starts using birth control pills or patches she might experience irregular bleeding, moodiness, breast tenderness, and/or nausea. These symptoms usually go away after the first 2-3 months of use. If not, a change in the prescription can usually eliminate the problems.

There are many classes of medicines that are used to treat high blood pressure. Each group has its own set of side effects. The

beta blockers (atenolol, metoprolol, etc.) can make you feel tired. They also slow your heart rate, which is sometimes a good thing. The diuretics (hydrochlorothiazide, dyazide, etc.) make you urinate more than usual. Use of an ace inhibitor (lisinopril, monopril, etc.) often results in a dry, nagging cough.

All of the side effects mentioned above are bothersome, but none pose health risks. Nevertheless, if you are uncomfortable after starting a new medicine, you should tell your health care provider.

Allergic reactions to medicines can be life threatening. Symptoms include skin rashes or hives, shortness of breath, and/or difficulty swallowing. If you experience these symptoms, you should stop your medicine, and either call your doctor or go to an emergency room. Antihistamines (one over the counter one is benadryl) can lessen an allergic reaction.

In general, I have a few guidelines for use of any medicines. Whenever possible, don't start

more than one new medication at a time. Why? Because if you have either good or bad results, you won't know which medicine is either helping or hurting. Good words to remember are "start low, go slow". That means, start with a low dose and work up to a higher one if you need it. If the directions on your prescription say "take one or two"—try one first. You can always take another if you need to, but you cannot "un-take" something once you have swallowed it.

Finally, remember that your pharmacist is a fabulous resource about your medications. Although many health plans are requiring mail order prescriptions, I still like the local pharmacists best. If you fill all of your prescriptions at one place, they can watch for any interactions between your drugs. And they are available to help with problems and questions.

Have fun in the fall weather. Stay happy and healthy.

*Dr. Kilian is a family practice physician who lives and works in the Midway Como community. She believes that good medicine means caring for people as well as curing diseases. We want to address your health concerns so please let us know what topics you would like to see in future columns. If you have suggestions or questions, write to the Monitor c/o 1885 University Avenue West, #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Or e-mail denisw@aplacoremember.com*

## Hewitt Residence

Continued from page 10

People need different things when they are in crisis and some people aren't really certain what they need or what's available. Ramsey County residents who need help sorting out what best fits a given mental health crisis can call Ramsey County Mental Health Crisis Program 24 hours a day and talk with a mental health crisis worker (651-266-7900). The teams of social workers and nurses can even come to a patient's house and listen and help develop a plan that best fits the person, their situation, and their resources.

That plan may include a stay at Hewitt House which Ramsey County pays for because of the County commitment avoid unnecessary hospitalizations. The

average cost per day at Hewitt House is \$165 compared to what can range from \$1500 to \$3500 per day at an inpatient, locked ward. So, when going to Hewitt House fits the situation, it makes sense and saves lots of dollars!

Cullen Johnson, who was employed as a Clinical Specialist at Hewitt House, recently became Hewitt's Program Director. He credits the forward thinking of leadership at People Inc. and the County for the way Hewitt is able to cater to individual needs. "Hewitt has its own niche in the mental health treatment community and we try to hire people who are warm and caring in addition to having clinical skills." From what Larry said Hewitt is accomplishing that goal.

"The staff use many approaches to work with a person; it's not just the continuing drum beat of one person." Hewitt House is staffed twenty-four hours a day with a combination of mental health workers, nurses,

consulting psychiatrists and clinical specialists.

Gail, supervisor of the mental health workers and thirteen year veteran staff member talks about residents like they are family. "People come here and are able to have a moment of sanity from a crazy world. I have seen long-term gains." When asked how she handles the stress of a consistently full house and increasingly more acute clients she

laughs, "This job isn't for everyone. It's a calling!"

Hewitt House hasn't always been a crisis residence. When it opened in 1970 it was a transitional living program for young adults with mental illness and local college students were given affordable room and board to room with Hewitt residents. The program changed keeping pace with community needs and research in the field of mental health treat-

ment. Hewitt House's current incarnation began in 1992 when leaders from Ramsey County approached People Incorporated and asked them to make Hewitt House a crisis stabilization program patterned after a concept used in other parts of the country.

Hewitt House is Larry and Lora's calm in the storm. Like others, sometimes what Larry and Lora need most is a place that feels like home.




Program Director Cullen Johnson explains that the Hewitt House staff use many approaches to work with a person. Hewitt House is staffed twenty-four hours a day with a combination of mental health workers, nurses, consulting psychiatrists and clinical specialists. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Cindy, it appears you have

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# Neighborhood Naturalist

By DEB ROBINSON

## A late-summer medley of butterflies and birds

The clear sky is the color of a bluebird's back, and the eight o'clock bells from St. Tim's herald in this splendid late-summer morning. The sun rises to the cheerful contact calls of a family of goldfinches as they feed on the spent anis hyssop flowers right outside my window. (I knew there was a good reason for not dead-heading those flowers.) A few awkward young house sparrows try to imitate the goldfinches' agile feeding style but the sparrows are just too heavy to perch on the slender flower stems.

Three ruby-throated hummingbirds pass through the yard. They each circle the scarlet runner bean vines, but find the red salvias more to their liking. Although I only see these tiny birds in my yard during their spring and fall migration, I feel like I should provide them a more consistent nectar supply (like maybe a sugar-water feeder).

These tiny hummers are on an incredible journey south that includes a nonstop flight across the open water of the Gulf to their winter homes in Mexico. Remarkably, something even smaller than the ruby-throated hummingbird makes an epic journey south: the monarch butterfly.

Of the 25 monarch caterpillars I raised this year, only one remains in its chrysalis. And this last one better come out soon because unlike the monarchs of high summer, this late-season monarch will not spend its days frolicking in our garden and laying eggs on local milkweed.

The last generation of the summer monarchs will have to fly across the United States all the way to their wintering grounds in the mountain forests of Mexico. Many monarchs sip nectar from roadside flowers to fuel their long migrations. Unfortunately, a butterfly that hits the road is more likely to hit the windshield of passing car. Yet, enough of the monarchs will make it to Mexico (and part of the way back) to insure the species survival.

It looked like it was a good year for swallowtail butterflies considering how many I saw this summer. By now most of the surviving swallowtails are looking worn out with their big beautiful wings in faded tatters. No long migrations for these butterflies - the next generation of tiger, spice-bush, and black swallowtails will

overwinter here in the north as pupae only to emerge a s

other birds.

In August, I received numerous bird observations from local residents including an email from Ernie and Miriam who wrote that a young pheasant rooster had taken up residence in their backyard on Victoria Street. Could this be the same pheasant seen last month in our ally?

Down at Como Lake, Susan Jane has been watching three black-crowned night-herons throughout the summer. I've only seen them a few times myself and usually around dusk. They can be elusive, but you may discover one by listening for a call that sounds like the barking of a little dog with a head cold. It's heartening to know that these stocky black and white herons found the fishing good along Como Lake's shoreline this summer.

Val reported that 14 Eastern bluebirds were fledged from the bluebird houses on the Como Golf Course this summer. A generation ago, bluebirds were as common as American robins, but bluebird populations declined when their nest sites became scarce.

Eastern bluebirds are cavity-nesters and they don't have the temperament to compete against more aggressive introduced species, like house sparrows and starlings, which have similar tastes in nest sites.

Val diligently cleaned out the competitors' nests from the golf course bird-houses, giving the bluebirds the edge they needed to reproduce successfully in a tough urban environment.

Kudos to concerned citizens like Val who see a need and act on it. And the Como Golf Course deserves high praise for putting up the bluebird houses, and also for considering the possibility of managing our public resource for both people and birds.

Endnotes: \*Help is needed at the Como Buckthorn Busts on Oct. 1 & 22, 9am to noon. We'll meet at the Como Pool parking lot on Horton Ave. Bring your own gloves and small tools if you have them, we'll provide larger tools, some gloves, and refreshments. Call ahead: 651-644-3889 or just show up. \*Botanical & Zoological Art Program classes start the week of Sept. 19 (discount rate for CZCS members), info and registration: 651-487-8272 or: [www.comozooconservatory.org](http://www.comozooconservatory.org) \*To contact this writer: [dmrobinson@bitstream.net](mailto:dmrobinson@bitstream.net)



Illustration by Deb Robinson 8-05

**"A generation ago, bluebirds were as common as American robins, but bluebird populations declined when their nest sites became scarce."**

adult butterflies next spring when our warm weather returns.

The tranquility of the morning ended with a blue jay's alarm call. All the finches rushed for cover. Better to be safe than sorry because this part of Como has been the summer hunting grounds for at least one Cooper's hawk. Recently my neighbor Dick reported seeing an inattentive mourning dove knocked off its perch by a Cooper's hawk in flight; I bet it looked like a whisky bottle being shot off a fence-rail by a gunslinger. Well, everyone has to eat and I don't begrudge this hawk's role as a predator of

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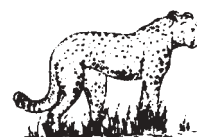
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