



Planning continues for May Park redevelopment

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Putting down roots on Snelling Ave.

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\$33,000 awarded for historic survey of Hamline Midway

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Midway Como

Monitor



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Met Council and MnDOT raise questions about Soccer Stadium traffic

By JANE MCCLURE

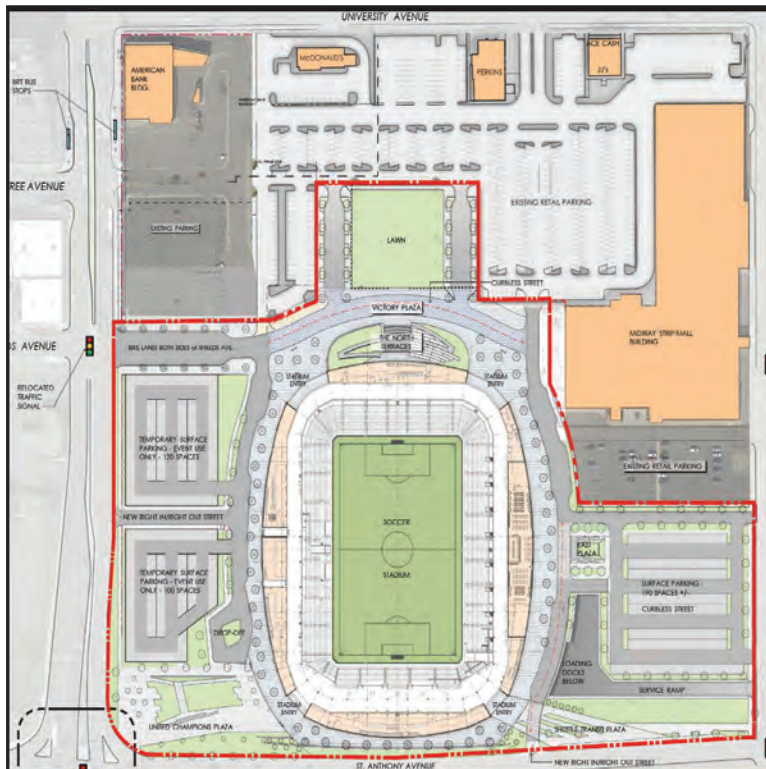
Concerns about transit and transportation system capacities when Minnesota United FC starts playing at its planned Midway Soccer Stadium are among the issues raised in a study of potential project impacts, which was to be ratified Aug. 9 as the *Monitor* went to press. Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) are among those asking whether city officials and consultants are being realistic about potential transit use and street and highway capacity on game days.

The comments were among those made in response to an Area-wide Urban Alternatives Review (AUAR) for the Major League Soccer stadium and Midway Center redevelopment.

The AUAR is a study process used to determine all types of environmental issues that could be created by new development, and to suggest measures needed to mitigate those impacts.

On June 20 St. Paul city officials released the final AUAR, supporting documentation, public comments, and comment response. The AUAR itself is 105 pages long. The supporting documents, comments, and responses filled 469 pages.

"As the responsible governmental unit overseeing this review, the city values the input received from community members and agencies, and we have incorporated changes where appropriate," said Planning and Economic De-



The most recent site plan shows how little parking is actually planned in the first phase of the superbloc project. Although the city and the league are making contingency plans for shuttle buses and the use of mass transit, those plans have been called into question. (Illustration provided)

velopment (PED) Director Jonathan Sage-Martinson. "We are confident that this final document provides the thorough framework to identify and address any potential impacts of proposed development on this site, providing a clear path forward for redevelopment."

City officials were set to ratify the document Aug. 9, if there are no state or federal agency objec-

tions. It is to be updated every five years, as the soccer stadium and adjacent Midway Center are redeveloped.

During a 30-day comment period that ended July 6, city officials heard from five state and regional agencies, six organizations and 23 individuals. Many commenters weighed in on multiple topics including traffic, transit use, spillover

parking, noise, air pollution, and site cleanup due to past contamination. City staff and consultants working on the AUAR considered almost 60 comments to be substantive. Those comments were then used to add to or expand upon information in the AUAR.

The documents state that responses are generally confined to "substantive issues that address the accuracy and completeness of the information provided in the draft analysis, potential impacts that may warrant further analysis, further information that may be required in order to secure permits for specific projects in the future, and mitigation measures or procedures necessary to prevent significant environmental impacts within the area when actual development occurs."

Questions centered on transit and transportation system impacts on soccer game days. Metropolitan Council questioned the assumption used to determine "mode split" for travel to the site, or how it was determined the number of people who would drive, take transit or shuttle buses, walk or bike.

Those assumptions appear to be tilted heavily to make the case that few if any roadway improvements are needed from this massive traffic generator," the council letter stated. The regional government also said transportation analysis should look at the overlap of transportation modes of auto access, pedestrian access, and transit access, instead of studying the issues separately.

Red flags were raised about the high percentage of shuttle bus and transit service usage estimated, as Metropolitan Council stated, "Additional potential capacity on the Green Line does not automatically translate to usage."

City officials responded that they made conservative assumptions, given the lack of off-street parking on and near the site, and indicated they believe traffic, transit use, and parking can be "effectively managed." The AUAR does recommend a more detailed transportation management plan be developed.

Metropolitan Council also noted that weekend evening game transit riders would be competing with regular transit users. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) also raised concerns about scheduling of games, which could affect air pollution levels. City staff replied that weekday game times are expected to be either 7 or 7:30pm, with most vehicles arriving after afternoon rush hour. The response also stated that the other weekday events held at the stadium wouldn't attract as much traffic. Concerts are not expected to held at the stadium.

MnDOT commented on I-94, Snelling and Concordia avenues' capacity and indicated it would ask for further reviews as the stadium and shopping center redevelopment moves forward. One issue MnDOT raised is that of having as many as 150 shuttle buses per hour descending on the proposed

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Central Lutheran School is building up STEAM

Story and photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Central Lutheran School (CLS) has been around for a long time. While they've been in their current location at 775 Lexington Ave. since 1951, the school had its origins 120 years ago—started by German immigrants who sought to build a school before they built a church.

These days, the school is serving children from many different cultures. According to head administrator Elizabeth Wegner, "Our student body is more diverse than the Hamline Midway

neighborhood it sits in. We have students from Ethiopia, Eritrea, as well as from families who have been anchored in St. Paul for generations."

"CLS doesn't follow the usual parochial school model of one church - one school," Wegner explained. "We're the prod-



Elizabeth Wegner in the café-gymna-chapel-atorium. She said, "While CLS offers a Christ-centered learning environment, we have students from many denominations and plenty of kids whose parents don't go to church at all."

uct of an association between four neighborhood churches: St. Stephanus, Jehovah Lutheran, Emmaus Lutheran and Bethel Lutheran."

The school is switching to a new curriculum this year grounded in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM). Wegner, along with board member Kerri Miesen, expressed their commitment to the curriculum change and said they have the staff to make it succeed. "Our staff is experienced, energetic and unified as a team," Miesen reflected. "We believe we have a real service to offer to the community."

CLS serves a wider than usual age range: T-8, with "T" standing for toddler. As of Aug. 1, their newly licensed Toddler Room will be available for children ages 16-36 months. The



The newly-licensed Toddler Room will open its doors on Aug. 1. The idea for having a Toddler Room came out of conversations with parents of older students.

Toddler Room will be staffed with two teachers, taking up to 14 children at a time.

There are two levels of preschool at CLS: one for three-year-olds and one for four-year-olds.

Kindergarten is a stand-alone grade; grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 are combined classes. Wegner said, "If enrollment in any of the combined classes exceeds 25, the

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Corn on the cob. Watermelon. Zucchini. Eggplant. Summer's bounty makes for great eating.

But what do you do with the remains? The corn cobs and husks, melon rinds and seeds, all the stems, leaves and peels from your veggies? Compost! That should be your go-to strategy. Tossing them into the trash is your last resort. And composting is easier than ever.

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In composting, the plant and food scraps decompose somewhat naturally. (The composting process mixes food scraps with leaves or straw, shredded newspaper, soil and water, and one must periodically turn the pile, so it isn't completely natural.) While small amounts of gasses may be given off in the composting process, these gasses are natural and don't add to greenhouse gas emissions.

Ready and Resilient Hamline Midway

By TRUDY DUNHAM

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naturally increases soil productivity, reducing the need to add fertilizers. The compost makes the soil more stable, better able to hold water and inhibit erosion. The composting process sequesters the carbon, keeping it in the soil for long periods of time until it is again taken up by plants as food in the carbon cycle. All positive benefits for our climate and your garden and lawn!

Alternatively, if we throw our food waste into the trash, it adds to greenhouse gas emissions. Trash either undergoes a waste to energy process, or it is landfilled. Your trash hauler is required to

tell you what they do with your trash. Most Ramsey County trash goes to the Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Board. Washington Recycling and Energy Board in Newport where it goes through a waste to energy pro-

cess, but some trash is taken to a landfill.

Waste to energy processing is a good option for trash that cannot be composted or recycled, but the end product of the incineration or gasification process is still gas, which creates greenhouse gas emissions. There is no good reason to add to our emission levels when composting is so easy.

Burying trash in a landfill should be avoided whenever possible. Food scraps rotting in a landfill emit methane and

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Central Lutheran School

Continued from page 1

grades will be split."

Wegner, who also serves as the school music director, has been with CLS for 18 years. In that time, she has seen a lot of changes in education. "We're a small school with big opportunities in academics, as well as extra-curricular activities," she said. "We're proud of our new STEAM curriculum, a variety of sports, visual arts, and instrumental and vocal music offerings."

She continued, "More than 85% of our students are involved in music ensemble of some sort. Opportunities beyond general music start in 2nd grade with Orff Ensemble, a method of music instruction that combines singing, dancing, acting and use of percussion instruments. Junior chorus and orchestra are avail-

able in 3rd grade, with band being added in 4th grade. The upper grades can participate in orchestra, band, concert choir, hand bells, and/or hand chimes."

Wegner estimated that K-8 registration will hover around 95 students this year. "The crash of 2008 really took a hit on our enrollment numbers," she said. "We'd like to see those numbers rise to 140-150 students again. All students are welcome here, and we try hard to make tuition affordable for every student whose family wants them to attend."

CLS is currently offering a \$500 reduction in tuition for newly enrolled students. Additional scholarships are available through the school's Jayson Fund for grades K-8, and through www.thinksmall.org for preschool students. For more information or to schedule a tour of the school, contact Elizabeth Wegner at ewegner@clssp.org.

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Soccer stadium traffic

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stadium drop-off on Concordia Ave.

Yet another concern raised repeatedly was that of space for light rail and bus patrons to queue as they enter and exit transit vehicles.

That is among issues being studied by Metro Transit, according to the AUAR.

Many of the area residents who commented are worried about spillover parking in adjacent neighborhoods. One answer the city had to those comments was that residents can seek residential permit parking districts. However, the St. Paul Department of Public Works is studying changes to the

permit district regulations. It's not clear yet how those regulations could change. At least one permit request has been put on hold until the new regulations are adopted.

Lexington-Hamline Community Council was among the groups raising questions about spillover parking in adjacent neighborhoods. The council pointed out that using Concordia University as an example of available off-street parking may not be realistic, as much of the university's parking is in use much of the time.

Noise was also a concern, with some neighbors raising concerns about fireworks after soccer games. The AUAR states that use of fireworks is being considered by Minnesota United. Noise im-

pacts were studied in a one-mile radius of the stadium site.

Other comments centered on historic issues, from Minnesota Historical Society and the state archaeological office. A search of the Minnesota Historic Society Historic Resources Inventory revealed that no structures or ruins in the AUAR area or its proximity are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). However, some properties in and around the AUAR area are eligible for review for the NRHP due to their age and contribution to the commercial corridor along University Ave. These structures were identified in an earlier environmental review for the Green Line LRT. Within the AUAR area, three structures are the former

Midway National Bank (American Bank) at 1578 University Ave. W. and Midway Shopping Center West Building (Big Top Liquor) at 1460 University Ave. W. But the AUAR and state officials note that while the building is older and predates the rest of the shopping center, its extensive alterations have removed historic features.

No archaeological sites in or around the AUAR area were identified as part of the inventory search, but state officials are interested in seeing if there are archaeological features on the former bus barn site or beneath the shopping center.

The revised AUAR and all other documents are available at stpaul.gov/SnellingMidwayAUAR.

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Letters to the Editor

Thanks to community for life celebration of "Mr. Phil"

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank everyone who came out to celebrate the life of Philando "Mr. Phil" Castile with the J.J. Hill Community.

It was an event for families and students to grieve and comfort each other, and it was also a place to talk to our children about the issues we face right now as a society. I was planning on maybe 30-50 school community families and staff coming out, but nothing could have prepared me for what happened next. Our small community vigil gained national media attention and grew to more than 3,000

people.

I am heartened that the community kept the event peaceful and focused on the man who affected J.J. Hill in a positive and memorable way.

There are too many people to thank individually in a letter, but there are a few people who helped prepare me for what was to come. I reached out to a few friends, and some people I have never met, who gave me sound advice and stepped up to help.

I am forever grateful to my wife Mollie Reid Fragnito, Rep. Erin Murphy, Paul Winkelaar, Jeff Bauer, Atom Robinson, Chris Crutchfield, Andrew Collins, Sha-

ron Freeman, Mr. Bill and Mr. Gary from J.J. Hill, Zuki Ellis, Rashad Turner, Charlie Foust, Anna Gaarnas, and Beth Jackson; you all helped with logistics, and most importantly, gave me the voice I didn't know I had.

I also want to thank the St. Paul Police Department and St. Paul Public Schools for the help they provided with the vigil.

Finally, thank you to the family of Philando Castile. You showed great strength and courage. "Mr. Phil" will be forever missed at J.J. Hill.

Sincerely,
Tony Fragnito

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Monitor In A Minute

Compiled by JANE MCCLURE

Polar bears see needed repairs

The Como Zoo polar bears, like many of us, like to swim. But a substantial leak in the bears' large pool has forced emergency repairs recently. The St. Paul City Council July 20 unanimously approved the allocation of \$79,607 of available Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Contingency funds to the Parks and Recreation Department's Capital Maintenance Program to repair the leak.

The leak was discovered in February 2016, forcing the pool to be shut down. The pool had to be enclosed with scaffolding, planks, cable, and poly to install new PVC piping and jets during cold season conditions. The work is done, but it required the reimbursement from the contingency fund.

The project was recommended for approval informally by the Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee. The committee lacked a quorum at its July meeting, but the members present did express support to cover the repair costs.

May Park planning continues

Planning for a redesigned May Park continues this summer. The small city park at Clayland and Chelton avenues has been the focus of planning sessions with neighbors and the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation.

City parks staff has developed plans to make the park more user-friendly for families and children. Neighborhood residents have expressed support for the ideas and are lobbying to retain the park's small merry-go-round.

New swings, a new slide and play structure, new fence and other features have been discussed.

A public open house is set for 5:30-7pm, Thur., Aug. 25 at the park. In the case of rain, the meeting will move to the Newell Park building. Newell Park is at Fairview Ave. and Pierce Butler Rte.,

The public open house will include a presentation of final plans and a project timeline.

Liquor store hours change eyed

A proposal to extend St. Paul's off-sale liquor store hours from 8pm to 10pm weekdays is under consideration by Ward Three Council Member Chris Tolbert and city staff. The proposal is being studied by area district councils and is expected to be viewed by all 17 of the councils in the future.



The St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation is working with neighbors on the redevelopment and upgrading of May Park at Clayland and Chelton avenues. (File photo)

Tolbert said he has no set timeline for gathering input, or any kind of study by the city. Liquor stores in St. Paul must currently close at 8pm Monday through Thursday and 10 pm Friday and Saturday. State law requires all liquor stores to be closed Sundays.

The St. Paul closing times are among the earliest in the state.

"We have heard concerns voiced over the years, and lately, the breweries have sought a change," said Tolbert. "On its face it seems reasonable, as St. Paul seems to be an outlier in closing time. We thought we'd seek neighborhood feedback and see what people thought."

The most complaints come from liquor stores near the city's boundaries with Minneapolis and suburban communities, which are sometimes just blocks from competitors whose stores stay open later.

The change would require changing a city ordinance.

Breweries are interested in a change because they can only sell growlers during liquor store hours.

The proposal was sent to the city's district councils for discussion.

Organized collection talks start

St. Paul is moving a step closer to organized garbage collection, as the City Council July 27 approved a 60-day negotiation period with its 14 licensed residential trash haulers. The negotiation period is to start Aug. 15. Kris Hageman, an environmental coordinator for the city's Department of Public Works, said the goal is to have organized collection in place by mid-2018.

Organized collection of residential trash could take different

forms, including a system of zones served by many haulers or dividing the city into larger areas.

Hageman said the council resolution starts discussions and will also lay out city priorities for establishing the system. She said the process would bring all 14 haulers together for a series of meetings to discuss issues including customer services, scheduling, collection of bulky items and routing. The group will meet twice a month.

"Most likely this will take longer than the 60 day period that is set in state statute," said Hageman.

If the haulers cannot work with city staff to develop a proposal that addresses the City Council's priorities in an organized trash collection system, the city would then set up an organized collections options committee to proceed with the establishment of the system.

Council President Russ Stark thanked city staff for their work on the proposal. "This is another milestone along the way. There's obviously a lot of work to be done."

A few garbage haulers were present for the council's vote. All

said they would participate in the upcoming negotiations, but expressed concerns about the outcome.

Metro Environmental Inc. owner Matt Pflugi, who is working with other haulers to form a cooperative, said he is disappointed that alternatives his group wanted to discuss were set aside. The group of smaller trash haulers had hoped to maintain existing routes as much as possible and retain each company's market share. He said this could be done at no cost to the city.

"We needed more time and didn't get it," Pflugi said. He and other haulers will participate in the negotiations, but they are concerned that the city could ultimately be divided among the larger companies.

The process is only open to the current licensed residential haulers, which is a mix of family-owned as well as national companies. Companies not licensed in the city cannot enter the negotiations.

St. Paul currently has open trash collection. Property owners hire their own haulers. Organized collection would be for residential properties only. It could take many forms, with city service, private haulers or a hauler consortium providing service. St. Paul hasn't had municipal collection for more than 30 years, and it's not likely the city would start such a service again, in large part due to costs.

Colleges seek ESST exemption

As St. Paul's proposed ordinance on earned sick and safe time (ESST) is readied for St. Paul City Council action, a group of St. Paul's private colleges is seeking an exemption for part-time student workers.

A public hearing on an earned sick and safe leave requirement for St. Paul employers and employees is set for 5:30pm, Wed., Aug. 17 at

City Hall. The council introduced the ordinance on Aug. 3 for a series of readings. The public hearing and adoption could happen as soon as Aug. 24.

The University of St. Thomas (UST), Macalester College, Hamline University, Concordia University and St. Catherine University are asking for the exemption for part-time student workers or work-study workers.

UST Vice President for Intergovernmental Relations Doug Hennes said the colleges and universities aren't taking a position on the ordinance itself. Several business groups, including the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, are objecting to the ordinance.

The proposed regulations, if adopted, would go into effect Jan. 1, 2017 for business with 24 or more workers. All St. Paul employers would have to follow the ESST regulations as of Jan. 1, 2018. The St. Paul proposal would be more restrictive than those adopted this spring in Minneapolis. Minneapolis' policy exempts employers with six or fewer workers.

Minneapolis' ordinance doesn't exempt student workers.

Under the St. Paul proposal, employees begin accruing earned sick and safe time after 80 hours worked. After that, an employee would acquire the time at a rate of one hour earned for every 30 hours worked. Employees could begin using ESST 90 calendar days after employment starts. The maximum number of hours an employee can earn in each year (calendar, fiscal or whatever period the employer uses) is capped at 48 hours. The maximum number of hours an employee can bank is 80 hours. The sick time could be used by the employee or to care for an ill family member. Safe time is used to describe the need for time off in domestic violence situations.

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College Sports Notebook

By MATTHEW DAVIS



Taylor keeps continuity for Hamline football

More local college football teams than just the University Minnesota kept continuity in recent coaching changes.

While Gophers defensive coordinator Tracy Claeys taking over at mid-season for Jerry Kill made the major headlines,

Hamline University made a similar move later in the off-season. Pipers defensive coordinator Chip Taylor officially took over the program for previous head coach Chad Rogosheke in March.

"I took the Hamline job

because I felt strongly about the administration's commitment to the experience of our scholar athletes," Taylor said. "The MIAC is a great league with great football coaches."

Taylor and the Pipers open fall practice on Aug. 13, and they will enjoy similarly continuity to the Gophers in that process. Taylor worked under Rogosheke for three seasons at Hamline, and they did the same at Division I Bucknell. Similarly, Claeys worked under Kill two decades with the Gophers and previous schools.

Taylor and Rogosheke had their share of success at Bucknell and then Hamline. Bucknell went 6-5 in 2011 after a one-win season in 2010. Similarly, they improved on a 2-8 season at Hamline in 2013 with back-to-back 4-6 seasons.

At Hamline, they sustained a little more gridiron success than Bucknell where the Bison dropped to 3-8 in 2012 after the 3-8 campaign. Moreover, he took over a Hamline program that hasn't seen a winning season since 1995. The Pipers won only one game between 2011 and 2013.

Taylor now has the task of building on two improved seasons in a MIAC league loaded with talented squads. The University of St. Thomas made the national championship game and returns heavy talent. St. John's University looks strong after back-to-back 10-2 seasons, and recent playoff regular Bethel University will look to prove its 5-5 season in 2015 a fluke.



New Hamline University football head coach Chip Taylor will look to guide the Pipers to more success after back-to-back 4-6 seasons. The program hasn't finished over .500 since 1995. (Photo courtesy of Hamline University Athletics)

Most importantly for Hamline, those three teams won by at least 20 or more points last season against the Pipers. Bethel and St. Thomas actually cruised much more comfortably than St. John's 41-21 win.

All three teams stand in Hamline's way for reaching the upper echelon of the MIAC. The Pipers also need to avoid losses in close games as their other three occurred by 10 or fewer points.

"We want to attack each week as one-game seasons," Taylor said.

Hamline did show a glimpse of pulling out the close game last season though when freshman quarterback Justice Spriggs threw a touchdown pass with 20 seconds left. It completed a 31-30 comeback at St. Olaf College.

Passing looked good on paper for the Pipers last season with 221 yards per game and 15 TDs. Running the ball more effectively than last year's 3.6 yards per carry will add to the air attack this fall.

Returning wide receiver Naji El-Araby gives both the passing attack and special teams a spark with his playmaking ability. Nick Kampa likewise could boost the passing game after a 4-TD season in 2015.

"Our strength will be our skill players," Taylor said.

It doesn't hurt either that Taylor brought on former Gophers quarterback coach Jim Zebrowski. The Pipers' new QB leader knows much about Division III success. He played at

Mount Union and coached at Wisconsin-Whitewater, the two most dominant programs at that level of college football.

Chase Duwenhoegger, a junior offensive lineman, gives the Pipers some size up front at 6-2 and 270 pounds. It helps a young running attack since senior backs Austin Duncan and Ryan Ferkinhoff graduated.

Hamline's defense looks tough, with the work Taylor has done as defensive coordinator over the past three seasons. The Pipers had 17 takeaways in 2015. They also ranked fifth for the MIAC in passing and rushing yards allowed.

Junior defensive backs Anthony Hill and Zach Schwalbach will step into key roles and look to build on the secondary's nine interceptions for 2015. Jonny Nguyen, a junior linebacker, could give opposing quarterbacks trouble again after a 4.5-sack season.

Lucjan Januszewski, a former Como Park standout, had 22 tackles last season on Pipers' defensive line. Brendan Nachtrieb will join the line this fall, which could alleviate the graduation of Matt Wildes.

"Overall, we are looking for the team to compete each Saturday to the best of their abilities, and we want to continue to recruit the right scholar athletes to Hamline University," Taylor said.

Hamline's first gridiron test commences on Sept. 3 at home against Crown College with a 1pm kickoff.

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Putting down roots on Midway's Snelling Ave.

Story and photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The beginning of a new urban canopy is starting to grow along Snelling Ave.

According to City of St. Paul urban forester Zach Jorgensen, "83 trees were planted between Selby and Hewitt avenues in July."

"We had to remove 57 mature trees for the reconstruction project last summer, mostly ash, and maple," Jorgensen said. "Those trees were mature for their urban site, with trunks as large as 10" in diameter in some cases."

"The new plantings are much more varied," he continued, "and will likely be a better investment for the future. Species include Patriot and Discovery Elm, Swamp White Oak, Honey Locust, Kentucky Coffee Tree, and Century Linden. There will be a concentration of Prairie Sentinel Hackberry in the median near the I-94 intersection."

Brian Woyda, owner of the landscape construction company Woyda & Mortel, Inc., did the installation with a crew of three workers. The planting took about a week, interrupted occasionally by the summer's highest heat indexes. The crew averaged more than ten trees per day, removing brick pavers, digging deep holes for the installations and tamping the soil back into place with an industrial compacter. Woyda &

Mortel, Inc. will be responsible for watering the trees for the rest of this growing season.

According to Jorgensen, "90% of the cost of tree installations for the city involves what goes on below ground." He explained, "We can't use just ordinary soil because the trees take so much abuse in this heavily urbanized environment. We've chosen to go with what is called a structural soil mix. The one we use comes out of Cornell University. It's made up of crushed granite, clay loam, and hydro-gel, a binder that holds everything together. We buy it by the ton."

Barb Spears is a long-time Hamline Midway resident, born at Midway Hospital. She trained as an urban forester, and serves on St. Paul's Tree Advisory Panel. "The panel's mission is to serve as a link between the citizens of St. Paul and its forestry department to preserve, provide and enhance St. Paul's urban canopy," she noted.

"There will be opportunities for people," Spears said, "especially Snelling Ave. business owners, to adopt nearby trees beginning in 2017." Because the trees are surrounded by permeable pavers, they can be watered directly onto the soil or even through the pavers. To inquire about adopting a tree next year, or to report a tree looking stressed at any time, call the City

Forestry Department at 651-632-5129.

Spears also serves on the Hamline Midway Environment Committee. Her colleague there, Lucy Hunt, said, "We're very happy to be getting these trees. A canopy of trees isn't only beautiful; it's good for the whole community. In the inner-city, we have high ozone levels and way too much air pollution. Getting 83 new trees is a nod to our neighbors that City Hall cares about our air quality."

In addition to improved air quality, an urban tree canopy contributes to improved human health, better storm water retention, reduced energy costs and a mitigated "heat island effect" by cutting down on the amount of pavement exposed to the sun.



Workers installed 83 new trees along Snelling Ave. in high heat and humid conditions.



Brian Woyda, owner of Woyda & Mortel, Inc., will be responsible for keeping new trees watered and maintained this year.



Kyle Hunter compacted the structural soil to hold a new tree in place —while still allowing for good water flow.



Zach Jorgensen, City of St. Paul urban forester said, "We're working with some pretty tough elements here on Snelling Ave. We had to choose 'work-horse' trees like Honey Locust, that can take the engine exhaust, road salt, and inconsistent watering."

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RAMSEY COUNTY
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A "comprehensive sound abatement program," including giving Fairgrounds management ultimate control over the soundboard, is one of the conditions the Soundset music festival must meet if it returns in 2017, State Fair management says.

That's the result of the excessive noise and other problems that spilled into the neighborhood on May 29 from Soundset, a day-long hip-hop festival that attracted more than 30,000 fans to the Fairgrounds.

The District 10 Como Community Council compiled residents' complaints about music volume, profanity, parking, traffic congestion, trash, and loitering during and after the 10-hour festival, then used letters, phone conversations, and a face-to-face meeting on June 30 to detail the problems and propose potential remedies.

After that meeting, Soundset's organizers—Minneapolis-based Rhymesayers Entertainment—proposed the sound abatement plan, says Jim Sinclair, deputy general manager of the Fair. Rhymesayers' plan includes redirecting speakers, monitoring sound levels outside the Fairgrounds and, if necessary, giving State Fair personnel "control of sound emanating from Soundset," Sinclair says.

There is no signed deal in place, but Soundset can return on May 28, 2017, if it agrees to implement the sound abatement plan and meet other conditions, Sinclair says.

Meanwhile, District 10 continues to talk with State Fair management and City of St. Paul officials to implement ways to reduce traffic, parking, and other impacts on the neighborhood from Soundset and other large Fairgrounds events.

For more details on the Soundset discussions, see District 10's website: www.district10comopark.org.

Signing on for safer streets

In another initiative to grab the attention of motorists who speed,

Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA

We heard them, they heard us

**Drive Like
YOUR KIDS
Live Here**

**Slow, please
Free-range
children,
adults & dogs**

**THANKS
for
SLOWING
DOWN**



Neighbors say they routinely observe scrapping, squatting, drug sales, and other unwelcome activity in and around the abandoned Midway Pkwy. property that used to be the Sholom Home. (Photo submitted)

Adults & Dogs," and "Thanks for Slowing Down." More than 150 residents selected these messages as the most effective way of taking back neighborhood streets from drivers who seem to disregard the fact that people live, walk, and bike here.

If you're interested in organizing your neighbors to post signs on your block, contact the District 10 office at 651-644-3889, or district10@district10comopark.org.

Neighbors grow frustrated with vacant Sholom Home

District 10 is leading ongoing meetings between the newest owners of the former Sholom Home property and neighbors who are increasingly frustrated with what they see as rising amounts of illegal activity.

Neighbors say they routinely observe scrapping, squatting, drug sales, and other unwelcome activ-

ity in and around the abandoned Midway Pkwy. property. They also complain that private security and St. Paul Police seem unable or unwilling to invest the time necessary to root out the problems.

Charter Midway LLC purchased the former nursing home in December, with plans to turn it into an assisted living and memory care center. David Grzan, president and CEO, says Charter Midway continues to seek additional financing that would make the renovation possible and eliminate the opportunity for crime. "We know there's a problem there," he says. "It's a beacon for that activity. It attracts the wrong element."

Western District commanders Ed Lemon and Bryant Gaden told neighbors on July 28 that even though St. Paul Police list the building a problem property, officers need direct permission from the property owners before they'll enter. Further, the commanders

said, a response by patrol officers is generally going to be a lower priority than many other types of police calls.

Randy Olson, the general manager of JBM Patrol and Protection, pledged to neighbors that he'll work more closely with police in responding to problems. JBM took over as Charter Midway's new security company in July.

Further, Charter Midway is following recommendations from the city's Department of Safety and Inspections to better secure the building, including tearing out excessive shrubbery, and boarding up windows and doors from the outside, not just the inside.

"But that's an interim measure," Grzan said. "The best cure is to put an operating business in there."

Pick up a recycling bin any Sunday

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

Get D10 news every week

Didn't know about the latest update with the Sholom Home property? Wonder what's going on at the State Fairgrounds? Need to keep track of music and other activities at the Como Lake Pavilion? Surprised by closed bridges or other road construction?

Then you probably haven't been reading District 10's free weekly email newsletter. It's the best way to keep up with neighborhood events. We send it to your inbox every Friday. To sign up: go to www.district10comopark.org, then click the newsletter icon in the right column.

blow stop signs, or otherwise drive inconsiderately, residents on more than 60 blocks have applied to post lawn signs designed to make District 10 streets safer.

The lawn signs are appearing in different parts of the neighborhood for a week or so at a time, then rotating to other blocks. The signs carry three different messages: "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here," "Slow, Please: Free-Range Children,

Ready and Resilient

Continued from page 2

nitrous oxide, greenhouse gasses which are even more damaging than carbon dioxide.

So how can you compost your food scraps? As you clean up after eating, just put the fruit and veggie scraps in a lidded container. When it gets full or before it begins to smell, empty it in your backyard compost bin or at a Ramsey County organics drop. Line your container with a compostable bag if you are using the county Organics drop.

The Midway Recycling Center, 1943 W. Pierce Butler, is an organics drop site. Ramsey County provides a free starter kit (3-gallon lockable bin, bags, and instructions) that makes hauling mess-free. For complete information, see their website: www.ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste/organic-waste.

Or, you can set up a home compost site. The University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners provide instructions to help you establish and manage your compost site: www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/soils/backyard-composting-guide.

In addition to fruits and veggie food scraps, you can compost egg shells, coffee grounds and filters, and tea bags. If you are

using the County organics drop, you can compost meat, bones, and dairy food scraps. Composting meat and dairy is not recommended for backyard compost sites because these foods attract rodents. The cardboard rolls from paper towels and egg cartons can also be dropped at the organics section of the Midway Recycling site. See the websites for a complete list.

While you can pick up a free bag or two at the Midway Recycling site, you may want to purchase a supply from a store, so you have plenty on hand for events. Just be sure that the bags and any other products you want to compost have the BPI certified logo on them, indicating that the microbes in compost can break them down.

The Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Board is currently engaged in planning to reduce waste, increase resource recovery and recycling, and eliminate landfill use. For more information: morevaluelesstrash.com/designation-and-master-plans.

Enjoy summer's bounty, and compost those scraps so we limit greenhouse gas emissions and enhance the soil!

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

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RAMSEY COUNTY

Hamline Midway Coalition at low-power state during transition

Office being staffed one day a week for the rest of the summer; board hopes to have full-time staff back in September

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

The Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC) has suspended most functions for the time being due to staffing challenges.

The Board of Directors is currently working on a transition plan and hopes to have a full-time person in the office again by September, according

to Board President Steve Samuelson.

Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC) Executive Director Michael Jon Olson is currently on an indefinite medical leave.

Kyle Mianulli, HMC's former Director of Communications and Community Engagement, has left HMC to pursue

a career opportunity in the Hennepin County Public Works communications department. "It was an offer he couldn't refuse," remarked Samuelson.

Samuelson pointed out that the staffing problems facing HMC are part of a bigger issue for community organizations: it's hard to retain good staff,

Samuelson said.

Office staffed on Wednesdays

During the transition period, former board member Melissa Cortez is staffing the office every Wednesday from 10am to 5pm. Email her at Melissa@hamlinmidway.org, or contact Samuelson at ssamuelson11@comcast.net.

Meanwhile, Olson has been meeting once a week with the bookkeeper to keep up with HMC's financial transactions.

Olson has been with HMC for about ten years. "He's been a tremendous asset for the neighborhood," said Samuelson.

At its August meeting, the board members intend to discuss the job responsibilities of a full-time position they will be hiring.

The organization's 11-person board is made up of Hamline Midway neighbors, business owners, and community members.

Samuelson pointed out that August is a historically slow time for the organization.

"If something comes in we have the mechanisms in place to deal with it," assured Samuelson. "We have the basic services in place while we go through this transition period."

St. Paul Ballet consolidates operations to Midway

St. Paul Ballet (SPB) has begun the process of consolidating its operations at a single studio at 655 Fairview Ave. N.

"In late May we learned that the owners of the building in which our Grand Ave. studio is located had plans to sell the building and close the dance studio," said Lori Gleason, SPB executive director. "St. Paul Ballet has a long history in the Grand Ave. studio and we are very grateful for the time we spent there. Now we're looking to the future of St. Paul Ballet."

Gleason said the news was unexpected, but she sees it as an opportunity.

"St. Paul Ballet expanded rapidly over the last few years. We needed more space, so we

opened a second, larger studio on Fairview Ave. two years ago," Gleason said. "While it provided the space we needed and ADA accessibility, we lost some of the camaraderie of having a single studio where students of all ages mixed."

Though the Fairview space was originally intended as a temporary solution while the organization expanded, a close relationship with Element Boxing and Fitness evolved that vision.

"Our landlord at Fairview, Element Boxing and Fitness, is happy to partner with us over the next couple of years as we grow," said Gleason.

To prepare for growth, SPB had already leased additional

space at the Fairview location and is remodeling. More than twice the size of the Grand Ave. location, the completed space will have three dance studios, plus an expanded lobby area and a separate office.

"It is very fortunate that our strategic plan for growth included adding space, which afforded us the opportunity to absorb the consolidation," said Gleason.

Gleason realizes that closing the studio on Grand Ave. will be a loss to many who remember it fondly. It has been a classical ballet studio for over 67 years, since shortly after World War II.

A day of celebrating SPB's past and future is planned for Aug. 27.

News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

The next month offers storytimes, movies and more!

Walk into the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., to stock up on books, CDs, and DVDs, hop on the Internet, and connect with your neighbors. August and September features many great programs, including storytimes, movies, and more!

The library offers two great storytimes every week in August. Evening/Pajama Storytimes in English happen on Tuesday evenings, 6:30-7pm, with upcoming storytimes on Aug. 16 and 23. PJs, blankets, and stuffed animals are welcome. Preschool Storytimes in English are on Friday mornings at 10:30am, with upcoming storytimes on Aug. 12, 19, and 26 and continuing on Sept. 9. Storytimes feature songs, stories, puppets, fingerplays, and more. They're a great way for parents and caregivers to bond with children while building wonderful skills for school and life. Children of all activity levels are welcome.

Every Thursday morning in August, the Hamline Midway Library Association presents Summer Power, a series featuring four renowned Minnesota picture book authors sharing their work and leading family-friendly activ-

ities. Each presentation starts at 10:30am, and though these events are best for children ages 3 and up, all are welcome. On Aug. 18, the series hosts Mike Wohnoutka, author of "Dad's First Day and Moo!" The series ends with Stephanie Watson on Aug. 25 presenting from her books "The Wee Hours" and "Behold! A Baby!" Books will be available to be purchased and signed by the authors.

The library hosts Teen Movie Night on Wed., Aug. 17, 5:30-7:30pm. Join other teens for popcorn and "The Lego Movie."

The Teens Reading Bravely book group meets on Sat., Aug. 20, 3-4pm in the library's new teen area. This group for teens grades 9 and up meets to read and discuss books that fall into the "Read Brave" category.

On Aug. 24, 5:30-7:30pm, Neighborhood House, the Ramsey County Public Health Department, and the Minnesota Department of Health are presenting a pilot session for "It's That Easy." This is an ongoing program that helps parents learn how to talk comfortably with their children about sex, sexuality, and healthy relationships. It uses tools that re-

spect family and cultural values and engages parents on a host of up-to-date topics. The pilot session is being offered in preparation for a longer series of monthly meetings for parents. For more information or to sign up, contact Kristen at kperron@neighb.org or Aria at aweatherspoon@neighb.org.

Jody's Documentary Film Series is a popular series that features PBS's POV documentaries, co-sponsored by the Hamline Midway Elders. This month's showing is on Wed., Aug. 31, 1-3pm, and the film featured is "From This Day Forward" directed by Sharon Shattuck. Shattuck was in middle school when her father came out as transgender. Now, she's planning for her wedding and exploring how her family has chosen to stay together. Come for the movie, stay for the discussion afterward facilitated by Jody.

All St. Paul public libraries will be closed for Labor Day weekend, Sat., Sept. 3 through Sept. 5.

Families with school-age children, mark your calendars for Science Saturday on Sat., Sept. 17, 1:30-3pm. This month, join the fun for Cardboard Construction in the auditorium!

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In Our Community

Monitor

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

First month of A Line a major success

More and more people are using public transit in the corridor served by the region's first rapid bus line. Since the A Line opened on June 11, ridership in the service corridor has increased by more than a third.

The A Line provides faster, more frequent service between the Rosedale Transit Center and the METRO Blue Line's 46th Street Station, with service on Snelling Ave., Ford Pkwy. and 46th St., and a connection to the METRO Green Line's Snelling Avenue Station.

Nearly 120,000 rides were taken on the A Line during its first 30 days of operation, including three free-ride days to introduce customers to the new service. Another 23,000 rides were taken on Route 84, which continues to provide less frequent local bus service on Snelling Ave.

Combined, average weekday ridership is 5,100 on the A Line and Route 84, up from around 3,800 average weekday rides on Route 84 during the same time period in 2015.

Wilder Block Party scheduled Sept. 17

The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation will hold their 2016 Block Party on Sat., Sept. 17, 11am-4pm at their campus at 451 Lexington Pkwy. N. Join in the outdoor fun and celebrate community. Everyone is invited and welcome to this family-friendly celebration featuring music, a community mural, kid-friendly activities and more.

HME plans upcoming monthly events

Hamline Midway Elders (HME) invites you to their upcoming events. *(Unless otherwise noted, all HME events take place at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave.)*

Life Reimagined Workshop—HME is excited to be partnering with AARP and Hamline University to host an interactive, intergenerational workshop on Tues., Sept. 6, 9-11am. Life Reimagined offers attendees a fresh, personalized approach to help navigate the next phase of their lives. Hamline University will be sending 15-20 freshmen to the workshop (as part of their LEAP Into Saint Paul project), and HME is looking for 15-20 elders to join them. They would like the older adults to sit with the Hamline University freshmen and be willing to share their experiences along with their interests in the years ahead. Jay Haapala from AARP will facilitate the workshop.

Exercise Class—This popu-

lar class led by Joni O'Connell begins a new eight-week series on Tues., Sept. 6. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2-3pm. New attendees are always welcome for these free classes. Joni utilizes her unique Irish sense of humor to create a welcoming and motivating atmosphere. So if you've never tried a group exercise class before, please consider attending.

Monthly Luncheon: "Taking Care of Your Mental Health"—Natalie McNall, Psychotherapist Supervisor of the 55+ Outpatient Program at the U of M Medical Center, will present about preventing depression/anxiety, plus how to get help if you need it. The meal begins at 11:30am, followed by the presentation at 12:15am on Tues., Sept. 13. New attendees are always welcome at these second Tuesday monthly luncheons.

Annual Lasagna Dinner and Silent Auction—Mark your calendars now! The entire community is invited to this annual event on Fri., Sept. 30, 5-7:30pm in the Fireside Room. Feast on meat and vegetarian lasagna (along with dairy free and gluten free pasta options) prepared by Chef Erik Hendrickson, bid and purchase a variety of donated silent auction items, with all proceeds benefiting HME. Tickets are \$5 for seniors and children under 10, \$10 for all others in advance, and \$12 at the door.

Volunteers Wanted—Hamline Midway Elders operates with only two part-time staff. The majority of our services to neighborhood elders is provided by wonderful volunteers, and they could use more. They have a variety of volunteer needs, ranging from driving folks to/from medical appointments to spring raking, to friendly visiting, to helping out at program events. Please consider volunteering.

Annual Fall Festival scheduled Oct. 1

Please save the date for the third annual Hamline Elementary Fall Festival on Sat., Oct. 1, noon-4:30pm. A partnership between Hamline Elementary, Hamline Midway Coalition, and Hancock Recreation Center, this free, family-friendly event is an opportunity to build community and goodwill in and around the Hamline Midway neighborhood and also raise funds to support arts education at Hamline Elementary School. Funds will be raised through sponsorship, a silent auction, vendor table fees, and individual donations.

So put it on your calendar and be sure to join the fun on the field next to Hamline Elementary (1599 Englewood Ave.) for live entertainment, games and family activities, bouncy houses, a silent auction, food for purchase, and more.

Merriam Park Library hosts Aug. events

The Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., welcomes everyone to their August events.

Storytime meets every Friday, 10:30-11am. Spend time sharing stories, songs, and rhymes with your child while building a foundation for reading success.

Open Lab for Writers meets on Thursdays, 10:30am-noon. There is no instructor, just an opportunity to meet, discuss, or work on whatever you're writing. All styles are welcome!

The Merriam Park Book Club will meet Aug. 29, 6:30-7:30pm to discuss "Weird Sisters" by Eleanor Brown.

Learn about cattails at nature center

Did you know that Native Americans in Minnesota historically used cattails to make their houses, mattresses, and toys? You can even eat parts of them! Cattails are useful for many things because they are flexible and sturdy.

Maplewood Nature Center, 2659 E. 7th St., Maplewood, is sponsoring a day of hands-on activities making Ojibwe-style cattail mats and learning about the many ways people in the past used these plants in their everyday lives. These mats will be used for the nature center cultural programs.

The program is free, and you can drop in to participate anytime on Sat., Sept. 10, 10:30am-3pm.

Cookie 5K run planned Aug. 13

Fun Run 5K, the "Cookie 5K," is scheduled at Como Lake on Sat., Aug. 13, 9-10:30am. This event is a fundraiser for Herosearch.org, a nonprofit that connects people with items to donate and local charities that need them. Cookie Cart, a nonprofit youth organization, will supply cookies for all participants. Children will also receive hero capes with registration.

In addition to the race, there will be a collection of donation items for area homeless youth from 8-11am that day. Anyone can donate items whether registered or not.

Find the list of needed donations @ www.herosearch.org or <https://runsignup.com/Race/MN/SaintPaul/CookieFun5>.

Grounds & Sounds returns Aug. 20

Grounds & Sounds is a neighborhood art and music festival presented by Groundswell, a cafe located on the corner of Thomas and Hamline avenues. The fes-

tival started in 2010 as an annual music and art festival for the community surrounding the cafe. It's become a neighborhood event that has grown each year. The festival returns on Aug. 20 for its sixth year bringing local music, art, and handcrafted food together in a celebration for all, ages and tastes.

Metro community solar garden opens

On Aug. 3 Novel Energy Solutions and Xcel Energy celebrated the first urban S*RC Community Solar Gardens (CSG) becoming operational and delivering clean, renewable energy to Minnesota customers. The Faircon Service Company CSG is a 123 KW array located on the roof of the St. Paul company headquarters at 764 Vandalia St. The array is the first of its kind in the metro area and the third S*RC CSG to go online in Minnesota. Owned by Guy Gelakoski and Paul Schoenecker, this CSG is home to subscribers consisting of local businesses, family and employees of Faircon Service Company and Commercial Kitchen Services.

Chorus group meets at Lyngblomsten

Giving Voice Initiative is expanding to St. Paul and seeks participants for their newly funded Twin Cities eastern metro dementia-friendly chorus. The new 60-person Giving Voice Chorus, for people with Alzheimer's and their care partners, will meet Mondays starting on Sept. 12, from 10am to noon, at Lyngblomsten Chapel, 1415 Almond Ave.

The Giving Voice choral experience is directed by MacPhail Center for Music teaching artist Jeanie Brindley-Barnett. Members of the chorus sing old and new songs while learning vocal techniques and ensemble skills. No vocal experience is required, just a love of singing. Each registration requires a partner.

Registration is required to participate, and the cost is \$50 per person. Registration for new members is open and is available by calling MacPhail Student Services at 612-321-0100 or online at www.macphail.org.

La Leche Group scheduled Sept. 13

The next meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tues., Sept. 13. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers to discuss breastfeeding and mothering issues. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Co-ed Drum Circle planned Aug. 26

The Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., will present a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., Aug. 26, 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm, and freedom of expression will be explored. The cost is \$10 at the door and all experience levels are welcome. Drums are provided. Info and registration can be found at www.womensdrum-center.org.

Join the walkers every week

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

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

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

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

Programs planned at Merriam Park Center

The Keystone Senior Center, located at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave., offers a variety of programs for seniors in the community. Here are a few ongoing events along with others scheduled for the coming weeks. *(Unless noted otherwise, these programs meet at the Merriam Park Community Center. Call 651-645-7424 for more information or appointments.)*

Foot care is available the first Monday of the month, scheduled in ½ hour appointments for \$20. Call for an appointment.

Arthritis exercise classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to noon. Instructors licensed by the Arthritis Foundation provide low-impact, joint-safe exercise classes focused on reducing pain, relieving stiffness, and increasing flexibility. Call for specific dates and other details.

Poetry and Writing: Finding Home. This fall there will be four-session poetry and writing class offered that focuses on the theme of home. Each session will feature ways to jumpstart creativity and learn about the building blocks of poetry. Beginners are cordially invited to participate in this class on Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 21, 12:30-2:15pm. Call 651-645-7424 to register.

• Como Academy of Finance (AOF) students John Barton and Greg Murphy were selected to attend the Youth Career Connect (YCC) National Conference in Washington D.C. from July 20-22. The two students, who will both be seniors this fall, produced a video last semester in their AOF coursework that was selected as a top three finalist in the national YCC Video Contest. Their video highlighted the important and influential work that YCC grantees and partners are doing to provide students with successful paths to employment.

While in Washington D.C., Barton and Murphy were led on a White House tour, met with staff members from Senator Amy Klobuchar's office, and visited Smithsonian museums, memorials and monuments. At the U.S. Department of Labor, they presented their video and spoke on a panel at the YCC National Conference. The students shared stories about their Academy of Finance experiences including job shadows, internships, and opportunity to earn college credits.

• In other AOF news, eight students were thriving this summer in BrandLab marketing internships at local companies and agencies. Three juniors attended Gopher Business at the U of M's Carlson School of Management and three girls attended the Michigan Tech Summer Engineering Camp through 3M. Five students attended the Minnesota

News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Como students travel the country to enrich experiences

ta Business Venture Camp, and one student participated in the Minnesota Council of Economic Education Camp at the U of M.

• Como MCJROTC sophomore cadets Joseph Newman, Philip Chervenak, and William Farley traveled to Front Royal, Virginia to attend a cyber security and STEM course hosted by the eastern region of the Marine Corps JROTC. The cadets stayed at the Randolph-Macon Academy and took intensive courses in Cisco Tracer-Router Configurations, Linux, and Microsoft security applications. The cadets hope to build upon the experience and use their specialized knowledge to be successful in the national Cyber-Patriot competition hosted by the Air Force Association during the upcoming school year. The cadets also had the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. while out on the east coast.

• Upward Bound is a college prep program at Como administered by Century College. Thriving Como Upward Bound students including LayLay Zan, Sarem Ayalewe, Tu Lor Eh Paw,

Kao Moua, GaoNou Lee, Aye Win, Shukri Abdullahi, and Peh Mue earned the opportunity to experience New York City from July 17-23. The program's theme was "Immigration, Arts and Culture" with study visits throughout the city to connect the history of immigration with cultural influences today. Destinations included Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, El Barrio in East Harlem, the Tenement Museum, Chinatown, Koreatown and seeing "Aladdin" on Broadway. Students gained an appreciation for their own experiences, comparing and contrasting immigration patterns and assimilation over time in America.

• Como Park seniors Tyler Johnson and Aklilu (Archie) Gjerdrum traveled to Lyon, France from June 30-July 7 to participate in the "streetfootballworld" Festival. Minnesota's delegation of four players also included Central junior Sunniva Dunagan. The purpose of "streetfootballworld" is to bring people together with a united spirit to drive social change through the beautiful game of soccer.

tiful game of soccer.

Approximately 500 players from around the world, ages 14-18, used the "football3" model to play in mixed gender, multicultural teams. The football3 program is inspired by the values of inclusion, teamwork and fair play. Players meet and communicate with their opponents before a match to establish the rules for their specific game. Once there is consensus, play begins. The third component is discussing the effectiveness of the rules and how they impacted the game and the shared values.

Johnson, who has played in three state tournaments for Como Park, appreciated how barriers with new players from around the world were broken down through the experience. "You get to meet people and talk to people to understand where they are coming from instead of assuming based on their race, culture, country and sexuality," said Johnson.

• Senior Marie Wulff traveled to Ghana from June 27-July 11 as a participant in Global Leadership Adventures "Building Healthy

Villages." Wulff was one of 15 high school students from North America that served in the African village of Dzita, Ghana. Wulff worked on a public health project building an eco-compost toilet for the village. In addition to the labor and service, Wulff was able to learn about the native culture with the village Chief, take language lessons in Ewe, and visit local hospitals, schools and produce clothing in a textile trade school.

The cross-cultural exchange and incorporation of a needed service was attractive to Wulff as she searched for a meaningful way to see another part of the world. To help raise funds, she hosted an authentic Ghanaian dinner at her church, St. Timothy's Lutheran, in February. Wulff was grateful for the opportunity and the community's support, both in Como Park and in Ghana. "The experience opened my eyes to a less materialistic way of life," said Wulff.

• Como Robotics "BeastBot" team will be at the State Fair competing with other robots on Sun., Sept. 4. Como's BeastBot will be on display throughout the Fair in the Education Building, which is also where the competition will take place.

• Freshmen Orientation for Como's incoming 9th graders is scheduled for Thur., Sept. 1 at Como Park High School beginning at 6pm.

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by Aug. 29 for the Sept. 8 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor by Aug. 29 for the Sept. 8 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com.

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Smaller than expected crowd turns out for public hearing on stadium

City Council poised to vote on stadium site plan Aug. 17; everyone still waiting for state legislature/governor to act

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council is poised to vote Aug. 17 on the Major League Soccer stadium site plan, Midway Center redevelopment master plan, a technical zoning amendment allowing the stadium to move ahead, and plat changes tied to redevelopment.

A smaller-than-anticipated crowd turned out for the Aug. 3 public hearing.

Familiar objections centered on spillover parking, traffic, noise and lighting. But most attention focused on Midway Center owner Rick Birdoff, who addressed earlier reservations he'd raised about the ambitious master plan. Birdoff assured the council that center redevelopment will go ahead in conjunction with the stadium, but that it could take different forms than the master plan indicates—and will take time.

The council held three public hearings, one on each plan and a third hearing on a technical zoning amendment that will allow a sports stadium of 20,000 or more seats to be built in a traditional neighborhoods zoning district.

The Planning Commission recommended City Council approval of the stadium site plan and shopping center master plan July 10, following the June 8 public hearing.

The stadium plans are moving ahead without a needed property tax exemption from the Minnesota Legislature. As of July, Gov. Mark Dayton and House and Senate leaders were still discussing a special session, which would include action on the requested tax break. But as of *Monitor* deadline no session date had been set.

The St. Paul Planning Commission voted Aug. 5 for two technical variances to the property's traditional neighborhoods zoning. The commission's Zoning Committee had recommended on July 28 that they be approved.

A Planning Commission decision on the variances is final unless it is appealed to the City Council. City officials want the variances adopted before the stadium site plan and shopping center master plan get voted on by the City Council Aug. 17.

Planning Commissioners said



A public hearing on the proposed stadium drew a smaller-than-anticipated crowd. The City Council is scheduled to vote Aug. 17 on a site plan, a zoning amendment and plat changes connected to the redevelopment. (Graphic provided)

they understand the need for variances, but they are frustrated with the rushed process and piecemeal approach to stadium and Midway Center reviews. "These are very complex plans, and we haven't had a lot of time to go through them," said Commissioner Gaius Nelson.

The need for variances came up during the review of the stadium site plan and Midway Center master plan, said St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) Planning Director Donna Drummond. The variances were then laid over for separate action, rather than postpone the stadium site plan and center master plan process.

The fast pace of the variances' review and approval process frustrated some members of the Union Park District Council (UPDC). On July 18, the district council's Economic Development and Land Use Committee discussed the variances. But with no city staff report to review, committee members said they didn't have anything to act on.

"We really can't do anything

without a staff report," said UPDC Executive Director Julie Reiter.

City planning staff had recommended approval of both variances, which are technical in nature. Both variances are for the 17-acre site eyed for the soccer stadium and adjacent amenities, on the southern part of the property. About 9.8 acres are the former Snelling bus garage property, owned by Metropolitan Council. The remainder of the area is owned by Midway Center owner RK Midway. The soccer stadium site plan is considered to be the first phase of overall Midway Center redevelopment.

One variance is a floor area ratio (FAR) variance for the soccer stadium itself. FAR is the ratio of a building's total or gross floor area to the size of the piece of land upon which it is built. St. Paul's traditional neighborhoods zoning classifications have FAR requirements to encourage density. The ratio required for the stadium's TN4 zoning and in an area near a light rail station is a minimum 1.0.

The stadium is proposed to have a .19 FAR.

The second variance is for a parking lot at Pascal and St. Anthony avenues. The 164-space lot is to be used by the stadium and by retail space associated with team merchandising. One intent of TN zoning is to discourage the creation of stand-alone surface parking lots. A parking lot isn't allowed as the primary use on a property unless the parking spaces shared amount multiple businesses or uses.

Tegra Group of Minneapolis, a real estate broker and advisory firm, filed the variance requests on behalf of Minneapolis United FC. Nate Pearson of Tegra Group said the FAR requirement isn't a useful measurement for the 20,000-seat stadium. When calculated FAR for the stadium, only the enclosed part is used. Pearson also said that shared use of the parking lot is logical and that sharing of the spaces could be discussed as shopping center redevelopment continues.



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AA/EOE

\$33,000 awarded for historic survey of Hamline Midway

By JANE MCCLURE

A long-awaited historic survey of the Hamline Midway neighborhood has obtained needed funding from the Minnesota Historical Society. The St. Paul City Council in July accepted the funding of \$33,000 through two grants. The money will be used to complete a cultural resources study.

The study was sought for many months by neighborhood residents, preservation advocates, and members of the group Historic Hamline Village. Advocates in recent years have butted heads with Hamline University over the demolition of university-owned houses, off and on-campus, including the White House.

The White House, which was located on the Hamline campus, was the longtime home of the university president.

Neighbors have also criticized the university for tearing down other homes, including older homes that have long ties to the community and university's growth and development. One sticking point has been the lack of a current master plan for Hamline University redevelopment and growth. The fight over the demolitions led to the formation of a joint university-community group.

Council President Russ Stark, whose Fourth Ward includes the area to be studied, said he is pleased that the study dollars are available. "This should give us current information on the historic resources in the neighborhood and help us discuss next steps," he said.

A timeline for the study isn't known. One wrinkle is that the



The house at 1549 Minnehaha Ave. dates from 1888 and was home to Prof. W.D. Walcott. He chaired the Hamline University philosophy and psychology department. Demolition was halted in 2014 after the neighborhood raised red flags about its possible destruction. (File photo)

neighborhood district council, Hamline Midway Coalition, is operating at limited capacity this summer due to a lack of staff. Stark said he expects that the district council will have involvement in the study.

The funding for the study is tied to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which established a strong federal policy favoring the preservation of properties and sites which have been significant in American history for the public's benefit. The state and its historical society have long taken the position of helping local units

of government to engage in a comprehensive program of historic preservation.

A state goal is to promote the use and conservation of historical, architectural, archaeological, engineering, and cultural heritage sites in the state for the education, inspiration, pleasure, and enrichment of the citizens of the state through the creation of local heritage preservation commissions.

The city also has policies which promote heritage preservation, including a chapter in its comprehensive plan.



1538 Englewood Ave. was built in 1887. This property has been identified as eligible for historic designation. It is a brick Queen Anne style, which is considered unusual. In the past, Hamline University officials have considered moving the house. (File photo)

Both the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission and Department of Planning and Economic Development will be involved in this study.

Stark noted that the last study of the Hamline-Midway neighborhood dates to 1983, as part of a larger Ramsey County historic sites survey. That information needs to

be updated, to determine which buildings have historic significance and are eligible for designation.

The last property in the neighborhood to obtain National Register of Historic Places status is Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave., which received designation in 2011.

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