



Midway Chamber celebrates 100 years of service to community

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Midway Como

Monitor



Your community newspaper since 1975

April 2019 • Vol. 44 No. 9

www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

21,000 Circulation

Midway Como Monitor, Messenger transition to new ownership May 1

After 44 years, current owners Calvin deRuyter and Tim Nelson sell newspapers to writer Tesha M. Christensen

The Midway Como Monitor and its sister publication, the Long-fellow Nokomis Messenger, will be under new ownership beginning May 1, 2019.

Calvin deRuyter and Tim Nelson of deRuyter-Nelson Publications have sold their two well-established neighborhood newspapers to south Minneapolis resident Tesha M. Christensen, who has written for the two newspapers for almost eight years.

Christensen always knew she wanted to be a writer and was drawn to journalism at a young age when she wrote a letter to the editor that was published in the Cambridge Star newspaper.

"From that point on I was hooked. I had gotten my first glimpse into the power of the printed word," recalled Christensen. "I wanted more. I saw how newspapers could be used to generate change in their communities, and how they could inform and engage people."

Lifelong learner

She earned a degree in English and writing in 1998 from Bethel College, where she wrote for



the Clarion, and then entered the community newspaper industry.

Her first job was with the same newspaper that printed her letter to the editor, then renamed

The Star newspaper. Christensen worked as the assistant editor and special sections editor of her hometown newspaper for ten years, serving two counties and

new owner Tesha M. Christensen of TMC Publications CO and her two children, Axel (age 6) and Joselyn (age 10) are excited to become more involved in these two neighborhood newspapers. The kids, of course, are pushing for a new section for kids. Got ideas on what that should include? Email Tesha.christensen@gmail.com. (Photo courtesy of Tesha M. Christensen)

a circulation of 21,000 with a twice-weekly newspaper.

Over the years, Christensen covered a range of topics in Isanti and Chisago counties, from school board levies to new county parks to crime news. "I wrote about what new businesses were coming to town, local musicians, and rodeo shows, and a story about one resident who saved the life of another," Christensen recalled.

"I love the ever-changing nature of this business, and how I learn something new with each story I write."

She left the full-time workforce in March 2009 when her first baby was born, but con-

tinued writing on a part-time basis for Northstar Media, the Isanti County News, ECM Publishers/Adams Publishing Group, Twin Cities Daily Planet, RedCurrent, and The Alley newspaper in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis.

From 2006 to 2012, she worked as an adjunct journalism instructor at Anoka-Ramsey Community College where she taught a variety of journalism classes and was an adviser for the Cambridge Campus newspaper, the Ink Spot. She also taught for one year at Planet Homeschool, a homeschool co-op in St. Anthony, and helped launch a school newspaper written by the middle and high school students.

"I love journalism, and I am passionate about sharing journalism with kids and young adults," stated Christensen. "They are the future, and it's so exciting to hear their ideas."

Christensen has served on a variety of committees and boards over the years and is a co-founder of Team Yarn - Head Huggers

Continued on page 16

Hamline University decides it will tear down 1549 Minnehaha

By JANE MCCLURE

A Hamline University plan to demolish 1549 Minnehaha Ave. after five years' discussions, and a proposal to make changes to the Hamline University Neighborhood Advisory Committee (HUNAC) are prompting objections and questions in the Hamline Midway neighborhood.

Some neighbors are asking if the demolition, approved by the HU Trustees and revealed at the March HUNAC meeting, signals a move toward the more aggressive university teardown policies that roiled Hamline-Midway neighborhood several years ago. Other questions raised are if the university is walking away from its role with HUNAC.

The next HUNAC meeting at 6pm, Mon., Apr. 15, is to be a working meeting of representatives from stakeholder groups to discuss the future of HUNAC and whether the group becomes part of Hamline Midway Coalition.

HU spokesperson Christine Weeks said outstanding questions would also be addressed at that meeting.

Weeks said a possible change



The house at 1549 Minnehaha Ave. has been approved for demolition by the Hamline University Board of Trustees. The University said that they do not believe that the house is of significant historic value, and that it is in a state of disrepair that leaves no option but to be torn down. (Photo from the Monitor's 2015 archives)

in HUNAC structure is eyed because from the university's perspective the district council is seen as having more direct access to neighborhood residents. She described a potential role for HMC as a "conduit."

HUNAC was launched by the University, neighborhood and city leaders in response to the university's teardown of houses it owns outside of its campus boundaries and the demolition of the White

House on-campus (2014). It was modeled after the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC), which was set up more than a decade ago as a response to longtime tensions between the University of St. Thomas and its neighbors. WSNAC is funded by St. Thomas, which also provides web hosting and staffing.

Some neighbors want to see if there is still a chance to save the house. But university officials' minds are made up. A press release sent out by the university stated that the school's board of trustees approved an administration recommendation that the house be demolished. "The Hamline University Board of Trustees approved a recommendation to demolish a university-owned property at 1549 Minnehaha Ave. in St. Paul," the press release stated. "The property was purchased by the school in 2014. The structure is in significant disrepair and not of a historic nature."

"It's common for universities to seek to own properties next to campus to allow for evolution and change," said Jeff Papas, Hamline director of com-

munications, in the press release. "Hamline hosted and participated in community discussions on the property for a number of years and helped to facilitate a historic survey of the neighborhood."

The press release went on to state "Since 2015, Hamline has invited and received suggestions for use of the property, but no proposal included a viable and sustainable source of funding." It also went on to state that the university is in a strategic planning process and that potential uses for the site are being explored.

"Hamline is a vibrant campus that's been part of the wonderful Hamline Midway community for well over 150 years," said Papas. "We look forward to continuing our dialogue with our neighbors."

Leaders from the group Historic Hamline Village (HHV) couldn't attend the March meeting, so members of that group felt blindsided by the demolition decision. Some question whether HU's actions are a "demolition by neglect" by letting the house sit for so long without attention.

The dispute over the house is likely to draw in other groups, in-

cluding Save Our St. Paul Neighborhoods and the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission. The HPC staff is already looking into the matter. Recently a study was done to take first steps toward a potential historic district in the neighborhood.

HHV leader Roy Neal said the decision to demolish feels sudden in light of more than five years' work. One option that had previously won HU support was that of a "rehab lab" where classes on home improvements could be offered. The rehabilitation lab option was approved by HU in fall 2018. It was designed in partnership with the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. Neal said the lab was purposely created to address university concerns and is still on the table pending further discussions with the city's Department of Safety and Inspections. The lab idea also had support from former Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark.

But Weeks said the university has been transparent during its years of discussions about the house. Ideas were solicited, but none came to fruition.

Front Avenue Pottery fires it up during St. Paul Art Crawl

Front Avenue Pottery, 895 Front Ave., is Firing It Up once again during the St. Paul Art Crawl, Apr. 26-28. The Como clay studio and its artist neighbors invite you to this exhibit, sale, and community art event.

Hours of the sale are Fri., Apr. 26, 5-10pm; Sat., Apr. 27, 10am-8pm; and Sun., Apr. 28, 11am-5pm.

Once again this year there are lots of times to try your hands at the potter's wheel, Fri. from 6-9pm, Sun. from 12-5pm, and Sun. from 12-4pm. There will be a clay hand building workshop between 12-5pm on Sat., and 12-4pm on Sun. Aprons provided! All events are free, and donations accepted to cover material and firing cost.

The studio will also display the works of multiple area artists:

- **Mary Jo Schmith** of Front Avenue Pottery, hosting. Schmith has been creating dinner and serving ware and clay tile commissions in her South Como Studio for 25 years. Her playfully decorative pots are functional, with drawings celebrating the cycles of nature that surround us in our daily lives.

- **Brett Monahan** of Brett Monahan Pottery is a functional potter working in NE Minneapolis making lively porcelain and stoneware pottery with luscious, smooth buttery glaze surfaces. His coffee pour over cones is amazing. It's rumored he may make some planters for this spring show!

- **Jenny Levernier** of JMML Designs creates sterling silver and stone jewelry. Levernier loves the history found in the pattern of every stone and the story it tells. Her work focuses on color and pattern, with the quality of workmanship as the real star. She is a highly skilled metalsmith.

- **Marit Lee Kucera** for M'Art Designs is a fiber artist not only creating wearable art but also designing and dyeing her own yardage for herself and other fiber artists. Her garments and fabrics are found on six continents! What fabric creations will she bring to this year's art crawl? Her screen-printed designs, totes or her beautiful scarves?

- **Ryan Ball** of Ryan Ball Pot-



Photo left: Art crawl patrons receive clay hand building tips from Laura Thyne (center), Front Avenue Pottery's studio assistant. Hands-on activities have always been a part of Front Avenue Pottery's tour activity. (Photo provided)

tery is a functional potter living and working in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood. You may remember Ball's work for its beautiful, vibrant, shiny, fluid glazes adorning his functional cups, bowls, vases. Anyone would love one of his Olive Oil Jars or stunning cups.

- **Steve and Linden Wicklund** of Wicklund Ceramics are two successful and skilled clay artists now working as a team. Both typically functional potter's, they excel in their skill with porcelain, altered functional serving ware, fluid slip or fun and funky glaze decoration.
- **Marc Johnson-Pencook** of Illustrator Marc is a pen and ink illustration artist. Marc's intricate drawings will keep you occupied for hours, each inch of the drawing full of information. He shares his drawings in limited edition prints, originals, and as wearable t-shirt art.
- **Kristi Casey** of Kristi Casey Design creates small architectural home vignettes, bursting out with history, age, and wisdom. Using your images and found objects, she creates for you a downsized architectural version of your home and memories.
- **Anna Clare Tiller** of Anna Clare Pottery is a clay artist. Her functional soda-fired stoneware pottery is alive with surface decorations and altered shapes and rims. She specializes in mugs, bowls, and serving ware.
- **Alana Hawley** of Alana Hawley Art is an amazing portrait artist who will draw your portrait on



Ian and his daughter complete the finishing touches on their garden lantern at last year's hand building workshop. Front Avenue Pottery owner Mary Jo Schmith details another patrons lantern! (Photo provided)

Regular checkups help keep your baby healthy

Having a new baby is an exciting time with lots of changes. Every day brings something new for you and your baby. It can also be a time of many questions, like: Is my baby growing as they should? Are they getting enough food? When should they be sleeping through the night?

It is normal to have questions and concerns about your baby's health and well-being. You want what is best for your baby. Your baby's health care provider will also want to check in with you about how you are doing and feeling. That is why scheduling regular checkups with your baby's medical provider is so important.

These well-child checks are recommended every 2-3 months from birth through about 2 1/2 years old. After that, your child should get a checkup once a year. At these appointments, the medical provider will make sure your baby is growing, learning, and developing. They do this by checking for developmental milestones. Developmental milestones are skills your child learns such as taking their first step, smiling, waving, and pointing. At

the checkup, the medical provider will learn more from you about what your baby is already doing, and they look at things like how your baby moves their body, interacts with others, explores and solves problems, and communicates.

Checking for developmental milestones early in a child's life is important because it can help you and the medical provider identify any concerns early. If your child is not meeting certain milestones when they should, there are often things you can do to help get them back on track. Your child's medical provider will either work with you or help you find the right resources for your child.

You can learn more about developmental milestones at www.HelpMeGrowMN.org. This website will give you information on what you can look for and help you prepare for your baby's next checkup.

At checkups, your baby's medical provider will also do a physical exam to make sure your baby is healthy from their head to their toes. They will do things like listen to your baby's heart and check their

hearing. They will also give recommended immunizations to protect your baby from diseases that could make them very sick.

During the appointment, the doctor or nurse will give you information about healthy food, sleep, behavior, and safety. This is also a great time to ask questions! You can ask questions about things like how to calm your baby when they are crying, what to do if they have a fever, and how to help your baby learn new things. Write down a list of questions to bring to the appointment so you do not forget them.

Regular checkups are important for keeping your baby healthy. Make sure you go to all of the recommended checkups. Your clinic can tell you when your baby needs to come in for their next appointment.

Recommended checkups are covered by insurance. If you do not have insurance, there are resources to help make sure your baby does not miss an important checkup. Your county or tribe's health or human services department can help you apply for insurance or find a clinic.



GENERATIONAL CHANGES IN HOME OWNERSHIP WORKSHOPS

When you're looking at probably the biggest asset in your life (a home), how do you get your financial "house" in order to purchase, maintain or prepare to sell? In this workshop series we'll tackle key questions at common stages of the process: first time buying, buying and selling, and downsizing + aging in place.

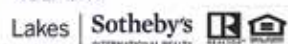
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• Twenty-two seniors currently studying AP Government and AP Macroeconomics spent a week of March in Washington D.C. The participating students were part of the national Close Up program, which promotes civics education and participation in our democracy with the capital city as a living classroom. Como student highlights included visiting the national monuments, memorials, museums of the Smithsonian, the Supreme Court, Library of Congress, U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial, and unique Washington neighborhoods.

Students met with Senator Tina Smith in her office and met Senator Amy Klobuchar in the capitol outside the Democratic Leadership Office near the Senate Chamber. Senator Klobuchar also took the time to show the students the ornately decorated President's Room in the capitol.

While observing the House of Representatives in session from the House Gallery, Como students witnessed discussion and debate of legislative bill H.R. 1, which supports strengthening voter access and reducing the influence of big money in politics. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi spoke for 15 minutes which was captivating for the students who have studied her role in government.

Throughout the week, Como students were engaged in policy discussions and simulations with peers from across the nation in workshop groups. The Close Up closing banquet of 160 students featured six student speakers. Como's Jamie Cohen was selected to

News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Washington D.C., competitions, music, and "Unusual Suspects"



Como students participating in the national Close Up Washington D.C. program met with their U.S. Senators during an intense week of study. The Como group is pictured here with Senator Tina Smith in the Hart Senate Office Building. (Photo provided)

represent her workshop group. She delivered an excellent, reflective and motivating speech received with much applause.

The annual adventure to Washington D.C. for Como AP Government students is made possible through student and school-sponsored fundraising activities, with generous scholarship support from a few individuals of the St. Anthony Park neighborhood and Como area booster organizations.

• Como seniors Theo Lucy, Lexie Harris, and Pa Nhia Vang were selected to receive fellowships from

the League of Women Voters. The students were chosen based on their competitive applications which exhibited a strong interest in promoting political participation, working to register voters, and issue advocacy.

The fellows are developing an advocacy project to be implemented this spring with the goal of bringing attention to an issue in their community and meeting with elected officials to address concerns and encourage action. The fellows will also coordinate this year's voter registration efforts at Como.

The League of Women Voters is non-partisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or parties, but always working on vital public issues.

• For eight 11th grade U.S. History students, their award-winning research projects from 1st semester will extend into the spring and the Minnesota State History Day Competition! The following students advanced from their respective categories at the St. Paul Regional History Day and will present their work at the University of Minnesota on May 4:

In the Group Website Category — Maisee Her, Rose Say, and Ly Xiong for the Immigration Act of 1924. Noelia Marin Leal and Mai-Chue Xiong for Women's Suffrage in New Zealand. Way Htoo and

Shar Too for WAVES (the women's branch of the U.S. Naval Reserve)

In the Individual Documentary Category, Lisa Saechao qualified for state with her short film on The Hmong Genocide.

Two other Como students earned honorable mention for their entries in the Individual Website category—Ethan Lee for the My Lai Massacre, and Jorge Pliego for Warren Robinett's "Easter Egg" video game insertion.

• Two teams of students from Como's AP Economics classes participated in the Urban Regional Econ Challenge at the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis on Mar. 13. The event is administered by the Minnesota Council of Economic Education (MCEE) and sponsored by "The Fed."

The Como team of Aiyana Aikens, Naddi Jillo, Khyri Lueben, and Antero Sivula took 2nd place in the overall competition, narrowly falling to Richfield in the Quiz Bowl Final. In addition to the competition, the students enjoyed breakfast and lunch at the Fed and toured the facility, including the cash vault, with Federal Reserve staff.

• Academy of Finance (AOF) sophomore Kalid Ali was selected to participate in the University of Wisconsin Business School's Business Emerging Leaders (BEL) Program. The summer program at the Madison campus is designed for promising students with strong academic credentials and demonstrated leadership skills.

BEL Program students who are admitted to UW-Madison

and complete a business major are granted a full-tuition four-year scholarship. Kalid is excited for his opportunity that will begin this July.

• Como's Apps Club has been meeting weekly after school to develop a digital application which will serve the deaf and hard of hearing. The goal of the app is to help deaf teenagers effectively communicate with their peers without feeling uncomfortable. The Apps Club will present its app, including business and marketing plans, at the Minneapolis Convention Center on May 11.

• Como Choir students participated in the Minnesota State High School League Vocal Solo and Ensemble Contest at North St. Paul High School last month. Soloists earning Excellent ratings included Maisee Her, Mai Lao Lee, and Michael Yang.

The Chamber Singers received a Superior rating. Several Como vocalists were also evaluated as Superior, including James Baker, Chloe Hollister-Lapointe, Willow Hollister-Lapointe, Areyia Khue, Koob Lee, Chandani Lor, Gemma Pham, Htakee Saw, Rose Say, Aspen Schucker, Lila Seeba, Lee Tuggle and Kevin Yang. The highest honor given at the contest is Best in Site, which was bestowed upon senior Marco Tabacman.

• A talented cast and crew performed "The Unusual Suspects" in the Como Auditorium in March. The play, written by Samara Siskind, is a comedy set in a high school revolving around a caper that unites some unlikely students. Como's adaptation was directed by English teacher Allison Hartzell.

The cast included Amira Boler, Lila Seeba, Lily Rogers, Toby Sax, Wyatt Hanson, Roan Buck, Ava Vitali, JoAnn Lane, Alicia Banks, Emilie Pagel, Cece Godfrey, and John Dugan.

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Ryan Ball
Jenny Levernier
Brett Monahan
Mary Jo Schmith
Marit Lee Kucera
Anna Clare Tiller
Kristi Casey
Clay Handbuilding Workshop: WALL SCENCE!
SAT. 12-5
SUN. 12-4

Letters to the Editor

Support for new gun measures

To the Editor:
I would like to thank Rep. Kaohly Her from Minnesota House district 64A for her support of HF 8 and HF 9.

These are life-saving bills that will help decrease gun violence by requiring background checks on all gun sales (HF 8) and establishing a Red Flag law whereby guns can be kept out of the hands of those who are deemed by a court to be at risk of harming themselves or others (HF 9).

These bills have broad public support, with 89% and 87% of Minnesotans in favor of them, respectively. Now that Sen. Paul Gazelka has agreed to hold a hearing in the Senate if the bills are passed in the House, I urge Rep. Her and her colleagues in the Minnesota House to pass these bills without delay so they can go on to be heard in the MN Senate.

Emily Benzie, MD

Monitor

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

Publishers:
Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

Managing Editor:
Calvin deRuyter, editorial@deruyternelson.com

Advertising:
Denis Wouffe (651-917-4183);
denis@deruyternelson.com

Production:
Tim Nelson

Contributing Writers:
Jane McClure, Jan Willms, Tessa M. Christensen, Jon Knox, Jill Boogren, Margie O'Loughlin, Matthew Davis

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Now it's easier than ever to keep in touch with the Monitor. Letters to the editor and news releases for publication can be sent via e-mail at editorial@deruyternelson.com. Be sure to send copy in the body of the e-mail, and please mark whether the copy is a letter, a news release for publication, or perhaps just your thoughts on the last issue. Don't forget to write!

And check us out on the web at: www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

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Soccer stadium needs...

To the Editor:
Why not use Herbergers to house out of town visitors to the new soccer stadium at University and Snelling avenues needing a place nearby to stay. Converting/remodeling it to a hotel would take advantage of a preexisting (vacant and massive) structure.

Elizabeth Ellis

Board elections

The annual meeting of the District 10 Como Community Council is Tues., Apr. 16. The meeting includes elections for two-year terms on the district council board. Under the by-laws, nine board positions are on the ballot:

- Chair
- Secretary
- One representative from each of the four geographic sub-districts
- Three at-large representatives

In addition, a special election will take place to fill the one year remaining in the vacant position of treasurer.

The deadline for candidates to get on the ballot was Apr. 9; however, additional candidates can nominate themselves or be nominated the night of Apr. 16.

Any renter, homeowner, or other resident of District 10 who is age 16 or older is eligible to vote. So are authorized representatives from a business or nonprofit organization located in District 10. Voting begins at 7pm at the Como Park Streetcar Station, which is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

Information about candidates (and any election updates) will be available on District 10's website at www.district10como-park.org.

Sunday Series

District 10's annual Sunday Series is in full swing. Here are the topics scheduled for the next month. All Sunday Series pre-

Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director

District 10 Board elections are April 16

sentations are free.

Watch Where You Live Sun., Apr. 14, 1-2:30pm Como Park Streetcar Station

Yes, we live in the city. But nature and wildlife happen all around us: weather, migrations, changes in seasonal patterns, deer, coyote, turkeys, foxes, owls, hawks, and more. We can observe—and document—all kinds of things in our yards or on our walks.

Experts from Saint Paul Parks and Recreation and the University of Minnesota guide us on how to be "citizen scientists": what to look for, how to use the iNaturalist app to track what we see, and how to tie into local projects and studies that use the power of ordinary people to do real science. Bring your smartphone or tablet!

Mosquitoes: The Showdown Sun., Apr. 28, 1-2:30pm Como Park Streetcar Station

One of our most invisible government agencies—the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District—explains how they control the blood-sucking and

disease-spreading pests, their middle-of-the-night maneuvers, what's in those fog machines, and even what those red triangles on storm grates mean. (This presentation was rescheduled.)

Recycling Ain't What It Used to Be Sun., May 5, 1-2:30pm The Good Acre, 1790 W. Larpenteur Ave.

Things are shifting rapidly in the world of "reduce, reuse, and recycle." Get up to speed on what it all means and what we can do about it.

- Saint Paul and Eureka Recycling share the latest on the city's Recycle Smart campaign and the upheaval in the world of recycling.
- Learn about household hazardous waste, Fix-It Clinics, unused medication, and how Ramsey County has us covered A-Z in waste reduction.
- Como is a leader in organics recycling. Get up-to-date advice on composting at home and through community sites. Plus, get a discount on a backyard composting barrel.

Renter Voice Summit is Apr. 18

Ward 4 Council Member Mitra Jalali Nelson, the District 10 Como Community Council, and District Councils 11, 12, 13 and 14 are teaming up to hold a free "renter voice summit" on Thur., Apr. 18, 6:30-8pm. The summit will help renters:

- Learn whom they should call for what, so renters can access public and private resources available to them.
- Understand rights and protections renters have under state and local law.
- Connect with the district council in their neighborhood, and find out how renters can make an impact on local issues where they live.
- Meet neighbors and plan new ways for renters to make their voice heard across Saint Paul.

The event will be held at Hamline University's Anderson Center, Room 111, 774 N. Snelling. *Note: You don't have to be a renter to attend. Pizza and child activities will be available. RSVP via Facebook at bit.ly/RenterVoice.*

Put It on Your Calendar

- Como Neighborhood Garage

Sale, weekend of May 17.

- Como Community Seed Library's "Seed Your Dream," Sat., May 18.
- District 10 Community Yoga, Sun., June 9.
- District 10 Ice Cream Social, Fri., July 12.
- Como Neighborhood Pollinator Garden Tour, Sat. July 13.

Upcoming District 10 Meetings

- Como Community Council Board: Tues., Apr. 16.
- Environment Committee: Wed., Apr. 24.
- Land Use Committee: Wed., May 1.
- Neighborhood Relations Committee: Tues., May 7.

All meetings typically begin at 7pm at the Como Park Streetcar Station, which is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton. Renters, homeowners, and other community members are always welcome to attend and participate. Whenever possible, agendas are posted in advance in the "Board News" section of District 10's website.

Summer hours

From May through September, the Como Park Streetcar Station is open every Sunday from noon-4pm. It is a great chance to pick up organics recycling bags or kitchen starter kits, or chat with a District 10 board member who is staffing the day. The Historic Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

Renters Voice Summit

Ward 4 Renters Voice Summit, Apr. 18, 6:30-8pm; Room 111 Anderson Center at Hamline University

Renters now make up over 50% of our city and deserve representation at every level of government and in our neighborhood processes.

Toward this end, we're partnering with our District Councils to help renters get engaged, learn more about our rights and make an impact in St. Paul. Learn about resources, meet Ward 4 and District Council staff, meet your neighbors and find new ways to make your voice heard. While this event has a focused topic, it's open to all and all are welcome! Please feel free to attend and share!

Hamline Midway Coalition

By MELISSA CORTES, Community Organizer

April showers bring.... City Wide Clean Up

On Apr. 27, Hamline Midway Coalition, in partnership with Friends of Hamline Park, will be hosting a City-Wide Neighborhood Clean-up 9-11:30am at Hamline Park located at 1564 Lafond Ave. This clean-up is part of the larger annual, City-wide cleanup initiative in the City. There will be a Storm Drain cleanup demonstration and cleanup in areas surrounding the park. All the supplies needed for clean-up will be provided on the day of—in-

cluding donuts and coffee to kick start the day. All ages and abilities are welcomed.

Garage Sale Weekend

Mark your calendars and start planning for the annual Hamline Midway Neighborhood Garage Sale on May 3-5. Garage sales are a great way to meet new neighbors, reduce waste, and support the community economy.

Since 2015 we've had over 80 participating sales across the neighborhood and hope to keep growing our participation

every year! 2018 was a success so we will continue with Garage Sale Weekend! This year's fee will increase to \$12 per address of sale. With enough participation, this fee pays for the advertisements, communications, and processing fees associated with this event.

Hours for the sale are Fri., May 3, 3-8pm; Sat., May 4, 8am-3pm, and Sun., May 5, 8am-3pm.

Making improvements

Hamline Midway Coalition has been working to improve its communications and website. On the website you can now find a volunteer form and a contact form that goes directly to the staff.

There are two staff in the office or in the community so please contact us:

- Executive Director Kate Mudge, kate@hamlinemidway.org, 651-494-7682
- Community Organizer Melissa Michener, melissa@hamlinemidway.org, 651-494-7683

Our office is located on the

ground level of the Hamline Midway Library (by the elevator), 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.

Thank you for being a part of the community!

Hamline Elementary School

By JESSICA KOPP

It's springtime in the Midway, and soon Hamline Elementary will be working with families, neighbors, and community partners to beautify our school gardens. We can always use extra sets of hands—experienced and budding gardeners welcome!

April is another active month at Hamline with our first-graders visiting the Children's Museum and our third-graders on their way to the Minnesota Zoo.

Fourth-graders will continue to explore the world with their on-going geography projects, and fifth-graders will prepare for their annual mock trial collaboration with Mitchell

Hamline School of Law.

And if you're still looking for a school to call home, Hamline Elementary has a place for you. Call the school at 651-293-8715 to schedule a

tour and learn more about our wonder-filled, inquiry-based program model and the community partnerships that make us one-of-a-kind in St. Paul.

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Monitor In A Minute

By JANE MCCLURE

Vendor dispute sent to hearing

A dispute between city officials and a 2018 Minnesota State Fair vendor was sent to an administrative law judge Mar. 20, after the vendor disputed facts in the case. Fridley resident Todd L. Grosklags was set to pay a \$500 fine for selling state fair tickets in the street median at Snelling Ave. and Midway Pkwy., in violation of city regulations. He was seen selling the tickets in the prohibited area between Aug. 24-28, 2018. Grosklags was warned in writing once and then seen committing the same violation.

Grosklags asked to address the City Council, which is allowed in license violation cases. Typically, people who ask for that opportunity ask for leniency. But because he disputed the facts in the record of violation, the City Attorney's Office recommended that the council not vote and instead send the matter off for a hearing.

The hearing will produce a recommendation, and the issue of a fine or penalty will be returned to the City Council in the future. If a fine is recommended again, failure to pay the fine within 30 days can result in a license suspension.

It was the second 2018 fair vendor violation case the council has heard this year, reflecting a crackdown during the 2018 fair. Another vendor didn't show up for his hearing earlier this year and was fined.

The Department of Safety and Inspections conducted numerous license compliance

checks for peddlers operating during the 2018 Minnesota State Fair.

Facilities receive funding

Area parks and facilities are slated for improvements this year as part of the city's capital maintenance program. On Mar. 20 the St. Paul City Council approved more than \$1.425 million in work on city parks, public works, fire, police, and libraries facilities.

The projects were recently reviewed and recommended for funding by the city's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee. The city budgeted about \$2.8 million in 2018-2019 for capital maintenance needs. Demand for money always exceeds the amount available. About three dozen projects receive funding each year.

The largest area project is at Como Lakeside Pavilion, where a \$175,000 rooftop condenser and air handler project are

planned. The nearby Como Golf Course building is slated for \$150,000 in HVAC work.

Trash collection hearings set

St. Paul residents and owners of small multi-family properties who have not paid, or refuse to pay, their city trash bills will be going to legislative hearings. On Mar. 20, the St. Paul City Council authorized a legislative hearing process in an attempt to collect the roughly \$120,000 that is owed the city for 2018 bills.

The council action launches legislative hearings starting at 9am., Thur., Apr. 11. Council members weren't told exactly how many individual bills are outstanding, but it's likely that hearings will continue into May.

The first garbage bill hearings before the City Council are planned for 3:30pm on Wed., May 22. As hearings continue, the City Council is likely to have to act again in June.

The hearing process will be similar to that used for property

code enforcement, in which there is a hearing before a legislative hearing officer. In those cases, final decisions are also in the hands of the City Council.

Most of the \$120,000 in unpaid bills range from \$55 to \$200, with much smaller late fees pending. Single-family home and rental property owners of up to four units can go through the hearing process, pay their bills if directed to so, or having the late amounts placed on their property taxes.

Organized residential collected began Oct. 1, 2018. The program has drawn a slew of complaints, as well as a lawsuit.

Police horses trot away

It's official: the St. Paul Police Department Mounted Patrol is riding off into the sunset. On Mar. 20 the St. Paul City Council, approved the retirement of the police horses to This Old Horse, a charitable equine sanctuary.

A resolution authorizing the donation stated that

the mounted patrol unit horses "have served the department with honor." The horses were the focus of an independent equine expert recently and were retired based on their age and condition. The city's administrative code authorizes them to be donated to a nonprofit, with City Council approval.

This Old Horse is a volunteer-based charitable organization and certified animal sanctuary whose mission is to provide shelter to retired, rescued, and recovering horses. The nonprofit is in the southeastern metro area. It provides opportunities for the public to see the horses and offers activities including youth horse camps.

When the St. Paul Police Department announced plans to disband the mounted patrol earlier this year, the intent was to return three of the six horses to their donors. The unit was disbanded so that police officers assigned to it could be reassigned to street patrol.

To go packaging ordinance passes; takes effect January 2021

By JANE MCCLURE

A debate that began in 1989 ended Mar. 6 when the St. Paul City Council approved a controversial sustainable carryout packaging ordinance. The measure, which takes effect in January 2021, requires restaurants, delis, and convenience stores to package carryout foods and beverages in recyclable or compostable containers. The delay is meant to allow businesses to use up existing inventory and

transition into new, environmentally-friendly packaging.

Hamline-Midway resident Erin Pryor Pavlica and Kristina Mattson, cofounders of Zero Waste St. Paul, urged the council to adopt the ordinance, pointing out that 12 out of 17 district councils have signed on in support of the ordinance. That includes Union Park District Council, Como Community Council, and Hamline Midway Coalition.

Pavlica said the Zero Waste group has pounded the pavement and worked tirelessly to get the measure passed. She cited the toxicity of materials such as black plastic and Styrofoam, and questioned why people would want to eat off of "trash." Such materials have been cited as leaching toxic chemicals into food.

But the 5-2 City Council vote isn't the end of the story. What is recyclable is tied to the city's contract with Eureka Recycling. It is possible to change that contract if markets for recyclable materials change. Black plastic and Styrofoam aren't collected in the current recycling program because there is no recycling market for those products. But those are also products favored by some restaurants.

The change won support from City Council members Amy Brendmoen, Mitra Jalali Nelson, Jane Prince, Dai Thao, and Chris Tolbert.

Members Rebecca Noecker and Kassim Busuri voted against.

Council supporters cited protection of the environment and the need to promote more recycling and composting. They noted Ramsey County programs that assist businesses with recycling and composting and urged opponents to get involved in those efforts. More than 100 St. Paul restaurants have already made the switch, many with the help of the county program.

Prince, who worked on the ordinance with Nelson, said the intent is to give businesses as much time as possible to make the change. Another goal is to have curbside residential organics collection by then.

Looming climate change was also cited.

Busuri raised the issue of equity and called the ordinance "simply unfair." He pushed for the additional hearing Mar. 6. While he supports environmental sustainability, Busuri said the ordinance unjustly targets small businesses, many of which are family and immigrant-owned, while hospitals, grocers and large corporations that manufacture prepackaged food get a pass. Noecker weighed in on the side of regulating companies that make and sell plastics, instead of asking small businesses to take on the environmental issues.

Environmental and community groups, the faith-based group

Isaiah, Eureka Recycling, and citizens rallied in support, citing the ordinance's environmental benefits. Eureka and other environmental groups asked for more specific ordinance amendments at a later date, because of removal of product labeling standards from the ordinance. A push will be made later to make product certification standards clear because products sometimes aren't properly labeled.

Groups including Hospitality Minnesota, Minnesota Restaurant Association, Minnesota Retailers Association, and Van Paper opposed the change. They contend that the ordinance will cost businesses and consumers more. "Comparable alternative products are on the market, but they are double the cost," said Liz Rammer of Hospitality Minnesota and Minnesota Restaurant Association. She and others pushed the city to find markets for black plastic and foam packaging, arguing that it can be recycled.

Scott Van of St. Paul's Van Paper said that the ordinance takes just 2 to 3 percent of materials out of the waste stream. "This is not the big issue it's been made out to be." He said the voluntary shift by business should continue, noting that Styrofoam containers cost about 12 cents each, while compostable containers cost double that. Bonding materials in some compostable containers are under scrutiny for health reasons.

Restaurant owners spoke on both sides of the issue, with some saying they cannot find packaging materials that meet the ordinance and meet their needs. Other restaurant owners spoke for the change, saying it hasn't hurt their businesses and is good for the environment. They said such an ordinance would level the playing field and that they agree with the opponents on expanding the ordinance to include more types of businesses. They also disputed that some materials could, or should, be recycled.



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New ownership could eventually bring changes to Midway Marketplace. The shopping center at 1400 University Ave. was recently sold to Minneapolis-based Kraus-Anderson Realty. The company announced its purchase of the center from RVI, a company from Ohio. The selling price was \$31 million.

The center occupies the block bounded by University, Hamline and St. Anthony avenues and Pascal St. It was built after the 1996 implosion demolition of Midway's longtime Montgomery Ward store and catalog shipping center. Ward's, K-Mart, Mervyn's California and Cub Foods were anchor tenants, with only Cub remaining.

Ward's was replaced with Herberger's, which closed last year. Its building was designed with a tower to mimic the original iconic Ward's tower. Mervyn's is now LA Fitness, and WalMart is in the former Kmart building. TJ Maxx, Discount Tire and several smaller businesses are also in the shopping center.

Planning for Midway Center began in the late 1980s. Its master plan won St. Paul City Council approval in 1990. The project originally was led by Ward's and the development firm of Trammel Crowe. Site pollution, changes in developers and other complications pushed the initial work to 1995. The original Ward's building was imploded and demolished in 1996.

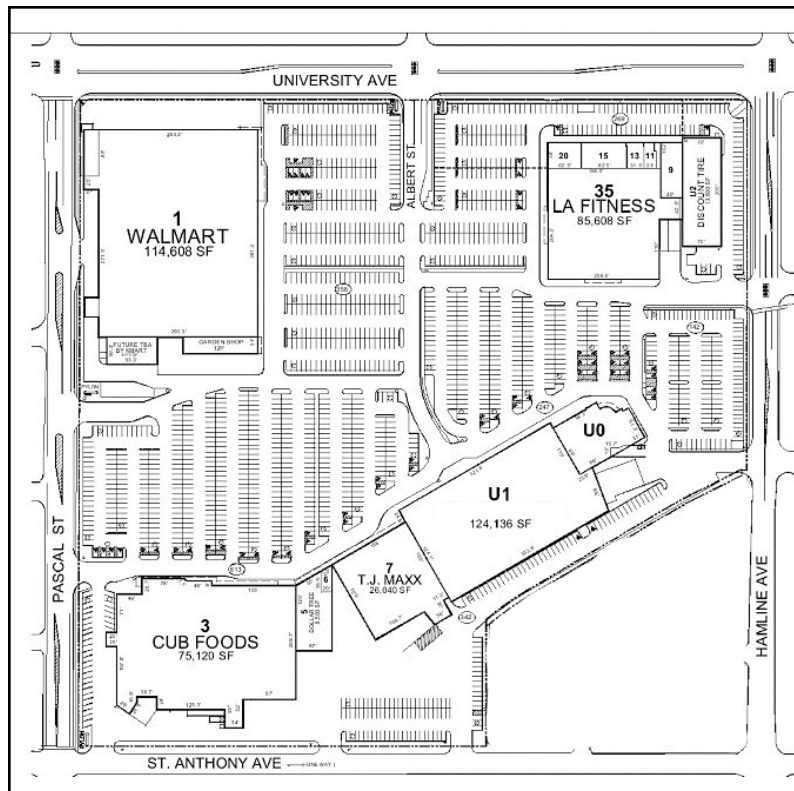
Midway Marketplace is the largest modern-era ground-up retail development along University. During planning for Green Line light rail, it was rezoned for traditional neighborhoods use 4, which would allow for high-density, mixed-use redevelopment in the future.

Jeff Hildahl, senior vice

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Midway Marketplace sold to Minneapolis firm for \$31 million



Midway Marketplace is the extensive complex of buildings and parking seen in this illustration. Hamline Ave. is on the east, Pascal St. to the west, with University Ave. on the north and St. Anthony Ave. on the south. It does not include the buildings on the southeast corner of the superblock, one of which is the St. Paul Police Western District Office. (Illustration provided)

president of properties and leasing for KA Realty, issued a statement indicating that existing leases will be honored, and the tenant mix won't change. But the new owners are looking at ways they can partner with the Allianz Field soccer stadium, possibly on parking and other issues.

Grant requests roll in

Businesses and institutions are among those seeking 2019 St. Paul Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grant and loans. The application period

closed in March. The requests are under review by city staff, the Planning Commission and the Neighborhood STAR Board. The St. Paul City Council is expected to approve the funded projects this summer. The STAR Board will conduct its reviews and rankings in May.

The city received 53 proposals requesting more than \$67.5 million in assistance, with more than \$7.5 million in matching funds identified. All requests require a match. That compares to 41 proposals and plus-\$5.4 million in assistance

that came in 2018.

Thirty-five proposals are for commercial projects, with two for mixed-use projects and four for housing. Others are a mix of playgrounds and other outdoor amenities.

Monitor area commercial projects include a \$150,000 grant request from Community Involvement Program and ALLY People Solutions to renovate 1515 Energy Park Dr. into the new headquarters for the merged disability service agencies. It will bring 130 jobs to St. Paul, as well 40 central of-

fice and program staff.

Element Boxing & Fitness, 555 N. Fairview Ave., is seeking a \$40,000 grant and \$40,000 loan to develop the CO-MOTION Center for Movement.

New Vision Foundation is seeking a \$105,424 grant to relocate to 860 Vandalia St. It would share space with Tech Dump, an electronics recycling and jobs program.

Playwrights Center is seeking a \$75,000 grant and a \$75,000 loan to make building renovations at 710 Raymond Ave., to relocate from Minneapolis.

Junior Achievement, which recently moved to 1745 University Ave., is seeking a \$100,000 grant to tuck-point and repair the east wall of its building. A mural there would be replaced.

Midway-based African Economic Development Solutions seeks a \$360,000 grant for its small business revolving loan fund. That is a citywide fund, although plans call for a focus on North Snelling's Little Africa area.

The Ain Dah Yung Center for homeless Native American young people at 771-785 University Ave., is seeking a \$100,000 loan to add a cultural facility to its housing project. The housing is under construction.

Other requests include a \$35,000 grant for Twin Cities German Immersion School, 1031 Como Ave., for a 430-foot long, seven foot tall, gabion stone fence along its eastern border.

Another non-commercial request is from Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., which is working with Hamline Midway Elders to add an accessible entrance and lift and install an accessible bathroom. The church houses many food and wellness programs.

The Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., is your neighborhood gathering spot, where you can enjoy great programs and Internet access and access portable WiFi hotspots, books, CDs, DVDs and more, all free with your library card. Here's what's coming up this spring!

For families and kids

Preschool Storytimes in English happen Fridays from 10:30-11am, with upcoming story times on Apr. 12, 19, and 26 and May 3 and 10. Storytimes feature stories, songs, puppets, and more. They're a great way for caregivers to bond with children and build social skills, listening comprehension, and letter and number recognition while creating a solid foundation for lifelong learning. Children of all activity levels are welcome!

Evening Storytimes in English are happening on Tues., Apr. 16, 23, and 30 from 6-6:30pm.

Science Saturday is planned for Sat., Apr. 13 from 1:30-3pm. School-aged children and their families can explore fun science and art projects. This month the theme is Balance and Topple.

Also occurring on Sat., Apr. 13 from 11:30am-5pm is Math and Science Day, a drop-in program for kids and teens and their families. Enter an

News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

estimation contest, play with Ozobots, enjoy a math-themed scavenger hunt, experiment with PVC pipes, circuits, sudoku, and more!

Silent film matinee for all ages

On Fri., Apr. 19, 2-3:30pm, the Hamline Midway Library Association presents a silent film matinee featuring Charlie Chaplin's short comedy "The

Adventurer" and Buster Keaton's hilarious "One Week." Enjoy laughs and free hot popcorn! Best for ages five and up, but all ages are welcome.

For adults

On Wed., Apr. 24, from 1-3pm, Jody's Documentary Film Series will present the documentary "Mad Hot Ballroom." See how fourth and fifth graders in the

NYC public schools learned to ballroom dance and (gasp!) like it. It's a candid, funny, startling film from start to climactic finish. This event is co-presented by the Hamline Midway Coalition and the Hamline Midway Elders.

The Novels at Night Book Club for adults scheduled for

Thur., Apr. 18, is canceled.

The Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club meets on Sat., May 4, 1-2pm, to discuss good mystery novels. Contact volunteer G. Balter for book list or more information at gerribalter@gmail.com or 651-224-5570.

Chair Yoga with Nancy Giguere is happening on Thur., May 2 and 9 from 10:30-11:30am. All movement is done seated or standing using a chair for balance in this class sponsored by the Hamline Midway Elders Association.




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Midway Como Monitor changing ownership after 44 years

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

When 22-year-old Calvin deRuyter bought the *Monitor* in 1975 for \$1 from a man who thought it had no future, he had no idea what he was getting himself into.

Forty-four years later he's perfected the art of dealing with challenges in the job he's loved.

"You face it, yell and scream at yourself and the world, then buck up and try to come up with a solution or solutions that will address the challenge," stated deRuyter. "Isn't that how we all face the challenges in life?"

Paper shares community identity

deRuyter had been the editor of his student newspaper, *The Oracle*, at Hamline University, and started working for the *Highland Villager* while he took a year off between his undergraduate and graduate work in art. He volunteered to edit the first issue of the "*Midway ?*"—which was given the name *Midway Monitor* following a neighborhood naming contest.

Some local business owners and leaders co-signed deRuyter's first loan to get the paper started, and the *Monitor* joined the other community newspapers being birthed along with the neighborhood councils. Residents were seeking new ways to develop their community identity in the Cities. The first boundaries were established by the district council boundary, so the *Midway Monitor* followed the borders of the District 11 Hamline Midway Coalition.

"People were excited about being involved in their neighborhood and finally having, they believed, a way to have a voice in the shaping of city policy that was so prevalent in their lives," recalled deRuyter. "The whole citizen participation movement was what shaped the paper for years. It was the same in Como when we expanded the paper to be the *Midway Como Monitor*."

Nelson joins paper

Calvin deRuyter was one of the first people that Tim Nelson met when he enrolled at Hamline University. deRuyter was a junior and working as arts editor at the *Oracle*. They lived in the same dorm, and then worked together at the student newspaper. Nelson had been editor of his high school newspaper, and set his sights on a career in politics and government. He had been accepted as a graduate student at Willamette University in Oregon when deRuyter asked if Nelson was interested in working for him.

"I was intrigued, but torn as to what to do," stated Nelson. "I called my advisor at Willamette and asked for his thoughts. His response surprised me. He said, 'Tim, Willamette has been around since 1842, and I don't think it is going anywhere. The chance to go into business for yourself may only come around once in a lifetime. Try the business, and if it doesn't work out, you are welcome here. I look forward to hearing what you learn.'"

"I have never decided whether that was the best advice I ever got or the worst," Nelson commented. "It varied day to day for the last 44 years."

Nelson began as 50 percent partner in July 1977, and deRuyter-Nelson Publications Inc. was born. The expansion into the



Calvin deRuyter (left) and Timothy Nelson enter their new office space at 600 N. Fairview Ave., circa 1978. (Photo from the *Monitor* archives)



Calvin deRuyter (Photo from the *Monitor* archives)



Tim Nelson (Photo submitted)

Como neighborhood occurred in 1979. The newspaper also expanded into the Frogtown area for a brief period but didn't have the local ad revenue to support the growth.

The business was growing rapidly, and it was an exciting time.

"We started the typesetting business at that point, and it was an extremely fast-paced and technology-driven industry in those years," stated Nelson. The newspaper did the typesetting for several college newspapers, including the *Hamline Oracle* and *Bethel Clarion*, as well as the *Park Bugle*, *Equal Time*, *West 7th Community Reporter*, *Longfellow Messenger*, and *Grand Gazette*.

People excited about paper

"The community was very excited about the paper in those days, and we had a constant flow of involved citizens coming to the office to share things of interest or to suggest story ideas," said Nelson. "Along with those people who believed in the paper, we also had groups we were less than popular with."

A few bricks were thrown through the office windows at 600 N. Fairview in response to endorsements of political candidates.

During that same time, Nelson remembers when a columnist wrote an opinion piece that was critical of the organized church. "We had a religious group that went to our advertisers and told them that if they ran an ad, they would not support their business. We had many heated meetings with this group, and it was not a pleasant time," he said. "It was a rather contentious year! When the Job Corps moved into the Bethel campus, we were also threatened by the community group who opposed that happening. They didn't like how we were covering the events and again, threatened to go to advertisers with a boycott."

Ironically, it is those same events that were not pleasant, such as vandalism and threats to their income base, that have also been the highlights.

"Any time a community is passionate about a topic, it's an exciting time," said Nelson. "Our goal is not to be loved by everyone. I have always considered the greatest compliment to be when we get complaints from both sides of a controversial issue saying that we are biased against them. That means we are providing a balanced story."

Various issues have sparked discussion within the neighborhoods and the pages of the newspaper.

"The expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion School is a recent issue that has stirred a lot of interest. The arrival of the Job Corps and light rail were big changes in Midway/Como, along with the new soccer stadium," remarked Nelson. "When Hamline was going to remove some of the houses near campus, that certainly got some folks upset. Again, it tends to be pockets within the neighborhood that are most impacted by the changes that feel the most strongly."

According to deRuyter, "The main challenge has been the changing nature of the commercial zones that run through it and around it... Snelling, Lexington, and University avenues, and Pierce Butler Route. These have changed the nature of the neighborhood dramatically."

Reach across the river

In 1986, deRuyter Nelson purchased the *Longfellow Messenger*, and expanded its reach across the river into Minneapolis. Soon after the purchase, they expanded into the Nokomis neighborhood.

The *Messenger* was formed in March 1983 by community activists Maureen and Bill Milbrath as a project for their retirement years. deRuyter-Nelson Publications had performed their typesetting for years, and they were the logical ones to purchase the paper. Plus, there was a family connection that they were not initially aware of. Bill had been a college fraternity mate of Nelson's dad and was the soloist at his parents' wedding.

Today, the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger* has a circulation of 21,000 in the Longfellow and Nokomis areas of Minneapolis. It offers comprehensive home delivery to 17,000 homes and an additional circulation of 4,000 at high-traffic business, church, and school drop-off points. The *Messenger* has an estimated reach of over 50,000 readers.

The *Monitor* also has an estimated reach of over 50,000 residents in St. Paul's Midway, Como, and Merriam Park neighborhoods. With a circulation of 21,000, the *Monitor* offers comprehensive delivery to 16,000 homes and businesses and an additional circulation of 5,000 at high-traffic business, church, and school drop-off points.

Over the years, deRuyter-Nelson also operated a successful graphic design business, providing design and production services to large and small corporations and government agencies.

Out of personal tragedy, they created A Place to Remember, a business that published and distributed resources worldwide for

families experiencing a difficult pregnancy, premature birth, or death of an infant. A Place to Remember is now in the process of closing after 25 years as deRuyter and Nelson retire.

The *Monitor* and *Messenger* gave up the longtime Iris Park Place office (1885 University Avenue W., Suite 110) four years ago, and have operated with a virtual office since then. Other shifts at the time involved Nelson handling the newspaper production and deRuyter the editor responsibilities once again, while long-time editor and sales representative Denis Woulfe began focusing only on sales.

Evolving industry

The industry is changing, but deRuyter and Nelson still believe newspapers are part of the fabric of neighborhoods.

"I think community newspapers are vital to the neighborhoods," observed deRuyter. "We have watched so many community newspapers die so that the community journalism movement in the Cities is just a tiny fraction of what it used to be. I don't think there is a single community that is better off because their community newspaper could not survive."

"But I also think that the residents and the businesses don't truly grasp the importance of the cohesiveness that the neighborhood press provides," deRuyter added. "If it is used properly, the community newspaper can be the place where things 'come together' in one place; where you can get an overview of the things going on; where you can learn about the unique businesses that are housed there; where you can learn about the neighbor who has faced a challenge, or who has overcome one."

deRuyter asked, "Where is that place if your community newspaper dies? You certainly won't get it from the city-wide or regional press."

Nelson has also mulled over the changing face of journalism over the past four decades that he's been involved in it.

"I think that over the years, the papers lost some of the fire that made them more interesting in the early days. The stories became more routine, and obviously there is no way the timeliness of a monthly publication can compete with the immediacy of news spreading on social media chat groups or blogs. The need for a community newspaper in a neighborhood was diluted."

But, Nelson quickly added,

"That is not to say that I don't think that there is a need for a community newspaper or that the concept is dead. As a matter of fact, it may be more important now than ever given the fact that the daily papers are struggling to find their niche and are cutting budgets in order to compete in the electronic age. Social media does not even attempt to be objective, and although the media is constantly being accused of bias, I assure you we always attempt to bring the community both sides of an issue. It's a matter of finding out what readers want to learn more about from their neighbors, and working to help reshape that delivery."

What's next?

Nelson and deRuyter will officially retire on May 1, 2019 when they pass ownership of the *Messenger* and *Monitor* to Tessa M. Christensen, who has been a deRuyter-Nelson freelance writer for the past eight years and has worked in journalism for over 20 years. (See article on page 1)

What's next for these longtime news hounds?

After balancing his newspaper business with the artwork that he picked back up 11 years ago, deRuyter plans to focus on his art business (www.calsportfolio.net). In addition to painting, he offers various classes and workshops. He and his husband, Jim, are also renovating an old schoolhouse outside of Evansville, MN. He's not leaving the *Monitor* or *Messenger* completely, either, as he'll be providing bookkeeping services to the new owner.

Nelson will continue selling a support book he wrote for fathers who have experienced the death of an infant through miscarriage, stillbirth, or early infant death. The book, "A Guide For Fathers—When A Baby Dies," is in its seventh printing.

Also, Nelson and his wife, Monica, have four children living around the world. "It's not always ideal having your children spread out, but at least they have chosen interesting places to visit—London, El Nido (Philippines), Phoenix and Los Angeles," remarked Nelson. They are also fortunate to have six grandchildren living in Arizona and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of triplet girls in California.

"Let's just say, I'm not worried about being bored," said Nelson. "At least while I am still able to get on a plane."

Midway Chamber celebrates 100 years of service to community

Members reflect on what the chamber has accomplished over the last century

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

One community group has been the face of the Midway area for a century. Formed in October of 1919, the Midway Chamber is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

First called the Midway Club and then the Midway Civic Club, the Midway Chamber of Commerce reflects the history of the Midway as a whole, observed local historian Jane McClure, who is working on a book to celebrate the chamber's 100th anniversary. It will be available later this year.

"The Midway Chamber really shaped the growth and development of the entire area, in ways we don't think about today," added McClure. "Needs and issues including paved streets, the extension of streetcar lines, improved police and fire service, taxation, street lights, and jobs were among the issues the Midway Club championed. The organization brought back the Winter Carnival years before it became a citywide event again. Members worked to retain Saints baseball here and were part of the effort to attract the Minnesota Twins years ago."

"When what was then the Midway Club began a century ago, getting things accomplished meant being organized," McClure said. "We didn't elect our City Council members by ward. Neighborhoods organized betterment or improvement associations to promote their interests to elected officials in those days. Every neighborhood had a small group to promote and advocate for an area's interests. Midway Chamber was an umbrella group for many smaller neighborhood associations, which organized around small business nodes or city parks or schools."

"It's charming to think of 'boosterism,' but it's how things got done in those days. There was a strong and intense loyalty to where you lived and where you did business," McClure noted.

"Also, think of organizing around an issue or a community need when phones weren't all that common, let alone when there was no Internet," Jane said. "You had newspapers and radio to some extent, but to get things done, you had to get people physically together. That's where having a club, later chamber, and a group to gather with, was so important."

"We can look back at the early days of Midway Chamber, and it's pretty remarkable to see how much got done," Jane concluded.



The longtime tradition of luncheon with an informative guest speaker began in 1923 and continues today. Here is a group gathered in 1939. (Photo courtesy of Midway Chamber)

Critical leadership

The Midway was already an important regional hub for transportation, industry, commerce, and education by 1919, and the 1910 census shows it was the fastest growing part of St. Paul.

"The Midway was long a center for commerce (the predecessor to Delta Airlines was headquartered in the Midway many years ago)," observed Ellen Watters, who headed up the Midway Chamber as its paid president from 1996-2002. "As the primary district connecting the two downtowns, the Midway has been a critical transportation and commerce link for the region."

The Minnesota Transfer Railway Company had organized in 1883 and filled about 200 acres with tracks, switches, and buildings along the University-Prior Ave. area. Every train going into the Cities rolled through that yard. Early Midway industries provided a vast array of goods for the northwestern United States, including mattresses, beds, chairs, tables, pianos, furnaces, stoves, radiators, brooms, linseed oil products, and farm equipment.

In December 1890, the Interurban Street Car Line had connected the two downtown areas, following a similar route as today's Green Line along University Ave. in St. Paul and Washington Ave. in Minneapolis. The streetcar's Midway shop—later known as the barns—sat at the north-

west corner of the University and Snelling intersection for decades. The line ran until 1953 when it was replaced by buses.

The new Midway Club helped boost businesses and provided critical leadership on countless neighborhood and regional issues. Early club committees focused on attracting new industry and also beautifying industrial sites. Others dealt with streets, health and safety, education and recreation. One daunting task was getting dirt streets scraped and improved by city crews. In the early years, the club helped establish the Hamline Community Playground, supported the Midway Transfer YMCA, and pledged money to build a new Midway Hospital.

The club had 454 members in December 1919 and grew to 702 members by the next year. Women were allowed as members in 1924. After a brief decline during the Great Depression, membership topped 1,000 in the mid-1930s.

Club members turned their attention to vehicle traffic and



Those who have led as executive directors of the Midway Chamber gather during the 100th anniversary gala in February 2019. Left to right: Kari Canfield, Ellen Watters, Chad Kulas, and Lori Fritts. (Photo courtesy of Midway Chamber)

street improvements, working to make things safer as the area became known as Auto Row and its trucking industry began to thrive. By the mid-1940s, the Midway was home to over 40 trucking firms, and it dealt with parking shortages as early as the 1950s. Members raised funds to save the Como Zoo in 1955.

"The chamber continues to be a unique voice for the Midway area. Organizations that make up the Chamber care about the vitality and improvement of the area. While I was there we worked hard to get Metro Transit to vacate the bus barn site which now, 17 years later, is home to the new Allianz Field," stated Watters.

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She added, "When I was president we advocated for the new Light Rail Transit which eventually was built. Today the Green Line is a major success that has helped transform University Ave., bringing new housing, and new investment, to the area."

Face of the Midway

Jeffrey Fenske of Fenske Law Office (239 Cleveland Ave. N.) has been a member of the chamber since the 1980s. He sees the chamber as "the face of the Midway business community with City and civic leaders."

Highlights of his time on the Chamber Board include the Green Line, helping businesses stay and grow in the area, and expanding the opportunities for interaction among members with more programming, events and networking opportunities.

"The personal and business connections developed with fellow chamber members is invaluable," said Fenske.

Membership has grown significantly since Dan Leggett of Avant-Garde Marketing Solutions joined the chamber in 2005, and he has watched programming explode. Leggett served as board chair from July 2014 to 2015. The Midway Chamber has added three annual Summits (Economic Development in 2014, Legislative in 2015, and Leadership in 2015), small business workshops, Will Power (Women in Local Leadership), Chamber Connect, and Lunch on the Line (which began as Lunch on the Avenue during the building of the Green Line). The longtime tradition of luncheon with an informative guest



Past Midway Chamber Board Chairs who have served between 1994 and 2019 gather during the 100th anniversary gala in February 2019. Left to right: Mike Zipko of Goff Public, Rick Beeson, Colleen Hartmon Bolloom of Piper Jaffray, Julie Esch of Mortenson Construction, Jeff Fenske of Fenske Law Office, Alden Drew, Chris Ferguson of Bywater Business Solutions, Steve Johnson of BankCherokee, Ted Davis of Davis Communications, Tom Whaley of Saint Paul Saints, Terri Dooher Fleming of Park Midway Bank, Ferdinand Peters of Peters Law Firm, and Dan Leggett of Avant-Garde Marketing Solutions.. (Photo courtesy of Midway Chamber)

speaker began in 1923 and continue today.

Plus, the chamber has established a foundation with an emphasis on education and literacy.

Building a network and having fun

Belonging to the Chamber helps members develop their networks and get to know other business owners, employers, colleges and more. "It helps expand your reach," pointed out Midway Chamber Executive Director Chad Kulas, who was hired in June 2015.

The chamber has strong relationships with the city, and

that benefits its members when they're working individually with the city on building and street projects. "We can help them in that process and advocate for them," stated Kulas. The chamber is also involved in larger policy and development issues that affect the whole Midway area.

"The chamber is an advocacy voice for members and the community on important issues that affect the business community with the city and other governmental agencies that decide policy affecting our members," observed Fenske. "It also provides a base for support and education for bigger

picture issues that affect the collective group and area."

Joining the Midway Chamber has provided increased exposure for his merchant processing business and has enhanced market penetration, pointed out Leggett. "I have also had the privilege of meeting and working with some phenomenal individuals who are tirelessly committed to promoting and growing business relationships in the Midway. Oh, it's been great fun as well!"

Identity of its own

While many chambers are identified by the cities they are in,

the Midway Chamber is different. "We are right in between two very large chambers," remarked Kulas. "That can be both a strength and a challenge."

The membership of the Midway Chamber is diverse, and so then is its funding supply, so no single business leaving or closing will mean that the Chamber is out of funds.

Over the years, people have discussed whether the Midway Chamber is needed considering the larger chambers in both Minneapolis and St. Paul. "But it has always been the will of the board and membership that we have a place, too," said Kulas.

"For different reasons, we've kept that identity, and people still feel very strong about keeping that identity," said Kulas.

"In addition to providing networking, education, and community volunteering opportunities, our chamber is a solid advocate for this community," stated Leggett. "I believe this advocacy became more apparent with the construction of the Green Line, and even more notable with the soccer stadium and related development in the area. No doubt this will continue well into the future with the anticipated robust growth in the Midway over the next 5-10 years and beyond!"

"The Midway area is booming," agreed Kulas.

Editor's Note: Some of the historical information in this article is based off a piece written by Jane McClure for the Ramsey County Historical Society magazine in the fall of 1994.

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Donate Good Stuff where it can make a difference

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

When Como resident Jennifer Victor-Larsen was working on her MBA at the University of St. Thomas a few years ago, she got an idea. "I knew I wanted to do a project in the realm of a social venture, but there was already so much great work being done in the Twin Cities. I started looking for gaps in services, and it turned out I didn't have to look very far."

Victor-Larsen had lost her grandmother and two aunts within a short period. Her mom ended up with many of their things: a whole attic full of high-quality stuff with sentimental value that was gathering dust.

Victor-Larsen said, "I started to think about where those things could go in the non-profit community; how could they be



Como resident Jennifer Victor-Larsen is changing the name of the non-profit organization she started to www.donategoodstuff.org. For the time being, go to www.herosearch.org to learn where to donate household items in good condition to local non-profits that can use them. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

put to good use and not just add to the endless waste stream?"

"At the same time," Victor-Larsen said, "I was volunteering with two organizations that help victims of human trafficking—Brittany's Place and Breaking Free. I started asking the staff of both organizations, 'What things do you really need to help

your clients regain their independence?' It turned out that plenty of those things were in my mother's attic and in my own home."

Victor-Larsen found the service gap she had been looking for, and in 2014 created a non-profit she called "Hero Search." "It took a year for me to build the database, which works in the same way as a volunteer-match database," she said. "Someone with stuff to donate can search by

non-profit type or by proximity to their home. I wanted HeroSearch.org to show how donated items would be used, so donors would know the impact they were making. I wanted it to be easy to search for nearby organizations so that drop-offs would be convenient for donors. The vision was to contribute to a less wasteful, more connected, and more generous world."

Victor-Larsen is leaving her long career in the insurance industry on May 1 to dedicate herself fulltime to this work. She's in the process of rebranding HeroSearch.org, and has changed the name to DonateGoodStuff.org. She's redesigning her logo and has set the bar high for her growing non-profit organization: to become the #1 resource for people who have items to donate to

charities nation-wide.

DonateGoodStuff.org is holding a 5K fundraiser at Como Lake on Sat., May 11. Day-of registration opens at the Como Lake Pavilion at 7:30am, and the run kicks off at 8:30am.

"The family-friendly event is open to everyone," Victor-Larsen said, "and will be held rain or shine. We're hoping that because it's Mother's Day weekend, families will walk or run the twice around the lake loop together." There's no charge for children in strollers or wagons. Preregister online, and get a guaranteed t-shirt at www.herosearch.org. Two of the more than 100 non-profits that Hero Search partners with locally will be onsite that day—Minnesota Youth Link and Minnesota Pocket Pet Rescue.

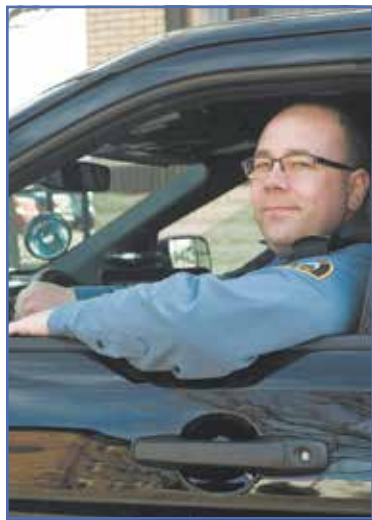
Initiatives promote traffic and pedestrian safety in St. Paul

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Starting Apr. 1, the St. Paul Police Department (SPPD) implemented their new 12-person Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Unit. According to Commander Jeremy Ellison, the SPPD is making pedestrian and bike safety one of its priorities in 2019—under the direction of Police Chief Todd Axtell. Three full-time employees added to this unit will focus exclusively on the problem of distracted drivers across the city.

Ellison explained that those officers will travel in unmarked, high clearance SUVs so they can better see into cars they are monitoring. "We want people to know that our officers will be out there watching for distracted drivers," he said. "Our goal is no longer to catch people unaware. We want drivers to be informed, to make smart decisions, and to be part of improving public safety. A good day will be a day when we don't write any tickets."

Minnesota law states it is illegal to use a wireless communication device to write, read, or send an electronic message



Commander Jeremy Ellison behind the wheel of one of the St. Paul Police Department's new Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Unit enforcement vehicles. Ellison said, "Every other day in the City of St. Paul there's a crash involving a pedestrian. Last month there were two pedestrian fatalities, and that's too many." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

while driving or stopped in traffic. While that law has been on the books for a while, it has been

difficult to enforce; creating the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Unit should help. The cost of a first violation will be \$136; the cost of a second violation for the same offense will be \$366. According to Ellison, "Law enforcement supports Minnesota becoming a 'hands-free' state for cell phone use." A bill toward that end moved through legislative committee in January and is expected to pass with bipartisan support.

Right now, nobody really knows how much of a problem distracted driving is. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is funding research projects in several major cities, and St. Paul was chosen to participate. The goal of these projects is to gather data to determine what percentage of crashes are caused by drivers distracted by electronic devices.

On another front, the Stop

for Me Campaign is an ongoing initiative to improve public safety in St. Paul. Organized by St. Paul's 17 district councils, St. Paul Smart Trips, and the SPPD, Stop for Me teaches that stopping for pedestrians and bicyclists isn't just common courtesy—it's the law. "Last year, there were 108 Stop for Me events in St. Paul," Ellison said. "We looked at crash data for marked crosswalks (where there wasn't a traffic signal) to decide where to hold these events. We met with community members at hazardous intersections to practice safe crossing techniques for all ages." To learn more about scheduling a Stop for Me event in your neighborhood this spring or summer, email jeremy.ellison@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

According to Commander Ellison, the following safety in-

formation is worth knowing:

- Along with Metro Transit, the SPPD believes in the saying, "See tracks, think train." Every time you cross the LRT track, be mentally prepared that a train may be coming.
- Minnesota law states that when a traffic light has turned yellow, a motorist should be stopping—not accelerating through the intersection.
- If a pedestrian puts one foot into the street, an oncoming motorist should be stopping. Do not hope or assume, but make sure it is safe to cross. A pedestrian is ten times more likely to die in a collision with a car than the occupants of two cars that collide.
- If you're riding or walking your bike in a marked pedestrian crossing, you're considered a pedestrian and cars are required to yield.

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Como High student given health award

Como High School student Disel Moo received a 2019 Public Health Award for mentoring youth about healthy choices and active living. She received the award at a meeting of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on Apr. 2.

Two awards were given to organizations and two to individuals.

The annual awards, sponsored by Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health, recognize individuals and groups who have made exceptional contributions to improving health in Ramsey County by advancing racial and health equity.

Award recipients were selected for their leadership, advocacy and collaboration in improving health by advancing health equity in the county.

Spaghetti Dinner scheduled Apr. 27

Boy Scout Troop 13 will hold their 62nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sat., Apr. 27, 3-7pm at St. Columba School Auditorium, 1330 Blair Ave. Dine in, or take out for \$8 per serving.

Milners in concert at Celtic Junction

Dan and Bonnie Milner will appear in concert at Celtic Junction Arts Center, 836 Prior Ave., on Sat., May 11, 7-9pm.

The Milners sing traditional Irish, Irish-American, and maritime songs solo and in unaccompanied harmony. Dan, a geography professor and world traveler, grew up in a singing Irish family in Birmingham England, Ballybunion, Ireland and Brooklyn, NY. His Smithsonian Folkways CD, "Irish Pirates Ballads," received two Indie Award nominations in 2011.

Bonnie's interest in sea songs was sparked by hearing shanties sung at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut and carried further by her friendship with the last working shantyman, Stan Hugill. She is a member of the renowned, all-woman quartet, The Johnson Girls. Dan and Bonnie have toured extensively in Europe and North America.

This concert of traditional unaccompanied songs will also feature performances by local singers

Kids Stuff Sale scheduled Apr. 27

Falcon Heights Elementary Kids Stuff Sale will be held Sat., Apr. 27, 8:30am-12:30pm at the school, 1393 Garden Ave. W., Falcon Heights. You will find gently used kids clothing, toys,

Murray Middle School sends 38 to Fair



In early March, 488 students from around the Twin Cities met at the MN State Fairgrounds Coliseum to explain their Science Fair projects to judges. Of those, 38 were students who qualified for the fair from the Murray Middle School. The students developed their projects in science class, did their experiment on their own, and had opportunities to get support from the Pilot One on One tutoring program taught by Cindy Thrasher and carried out by her many volunteers from the community during the school day. Another opportunity for support was the STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math) after school program taught by Dr. Cheryl Olman along with Dr. Keisha Varma and many undergraduate and graduate students from the University of Minnesota. Six Students qualified for the Broadcam Master's International Competition: Caitlyn Coyle, Elise Dunne, Maggie Fuller, Alice Wagher Hemstad, Katherine Kozak and Gajan Dileepan. Ten students Qualified for State Competition: Elise Dunne, Anna Lovat, Maddy Schilling, Alice Wagner Hemstad, Caitlyn Coyle, Gajan Dileepan, Violet Eicher, Maggie Fuller, Katherine Kozak, and Kaya Solheid.

sporting equipment, furniture, and more! One-half off on marked items begins at 11am. Free admission. No strollers or outside bags permitted. For more information or to donate gently used kids items (donations through Apr. 24) find them on Facebook: Falcon Heights Elementary Kids Stuff Sale.

Easter Egg Hunt and Fest set Apr. 20

Trinity City Church, 1849 Marshall Ave., will hold their Easter Egg Hunt and Festival, Sat. Apr. 20 at 10am, rain or shine. Come hunt for eggs and then enjoy games, crafts, refreshments, and more. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

Gardeners gathering planned May 18

Join Como Community Seed Library for its annual gardeners gathering on Sat., May 18, 11am-2pm at the Historic Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Pkwy. N.

Trade seeds, plants, tools, and stories. Fold dreams into seeds. Take your garden vertical. Get one on one advice from a Ramsey County Master Gardener Volunteer. See the latest in composting and more.

This is a free, family-friendly event, and everyone is welcome!

Fundraising Gala planned for Mackbee

After 26 years, the 2018-19 school year is Principal Mary Mackbee's last year at Central

High School. This remarkable milestone deserves a festive celebration in her honor! A Gala honoring Mackbee's legacy is planned for Sun., Apr. 14, at St. Paul College, 235 Marshall Ave.

Mackbee has championed the well-being of over 10,000 students, both inside and outside the classroom, during her 52 years in education, 50 of which she spent in Saint Paul Public Schools. Net proceeds from this event will support the Mary Mackbee Legacy Fund of Saint Paul Central High School Foundation, established to support a scholarship to benefit students exhibiting leadership, scholarship and service during their time at Central, and to support other Foundation scholarships to benefit inspiring Central graduates.

Tickets are \$160 (plus fee). Registration can be done online at www.mackbee.com.

Jehovah collects items for several local charities

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas St., is gathering food items for low-income families and household basics for homeless youth and just-released prisoners.

Leave items at the church Donation Center, through the inner doors to the left at the Thomas St. entry. Drop off items before or after worship at 10:15am Sundays or call the church at 651-644-1421 to set up another time. Donation forms for tax purposes are available.

Here are the needs of the organizations receiving items:

- Keystone Food Shelf needs staple food items (not near expi-

Register at your local Recreation Center

SUMMER SPORTS REGISTRATION: March 1-31 at all Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Centers (T-Ball, Baseball, Softball)

Northwest Como Recreation Center: www.stpaul.gov/northwest-comoRec or call 651-298-5813

- Artist Workshop Spring, ages 6-13, on Tue., Apr. 16-May 21, 3:15-5:15pm, \$60
- Parents Night Out, ages 4-12, Sat., Apr. 27, 6-9pm, \$10/child
- Planting with NWComo Staff, ages 7-14, on Mon., Apr. 29-May 20, 3:15-4:15pm, free
- Taekwondo, ages 5-17, on Tues./Thur., ongoing, 4:30-6pm, \$50/mo
- ***Join the Northwest Como Booster Club by contacting Teresa Little at Northwest Como

North Dale Recreation Center: www.stpaul.gov/northdaleRec or call 651-558-2329

- Open Dance Studio, ages 13-17, on Fri., to May 31, 2:15-4pm, free
- Youth Canvas Painting, ages 11-17, on Fri., Apr. 19, 1-3pm, \$30
- Flowers For Pollinators, adults, on Thur., Apr. 25, 6:30-7:30pm, free
- Mario Frogger Game Coding, ages 9-14, on Sat, Apr. 27-May 4, 9:30am-12:30pm, \$75
- Taekwondo, ages 5-17, on Mon./Wed. ongoing, 4:30-6pm, \$50/mo
- Adult Pickleball, on Fri., through May 31, noon-2pm, \$2/daily
- Women's Self Help Book Club, adults, on 3rd Thur./month, 6:30-8pm, free
- Challenge Square Dancing for adults, on Mon., 6:30-9pm, \$7/class
- Pilates for adults, on Mon./Wed., 7:15-8:15pm, \$5/class
- Line Dancing, adults, Wed., May 8-June 26, 6:10-7:10pm, \$5/class
- Yoga for adults, on Tue (7:45-8:45pm), Sat., 11am-noon, \$5/class
- Senior Fitness, on Tues./Thur., 9:30-10:30am, free
- Spring Time & Babies Essential Oils for adults, on Sat., May 4, 10am-noon, \$5 + \$10 supply fee
- ***Breakfast With The Bunny, Sat., Apr. 13, 10am-11:30am for all ages, \$2/person, \$5/family
- ***Join the North Dale Booster Club by contacting Brian Tobritzhofer at North Dale

Langford Recreation Center: www.stpaul.gov/LangfordRec or call 651-298-5765

- Wood Sign Décor for adults, on Tues., Apr. 30, 6:30-8pm, \$40 @ The Urban Growler
- Canvas Painting for adults, on Tues., May 28, 6:30-8pm, \$35 @ The Urban Growler
- Spring Time & Babies Essential Oils, adults, on Wed., May 15, 6-8pm, \$5 + \$10 supply fee
- Introductory Vegetable Gardening, adults, on Tues., Apr. 23, 6:30-8pm, free
- Flowers for Pollinators, adults, Mon., May 13, 5:30-7:30pm, free
- Senior Gym Bowling, ongoing Fri., 9:30-11am, free
- Soo Bahk Do, ages 5-adult ongoing Thur., 5:30-6:30pm, \$45/mo
- ***Langford Park Helicopter Egg Drop, on Sat, Apr. 13 at 1pm, Free

ration), paper grocery bags, and cash donations. Its location nearest the church is at 1916 University Ave. W. Items and checks to Keystone Food Shelf can be left at the church. Keystone Community Services operates food shelves and provides other services.

- Rezek House, in St. Paul's Midway, needs brooms, mops, cleansers, pots and pans, pillows, can openers and the like. Lutheran Social Services runs the two-year transitional program for homeless youth 16-21 years old. Residents of its ten efficiency units for singles and two one-bedroom units for parenting youth must save 30 percent of their income—a nest egg to help them transition to independent living when they leave. Please label your gift for Rezek House.
- Crossing Home needs bedding, pillows, household items, large-size men's jeans, backpacks and similar items. The group, based in Richfield, has an office at Jehovah Lutheran. It helps just-re-

leased prisoners find housing and jobs and return to society. Please place in Crossing Home shopping cart.

• Union Gospel Mission needs bedding, pillows and clothing of all sorts for all ages. Mark bags "UGM." Union Gospel Mission helps the homeless by providing meals, shelter, education, job training and recovery services. Please label "Union Gospel Mission."

• National Night Out in August will feature a giveaway table for household, games, toys, and good clothing at the church's annual event. These items can be dropped off in the church's nursery, the small room just beyond the Donation Center alcove.

State Fair swine barn gets a new name

The Minnesota State Fair and State Fair Foundation have

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In Our Community

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honored an innovator and leader in the swine industry by officially naming the Fair's swine barn the Robert A. Christensen Pavilion.

Recognizing the critical role that an improved and updated swine facility at the State Fair would play in advancing the swine industry, Minnesota's own Christensen Farms recently made the lead gift to the State Fair Foundation's Swine Barn Improvement Project to honor the legacy of the late Bob Christensen. Christensen, a visionary master of the swine industry, was an early adopter of technologies to improve biosecurity and herd health, contract production arrangements, and artificial insemination and genetic advancements. Praised for striving to make improvements throughout the entire pork production chain, he built one of the largest hog production companies in the U.S. and one of the largest family-owned hog production companies in the world.

Over the last three years, the Minnesota State Fair has invested in significant capital improvements to the swine facility which was built more than 80 years ago.

Annual Frogtown Garage Sale planned

The Friendly Frog Events Committee announced its Frogtown Community Garage Sale to benefit seniors living in the Frogtown neighborhood. Each year, neighbors pitch in to collect donated items to sell in the sale, with all proceeds going to fund social activities for neighborhood seniors. The sale takes place Fri., May 3, 8am-5pm and Sat., May 4, 8am-3pm at a new location, 411 Blair Ave.

"The annual Frogtown Community garage sale is the major fundraiser for the Friendly Frog Events Committee, formerly known as the Frogtown Community Events Committee," said Lynn Byrne, a member of the committee. "All proceeds go back into the community" she added.

Some events made possible are the Frogtown Adult Christmas Party, the Senior Halloween Party, Frogtown National Night Out, and the Frogtown Senior Horseshoe League.

All donations are welcome—especially kitchen items, books, clothes, small furniture, knick-knacks, working appliances, toys, puzzles, and monetary donations. No computers, monitors, TVs, or printers will be accepted.

To schedule a donation pickup, or for more information, please call 651-488-9671, or 651-488-7390.

Rummage sale scheduled May 9-11

Holy Childhood, 1435 Midway Pkwy., will hold a rummage sale in Buchanan Hall on Thur.-Sat., May 9-11. Hours are Fri. 9am-7pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, and Bag Day Sat., 9am-noon. Many treasures can be found including clothing, housewares, CDs, videos, books, furniture, plants, and much more.

International Bike to

Organist Chelsea Chen in concert May 7

Acclaimed Organist Chelsea Chen is coming to Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave., on May 7, 7:30pm. There will be a free-will donation, and the parking is free in the church parking lot.

With playing described as "stunning" and possessing "lovely lyrical grandeur" (Los Angeles Times), Chelsea Chen has electrified audiences throughout the United States and Asia.

Chelsea Chen's dynamic playing has taken her to the far corners of the world. Her solo concerts offer a unique mix of traditional organ repertoire along with piano/orchestral transcriptions and contemporary music. The Los Angeles Times has praised her "rare musicality" and "lovely lyrical grandeur," and a compositional style that is "charming" and "irresistible."

A Fulbright scholar and graduate of Juilliard and Yale University, she has performed to great acclaim at many important venues including Singapore's Esplanade, Hong Kong's Cultural Centre, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, and Los Angeles' Disney Hall. She currently serves as Artist-in-Residence at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Manhattan.

Chen has recorded multiple CDs: "Reveries" (2011) at Bethel University, "Live at Heinz Chapel" at the 2005 Convention of the American Institute of Organbuilders, "Eastern Treasures" with violinist Lewis Wong in 2010, and "Live at Coral Ridge" in 2014. Her compositions are available exclusively from Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc. She performs regularly with cellist Joseph Lee. Together they released an album entitled "Explorations for Cello and Organ" in 2018. Learn more about her at chelseachen.com.



Organist Chelsea Chen (Photo by Lisa-Marie Mazzucco)

School Day is May 8

Motorists be aware! Students from several schools in Hamline Midway ride their bikes to school daily. The second Wednesday in May is generally recognized as International Bike to School Day. Several neighborhood schools organize group rides to school on Bike to School Day, which means longer bike trains than most days.

Walking and biking to school enable students to incorporate the regular physical activity they need each day to help them concentrate in the classroom while also forming healthy habits that can last a lifetime. Regular physical activity helps children build strong bones, muscles, and joints, and maintain a healthy weight. Please help youngster develop autonomy and bike riding skills on May 8, and every day.

Free QPR class scheduled Apr. 25

QPR is a free, one-hour presentation sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that covers the three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide—Question, Persuade and Refer. Just like CPR, QPR is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can save lives.

The QPR class will be offered on Thur., Apr. 25, from 12-1pm, at NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave. W., in Suite 400. For more information or to register call 651-645-2948 x198 or see "classes" at namimn.org.

TU Dance plans performance in May

TU Dance, 2121 University Ave. W., celebrates its 15th Anniversary Season with an evening of works by legendary choreographers on Fri.-Sat., May 3-4, 8pm and Sun.,

May 5 at 2pm. Performances are at The O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University, 2004 Randolph Ave. Tickets are \$34 with discounts for students, seniors, military, MPR, TPT and groups. Tickets can be purchased online at theoshaughnessy.com or contact The O'Shaughnessy Ticket Office at 651-690-6700.

Play scheduled at Hamline University

Hamline University's Department of Theatre and Dance is excited to continue its 88th season with "Love and Information."

In constellations of connections—felt, attempted, missed, celebrated, long overdue, burgeoning—"Love and Information" offers glimpses into interactions that shape and define our lives. The intersection of momentous and mundane moments grouped together reveal who we are, and why we are, right now.

"Love and Information," opens on Fri., Apr. 19 at 7:30pm and runs Apr. 20, 25, 26 and 27 at 7:30pm at Hamline University's Anne Simley Theatre, 1530 W. Taylor Ave. Tickets are \$2 for Hamline students, \$3 for ACTC students and staff, \$8 for adults and \$5 for outside students and seniors.

Reservations are recommended and can be made through the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or via e-mail at tickets@hamline.edu.

Beginning drum class scheduled

A class on hand drums for beginners will take place at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., on Tue., Apr. 16, 5:30-6:30pm. Instruments will be provided, and the cost is \$10. You can register online at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

CO•MOTION to open in Midway Sept. 2019



A partnership between St. Paul Ballet and Element Boxing Gym has culminated into the creation of a first-of-its-kind movement arts and wellness center, CO•MOTION. They plan to open in Sept.

Turning movement into progress, CO•MOTION Center for Movement will be a movement arts, athletics and wellness collective. Comprised of a boxing gym, dance studio, dojo, fitness center, and performance venue, it will stretch over 39,000 square feet at 655 Fairview Ave. N.

Stronger Together is the CO•MOTION mantra. They are motivated by an initiative to represent, promote and build community wellness; put simply, CO•MOTION was established to put bodies in motion and make the world a better place.

Located in the Hamline Midway neighborhood off of Fairview Ave., each of CO•MOTION's unique movement spaces will be operated by an independent business owner and organizational leader.

These owners have come together to form a community with shared values and a passion for movement. CO•MOTION is dedicated to serving, strengthening and growing a diverse, welcoming community, and will be a leader in the creative economy that inspires through its collaborative business model.

St. Paul's Ballet's Executive Director, Lori Gleason, and Founder and Director of Element Boxing Gym, Dalton Outlaw met five years ago when St. Paul Ballet began renting studio space from the gym. Their shared values and vision quickly cultivated a partnership. They now work together to break down barriers of both ballet and boxing, encourage diversity in their art forms, and use fitness for good in the community. This fusion of Ballet, Boxing, and Community quickly demanded more physical space. This upcoming expansion will impact the community via a shared movement space that values diversity, equity, and inclusiveness.

"We wanted to create an open, safe, inclusive and accepting community space," Gleason said. "CO•MOTION is a place for people of all ages, sizes, and backgrounds, allowing them space and opportunity to move, grow and progress together."

Outlaw added, "We accept that together we are stronger than we are apart. We are more alike than we are different. And when we come together in a place of understanding and energy, we all succeed."

Emotions Anonymous meets Wednesdays

Emotions Anonymous (EA) meets each Wednesday, 7pm, at the Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Use the rear entrance and ring the bell to gain admittance. The meeting is upstairs in Room 7.

The meetings are open to anyone who is seeking to achieve and maintain emotional balance. EA is not a religious group, and they welcome people of any religious affiliation or no religious affiliation. There is no cost to attend meetings. Only first names are used, and everything said at a meeting is confidential.

News from Hamline Midway Elders

Jody's Documentary Series will show "Mad Hot Ballroom" on Wed., Apr. 24, 1pm at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha. See how fourth and fifth graders in the NYC public schools learned to ballroom dance and (gasp!) like it. It's a candid, funny, startling film from start to climactic finish.

The next Monthly Luncheon of Hamline Midway Elders is planned for Tues., May 14, 11:30am-1pm at St. Steph-

nus Lutheran Church, 739 Lafond Ave. Michael Skillrud from Thrivent Financial will present on Financial Issues for Older Adults. Chef Erik Hendrickson will prepare a wonderful meal, blood pressure checks will be provided, and new attendees are always welcome at our "Second Tuesday" free-will donation luncheon events.

Cards and Games Group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 1-3pm. This new group will meet at Hamline Church United Methodist. Join us for cards, games, and puzzles. Coffee and cookies are provided.

Gentle Exercise Class with Joni will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:30pm, through May 9. Specially designed for people with arthritis, but open to all seniors, this exercise class is gentle and fun.

Knitting Group meets Mondays, 1-3pm, at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Hamline Midway Elders provides the yarn and needles along with some light snacks. The group members work on projects, such as making shawls to be donated to a local hospice or blankets for a child care center. New participants are always welcome.

Tai Chi with Kathy happens Mondays, 11:30am-12:30pm, Continued on page 13

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through May 6. Everyone is welcome to give Tai Chi a try! Tai Chi is a slow and gentle form of movement, that can help to increase overall strength and balance.

Reading Buddies are still wanted the first and third Wednesdays, 10:45-11:30am at Hamline Elementary School, 1599 Englewood Ave. HME partnership with Hamline Elementary School and the Reading Buddy Program. Third-grade students enjoy reading to neighborhood elders, so they're hoping to recruit even more older adults to participate. No experience is necessary, just a desire to interact with children. And you don't have to attend every session, just come when your schedule permits.

For more information, please contact Laurel Collins of Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or laurel@hmelders.org.

NAMI holds partner support group

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors a support group specifically for partners or spouses of someone who lives with a mental illness. The Partners and Spouses Support Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm, at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St. For more information, call Melissa at 651-354-0825 or Sara at 763-350-6502.

La Leche League meets May 14

The monthly meeting of the La Leche League will next be held on Tues., May 14, 7-8:45pm at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave.

The meeting is for pregnant and nursing mothers to discuss breastfeeding and related topics such as parenting, pregnancy, and weaning. Babies and support persons are welcome. Entrance is on the south side of the building, just off parking lot that is on the north side of Minnehaha Ave.

Family support group meets monthly

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors free support groups for families and friends of individuals living with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy., on the fourth Monday of the month from 6:30-8pm. There is free parking in the ramp. For information, call Jennifer at 507-254-5524.

Events planned at Merriam Park Library

The Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., is planning several events in the coming weeks.

Club Book with Charles C. Mann is planned for Tues., May

Museum of the Moon to open at The Bell



The Bell Museum, 2088 Larpenteur Ave., will showcase "Museum of the Moon," by UK artist Luke Jerram, from May 21-June 9. The installation is part of the Bell's yearlong commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing, "Year of Apollo: The Moon & Beyond." The Bell's installation also coincides with the anniversary of NASA's Apollo 10 mission that orbited the Moon May 18-26, 1969, the "dress rehearsal" for the first Moon landing.

The seven-meter spherical sculpture of Earth's Moon is a fusion of NASA imagery, simulated moonlight and surround sound composition created by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award-winning composer Dan Jones. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimeter of the internally lit sphere represents five kilometers of the lunar surface.

"Museum of the Moon" will be suspended from the ceiling in the Bell Museum's Horizon Hall and have only a few feet between it and the floor. The museum will host a series of special events to get a close look at the artwork, which will technically be on view day and night thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows that flank the north and south ends of the museum's large lobby.

"Museum of the Moon" has drawn crowds in Iceland, China, Australia, Europe and the UK. As the stunning, internally lit sculpture travels the world, Jerram's interpretation of the Moon has brought that moonlit inspiration a wide audience.

7, 7-8:30pm. Enjoy a presentation by historian Charles C. Mann, with audience Q&A and book signing to follow. New York Times bestselling historian Charles C. Mann is perhaps best known for his ground-breaking "1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus," and his meticulously researched follow-up, "1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created." Changing gears, his newest book, "The Wizard and the Prophet," tells the remarkable story of two influential yet little-known twentieth-century scientists who laid the groundwork for the modern environmentalism movement. In a rave review, Sierra called it "an elegantly written, devoted testimonial to the art of the possible." It will be released in paperback on Apr. 16.

The Merriam Park Book Club meets Mon., Apr. 22, 6:30-7:30pm. The title they will discuss is "Hidden Figures" by Margo Lee Shetterly.

There are Family Storytimes at the library on Fridays, 10:30-11am. Preschoolers, toddlers, and babies are welcome.

Board at the Library will be held Wednesdays, 2-4:30pm. Join others for board games such as Apples to Apples Jr., Clue, Chess, Checkers, and more. Or, bring your own board games.

"You Can Make It!" takes place at the library on Mondays, 3-5pm, with hands-on crafts and activities for kids ages 7 to 11.

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

Tech Help Clinics are set for Thursdays, 11:30-12:30pm,

Fridays, noon-2pm, and Saturdays, 11:30am-12:30pm. The clinics are for all tablets and smartphones. Bring your questions and, problems, and concerns.

Woodland walk scheduled Apr. 26

A "Spring Flower Nature Survey Walk - Documenting species in Como Woodland," is planned for Apr. 26, 5-6:30pm at the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom, 1221 Wynne Ave.

This free informal walk and wildflower survey will be led by Meghan Manhattan, a Natural Resources Specialist with an in-depth knowledge of Minnesota's native plants and the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom.

The subject of the first walk in this six-part series is Spring Ephemerals, which are those early wildflowers that spring to life before the trees leaf out and are soon gone before summer.

The event is hosted by the Como Woodland Advisory Committee. RSVP to committee chairperson at teri.heyer@gmail.com.

Celtic Junction celebrates 10 years

It's been ten years since Celtic Junction Arts Center opened its doors and that means it's time for a hooley! The free event is planned for Sat., May 4, 6-10pm, at the Center, 836 Prior Ave. They'll have light snacks, entertainment, a special appearance from the Consul General of Ireland, and plenty of good craic.

They'll round out the night with Neil Gunn and Gunnslingers.

Parkinson's group meets monthly

A Parkinson's Support Group meets every month on the 3rd Friday at 1pm at Como HealthPartners Clinic, 2500 Como Ave. The next meeting is Apr. 19. This is a fun group of patients and caregivers who are interested in increasing their understanding of Parkinson's and learning about ways to fight the disease and optimize their quality of life. The group is free and welcomes new members.

Como Cookie Run scheduled May 11

Cookies, milk and a fun walk/run around the beautiful Como Lake for a good cause on Sat., May 11, 8-10am at Como Lake. 100% of the profits will go to HeroSearch and supporting local charities.

Cookies, milk, snacks, swag, bags, and prize drawings are included in registration. Top prize is a year of cookies. They are also collecting donation items for youth at the race and some nonprofits represented on HeroSearch.org will be there.

Discounts for groups and based on the choice of swag. Cost is \$35 but as low as \$15 for kids, \$20 with early bird and all discounts. See more information online at runsignup.com/Race/MN/SaintPaul/CookieFun5K.

Smallest Museum receives \$5000

The Smallest Museum in St Paul, 2399 University Ave. W., has received a \$5,000 award from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. The grant is to be used six exhibits at the Smallest Museum in St. Paul, a 3ft x 2ft micro museum, housed in a vintage fire-hose cabinet outside Workhorse Coffee Bar. Exhibits will be presented from July to December of 2019.

Annual Garage Sale scheduled May 9-11

Shop and support YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord at the annual Garage Sale at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Merchandise Mart building on Thur.-Sat., May 9-11. This free admission event is open from 9am-7:30pm on Thur. and Fri., and 8am-4pm on Sat. with Saturday Bag Sale.

More than 250 families contribute good quality clothing for all ages, sporting and camping equipment, household items, toys, books, antiques, etc. All proceeds fund Camper Scholarship Endowment. For more information, call 651-645-6605.

Law conference at HU is sold out

Hamline University Center for Justice and Law is hosting a Criminalization of Mental Illness Conference on April 26. The conference, with room for 450 people, was sold out over a month before its event date.

The keynote of this event is

author Alisa Roth, who will be sharing stories from her book, "Insane," about how prisoners with mental illness are treated in the criminal justice system. Several guest speakers include St. Paul Sergeant Jamie Sipes (Mental Health Unit), Judge Nicole Starr (Ramsey County Mental Health Court), DOC Commissioner Paul Schnell, Hennepin County Sheriff David Hutchinson, and people with personal experience and stories.

This conference was created by 32 Hamline University students in the course Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System.

Time to sign up for CSA delivery

Now that spring has arrived, it brings with it a reminder that this region is home to dozens of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms that provide regular deliveries of produce and other locally raised food throughout the growing season. The Land Stewardship Project's 2019 Twin Cities, Minnesota and Western Wisconsin Region CSA Farm Directory is now available. It provides detailed information on 49 farms that deliver weekly shares of produce, meat and more to locations in the region.

Community-supported agriculture is an arrangement whereby consumers buy shares in a farming operation on an annual basis. In return, the farmers provide regular deliveries of sustainably raised food throughout the growing season (approximately June to October). The list is available free of charge online at landstewardshipproject.org/stewardshipfood/csa.

Interact plans fundraiser for June 13

Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, 1860 Minnehaha Ave. W., will hold their annual fundraiser, "Spring Fl!ng with Kevin Kling," on Thur., June 13, 6-9pm at the Calhoun Beach Club. Watch for more details about tickets and reservations in the May issue.

St. Andrew's declared eligible for National Register of Historic Places

On Mar. 21, the National Register Historian at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Denis P. Gardner, informed Friends of Warrendale and Save Historic St. Andrews, LLC that his office had completed its review of the property evaluation of St. Andrew's, and determined that the former church, and current Aula, was eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Gardner reported that it was eligible for its architecture under Criterion C. "It's Romanesque Revival design is locally distinctive when contrasted with other churches employing the style. The complexity of the design is revealed in its many architectural embellishments, several of which make for an unusual design vocabulary." It may also be eligible

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under additional criterion for its architect, Charles A. Hausler, and for its role as an important institution in the neighborhood, which is Criterion A.

After review, SHPO made its determination: "In conclusion, if a National Register nomination for St. Andrew's Catholic Church was presented to the State Historic Preservation Review Board the SHPO believes that body would approve listing of the building in the National Register and vote to forward the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C. The Keeper makes final determinations, and it is the SHPOs view that the Keeper's Office would conclude that the church, at a minimum, is eligible for National Register listing for its architecture."

Adopt-A-Drain expands again

Adopt-a-Drain, a program aimed at protecting area lakes, rivers and wetlands from pollution, has expanded to include the entire Twin Cities and Rochester.

"Adopting a neighborhood storm drain is an easy way for Minnesotans to improve our local waterways, which are key to quality of life in the Land of 10,000 Lakes," said Jana Larson, Program Director for Adopt-A-Drain, which is based at Hamline University.

In the largest program of its kind in the nation, residents in the seven-county metro area and Rochester are invited to "adopt" a storm drain at www.Adopt-a-Drain.org and commit to keeping it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris.

Keeping storm drains clean and clear protects local lakes and rivers. In addition to trash, road salt, and chemicals, leaves and grass clippings also threaten the health of our waters because organic matter feeds excess algae growth in lakes and rivers.

Participation is easy. After creating an account at www.Adopt-a-Drain.org, residents can claim one or more available storm drains in their neighborhood. They can even name their drains. There are more than 300,000 storm drains in the Twin Cities metro area, and each one flows into a local waterway.

The Adopt-a-Drain program began in Saint Paul in 2014 with support from Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education, the City of Saint Paul and the Capitol Region Watershed District.

To date, more than 3,000 residents in pilot cities have adopted more than 5,000 storm drains. In 2018, they prevented more than 35,562 pounds of debris from washing down storm drains and into lakes and rivers just by sweeping up around storm drains.

For more info on how to adopt a drain or to become a supporting member, email the program at adoptadrain@hamline.edu or visit [www.Adopt-a-](http://www.Adopt-a-Drain.org)

[Drain.org](http://www.Drain.org).

Cafesjian's Carousel seeks volunteers

The historic and treasured merry-go-round which delighted riders for 75 years at the Minnesota State Fair will open on May 1 for its 20th season in Como Park.

Cafesjian's Carousel is gearing up to operate from May until October next door to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park. They are looking for volunteers to assist with ride operations, ticket purchasing, and gift shop sales. Volunteer shifts are 3 to 4 hours every day (May 1 to Labor Day) and 3 hours on weekends (Labor Day—Halloween) and volunteers work two or more shifts a month. New volunteers are always welcome and are encouraged to apply individually, in pairs, or as groups. Training is provided for all positions. Parking is free and available at or close to the Carousel. For information about volunteer opportunities, please call 651-489-4628 or e-mail ourfaircarousel@outlook.com. Visit their website at www.ourfaircarousel.org.

Restored to its original design and now known as Cafesjian's Carousel, the popular ride is owned and operated by the nonprofit organization Our Fair Carousel, Inc. Operational expenses are met through ticket and gift sales. The nonprofit citizens' group restored the carou-

sel to its 1914 appearance and installed it in its own building in St. Paul's Como Park in 2000.

Reserve May 11 for Hampden's Mayfest

Hampden Park Co-op, 928 Raymond Ave., invites everyone to "Mayfest - Its Annual Party With Plants!" on Sat., May 11, 11am-1pm, in their parking lot (rain or shine).

More than just a plant sale - Mayfest is an outdoor extravaganza of music, food, beer, product samples, community partners, activities for the kiddos and, of course, plants galore. Everyone is welcome at Hampden Park Co-op's annual festival.

Available plants include annuals, perennials, vegetables, strawberries, herbs and baskets from Glacial Ridge Growers of Glenwood, MN. New this year at the sale will be Pollinator Paks: four collections each with a variety to attract specific pollinators. Created in collaboration with the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, Glacial Ridge donates some of the proceeds back to them. (Plants are available at Hampden Park Co-op throughout May, while they last.)

Music will include DJs from the terrific KFAI Community Radio, where spinning is interspersed with local, live musicians. The sounds will be eclectic and lively with something for everyone! KFAI is also the co-op's nonprofit register

roundup for May.

Also available will be food and beer from the neighborhood. There's a parking lot so gotta put a food truck on it—Foxy Falafel wheels on in! And it's the one day you can get a brewski at the co-op—Urban Growler on tap!

Plus there will be games and face painting for the kids, free product samples from vendors, in-store sales, and more!

Hampden Park Co-op has celebrated spring with Mayfest for 30+ years, and they've recently updated their sales floor plus have been imaginatively expanding the deli menu.

General Manager Chuck Parsons says, "We want to make sure everyone gets an opportunity to see the transformation of our store since winter has subsided. We are also looking forward to adding more family-centric activities in addition to our Movies in the Park this summer (held in July and August at Hampden Park across from the store). Look for more coming soon."

Submit your news

If you are an organization located in the *Midway Como Monitor* delivery area, you can submit your event, special program, or noteworthy news to us for consideration. Submit your item by email to editorial@deruyternelson.com. The deadline for the next issue is Mon., Apr. 29 for the May 9 issue.

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by April 29 for the May 9 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Monitor Classifieds*, PO Box 168, Osseo, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the *Monitor* by Apr. 29 for the May 9 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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LANDSCAPING

Prepare for opening day soccer game traffic and parking

By JANE MCCLURE

Take the bus or train, bike, walk or use a taxi or ride-share. Unless you have a reserved parking spot, don't drive to Minnesota United FC soccer games at Allianz Field.

That's the message from team and city officials as they make plans to move almost 20,000 people to and from the stadium on game days, starting with the opener Apr. 13. Basic travel, transit, and parking plans were released in March and presented to Union Park District Council and Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC).

Team and city staff and traffic study consultants say that the stadium traffic and parking plans are a work in progress, with changes possible as needed. But both district councils' members and staff said they'd like to have had more neighborhood input and inclusion on stadium planning in general, saying they were left out of major decisions.

"This has come up really quickly," said HMC Community Organizer Melissa Cortez. She and others at the HMC meeting criticized the city and soccer team's lack of communication and collaboration on planning. That has forced neighbors to be in reacting mode, and not working together. "I think there's been a lot of missed opportunities ... it feels like this is just happening to us."

Board members said that while they appreciated hearing the plans, they'd have liked more notice and more time to share ideas.

City and team officials said they'd like more of a partnership with the neighborhoods and would do better.

The St. Paul Planning Commission's Transportation Committee also reviewed the plans Mar. 25, the day after a stadium preseason event drew enthusiastic crowds and some neighborhood complaints



There are approximately 400 bike racks located around the stadium—designated here in yellow. (Illustration provided)



Allianz Field has designated pick-up and drop-off points (designated in yellow) for fans planning on taking Lyft, Uber or a taxi to games. Get dropped off curbside on your way into the stadium on gameday, with easy access to your gate no matter where you're seated. (Illustration provided)

about traffic and spillover parking.

Concerns were raised about spillover parking in adjacent neighborhoods, motorists using neighborhood streets to bypass University and Snelling, and the small size of the study area, which is centered on the stadium site. Some questioned why scrutiny of traffic and travel impacts weren't looked at to the north and south. City staff comments that changes can be made didn't mollify some HMC Board members.

Other issues raised by the Planning Commission committee include a need to expand on the 400 bike rack spaces on-site, and to work with adjacent property owners on parking. On Mar. 24, some stadium visitors parked at nearby Midway Marketplace. That will require the property and business owners there to police their parking.

The game day experience

The key message is plan ahead. "We don't want you to drive by yourself, and it's going to be a miserable experience if you do," said St. Paul Police Commander Kurtis Hallstrom. "If you don't

have a parking space assigned, don't drive to the stadium."

Minnesota United is communicating directly to ticket holders about pre-purchasing parking spots or using other ways to get to games. The stadium site has 400 parking spaces. Maureen Smith, senior vice president for finance for Minnesota United, said that the team is preselling parking.

Parking in the Midway Center block is for team staff and VIPs. Parking is also being presold at Spruce Tree Center (\$40 per game) and HealthEast facilities (season-long parking packages at \$20 per game) near the stadium, with about 1,200 spaces there.

Metro Transit will also operate buses to and from the Minnesota State Fair, where there will be about 2,500 parking spaces available. (Reportedly 15-game packages for this location will be available for \$180.) The fairgrounds parking is the only place where pregame tailgating is allowed. Buses will travel on other routes, not yet finalized, to get to and from the stadium.

Downtown parking ramps will also be promoted as an option.

Due to scheduling conflicts,

the 2,500 State Fair parking spaces will not be available for MNUFC home games on Apr. 28, Aug. 14 or Aug. 17.

Luis Pereira, planning director for the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED), said the 2016 Snelling Midway Master Plan and an Alternative Urban Areawide Analysis (AUAR) study were used to plan for transportation needs. Those provided a starting point for further work with experts including staff from several city departments, the consulting firm Stgar Roscoe Fausch, the Ramsey County Department of Public Works, Metro Transit, Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Experience with game days at Xcel Energy Center, TCF Bank Stadium at the University of Minnesota and US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis were also drawn on to make plans.

City officials are now seeking feedback to make further changes, with the public able to weigh in at www.stpaul.gov/departments/planning-economic-development/allianz-field/allianz-field-transportation-feedback.

"Having that ongoing public input is really important to us," Pereira said. Plans are being made not just for soccer game attendees but for residents, business owners and institutional groups concerned about access to their properties. Another focus is business licensing, including vendors and people wishing to lease out their parking lots. The city is already hearing concerns that some neighbors will want to sell their yard space for parking, which isn't allowed in the neighborhoods by the stadium.

One huge focus is education. "Fans from outside of our area may not know our street system. That's going to be a critical thing for us," said Pereira. Education includes information to soccer game attendees about how to get there.

Red flags raised

The 2016 AUAR raised several red flags about stadium parking demand, and transit and travel congestion. Metropolitan Council questioned the assumptions 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 2016 council letter stated.

Red flags were raised about the estimated high percent-

age of shuttle bus and transit service usage, as Metropolitan Council stated, "Additional potential capacity on the Green Line does not automatically translate to usage."

City officials responded in 2016 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." City officials did more planning as the AUAR recommended, which is where the current recommendations stem from.

The modal split for game days is estimated to be 38.5 percent of fans using transit, with 23 percent walking, biking or taking taxis and rideshares. Off-site shuttles will bring in another 22.5 percent, with 11 percent of game attendees using private parking and another 5 percent using on-site parking.

Some streets around the stadium and Midway Center superblock of Pascal St. and St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues will have limited access on game days. Pascal between University and St. Anthony will be local traffic only, for access to businesses and homes. One-lane restrictions will be in place on St. Anthony between Pascal and Hamline avenues and on University from Fry St. to Pascal Ave. Spruce Tree Dr., which is an anticipated transit rider route to and from the westbound Green Line platform, will have restricted access. Pickup and drop-off space for shuttles, taxis, and rideshare vehicles will be on St. Anthony west of Pascal.

St. Paul and Metro Transit police will be stationed at intersections around the stadium to manage traffic control, safety, and the flow of transit riders.

David Hanson, Metro Transit's assistant field director for operations, said the Green Line light rail and A Line rapid buses will be the workhorses for stadium arrivals. Metro Transit will have staff out on and near rail and bus platforms to provide directions. Extra trains and buses will run to get people to and from the stadium, with a goal of having everyone cleared out one hour after a game ends.

A three-car train can hold 600 people, and an articulated bus can hold 100. The train platforms can hold three times the train capacity, for waiting passengers.

"We haul masses efficiently," said Hanson. "No one can do it better than us."

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New owner for the Monitor

Continued from page 1

(teamyarn.blogspot.com), a small non-profit dedicated to making and donating hats, shawls, and lapghans to those battling cancer and other serious illnesses.

Forum for community discussion

Christensen and longtime staff member Denis Woulfe, along with the writers and photographers who contribute to the paper, are looking forward to what the future holds for the *Monitor* and *Messenger* newspapers.

"I think what excites me about this next chapter is working to re-engage the newspapers with the communities that we serve," observed Woulfe, who started as an intern at the *Monitor* while he attended Hamline University 40 years ago.

"The world has changed since each of the newspapers was founded, but the basic needs of our readers are largely the same. I think they value the work and the role of the *Messenger* and the *Monitor*, and our challenge now is to find out how to heighten that engagement and fulfill that special contract between our readers and the newspapers that enhances and enriches the communities that we serve."



The team of writers and sales staff will continue working under new owner Tesha M. Christensen. Left to right: (writers and photographers) Jan Wilms, Jill Boogren, Stephanie Fox, Margie Oloughlin, (sales) Lynn Santacaterina and Denis Woulfe. Not pictured writer Jane McClure and sports columnist Matthew Davis. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Over the years, Woulfe has served in many different roles at the neighborhood newspapers, including the editor, typesetter, managing editor, advertising manager, and more. For the past few years, he's been busy selling ads, and is

currently a board member at ALLY People Solutions in the Midway which just merged with Community Involvement Programs (CIP) of Minneapolis. He is also a member of the Alumni Annual Fund Board for Hamline University.

"We dealt with many challenges over the years, but one, in particular, was the discussion over the role of a neighborhood newspaper and the balance between reporting what some readers saw as 'good' news and what others saw

as 'bad' news," said Woulfe. There also was a constant dialogue about what role the neighborhood newspaper had, and how it differed from the daily newspapers.

"Despite the different neighborhoods we serve with the two newspapers, the value of bringing community stakeholders together and providing a forum for community discussion has remained the constant over the years," stated Woulfe. "It remains as important now more than ever!"

Think print is dead?

Christensen agrees that it is more important now than ever, and will be recruiting various people from each neighborhood to serve on an advisory board that will share story ideas and tie each story closer into the fabric of the neighborhood.

"At the *Monitor* and *Messenger*, we are here to tell the stories of our neighborhoods," she stated. "We want to be reader-centric and make our content—both ads and articles—engaging and applicable. Print is evolving, and we're looking ahead in innovative and creative ways. More people are reading than ever before in the history of humankind, and we want to ensure that local residents are reading their community newspaper because it is 'News for You.'"

"Think print is dead? Think again."

Forty-seven years ago we moved to this community as young and somewhat apprehensive students at Hamline University. Little did we know what was in store, or what this neighborhood would grow to mean to us. It has been a great adventure, filled with the inevitable ups and downs of running a business in an ever-changing industry. Thank you for sharing the journey.

– Calvin deRuyter and Tim Nelson, Publishers, Midway Como Monitor

It's not history unless it includes every story.

ANNA HEDGEMAN

1898-1990

When Anna Arnold Hedgeman made history in 1922 as Hamline's first graduate of color, she had only begun her great legacy. As a respected civil rights activist, Hedgeman **took the lead** in higher education, mayoral cabinets, the press, and even the March on Washington.

And her legacy lives on. Both Hamline's diversity initiative and an endowed scholarship are named in Hedgeman's honor.



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