

monitor

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Pit bull attacks Como five-year-old

By DEBORAH BROTZ

The Como Regional Park Pool is opening with a splash.

If you used to love swimming laps at Como Park swimming pool and have had to find another place to swim in summer for the past five years, you're in for a treat this summer. Como Regional Park Pool, at 1151 Como Ave., is having a Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday, June 9, from noon to 8 p.m., with a ribbon cutting and speakers from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

On that day of free admission, there will be free open swimming, a jumping castle outside, lawn games, and hourly door prizes.

The new \$9 million facility features a 400-foot Lazy River with single rider and double rider tubes, an Aquatic Zip Line, and a Diving Well featuring a 1-meter diving board, two diving platforms, and an Aquatic Rock Climbing Wall.

For the children, there is a dedicated Children's Activity Pool with age appropriate features and a Family Water Slide. For lap swimming and water aerobics, there is a main pool with six lanes that is 25 yards featuring two basketball hoops. There are also Men's, Women's, and Family Locker Rooms.

"We think people will be really excited about the new pool," said Paul Prior, program supervisor for the City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation. "The old pool was heavily used. The pool area is not a whole lot bigger than the old pool. There's just more in it. We made the most use of the space we had available."

The old pool at Como Regional Park had extensive infrastructure, mechanical and electrical issues which deteriorated to the point that short term repairs were no longer sufficient.

"The pool was 52 years old," said Prior. "It was built in the '60s. The mechanicals just couldn't keep up. We had to dig out the concrete cement underneath the deck. Water would get underneath and push the walls of the metal pools out. All the braces were rusted out and gone. You

Como Regional Park Pool opens with a splash



If you used to love swimming laps at Como Park swimming pool and have had to find another place to swim in summer for the past five years, you're in for a treat this summer. Como Regional Park Pool, at 1151 Como Ave., is having a Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday, June 9, from noon to 8 p.m., with a ribbon cutting and speakers from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

can only do so much. It was unsafe from our perspective. So, we closed it five years ago."

During the pool closure, a detailed design process developed plans for a new facility to be built on the site. The replacement process began with the formation of a design task force made up of community members, city staff, and external aquatic consultants.

"They met for over six months on a monthly basis," said Bryan Murphy, landscape architect for St. Paul Parks and Recreation. "They provided input for the process. This was to make sure the community gets what it wanted. It's vital that the community has input. The task force was made up of a good representation of the community. This was a really good way to get community input into the project. Everybody had a way to be heard in the design process."

Another tool to get input

was a design charette.

"In the case of Como, it was two days," said Murphy. "It was an intense workshop. We had a good understanding of what people were looking for and what the site constraints were. We started generating ideas of what the design would look like. It was a good way for people to be involved in it. Some people have a hard time talking in large groups. With the smaller groups, they can make a comment to the designer directly or put their comments on note cards."

The pool has some green technology features. It got a \$150,000 Legacy Grant for solar energy, which was used for a solar hot water heating system.

"The bathhouse has solar panels used to heat the water for showers and sinks," said Murphy. "There are occupancy sensors in the buildings. If nobody is in the building, then the lights go out. If someone comes in, then the

lights go on. There are high efficiency filters and a high efficiency pool pump. There are skylights in the locker rooms and a window on the roof that lets in sunlight."

The plumbing fixtures are also green.

"The toilets and sinks are low flow capacity," said Murphy. "It's a water-saving method. It uses less water to flush the toilets." People wanted shallow water, less than 4 feet, in the pool.

"It's more desirable for recreational swimmers," said Murphy. "There's a zero depth entry splash pool. It's for smaller kids with a maximum depth of 3 feet. There are a couple of little water slides and an in-ground spray, like running through a sprinkler. There are some interactive play features where buckets of water will fill and then when full, will dump out on top of the person."

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There's a lot for everyone at the new Como Pool. For the children, there is a dedicated Children's Activity Pool with age appropriate features and a Family Water Slide. For lap swimming and water aerobics, there is a main pool with six lanes that is 25 yards featuring two basketball hoops. There are also Men's, Women's, and Family Locker Rooms.

monitor

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

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City Pages calls North End 'best undiscovered neighborhood'

By JAN WILLMS

City Pages' selection of the North End as the "best undiscovered neighborhood" may have been a surprise to some, but to Rice Street business owners it was a foregone conclusion.

The area became home to Romanian immigrants around 1900, and some of those families still survive. They have been joined by newer groups of immigrants to the area.

St. Bernard's Catholic Church and schools have been stalwart pillars of the community, but when hard times forced St. Bernard's schools to close, a Hmong charter school, Community School of Excellence, rented the vacated space.

"Like Phoenix rising, the Hmong charter school moved in," said businessman Bruce Larson. "There's a growing Asian population at St. Bernard's."

"The hope is now that families with children at the Hmong charter school will rent or buy in the neighborhood," added Mary Thoemke, who owns JMT Subs with her husband, John.

"Enough people on Rice Street are still investing money in the commercial corridor," explained Matt Ides, executive director of SPARC, a community development agency. "New blood is coming in. But how do we connect back to the residen-

tial community?"

Ides expressed concern that a small percentage of children live in the neighborhood, and the social fabric is gone. He said many bought homes in the North End when it was affordable, but then the market crashed.

"The way the public school functions is outside of our control, but it has such a big impact," he said. "I would like to see families anchored in the neighborhood."

Citing an evolution of Rice Street, Kirsten Libby of Libby Law Offices said there have been wonderful changes made. One of those changes involved rehabbing the century-old building which houses her law office and SPARC. The building, which was once a Romanian boarding house, had its two stories gutted and reframed.

Its windows, roof, and mechanical systems were replaced, while the original brick facade was preserved.

The Klub Haus, owned by Larson since 2002, first opened in 1928 as the North End Improvement Club, a community gathering place for dances, showers and parties. Today, after Larson put in major improvements, it still serves as a prime location for events.

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Casey Michel, a North End resident and freelance writer for City Pages, finds that a picnic table at Marydale Park is the perfect place to enjoy the outdoors and write a letter. (Photo by Jan Willms)



City Pages' selection of the North End as the "best undiscovered neighborhood" may have been a surprise to some, but to Rice Street business owners it was a foregone conclusion. Above the statuary from Lyton Park provides some of the color for neighborhood. (Photo by Jan Willms)

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Central Corridor rail stops acquire added names

By JANE MCCLURE

Central Corridor light rail stations at Victoria and Western avenues will get new added names, Metropolitan Council officials have decided. Each of the two stations will have a second name, of up to 21 letters or characters, added to station signage. That in turn will add \$125,000 per station to the project costs.

Sign cost per station without changing any of the 50 signs is about \$160,000 or \$320,000 for 100 signs at two stations. The cost of changing the 56 signs or 28 at each station that have the station name on them would be \$250,000 for both stations. The grand total cost for the two stations for signage is about \$570,000.

Light rail stations are already named for their cross streets or nearby landmarks. The naming process could also generate controversy in neighborhoods where there are multiple names and identities for the same area, some community leaders say. And it could cause unhappiness in neighborhoods denied a chance to rename stations.

Western and Victoria were chosen for added names because of concerns raised by community members and elected officials. Selecting the names means launching a grassroots, community engagement process, the Central Corridor Manager Committee was told April 11. Robin Cauffman, manager of public involvement for

the light rail project, said the added names will be chosen in August.

Input from district councils in the area will be sought during April, May and June. This will involve the Frogtown Neighborhood Association and Summit-University Planning Council (SUPC). The councils will be asked to help conduct a community process, then pass resolutions on preferred names.

The recommendations from the district councils then go to the St. Paul City Council and the Ramsey County Board. The council and board will vote in July, then send their recommendations to the Metropolitan Council. Once the council approves the names, fabrication of the signs can start in August.

In neighborhoods as ethnically diverse as the areas around Western and Victoria, the idea of changing community identity can be contentious. During Central Corridor land use planning a few years ago, several business owners and Frogtown residents objected to a proposal to name the Victoria and Western areas as part of a "World Cultural Heritage District." Frogtown Neighborhood Association Executive Director Tait Danielson-Castillo said that name changes need to come from the community, not from outside. The World Cultural Heritage District was suggested by marketing consultants. It has since been shelved.

In February, there was controversy when the Asian Ameri-

can Development Association held an event to christen part of east University Avenue around Western Avenue as "Little Mekong." At an event celebrating the new name, Mayor Chris Coleman and community leaders said it would help brand and promote the area as a destination for eating and shopping.

But other community leaders said that if names are changed, those changes need to come out of community process and not be chosen for marketing or branding purposes. Stephen Wilson is president of SUPC and chairs the District Councils Collaborative, a group of district councils and neighborhood associations along Central Corridor.

Wilson said any branding or renaming should go through a community process and be approved by government bodies, instead of simply being chosen for marketing purposes. "I think we have to be really, really careful when we start renaming places, especially those that have a historic identity." Both Western and Victoria are on the edge of the historic Rondo neighborhood, an African-American community that was largely wiped out by Interstate 94 construction in the 1960s.

"We also have the historic neighborhood names of Frogtown, Summit-University and Aurora St. Anthony and those have to be in the mix as well," Wilson said.

Local elected officials said there will need to be communi-

ty consensus around the names. "I'm not sure we'll be able to find unanimous consensus on the names," said Ward One Council Member Melvin Carter III. He is interested in the added names in part due to the potential marketing benefits a name could have, to identify and brand an area.

"If as a result of a name and identity, a node of Asian businesses does really well, we have succeeded," Carter said.

County Commissioner Toni Carter said that she appreciates the time taken to address the Western and Victoria name process, given the strong amount of community interest in the two stations. "The Metropolitan Council has bent over backwards and leaned forward to accommodate this process."

But Melvin Carter III also conceded that because of neighborhood diversity and history, there is potential for conflict over names.

Corridor Management Committee member Reggie Aliagada said there has been interest from other neighborhoods in changing station names. "I've said many times, it's all in a name and station naming matters," he said. Aliagada, a Hamline-Midway resident who is the citizen representative on the task force, said he has heard from other neighborhoods about station name changes.

But Metropolitan Council Chair Susan Haigh said Western and Victoria will be the only stations allowed to add names,

citing the level of community engagement there. Stations were added there and at Hamline, at the behest of area residents and community groups.

"We have a budget and a time frame and we have to live within it," she said. Fabrication of other station signs began earlier this year, so work is underway for the other stations.

Over the course of light rail planning, Cauffman said there have been a few questions raised about the name at every station area. The Raymond-University neighborhood has decided to do a tie in a theme of "Raymond on the Rails" to market and promote businesses, although that won't be a station name. But Western and Victoria are the neighborhoods where there is the most "energy" around the naming issue.

"We have 21 characters for each added name," said Cauffman. The name "Western" and "Victoria" would be followed by a slash and then the second name. The process of naming and making the signs would be similar to the process used last year to rename one Minneapolis station and add the name Prospect Park behind the original name, 29th Avenue.

The Central Corridor project staff also renamed the Rice Street station, adding "Capitol" to its name to denote its proximity to the State Capitol.

Each station has about 50 signs. Cauffman said about 28 would have the station name.

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Como Park home to two new electric car charging stations

By DEBORAH BROTZ

While all-electric cars are gaining in their share of the U.S. auto market, they are years away from becoming the most practical car for most Twin Cities residents. But, when gas prices become high enough and consumers switch to electric cars, St. Paul will be ready.

On April 12, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman unveiled two new solar-powered electric car charging station's within Como Regional Park. The stations, located by the Como Park Pavilion at Lake Como and at McMurray Fields, are the first of their kind in Minnesota. Powered by the sun, they generate no air pollution. These particular charging stations have the capacity to charge two vehicles at a time.

"Having these charging stations located in a regional destination like Como Park is a good fit for the demand we've seen from our environmentally-conscious users," said Mayor Coleman. "The electric car industry is growing, and St. Paul is ready. We are paving the way for a sustainable future and will continue to lay the infrastructure for electric vehicles across the metro."

The charging stations will charge \$1 per hour, which allows drivers to "top off" the batteries that power their car's electric motor when they get low.

While there aren't that many households in the Twin Cities with electric vehicles, the mayor felt now was the time to put the new electric car charging stations in the park.

"I think it's a little bit like the chicken and egg situation," said Anne Hunt, environmental policy director for Mayor Coleman. "We knew electric cars were coming on the market. The Chevy Volt is available now in Minnesota. The Nissan Leaf is available and the Nissan i is coming out this summer to the Minnesota market. We placed charging stations in places that are regional destinations."

On April 12, City officials also introduced three new electric vehicles to the City's fleet: two Chevy Volts and a Ford Transit Connect.

According to Hunt, the City now has five electric cars.

"We bought one before the stimulus money," she said. "We have one neighborhood electric car, and two Ford Transit Connects. We bought one in January 2011. And, we have two Chevy Volts."

The City added the new vehicles to its fleet to help reduce air pollution.

"We're trying to reduce the emissions from vehicles," said Hunt. "We bought more fuel-efficient vehicles as we retire the old ones. We're using biodiesel in summer. Biodiesel has less emissions than regular diesel. Electric cars are another cleaner option for us. They have no tailpipe emissions. We're replacing the cars for people who put a lot of miles on cars."

City officials are hoping that electric cars will grow in their market share once the infrastructure to support them is installed.

Americans are buying a record number of gas-electric hybrid and



On April 12, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman unveiled two new solar-powered electric car charging station's within Como Regional Park.

electric cars as gas prices rise and new models become available in showrooms. This has given the vehicles their greatest share of the U.S. auto market yet.

The two categories combined made up 3.64 percent of total U.S. sales in March, giving them their highest monthly market share ever.

"Not that many people have electric cars yet," said Hunt. "Many people are waiting until their car entirely wears out. Then, they'll replace it with a more fuel efficient option. Electric cars had their best sales month during March."

As a very popular regional destination, Como Park had a record number of visitors last year.

"There are about 3 million visitors at Como Park," said Hunt. "Some of those visitors will have electric cars. It's nice to have some people drive a clean, non-polluting

car to Como Park. We'll also be installing one more solar-powered electric car charging station at Sun Ray Library over on the East Side. There will be two State of Minnesota installations, one on the northeast corner of Rice and University and another on 14th and Jackson streets between the Capitol complexes and Regions Hospital."

It's important to the City to have these electric charging stations in Como Park to move St. Paul toward a cleaner future with electric cars.

"Como Park is a regional destination, and we knew visitors will come over from all corners of the metropolitan area," said Hunt.

"We want to be able to provide the infrastructure to charge cars. We're also looking at expanding Nice Ride. It's coming to downtown St. Paul. We've been working with

Hour Car. We're trying to provide people who visit, live, or work in downtown St. Paul a variety of options. We recognize the electric car may not be an option for everybody, but we want to be prepared for those people who have bought electric cars."

The solar charging stations, paid for in part from a \$2.8 million federal stimulus grant through the U.S. Department of Energy, cost \$35,000 per unit and are eligible for a total rebate of \$8,910 from the Xcel Energy Solar Rewards program. The electric vehicles were paid for through stimulus dollars, Xcel Energy and the City of St. Paul. Overall, stimulus dollars paid for about 60 percent and Xcel Energy and the City of St. Paul each paid about 20 percent of the total cost for solar installations, charging stations and four electric vehicles.

While critics of electric cars believe they will generate more headlines than sales, others believe electric car sales will continue to increase as gas prices rise, and people become aware of the benefits of ownership. And that their prices will drop as more cars are manufactured. St. Paul is betting that this time will come, and their electric charging stations at Como Park were a good, positive step toward the future.

"We'll see how that goes," said Hunt. "We'll see how many use them. If nobody there charges their car, the solar can go to the Pavilion. The energy will not be wasted."

Evil and hope: Book of Revelation Bible study continues Sundays

Apocalypse, in Greek, means dis-

closure or revelation. But what does the last book of the New Testament really uncover? The Apocalypse of St. John, better known as the Book of Revelation, "discloses dimensions of two age-old mysteries: the character of evil and the nature of hope," says

Craig Koester, a New Testament scholar at Luther Seminary in St. Paul and author of several articles and books on Revelation. Koester will lead sessions on Revelation via DVD for Jehovah Lutheran Church's adult Bible class at 9:30 a.m. Sundays. The sessions in the

church library are free and open to all, with coffee and snacks provided. The church is at 1566 Snelling Ave. Information is available by calling the church office at 651-644-1421 or 612-227-1024.

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Native Plant Expo and Market will be held on Saturday, June 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Pavilion at Rainbow Foods in Roseville, 1201 Larpentour. The Expo and Market offers gardeners the chance to learn more about how native plants can benefit their properties, and birds and wildlife,

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Heartwood Festival: New name, same mission to bring neighbors together

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Don't let the name change of the Hamline Midway Coalition's annual neighborhood festival fool you. It still promises to be a great day of family-friendly fun with many new activities. The Hamline Midway Heartwood Festival, formerly known as the Spring Festival, will be held on Saturday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The event is being held to bring neighbors together.

"We want to encourage community building in the neighborhood and showcase the many talents of residents," said Faith Krogstad, community organizer of Hamline Midway Coalition. "This year we're promoting local businesses and environmental sustainability. We want to bring everyone together just to have a fun day to enjoy the neighborhood."

The Coalition decided to change the name to tie the Festival to Newell Park.

"We wanted to bring together residents to learn about sustainability," said Krogstad. "It's really been a nice way to bring specific ideas and resources to the neighborhood we have not had when it was more broad. We wanted to bring out the trees at Newell Park. The strength of the tree lies in the heartwood. It's the core part of the tree that provides the strength. This is a good metaphor for the community."

The name change reflects the Festival's focus celebrating community, sustainability, and art.

"We liked having this metaphor," said Krogstad. "We wanted the theme of the event to be sustainability and art. It's nice to have a focus. In the past, it's been very broad. This allows us to bring more specific ideas and resources together as a more comprehensive whole."

Partnering with St. Paul Parks and Recreation, the Hamline Midway Coalition is offering a Bike Rodeo starting at 9:30 a.m., at Hancock Recreation Center, 1610 Hubbard Ave., where there will be bike decorating. At 10 a.m., there will be a Bike/Walk Parade led by the Midway-Frogtown Arborators Band, including a May Pole, from Hancock to Newell Park, 900 N. Fairview Ave., via Hubbard and Wheeler Avenues.

In preparation for the Bike/Walk Parade, the Canvas Teen Arts Center, at Hancock Recreation Center, is opening a mask-making workshop to all community members with the help of an In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre artist and puppet maker on Thursday, May 31, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

When the Bike/Walk Parade arrives at the Festival, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be a safety obstacle course with the St. Paul Bicycle Police. Volunteer bike mechanics will be offering bicycle safety checks to children and will be giving out free bike locks to children who complete the obstacle safety course, as long as supplies last.

Hamline Midway Library will be having a Kids Book Club at 1:30 p.m. and a Teen Book Club at 2:30 p.m. The Mighty Midway Storytellers are also expected to offer some activity.

At 3 p.m., there will be a workshop in slacklining, a practice in balance that typically uses 1-inch nylon webbing tensioned between two anchor points.

At 5 p.m., there will be tree planting in Newell Park.

There will also be children's activities at community resource booths throughout the Festival.

Entertainment this year features the "Bunny Clogs," led by Adam Levy from the "Honey Dogs," who was a big hit last year with his funk, rock, and hip hop music. Leslye Orr, who owns Dreamland Arts with her husband, will also be performing. Pop Wagner, who has a big handlebar moustache and wears a big 10-Gallon Cowboy Hat, will be singing country music. The Center for Irish Music and O'Shea Irish Dance will be performing together doing Irish dancing to Irish music.

Other featured entertainment will be Xibaba, a Brazilian music group; Shaka Shaka Shaka, a belly dancing troupe; Happy Minnesota, a theater group; Ill Chemistry, an experimental hip hop duo featuring Desdamona and Carnage; and Inukshuk Pass, a rock group.

The Art Fair will include mosaics, painting, puppets, illustrations, hand-crafted sculptures, and quilts.

New to the Festival this year is a Green Home Improvement Ex-



Returning to this year's festival, and leading the parade, will be the Midway Frogtown Arborators Band, a marching brass band composed of tree experts. (Photo by Pavlica Photography)

po, where businesses will share their green products and services; a Local Business Fair; and Green Living Workshops.

"For the Local Business Fair, we're working to provide free

booths to businesses within Ward 4," said Krogstad. "They can register all the way up to May 18 to be listed in the event program."

There will also be a Community Resource Fair, where commu-

nity groups will be having tables. This includes informal community groups as well as some non-profits and government entities, such as schools.

In the workshops from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Newell Park Building, people can learn about urban chicken raising, build a rain barrel to take home, or practice proper tree planting. Workshops include: Urban Chicken Keeping, a Slacklining Workshop, a Rain Barrel Workshop (requires preregistration by 5 p.m., Monday, May 21, call Michael Jon Olson at (651) 494-7682), a Tree Planting Workshop, Gardening in Small Spaces, and Attracting Native Bees to Your Garden.

There will be food available to buy from Ginkgo Coffeehouse and Eden Pizza.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Popular local band, the Bunny Clogs, led by Adam Levy of the Honeydogs, will be returning to the festival this year, back by popular demand. (Photo by Pavlica Photography)

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Pit bull attacks five-year-old in Como Park

By JAN WILLMS

A pleasant Easter Sunday afternoon turned suddenly dark for five-year-old Lola Barry as she played outside with her younger sister. The two girls were riding their bike and scooter in front of their home on Asbury Street while their father, Peter, sat nearby on a bench watching them.

According to Barry, Lola rolled her bike a little ways down the sidewalk, and he could hear a woman talking to her, complimenting her on her dress and asking if she had hunted Easter eggs that day.

The woman had a dog on a six-foot leash, and Peter said he remembered thinking he hoped it was not a pit bull. He said he heard the woman say, "That's okay—go ahead and pet him."

"Lola reached out her hand, but then I think she remembered she has been warned not to approach strange animals," Barry said. "She pulled her hand back, and it looked like the dog (which was a pit bull) just struck like a shark."

"It tore her left arm up," Barry said. He immediately jumped up from the bench, ran to his daughters and scooped them both up in his arms. "Lola was

screaming and in shock, and my three-year-old was frozen," Barry said. He felt the woman was doing nothing to corral the dog, and he told her to follow him to his house.

"I was worried about rabies, who owned the dog and I couldn't tell what my daughter's injuries were," he explained.

He took his daughters into the house, where his wife and an older teen-age daughter helped Lola. He called 911, and the paramedics and fire department arrived shortly.

Lola had bruising and deep puncture marks that reached the muscle on her left arm. Her parents transported her to the emergency room, where she spent four hours.

Barry did obtain the name of the woman walking the dog and the dog's owner, who lived several houses away. Animal Control took the dog. Barry said he had never seen the dog before, nor had any interaction with its owner.

He has since learned that the dog was involved in a biting incident two years earlier.

He said he received an apology letter from the dog walker, and the owner stopped by his



A pleasant Easter Sunday afternoon turned suddenly dark for five-year-old Lola Barry as she played outside her Como Park home with her younger sister. Without any warning, the girl was bit by a pit bull which in turn caused bruising and deep puncture marks.

house the Tuesday after the incident. "She said she felt terrible, and that the dog has had all his shots," Barry said. But the incident has left him and his family on edge.

"We have had one very polite follow-up from Councilman Russ Stark's office," Barry said. He said he has been disappointed in the clipped e-mails he has received from Animal Control and the Department of Public Safety.

He said he understands

there has been an order for the destruction of the dog.

According to Stark's office, the City is currently prosecuting the owner of the dog for what is known as a "failure to restrain/attack by an animal" case, which is considered a misdemeanor. The defendant is scheduled for arraignment on July 24 at 12:30 in courtroom 131A.

The City of Saint Paul-Department of Safety & Inspections shows that the numbers of dog

bites over the past five years have fluctuated up and down. In 2007, there were 175; in 2008, 133; in 2009, 163; in 2010, 196 and in 2011, 149.

Asked what he thinks should happen, Barry said that after a dog bites, that dog should preemptively be destroyed unless the owner can show it is not a danger.

In that event, Barry said he felt the dog should be muzzled in any outdoor situation. He said that in his opinion, the dog should wear a 6x8 neon dangerous dog vest to show that it had previously bitten someone.

Christine Rozek, deputy director of the Department of Safety & Inspections, said the decision on putting a dog down depends on the seriousness of the bite. Since Zoey, the dog who attacked Lola, had bitten someone two years ago, that affected the decision to euthanize the dog. The owner had until May 8 to appeal and ask for a hearing on this decision.

"If a dog is declared dangerous but is not destroyed, we send out a notice to neighbors within 300 feet and let them know about the dog," Rozek explained.

Barry said he sees no justification for allowing the animal that seriously bites a child to exist in the community.

"There may be some island where they could live out their days, but not on my island," Barry claimed. "Somebody in the City of St. Paul made a decision two years ago to not destroy that dog. There should be zero tolerance for pit bulls that bite."

"Somebody in the city had better start taking this seriously, or I will work to get them un-elected," Barry added.

"I had a sweet little kid on Easter morning," Barry continued. "She has lost something since then. Of all the heartbreaks I have experienced, this is the biggest. And it didn't have to happen."

The owner of the dog was contacted for this article, but she declined to comment, saying she was out of town at the time that the incident happened and was not present to witness it.



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The North End is home to many things that, according to some residents, are "a best-kept secret." (Photo by Jan Willms)

North End

Continued from page 2

"It has gone through an interesting evolution, and it is how this community celebrates the rituals of life," Larson explained.

The North End is home to many things that, according to Larson, are "a best-kept secret." There is Marydale Park, which was in bad condition until residents took it upon themselves to clean it up, and it now provides a scenic lake and park in the midst of the city for anyone to enjoy. Lyton Park is one of St. Paul's oddest shaped parks, a small oval-shaped space complete with sculptures.

What makes the North End such a special community that City Pages honored it?

Matt Smith, who heads the "Best Of" issue of City Pages, said the choices are made by the writers, who choose a category to write about based on their interest. The special issue has been published since the 1970s.

"It's a subjective choice," he said. He added the writer was likely someone familiar with the area, and liked the North End.

"The North End has an unusual collection of eccentric people who do not eat and breathe capitalism," Larson said. John Thoenke agreed.

"We all put a lot of money in our businesses through private investment," he said. "We had help from the city and SPARC, but we don't expect to get rich."

Resident and businessman Jim Bradshaw has perhaps put his finger on the North End's attraction.

"The North End is unaccustomed to bragging about its positive attributes," he said. "The neighborhood is filled with hard-working, tenacious, unapologetic, 'regular folks' trying to care for their community."

He describes it as a neighborhood consisting of immigrants, once representing Germany, Austria and Romania and today people from African, Asian and Hispanic communities.

"St. Bernard's Church has always been a beacon as a community leader representing a solid foundation for the North End," he continued. "The North End is strong as its residents are always trying to improve the community, have greater visibility and a desire for downtown to care about its future."

"As people see what this place has to offer, there is just about everything here," added Jon Paulson, president of the North End Business Association. "It's not just a gem for the hipsters from City Pages."



What's Cookin' ...

By COLETTE MULLENMASTER

Stasny's Food Market's owner welcomes Stu Gerr

How did you come into this line of work?

I learned everything I know from my Dad who learned everything he knew from my grandfather, who started the business in 1922. Makes us 90 years in the neighborhood! Now, my son, who besides learning the meat business, has taken on growing our deli and vending business. He'll be 4th generation.



What do you like best about having a business in this community?

Like Stu Gerr, Stasny's newest butcher, I enjoy the people in this community. There's great diversity in this area. Since Stu came on board our business had grown by over 40%, which is simply a reflection on his expertise and strong following. It's not surprising, since Stu has been in the business in St. Paul since he was 15. Since he joined Stasny's, we are learning new ways of preparing our meats that satisfy our customers' needs and keep us perfecting our craft.

Going forward, how do you see your business evolving in this community?

A day does not go by where somebody comes in and says "Stu, I found you!" We look forward to growing and developing in a neighborhood that has been good to us over the years and which we've been happy to serve. As for Stu, he's glad to be at Stasny's meeting new people and welcoming old customers from his long career in the butcher business. He also really enjoys the fact that we have an on-premise smokehouse.

Stasny's welcomes well respected and loved butcher, Stu Gerr

Stu's Favorite, Tri-Tip Sirloin for the Grill

Stu recommends the tri-tip sirloin for grilling. As it cooks, it plumps up more than other cuts of beef and is a great way to serve at dinner parties as it can be cooked as one piece and sliced for service. He suggests serving this with roasted potatoes. Stu offers one of his favorite recipes for roasted potatoes below:



Ribeye steaks can be found in the Stasny's meat case

Serves 4

For a 2 lb. sirloin, mix 1 cup of soy sauce, with 2 T of granulated garlic powder. Put the sirloin and this mixture into a plastic bag and let it marinate in the fridge for 4-5 hours. Put it on the grill. Stu recommends always using a good meat thermometer for accurate temperature. For the potatoes, cut up 8-10 red potatoes and precook for a few minutes in the oven. In a Ziplock bag, add 1/4 cup of olive oil and either Lipton soup mix or another herb soup mix. Wrap in foil and cook to tender on the grill or in the oven at 350.

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Conservatory presents 'Impressionist' show



Inspired by the 106th American Association Of Museums (AAM) Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo™ hosted by the Twin Cities, the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park will showcase a Summer Flower Show influenced by Impressionist masters Monet, Renoir, Van Gogh, and Cezanne. The Impressionist Summer Flower Show will be open to the public through September 30th from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Heartwood Festival

Continued from page 5

Festival planners try to add new things to the Festival every year.

"We like to keep the Festival fresh and new each year," said Krogstad. "As we gain practice in doing this, we like to be able to offer more resources and make it a more fulfilling event for the community."

Also, at the Festival, people are encouraged to vote for district council board members. Candidates will have some stage time before voting closes down around 5 p.m.

Planned by the Community Building Committee of the Hamline Midway Coalition, the Festival is sponsored by Celtic Junction, Renewal by Andersen, Union Park District Council, Northern Brewer, and Borden Windows. Festival partners include St. Paul Parks and Recreation and Bike/Walk Week Twin Cities.

The Festival's purpose encompasses a number of things.

"The purpose is community building, showcasing the talents of people here in the neighborhood, and engaging people in community life," said Krogstad. "In terms of voting for board members, we want people to get involved in the community. We want them to find out what community groups are doing, to find out who is doing what and how to plug in."

The Festival is important to the Coalition because it helps neighbors to get to know them and what they do.

"It's important to the Coalition to make the Hamline Midway community a better place to live, learn, work, and play," said Krogstad. "We believe the Festival does this by helping people to know their neighbors and local businesses. Knowing your neighbors is a great way to prevent crime. Community building builds pride. We want to introduce the Hamline Midway Coalition to residents in the neighborhood to help us build relationships with neighbors and businesses."

As the Coalition's biggest event of the year, they are having a Silent Auction at the event, which funds part of the Festival. They are seeking Silent Auction donations.

They are also seeking volunteers who want to help with things before the event or on the day of the event.

With limited parking around Newell Park, the Coalition hopes people will try biking or walking to the Festival.

"We hope for sunny beautiful weather," said Krogstad. "We hope for a great turnout. We hope for great energy from attendees. We hope people will bring their bikes to the event and kick off Bike/Walk Week in style and that everyone has a fun day with their neighbors."

For information about the Festival, call Faith at 651-494-7683, email her faith@hamlinemidway.org or visit the website at www.hamlinemidway.org/heartwood.

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Pool

Continued from page 1

Another feature, the Lazy River, is 400 feet long.

"The kids sit in tubes and float around," said Murphy. "In one part of the Lazy River, the water shoots out from the walls. Portions of the lap pool are less than 4 feet with an area of 6 feet to 12 feet. The Zip Line ride goes over the top of that. People splash down into the pool. That portion needs to be deeper to accommodate that."

Having a new Como Park pool is important to St. Paul because of its mission.

"Part of our mission is to promote active lifestyles and to help make St. Paul the most livable city in America," said Prior. "We were the first ones in Minnesota to have an outdoor climbing wall. How many people have that? Let's get stuff built and do it right."

The City hopes people come to Como Pool to try out its unique features.

"We hope it's popular, and it draws people to its unique features," said Murphy. "It's a state-of-the-art facility with green technology. We hope it will be a standard for facilities going forward being energy efficient."

For more information, visit stpaul.gov/parks, click on aquatics.

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In Our Community

Como Neighborhood Garage Sale, May 19

70+ garage sales throughout the Como Park neighborhood!

You can download a map of garage sale locations at www.district10comopark.org/2012garage-sale.html or pick up a map at Java Train (1341 Pascal Street North), Coffee Grounds (1579 Hamline Avenue North) or the District 10 Como Community Council's office (1224 Lexington Parkway North). Bargain hunters should not miss this amazing neighborhood-wide sale!

Zion Church holds rummage sale

Zion Lutheran Church holds rummage sale on June 1st Friday between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and sat. 2nd between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Zion is located on 1697 Lafond ave. St. Paul, MN. 55104. If you would like to donate items please call Sandra at 651-917-7884. Proceeds from the sale go to support our children and youth program.

'Breastfed Baby' topic of June 12 La Leche

The Baby Arrives: The Family and the Breastfed Baby is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tuesday, June 12. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Donations for rummage sale at Bethel Lutheran

Bethel Lutheran Church will hold its 11th Annual Rummage Sale benefiting the Children's Christian Education Fund on June 13 (Pre-sale 6-8pm; \$3 admission), June 14 and 15 (9am-6pm) and June 16 (9am-3pm). Bethel is located in St. Paul's Como Park neighborhood at 670 W. Wheelock Parkway, St. Paul.

We are looking for a wide range of 'almost new' donations including books, furniture, tools, houseware items, dishes, glassware, stemware, crystal, collectibles of all kinds, arts & crafts, jewelry, office supplies, functional electronics, sporting goods, gently used toys & clothing for the whole family. Sorry, we can't accept mattresses, tires, computers, exercise bikes, Christmas trees, hazardous waste, or just plain junk. The church will be open to receive your donations from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, May 26th, June 2th and 9th.

For more information about Bethel Lutheran Church, its pro-

grams and ministries visit www.bethelstpaul.com or call 651-488-6681.

Rainbow departs Jehovah; space available

Jehovah Lutheran Church has 6,000 square feet of rental space available following the departure of Rainbow Child Development Center. The day-care center, after 14 years at the church, has moved to a space on Front Street. Jehovah Lutheran, 1566 Thomas, is a key location at Snelling and Thomas three blocks north of University, where the Central Corridor light-rail line is nearing completion. The church positions itself as a ministry center.

Community Christian partnership celebration planned May 19

Jehovah Lutheran Church will celebrate its partnerships at a gathering from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, at the church, 1566 Thomas at Snelling. Two other groups worship at the church — Mekane Yesus, an Ethiopian Lutheran congregation, and The Alley, a contemporary-worship community. Other partners in the celebration include Central Lutheran School and Boy Scout Troop 243. The event will showcase the churches' variety of music and worship styles and will include some of what Pastor Bob Benke of Jehovah Lutheran calls "neighborhood listening." The gathering will dedicate a new sign-

board on Snelling at Thomas, with food and children's activities. All are welcome.

Women's Drop-in Drum Circle May 22

Announcing a Women's Drop-in Drum Circle on Tuesday, May 22, 7:45 p.m. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored. All levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., St. Paul. \$12.00 at the door. Drums provided. Info and registration at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

Travel lecture planned at seniors luncheon

"Around the World: Spectacular shots and commentary of India, China, the Caribbean, Amsterdam, Belgium, Paris, London, and Alaska," from HM resident John Purvis will be the topic at a luncheon for seniors on Tues., June 12 at 1514 Englewood Ave at 11:30. A \$4.00 free will donation is asked for the meal, there is no cost to attend the program which begins at 12:15. (651) 209-6542.

New location for neighborhood networking

CoNNect, "Caring for our Neighbors and Neighborhood" networking group for persons 50+ will now meet at Groundswell Coffee, 1342 Thomas, the third Thursday of each month from

10:30-12 noon beginning May 19. Any and all invited to meet new people, share ideas or just listen. For more information, contact Stephanie Digby at 651-642-1288 or HM Elders 651-209-6542.

Como Carousel volunteer opportunities offered

Cafesjian's Carousel in Como Park is seeking volunteers to help at the ticket window, in the gift shop, and on the ride. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and are asked to commit to weekly or biweekly 3- or 4-hour morning or afternoon shifts. Training is provided and free parking is available. The carousel is open every day except Mondays from May 1 to Labor Day and weekends during September and October. For further information contact Tammi Beckley at 651-489-4628.

Project assistance available for HM Seniors

Supervised Youthworks crews to help with small projects (garage clean-up, gardening, painting, etc.) are available for Hamline Midway residents 62+ by calling HM Elders 651-209-6542. Student are with service/mission project groups from outside the Twin Cities.

HU kicks off new season with dance program

Hamline University Theatre continues its 81st season with GO!, a collection of new and slightly

used work by the Hamline University Dance Ensemble, led by Artistic Director Karoi Kenmotsu. Black Label Movement's Eddie Oroyan and Bryan Godbout and former JazzDance company member Judith James Reis will premier new work, and L.A.-based Diavolo company member Crystal Edward's "Elephant in the Room" will perform before its premier at nationals on the Kennedy Center Stage. GO! truly represents the Ensemble's mission of being a laboratory for movement exploration and risk taking. Tickets are \$2 for Hamline students, \$3 for ACTC students and staff, \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. The show opens Thursday, May 3rd and runs May 4th and 5th at 7:30 p.m. in Hamline's Anne Simley Theater. Advance reservations are suggested for this production, and can be made through the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or via e-mail at tickets@hamline.edu.

Rummage Sale May 17 at Holy Childhood

Holy Childhood Church Rummage Sale will be held on Thursday, May 17th, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, May 18th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Bag Day, Saturday May 19th, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church is located at 1435 Midway Parkway, St. Paul. There are many treasures to be found, clothing, housewares, furniture, books, CD's, video's. plants and many more.

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This Much I Can Tell You

Two events presented by MCC-Refugee representatives
Saturday, June 2
1:30 p.m.
Hamline Midway Library
1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.
Monday, June 18
6 to 7 p.m.
West 7th Library, 265 Oneida St.



www.sppl.org
651-266-7000

The District 10 Environment Committee has been busy in 2012 – both indoors and out.

Once again, the Committee is sponsoring Como Tree Appreciation Awards to encourage everyone to treasure existing trees and plant new ones. Besides beautifying our landscapes, trees clean our air, reduce rain runoff, help save on heating and cooling, reduce noise pollution, increase property values, and support wildlife – especially birds. Nominate a residential tree: big or small, old or young, your own or a neighbor's – any tree you especially appreciate – and the Environment Committee will consider it for an award. Go to <http://district10comopark.org/nominateatree.html>; the deadline is May 25th.

Speaking of trees, have you noticed identification tags on trees in the Park? The Committee received permission to install the labels highlighting the wide variety of tree species. On Saturday June 9th at 10 a.m., UMN Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology Chet Mirocha will conduct his popular annual Como Park Tree Trek and share interesting facts about the trees.

Also, as part of the third annual Como Fest, the Committee is sponsoring a garden tour, featuring twelve – or more – private home



Como Council Corner

By Jon Knox, Board Chair of the District 10 Como Community Council

Environment Committee geared up to green up Como

gardens, plus the flower box competitors at the Coffee Grounds, and three public gardens. The free tour will take place on Saturday, July 20th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A map of garden locations will be available on the District 10 website. Come out to enjoy what others have created and gather ideas for your own landscape!

The unusually mild spring weather got Committee members outside especially early this year, helping with registration for the annual St. Paul Parks Cleanup at the kick-off event at Como Pavilion in addition to participating in trash pick-up. They also got dirt under their fingernails cleaning up the Como Pavilion Native Plant Garden and the McKinley/ Frankson Rain garden.

In April, the Committee nominated the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom (CWOC) project for the Organization/Community

Education category of the 2012 Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Awards – and received it! Co-sponsors, the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission and Saint Paul Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, recognize projects, individuals and organizations that enhance and celebrate the City's cultural resources. Conceived of in the context of the Committee's collaboration with the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Division on buckthorn removal almost a decade ago, the CWOC occupies and preserves the largest remaining significant woodland area of the Park and promotes it as a place for outdoor learning. The Awards Ceremony on May 15th will honor the CWOC Advisory Committee and the Parks Environmental Services and Design sections, all of whom have been instrumental in the project's development.

The committee kicked off the

year with a three-month series of free public talks on Sunday afternoons. First up, in February, was Heather Holm, horticulturalist, photographer and graphic designer who maintains the popular Restoring the Landscape with Native Plants blog. Her presentation, "Minnesota's Day-flying Moths and Butterflies," focused on species requiring specific native plants to feed on before becoming flying adults and how our gardens can help them flourish. In March, local writer and history buff Roger Bergerson presented "Tales of Old Como," touching on some of this area's fascinating history with photos and commentary. Erik Olsen, neighborhood resident and landscape designer with Out Back Nursery & Landscaping, finished up the series in April with "Beyond Coneflowers: Native Gardens for City Living." He discussed how native plants differ from non-na-

tives and suggested species for various applications and ways to best integrate natives into small urban yards. All three talks were well attended, and the Committee already has a list of enticing topics for next year.

The Environment Committee can always use new members and volunteers for hands-on events! For more information about the Committee or to sign up for the e-mail list, contact Committee Chair Ron Edlund at ron.edlund@district10comopark.org or the District 10 Office at district10@district10comopark.org.

(Jon Knox, elected in 2009, is the board chair of the District 10 Como Community Council. The Como Community Council serves an important role in advising the City about issues that directly affect residents in the Como Park neighborhood. The Council works with residents and community partners to promote public safety, maintain good housing, improve environmental quality, foster a healthy business climate and maintain a desirable neighborhood. Board Members are residents, business owners and volunteers who dedicate their time to education and outreach in the community. For more information, visit www.district10comopark.org.)

Art On A Line May 18, 19, 20

Local Northstar Watercolor Society artists will be participating in this year's 10th Annual ART ON A

LINE show and sale of original paintings on May 18th, 19th & 20th.

The event takes place in the Fine Arts Building at the State Fair Grounds. Hours are Friday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

There will be over 2500 paintings by 90 regional artists to browse through and continuous demonstrations of painting techniques will be presented by many of the artists. The event is one of the largest watermedia shows in the Midwest, Free admission, free

parking and door prizes of original art. A scavenger hunt will take place for the very young artists.

Northstar Watercolor Society was founded in 1975 in the White Bear Lake area, has approximately 300 members from the Greater Metropolitan area. NWS is made

up of novice, intermediate and professional artists. Its mission is to offer educational programming and create an environment for artists to share their art experience.

For more information please visit our website at www.northstarwatercolorssociety.com

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Jehovah Lutheran hosts Saints group June 24

Jehovah Lutheran Church will host a group at the St. Paul Saints baseball game at 1 p.m. Sunday, June 24. The \$15 outfield tickets at Midway Stadium include a hot dog and soda voucher and a Saints cap. You can get tickets online at www.saintsgroups.com (the password is Jehovah) or contact 651-288-9880. A share of the proceeds go to Jehovah Lutheran, 1566 Thomas Ave.

Parkway Garden Club Perennial Sale

Parkway Garden Club Annual Perennial Plant Sale. Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1407 Arundel St. Proven plants from members' gardens. For more information call Nanette at 651-353-4284 or email parkwaygardenclub@comcast.net

Metro Deaf School holds plant sale May 12

The Metro Deaf School PTG will be hosting its 4th Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 12th from 9am-3pm in the MDS parking lot (1471 Brewster St, Saint Paul). We will be selling Minnesota-hardy perennials (plants that come up again each year) for CHEAP! Prices will range from \$1-\$5 (we are asking for cash only). These plants come from established gardens and are quite a bargain! (They would retail between \$5-\$15 at a plant nursery!) ALL proceeds will go towards the Metro Deaf School Playground Fund.

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Monitor Want Ads are now \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to denisw@aplacetoremember.com. Want ads must be in the Monitor before June 4 for the June 14 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

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For Sale: Vintage 1900-1949 lights, house hardware, doors, tubs, radiators, etc. Also furniture hardware. 651-644-9270. 20% off with ad. 6-12

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Como's Galapagos tortoises celebrate 20th birthday



Crowds recently gathered to sing Happy Birthday to Marco & Erwin, Como Zoo's resident Galapagos tortoises, as they celebrated their 20th birthday. Then each were surprised with their own three-tiered Jell-O mold cakes made of pineapple, broccoli, apples, green beans, Mandarin oranges and topped with asparagus candles. Marco (300 lbs) and Erwin (250 lbs) have spend most of their life at Como Zoo, arriving in 1992. The life span of a Galapagos tortoise is approximately 150 years. Como Zoo has had Galapagos tortoises dating back to the 1958 when Toby, born in 1932, would roam freely around the zoo carrying youngsters on his back. Toby is currently residing at the Honolulu Zoo on a breeding loan.

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For more information on Commencement, please visit www.hamline.edu/commencement.

