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Midway Como

Monitor



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TCGIS postpones partial demolition of former St. Andrew's Church

Save Historic St. Andrew's holds a forum to update the community on ideas and plans to save the building

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

In October, partial demolition for St. Andrew's historic church was slated by property owner Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS), but the plan was taken off the table after intense discussions with the Save Historic St. Andrew's community group.

A forum to increase community awareness was held later that day on Thur., Oct. 11, and was attended by about 100 people. The event was held at the Mission Church across the street from historic St. Andrew's (now called the Aula by TCGIS) but was not endorsed by the church.

'No one imagined it would be threatened'

Save Historic Saint Andrew's (SHSA) member Roy Neal was the first speaker of the evening and pointed out that he and his wife live and work in the Warrenale neighborhood. His wife attended school at St. Andrew's.

"Quite frankly, no one ever imagined that the Aula would be threatened with demolition,"



Save Historic St. Andrews member Roy Neal observed that SHSA was concerned that the school planned to begin partial demolition of the church building just before the review of the structure by the Historic Preservation Commission, and finish the demolition in the summer of 2019. SHSA members met with school staff, and TCGIS agreed to hold off and complete a full demolition next June as originally planned, he reported to applause in the room. "We think this will restore trust," said Neal. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

Neal said.

He explained that the first

goal of SHSA is to stop the demolition of the church, which the

school voted to do on July 30 and replace the structure with a new, three-story building.

"What we're asking for is collaboration," stated Neal. "We want to see if we can come up with a win-win situation."

According to Neal, the building is important to group members who feel that history matters. During the last 100 years, St. Andrew's "has been the heart of the community in many ways," he said. "It feels unthinkable to remove that from the community."

He stressed that engagement matters and that SHSA hopes to engage the school to work together around a goal.

Neal observed that SHSA was concerned that the school planned to begin partial demolition of the church building just before the review of the structure by the Historic Preservation Commission, and finish the demolition in the summer of 2019. "We've seen that pattern before," Neal said. He pointed out that demolition is a tactic used to deface a structure enough to undermine historical recogni-

tion and spite opposition.

SHSA members met with school staff, and TCGIS agreed to hold off and complete a full demolition next June as originally planned, he reported to applause in the room. "We think this will restore trust," said Neal.

Stewards versus destroyers

TCGIS purchased the former St. Andrew's Church structure in 2013 and completed an \$8.3 renovation project that included the demolition of the rectory and rehabilitation of the Aula. "The demolition of the Aula was not included in the plan," pointed out Neal, who added that the buildings on the property were considered "classic" at the time by the school.

Community members learned in March 2018 that the school had been investigating options to increase their space for the past four years, and might destroy the Aula and build a new building in its place. In May, the school board held off on a vote

Continued on page 2

For 77 years Our Lady of Peace offers hospice care, compassion

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Our Lady of Peace Hospice Residence is an oasis of kindness at the intersection of St. Anthony and Cleveland avenues. Outside, the traffic roars by on Interstate 94 but inside, the atmosphere is peaceful and calm. Large windows open to a memorial garden at the back of the property; natural light blankets the interior spaces. It is the stated, sacred duty of Our Lady of Peace to provide care, comfort, and compassion to people needing end-of-life services—regardless of social status, religion, or ability to pay.

In addition to providing a full range of hospice services at their residential site, Our Lady of Peace Community Hospice can come to wherever patients are: in their own homes, in senior communities, long-term care facilities, or homeless shelters. They also bring their Home Health Services to wherever home is, including skilled nursing, psychological support, massage therapy, music therapy, spiritual care, and bereavement support.

Begun by Dominican nuns in 1941, the original Our Lady of Good Counsel Home was a

free end-of-life facility that served the city's "cancer poor." By 2009, the self-described "humble organization" had provided care for more than 15,000 patients. At that time, the operation of the home transitioned to the Franciscan Health Community; in 2015, they underwent a name change to Our Lady of Peace.

While the non-profit organization is Catholic and four nuns are still part of the care team, people of all faiths (or no faith) are welcome. Their mission has expanded over the years to include adult patients with diagnoses other than, but including, cancer, and children with terminal cancer.

Residential nursing supervisor and hospice educator Frezgi Hiskias said, "There are a lot of misconceptions about what hospice is. Many people think that patients must be actively dying to be in hospice, but we generally serve patients in their last 4-6 weeks of life. In the 14 years I have worked here, I have seen the turnover rate grow faster. At Our Lady of Peace Home, we now admit 30+ patients per month. We wish that people wouldn't

Social worker Kelly Pietrzak (left) and nurse Sister Popsy (right) have different jobs at Our Lady of Peace, but share the commitment that no one should be turned away from high quality end-of-life care. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

wait until the end, because in hospice we see the patient as a whole person, including relationships with family members and friends. We are very inclusive."

Hiskias explained, "This model of inclusion extends to the way staff members work together too. Every Wednesday we have something called an Interdisciplinary Team Meeting, where the whole care team of doctors, nurses, social workers, and chaplaincy comes together. We maintain 21 beds for patients on two separate floors: one for men and one for women. We are passionate about cleanliness and hygiene. We are passionate about providing care in the most dignified and gracious way possible. Dying is not easy for most people, and when I started I was overwhelmed by the complexity

Continued on page 7



St. Andrew's

Continued from page 1

to move forward with demolishing the former church sanctuary to investigate the purchase of the Central Lutheran School site nearby. In July, the school board voted to move forward with building a new structure.

"We don't like the plan, but that doesn't mean we don't like TCGIS," stressed Neal. "Just because we oppose the plan does not mean we don't like kids either."

However, the plan replaces the irreplaceable, he explained.

"We hope they can see themselves as a steward of the facility rather than a destroyer," Neal said.

Neal recognizes that the school intends to build an energy efficient structure, but pointed out, "It can take 80 years for a new energy-efficient building to overcome the impact created by its construction. The greenest building is the one that is already built." According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 80 percent of Minnesota's 1.6 tons of construction and demo waste ended up in a landfill in 2013.

Neal observed that the estimates for work on the existing building that were obtained by SHSA are significantly less than the ones shared by the school board's building committee, and pointed out that the exterior is in good condition. According to SHSA, before the school took over the building, it cost \$10,000 to maintain the roof each year, \$2,500 to repair the brick and exterior, and about \$4,000 to remove snow. "This doesn't sound like a big burden to me," said Neal. TCGIS has estimated building repairs and upgrades at \$1.2 million.

SHSA is also concerned that TCGIS will outgrow the site and move to a larger space. "If they move, the consequences of this demolition won't matter to TCGIS," said Neal. "The neighborhood will have to live with the consequences."

Neal encouraged school representatives not to be afraid of a historic preservation status.



St. Andrew's is significant for a number of reasons, according to architectural historian Rolf Anderson. The architect, Charles Hausler, is known for his high-quality designs and diversity of styles which had an important impact on the city. St. Andrew's is also significant for its association with the "Hungarian immigrant experience. The broader impact of the church was demonstrated by the five new congregations that were created from the area served by St. Andrew's Church," wrote Anderson in his preliminary findings. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

While there may be an extra step while doing projects, "it doesn't stop respectful remodeling," he said. "Preserving the building will be good for resale. Usually, preservation increases value. Historic properties bring value to the entire neighborhood."

Eligible for historic status, funding?

A Go Fund Me campaign by SHSA raised money to fund a study of the former church building aimed at determining the building's potential eligibility for historic preservation status.

Architectural historian Rolf Anderson pointed out that the church was built in a distinctive Romanesque Revival style inspired by churches in south France and Italy.

"The building is very complex and well-designed," stated Anderson, "and among St. Paul's most impressive neighborhood churches."

He pointed out that there are seven distinct types of brickwork in the building. "It's quite amazing just to look at the brickwork," Anderson said.

The structure was de-

signed by well-known architect Charles Hausler, who was St. Paul's first city architect. He is known for his high-quality designs and diversity of styles which had an important impact on the city, stated Anderson.

St. Andrew's is also significant for its association with the "Hungarian immigrant experience. The broader impact of the church was demonstrated by the five new congregations that were created from the area served by St. Andrew's Church," wrote Anderson in his preliminary findings.

The former church building is eligible for local designation under four of St. Paul's Heritage Preservation criteria, and will be reviewed by the Heritage Preservation Commission. A public hearing was set for Nov. 5.

The District 10 Land Use Committee (composed of the community members who attend the meetings) and Board will also be voting for or against the TCGIS demolition and any variance requests before they are forwarded to the city council for consideration.

U of M architect's ideas

Minnesota Design Center Director Tom Fisher of the University of Minnesota reiterated that the greenest building is reusing the buildings one already has rather than tearing them down.

He pointed out that the TCGIS design for its new facility would replace the entrance of the church with the tall, blank wall of a gymnasium facing the street.

"They are turning their back on the neighborhood," stated Fisher.

In his work, he looks for win-win solutions, and offered several suggestions at this site. Fisher began by asking what the school is trying to achieve and then trying to figure out how the school and community can both accomplish their goals.

He remarked that although the charter school views the old sanctuary as a challenge or deficit, it could instead be

viewed as a desirable asset. He pointed out that schools today are moving from standard classrooms to large flexible spaces like this.

"The nave of the church is the kind of educational space a lot of schools are trying to build," stated Fisher.

The Emily Program nearby recently kept a church building and dramatically changed the interior to meet their program needs.

He stated that charter schools still need to "be connected to and responsive to the community."

Fisher suggested that TCGIS consider building an ad-

dition where the existing parking lot is, and observed that the coming autonomous vehicles will reduce the need for parking, a concept the design center is studying courtesy of a National Science Foundation Grant. Or, TCGIS could add another floor to the existing school wing.

"I think there's a real opportunity here," stated Fisher. "There are other options for you to meet your needs and still keep the church," he told school representatives when he met with them. "I think there are ways to add to the facility without downsizing the church."

TCGIS opposes historic designation

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

While the community group Save Historic St. Andrew's is working to save the former church building, the charter school that occupies it is mobilizing against a historic designation.

Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) sent out an email blast asking supporters to send letters to the Historic Preservation Commission before its Nov. 5 public hearing.

In his letter to the commission, TCGIS Executive Director Ted Anderson pointed out, "The school is a model for successful charter schools in both cities."

He added, "The non-profit school's future is at stake if it is to be forced into maintaining an old building that is falling apart and is functionally obsolete."

Anderson stated that TCGIS opposes the petition to designate the building as a historic site for a number of reasons.

TCGIS does not think that historic designation should occur over the property owner's objections—"Especially when the property owner is a non-profit entity such as a public charter school," wrote Anderson.

"It is one thing when a for-profit entity is asked to use some of the profits that it derives from the neighborhood to preserve the historic character of that neighborhood. It is quite another to ask the same thing of a non-profit entity that is not deriving a profit from the neighborhood, but is providing a service

to the neighborhood."

Additionally, he wrote that historic preservation is not a benefit to non-profit like a school, it is a burden. "Thus, any historic preservation over a non-profit property owner's objection should be funded by an assessment on the nearby properties that will derive the benefit from that designation," said Anderson.

Letters against designation

In three sample letters sent out during the email blast, TCGIS supporters were urged to ask the Historic Preservation Commission to avoid giving "a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation that will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school."

The letters referred to it as a "short-sighted petition" that is "being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors."

The letters TCGIS school supporters were asked to send to the commission also stated: "The petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish—and self-serving—and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating."



After picketing for several days, Save Historic St. Andrew's supporters agreed to stop at the request of the Twin Cities German Immersion School and maintain a "fence of love" instead. (Photo submitted by Save Historic St. Andrews)



Monitor In A Minute

By JANE MCCLURE

Petitions persist in trash fight

One of St. Paul's two ordinances setting up the residential organized trash collection program is being withdrawn. But the program will remain in place, as the fight to force a public vote on it continues.

The council Oct. 17 accepted the first of two petitions calling for a referendum on the organized trash collection plan after Ramsey County Elections staff found that the petition was valid. On the advice of the city attorney's office, the council accepted the petition. But a vote on it won't be necessary.

"We plan to repeal the ordinance," said Council President Amy Brendmoen. She called the ordinance "procedural" and indicated that its repeal wouldn't affect the program.

The second petition signature total was at 6,458. It was turned in to county officials Oct. 16. Two groups, St. Paul Trash and CART-

less, have worked on the ballot measures. They circulated petitions and held signing events throughout the late summer and fall.

The trash collection program began Oct. 1. While the program is touted by proponents as ensuring that all owners of single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes have trash service, some people who shared trash carts or practiced "zero waste" have found themselves with dramatically higher bills. Multi-family buildings were forced to take one cart per dwelling unit.

"We've gone through a huge system change in the last month," said Brendmoen. While saying the program launch was successful, she added that the council wants to look at ways to address the issue of cart sharing and other concerns.

The City Council voted in November 2017 to set up an organized collection system, working with 15 residential trash haulers.

The city is split into zones, and each of the haulers was able to keep its company's market share. But since then about half of the companies have turned over their market share to the remaining businesses.

Pedestrian crosswalk for Como

St. Paul and Ramsey County officials are working on a crosswalk plan for Como Park. The project won approvals in October from the City Council and the city's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget Committee.

The approved plan allows the city's Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement with county officials to build a new pedestrian crosswalk on Lexington Pkwy. between Como Park's Lakeside Pavilion parking lot and the Como Golf Course parking lot.

The project is identified in a transportation plan for Como Park. The county's share of the project is \$49,120, and the city's is \$52,609. The county is involved because Lexington is a county road.

The project includes new concrete sidewalk, pedestrian curb ramps, median, signage including a rectangular rapid flash beacon, and turf establishment. The project has been eyed for several years. City officials are drawing on capital funding from 2014.

Accessory units OK'd citywide

The long effort to allow accessory dwelling units on a citywide basis ended Oct. 17 with a 6-1 St. Paul City Council vote approving the units on single-family zoned lots of 5,000 square feet or more. Ordinance adoption was repeatedly delayed this fall as the Council sought stronger language on the need for properties to be owner-occupied,

and to make sure that the city's Department of Safety and Inspections and code enforcement staff could weigh in on building code, sewer and water line, and other regulatory concerns.

The lone vote against the measure was Ward Six Council Member Dan Bostrom, who fears that the properties will be converted to all-rental. "The long-term unintended consequences are significant as we put additional dwelling units on single-family lots," he said.

Other council members said they believe the ordinance has been strengthened, and that it will allow people to have more housing options. An accessory dwelling unit can be added in or to an existing home. Units can also be built in a backyard or above a garage. The added units need to meet several requirements.

The units are currently only allowed in neighborhoods from Lexington Pkwy. to the west city limits, within one-half mile of Green Line light rail. Only one has been built along the Green Line since those were allowed two years ago.

The latest push to add the units began last year when residents of several neighborhoods sought permission to add them. The Planning Commission recommended allowing the units on a citywide basis. While several district councils support the accessory dwelling unit proposal, others raised concerns.

O'Gara's to fall to wrecking ball

The 77-year home of O'Gara's Bar and Grill at Snelling and Selby avenues is expected to come down on or around Nov. 12. Ryan Companies is working with the longtime business owners to demolish the iconic bar-restaurant and replace it with a mixed-use development.

O'Gara's closed at the end of September. Dan O'Gara said his family is busily getting things out of the building. Some items will be repurposed in a new O'Gara's. Others are being sold in an online auction. "We've got 77 years of stuff we're sorting there," he said.

Centuries-old book turns up at Concordia University - St. Paul

A foundational Lutheran book discovered in Concordia University-St. Paul Special Collections earlier this year has been verified as an authentic original by faculty member Dr. Suzanne Hequet. Concordia-St. Paul is located at 1282 Concordia Ave.

The book, about 12x8x3 inches, is a "Concordia" or "Book of Concord" printed in Dresden, Germany in 1581, according to Hequet. She is a church historian and member of Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave.

The edition is among the last in a series of three printings of the work published in Dresden in 1579, 1580 and 1581.

The Book of Concord, collected confessions of Protestant theologians and leaders during the Reformation, was published 50 years after the imperial diet of Augsburg in 1530, where followers of Martin Luther formally presented their beliefs in a document known as the

Augsburg Confession. The Book of Concord states what they believed then and what Lutherans continue to accept today.

The book found at Concordia University in St. Paul is noteworthy because it includes the names of more than 8,000 pastors, teachers and civic leaders who were willing to attest their support for Protestantism, even though such an affirmation might mean a death sentence in those years.

This edition is also significant, says Dr. Hequet, because it includes margin notes and handwritten notes that trace ownership of the book from an original signer, Johann Hunnenberger, down to the gifting of the book to Concordia University, perhaps at the institution's founding in 1893.

Hequet, who teaches church history at Concordia, will continue to study the volume with other scholars at Concordia and elsewhere.

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Spread the praise around

District 10 is accepting nominations of local individuals or organizations to add to St. Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll. The annual, citywide award recognizes members of our community who make a sustained and lasting impact on the quality of life in Como and the city.

To nominate someone, email district10@district10comopark.org. Give us a short description of their accomplishments or the reasons they should be honored for making Como a better place to live, work, or play. Send us your nomination no later than Tues., Dec. 11. The District 10 Board will evaluate nominees at its Dec. 18 meeting.

Meeting focuses on school expansions

District 10's Land Use Committee will hold an additional meeting

Need a cozy place to hang out, take a breath, and connect with your neighbors as the fall turns toward winter? Stop in at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., this November and December to enjoy great programs and Internet access and get access to portable Wifi hotspots, books, CDs, DVDs and more, all free with your library card.

Programs for families and kids

Preschool Storytimes in English happen Fridays, 10:30-11am, with upcoming events on Nov. 9, 16, and 23 and Dec. 7. 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 Tuesdays from 6-6:30pm starting on Nov. 27 and continuing Dec. 4 and 11.

Sat., Nov. 10, from 1:30-3pm, the Science Saturday series of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities for school-age children and their families will feature the theme "Simple Machines." Learn about wheels, axles, levers, and other simple machines and make clothespin race cars. The theme of the Dec. 8 Science Saturday, also from 1:30-3pm, is Spinning.

The Show and Tell Book Club for grades 1-4 meets on Sat., Nov. 17, 1:30-2:15pm, to share books and do fun literacy activities together.

On Fri., Nov. 23, 11am-5pm, kids from preschoolers to teens and their families are invited to skip the mall and the lines at the local big box store and spend a relaxing Black Friday making creative gifts at the library.

WCCO Meteorologist Mike Lynch brings his popular Star

Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director

on Thur., Nov. 15. The meeting will focus exclusively on variances and other issues related to the proposed expansions of Twin Cities German Immersion School, 1031 Como Ave., and Higher Ground Academy, which intends to purchase the current Metro Deaf School property at 1471 Brewster, and build an addition so it can move grades 7-12 to the site in August 2019.

The Land Use meeting is Thur., Nov. 15 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 welcome to

attend and participate.

Community Yoga returns Dec. 2

District 10's next Community Yoga is Sun., Dec. 2 from 9:30-10:30am at the Como Park Streetcar Station. The session will be suitable for all levels of skill and experience. Bring a yoga mat or blanket and wear comfortable clothes. The class is limited to 25 participants. Registration is \$5, which benefits the Como Community Council. Reserve your spot at www.district10comopark.org/communityyoga.html.

Baker elected to D10 Board

Congratulations to Alexis Baker,

who won a special election in October to fill a vacancy on the Como Community Council board from Sub-District 4. Baker will represent the South Como and Energy Park neighborhoods.

Streetcar Station now open once a month

With the change of seasons, the Como Park Streetcar Station is now open only on the first Sunday of each month. It's a great chance to pick up organics recycling bags or kitchen starter kits, chat with a District 10 board members who are staffing the day, or simply learn a little about the history of streetcars. Hours

remain the same: 12-4pm. Upcoming dates are Dec. 2 and Jan. 6. The Historic Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

Upcoming District 10 meetings

- Como Community Council Monthly Meeting: Tues., Nov. 20
- Environment Committee: Wed., Nov. 28
- Neighborhood Relations and Safety Committee: Tues., Dec. 4
- Land Use Committee: Wed., Dec. 5

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.

News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

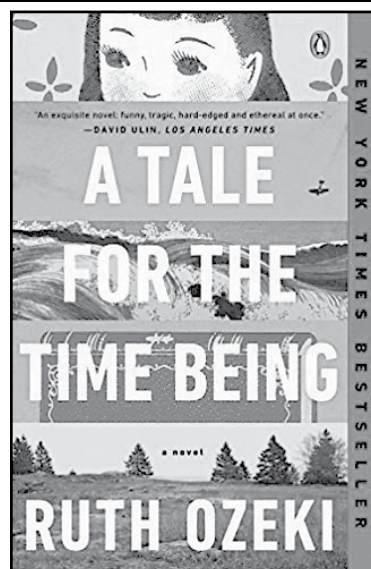


Photo above: A still from the documentary "93Queen" showing at the library Wed., Nov. 28, 1-3pm, during Jody's Documentary Film Series. (Photo by Nina Weinberg Doran)

Party program to the library on Thur., Nov. 15, 6:30-8pm. Marvel at the moon, constellations, planets, galaxies, and more in this event for all ages. The program will begin with a presentation inside followed by a chance to view the wonders of the night skies through telescopes. Dress for the weather!

For adults

The Novels at Night Book Club meets on Thurs., Nov. 29, 6:30-7:30pm. This book club is aimed at adult fiction enthusiasts who will discuss Ruth Ozeki's "A Tale for the Time Being." The novel is about a Nao, a Japanese schoolgirl who intends to write in her diary the life story of her great-grandmother Jiko, a Zen Buddhist nun. She ends up writ-



Ruth Ozeki's "A Tale for the Time Being" will be discussed at the Novels at Night Book Club, Nov. 29, 6:30-7:30pm. (Internet photo capture)

ing her own life story, and the diary eventually washes up on the shore of Canada's Vancouver Island, where Ruth, a novelist, finds it and begins to unravel its mysteries.

On Wed., Nov. 28, 1-3pm, Jody's Documentary Film Series will show the film "93Queen" by filmmakers Paula Eiselt. This documentary tells the story of a small group of Hasidic women from the patriarchal Hasidic enclave of Brooklyn. They're determined to go against everyone and everything to create the first all-female volunteer ambulance corps in New York City. Watch the film, enjoy snacks, and stay for the discussion afterward facilitated by Jody. This is a collaboration of the award-winning PBS POV series, the Hamline Midway Library, the Hamline Midway Coalition, and the Hamline Midway Elders.

The Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club meets on Sat., Dec. 1, 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 of the Hamline Midway Elders Association returns on Thur., Nov. 8, 10:30-11:30am and continues on Nov. 15 and 29 and Dec. 6 and 13. All movement is done while seated or standing using a chair for balance.

On Thur., Dec. 6, 7-8:30pm, the library presents "Writing Immigration: Past, Present, and Future" with Twin Cities novelists Peter Geye, John Reimringer, and Dan Darling with Anta Thosaengsiri and Iya Xiong, two writers from the anthology "Green Card Voices: Immigration Stories from a St. Paul High School." The event will feature a reading and discussion of the role of immigration in writers' work and lives. This program is a collaboration of the St. Paul Public Library and the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library.

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• Students in Como Park's Academy of Finance (AOF) program are supplementing their classroom curriculum with opportunities and experiences in the local business community.

On Oct. 12, 75 sophomores learned about products and services with a hands-on site visit to Uponor, a company specializing in water, heating, cooling and plumbing infrastructure.

Sixty AOF juniors visited three marketing firms in Minneapolis, coordinated by BrandLab, on Oct. 23. BrandLab's mission is to expose high school students to the marketing industry and provide access through experiential visits and paid internships.

Ninety AOF seniors took a field trip to Travelers' corporate headquarters in downtown St. Paul on Nov. 2, continuing relationships with mentors and participating in simulations and informational sessions.

All 370 Academy of Finance students in grades 9-12 will be participating in the Wells Fargo corporate visit to Como Park High School on Nov. 15. Volunteers and mentors from Wells Fargo will lead the AOF students in small group discussions, conduct mock interviews, provide instruction on resume building, cover letters and job applications. There will also be actual case studies from Wells Fargo that students will work through, followed by the presentations of their solutions.

• 905 Como students cast votes in the state-wide "Students Vote" election for Governor sponsored by the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office. AP Government and Politics students monitored and facilitated an election in which all Como students had the opportunity to practice voting procedure in our democracy. A precinct was set up in the Como Auditorium, complete with voting booths to add authenticity. Como's results were reported to the state where they were tabulated along with other participating schools, creating interesting data for classroom analysis.

News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Academy of Finance, democracy in action, culinary arts and more



Some of the 75 sophomores in Como's Academy of Finance who visited Udonor's training facility for a hands-on site visit in October. (Photo by Kris Sommerville)



Nine-hundred-and-five Como Park students participated in the "Students Vote" election coordinated by the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office on October 23 in the Como Auditorium. (Photo by Eric Erickson)

• Building on the student election experience at school, 30 Como students served as Ramsey County election judges in the Nov. 6 election. The non-partisan service to the community was an excellent opportunity to promote the democratic process and see first-hand how elections are conducted. Students received train-

ing before the election and then worked alongside experienced judges at precinct sites around the city.

• The annual Close Up trip to Washington D.C. is on the calendar for the first week of March, but the fundraising season is already here for the students from

AP Government classes who are working to get there.

All community members who enjoy an occasional meal at Chipotle are invited and encouraged to dine-in or take-out from the Rosedale Chipotle on Mon., Nov. 19, 4-8pm. If customers tell the cashier they are supporting the Como Park Close Up Trip, 33% of the order price will go to support Como's annual field trip to Washington D.C. and help students participate in the national Close Up program.

The students will be bagging groceries for customers at the Maplewood Cub Foods on Rice St. and County Road B from 10am to 8pm on Sat., Dec. 22. Donations from Cub customers help students defray the expense of the educational adventure. The new location in Maplewood this year is due to the limited opportunity at the Larpenteur Ave. store. Community members interested in financially supporting students in the Close Up Washington D.C. program can also contact the trip coordinator at eric.erickson@spps.org.

• Culinary Arts students that have gone above and beyond coursework to join the Como Culinary Club were selected to be part of an event at the W Hotel in downtown Minneapolis on Sun., Nov. 11. Como is one of nine schools in the state to be chosen for the "Stars of the Future" fundraiser.

Stars of the Future pairs local chefs with high school students to create a "small plate" for the event at the hotel. Como's participants were mentored by chefs from the St. Paul RiverCentre's MHC Culinary Group. They worked together to prepare a chicken steam bun. Event proceeds will go to-

ward providing support for high school students interested in the Culinary industry.

• Como Park High School's AP / CIS Night (Advanced Placement / College in the Schools) is Thur., Nov. 29, 6:30-7:45pm. AP / CIS Night is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to learn more about Como's accelerated, advanced placement, and college course offerings from staff, parents, and a student panel. Middle school students and families interested in learning more about Como's programming, curriculum, and opportunities will be able to visit with current AP and CIS students and teachers and ask questions about their experiences. The event will take place in the school library, and refreshments will be provided. No reservation is required, but any questions can be directed to Como's AP Coordinator Teng Lo (teng.lo@spps.org) or Como Principal Stacy Theien-Collins (stacy.theien-collins@spps.org).

• Como's Theatre and Music Department featuring the Chamber Singers and Concert Choir is presenting the annual fall musical in the Como Auditorium on Thur. and Fri., Nov. 8-9, at 7pm both nights. This year's show is "The Tempest," adapted from Shakespeare by Nick Perrin and Ruth Kenward. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens, and can be purchased at the door.

• Como BEASTbot Robotics had a great showing at the Roseville MRI Robotics Invitational with their competition robot named Sketch-E. They scored hundreds of points and competed strongly against some of the best robots in the state, barely missing the finals. The whole team has high hopes for a strong year when the new build season and competition officially fires up in January. In the meantime, team members meet on Thursdays after school for technical training, research, and marketing ideas. The team's website is beastbot2855.com.

Energy assistance program gears up for 2018-19 winter season

The Minnesota Commerce Department announced that the state's Energy Assistance Program is receiving more than \$116 million in federal funding to help low-income Minnesotans pay their heating bills this winter.

The funds from the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) reduce

home heating costs by making payments directly to utility companies and heating fuel vendors on behalf of eligible Minnesota homeowners and renters.

"The Energy Assistance Program is an essential safety net for Minnesotans who struggle to pay their energy bills and stay warm throughout the winter,"

said Commerce Commissioner Looman, whose agency administers the program in partnership with 29 local service providers throughout the state.

Minnesotans who have difficulty paying their heating bills are encouraged to apply for energy assistance, especially households with seniors, small children, people with disabilities or veterans.

Energy assistance is available for homeowners and renters who earn less than 50 percent of the state's median income, which translates to \$49,698 for a family of four. Last year the program served more than 126,000 Minnesota households, with an average grant of about \$545. Some households also received help to address no-heat crises or repair broken heating systems.

Fuel prices are forecasted to be slightly higher than last winter, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Even modest increases in heating use and energy prices can be a financial challenge for low-income households.

How to apply for heating assistance

Local service providers have already received and reviewed thousands of energy assistance applications, and payments for many who qualify may begin as early as this week.

There is still plenty of time for new applicants and those who qualified last year to reapply, but funding is limited and administered on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications will be accepted until May 31, 2019, or until funds run out.

Minnesotans should apply to the local service provider in their area. To get more information about the program and contact your local service provider, call 800-657-3710 or visit the Energy Assistance section of the Commerce Department website (mn.gov/commerce).

Cold Weather Rule protection

In addition to applying for heating assistance, low-income

Minnesotans are encouraged to contact their utility and seek protection under the state's Cold Weather Rule.

The Cold Weather Rule, in effect from Oct. 15 to April 15, protects residential utility customers from having their heat shut off.

Customers must contact their utility to establish and maintain a monthly payment plan. Households that need to reconnect for winter should contact their utility now to take advantage of the payment options.

Minnesotans who use delivered fuels such as propane, fuel oil or wood to heat their homes are not covered by the Cold Weather Rule, but they are eligible for financial help from the Energy Assistance Program.

More information on shut-off protection and the Cold Weather Rule is available at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission website (mn.gov/puc) or by calling 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782.

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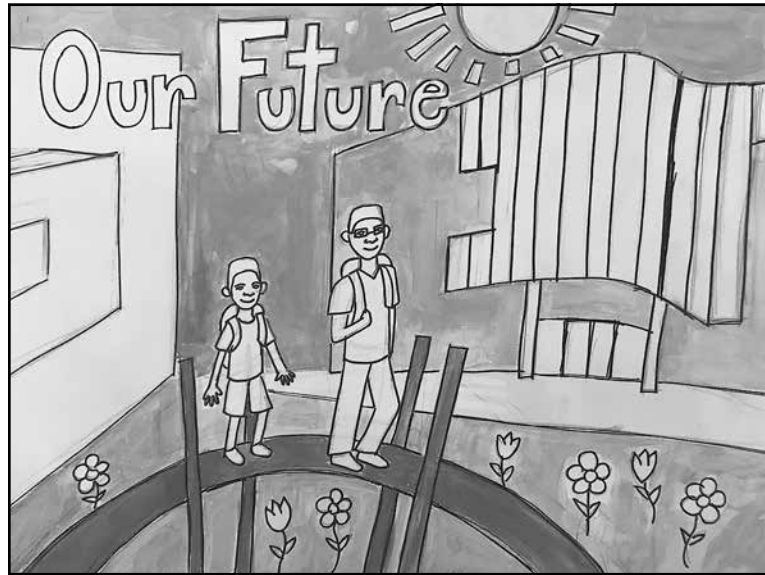
A big thanks to Midway Public Art Working Group for helping Hamline Elementary become the home of the latest mural in the Midway. This beauty faces Snelling Ave. and was created by Hamline U graduate Sarah Lentz. The mural is the final piece of a more extended partnership that brought Sarah into Hamline classrooms to talk to students about how to take a

Hamline Elementary School

By JESSICA KOPP

New mural, Welcoming Days, cold weather clothing drive

small picture and make it mural-sized and gave students an opportunity to create their own vision for the mural. We're grateful to everyone involved for a beautiful experience.



Drawing above: A student-generated concept for the mural that was eventually put onto Hamline Elementary School. Students took part in the educational part of the process prior to the final design and painting. (Photo provided)

Photo left: Hamline University graduate Sarah Lentz completed this mural at Hamline Elementary after an extended program with working and educating students on the mural-making process. (Photo provided)

All members of the community are invited to Hamline Elementary's 2018 Welcoming Days on Nov. 13 and Dec. 11, 9-10:30am. We've made these no-appointment, drop-in daytime hours available to introduce our neighbors to the people, partnerships, and programming that make Hamline one-of-a-kind in St. Paul. Children are always welcome on welcoming days. As always, school tours can also be scheduled at any time by calling the school at 651-293-8715.

Hamline Elementary is collecting cold weather gear for students and families. Donations of new or gently used coats, snow pants, boots, hats, mittens, and scarves can be dropped off at the school or arrangements for pick up can be made by e-mailing the Hamline PTA at hamlineelementarypta@gmail.com. Items in need of repair can also be donated thanks to our partnership with Mobile Menders.

For neighbors who shop Amazon, please consider using Amazon Smile and designating Hamline Elementary PTA to receive a percentage of eligible purchases. Our fundraising dollars support school-wide learning, enrichment, and family-supporting activities and fulfill teacher and staff requests for everything from classroom supplies to field trips to weighted blankets. Your support makes a world of difference—thank you!

Board recruitment

Hamline Midway Coalition is governed by a volunteer board. Serving on the board is a way to serve your community and help make decisions about land use and development, transportation, sustainability, and community building. There are nine elected board members and four appointed seats. All board members are elected or appointed for three-year terms. Elected members are voted in by the community in an annual neighborhood-wide election. Terms are staggered such that every year three seats are up for election—one from each of the three sub-districts in the neighborhood. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Executive Director Kate Mudge at kate@hamlinemidway.org.

Interested in joining the Board of Directors? Anyone interested in running for an elected seat on the Board of Directors must return a completed application to the Executive Director no later than 5pm, Mon., Nov. 19. Applicants must be 16 years of age or older and reside within, own property, or own a business in the Hamline Midway neighborhood. More information can

Hamline Midway Coalition

By MELISSA CORTES, Community Organizer

be found at www.hamlinemidway.org/about/board.

Small Business Saturday

Small Business Saturday in Hamline Midway is more than just the Holiday Pop Up Shop! Each year more than 30 local vendors come together in one spot for the Midway Holiday Pop Shop. However, this year, on Sat., Nov. 24 more local business will be opening their doors for all your holiday shopping and celebrating. This makes it easier than ever to shop and support locally for the Holidays! Holiday Pop Up shop will be open from 10am-4pm at the Celtic Junction, 836 Prior Ave.

Come early to receive a free shopping bag (while supplies last) and a map of other locations offering artisan wares, and special deals. Also, Metro Transit is offering a free pass for the day, so learn more

about signing up for your free pass at www.hamlinemidway.org/popupshop.

Annual Meeting in December

Hamline Midway Coalition is hosting our Annual Meeting on Tues., Dec. 18, starting at 6:30pm. The Annual Meeting will be held at Hamline University in East Hall 106. You will have the opportunity to meet the new Board Members, Coalition Committee Members, and the new Executive Director, as well as, participate in a presentation looking back at 2018 and envisioning the goals for 2019.

More information can be found at www.hamlinemidway.org.

Attention multi-unit property owners and landlords

The Hamline Midway Coalition's Environment Committee would love to connect with

you about the available City of St. Paul and Ramsey County resources that may help you save money on trash bills and to help your tenants learn about available resources to them as renters.

Also, the Hamline Midway Coalition would also like to connect with you about all the wonderful things going on

in the neighborhood and build connections with all our neighbors! For more information, please contact Melissa at environment@hamlinemidway.org.

Do you have a story idea or news item?

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Como Zoo adopts two orphaned California puma cubs

Two recently orphaned puma (also known as mountain lion and cougar) cubs from different locations in Northern California are now playing, bonding, and

calling Como Zoo home.

The pumas arrived from California to Como on Oct. 30 after being cared for by Oakland Zoo wildlife specialists.

Our Lady of Peace

Continued from page 1

of the dying process. It's a touchy subject, and one that wasn't taught in nursing school."

Social worker Kelly Pietrzak agreed. "On the social work side," she said, "we help to bring things to a close as gently as possible. I work primarily with patients who are in home-based care. Despite the enormity of losing a loved one, rent still has to be paid, and everything goes better when there's food on the fridge. We take care of all those practical things, plus a hundred other details. We provide services in all seven metro counties, and we need volunteers out in the community as well as at the Our Lady of Peace Home. When I started working here ten years ago, we had an average daily census of four patients out in the community. We currently serve more than 60."

"As our patient count has grown, we're fortunate that our volunteer base has too," Pietrzak said. "At this time, we have 70 dedicated volunteers—many of them are family members of loved ones we have cared for. Our volunteers provide the

equivalent of two full-time employees, with a variety of skills and interests. We especially need volunteers who are willing to travel beyond our residential facility right now. We serve patients at the Episcopal Church Home and Gardens Facility on University and Fairview avenues, Heart to Home's four residential houses in Mendota, and the Wheeler Ave. Rahkma Home (near St. Catherine's)—which are all nearby. We ask for a time commitment of at least one hour per week for one year. We provide training to get a new volunteer fully integrated into our hospice model, and into what their volunteer role and responsibilities will be."

Finally, Our Lady of Peace has a Bereavement Department that connects with families during hospice care, and for 13 months after their loved one has passed. Grief groups and grief events (like the annual Celebration of Life in December) are open to community members. Check their website at www.ourladyofpeacemn.org for complete details.

For information on volunteering with Our Lady of Peace, call Tara Burns at 651-789-6824 or email tarab@ourladyofpeacemn.org.



Our Lady of Peace is a Medicare-certified, residential facility at 2076 St. Anthony Ave. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

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Como Zookeepers and University of Minnesota Veterinary staff are monitoring and tending to the cubs, a male and a female, who are approximately 8-12 weeks old.

"Although it is heartbreaking circumstances that brought us these beautiful cats, we are happy to be able to provide a home, the care, and support that these animals will need to thrive as individuals and as a species", said Michelle Furrer, Director of Como Park Zoo & Conservatory.

The male cub was orphaned after its mother, which was reportedly killing sheep, was shot and killed under a legal depredation permit. In the state of California, a person who suffers property damage by mountain lions is entitled to obtain a depredation permit to protect their property.

The second cub, a female, was discovered after a property owner heard 'chirps' from what he believed to be a bird over a period of seven days. Puma cubs make a high-pitched 'chirping' sound when calling for their mother. The property owner reported the cub to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The cub was severely dehydrated, emaciated, covered in parasites and burrs.

"While we don't know for sure what caused this female cub to become orphaned, we do know that one of the biggest threats to

mountain lions in California is traffic, with 107 animals killed by automobiles in 2016 alone," said Amy Gotliffe, director of conservation at Oakland Zoo.

Como Friends Board leadership, who are stepping down after many years of volunteering their time and talents, were given the opportunity to name the cubs. "Ruby" (female) symbolizes the red gemstone and a pre-

cious jewel and "Jasper" (male) represents a variety of quartz and a symbol of strength and treasure.

Before the cubs can be seen by the public, they will go through a 30 day quarantine period at Como Zoo. This is standard practice for all incoming animals to prevent passing on diseases, parasites, or illness to other animals.



Two California puma cubs, estimated to be between 8-12 weeks old, were adopted by Como Zoo Oct. 30. (Photo courtesy of the Oakland Zoo)

Prep Sports Notebook

By MATTHEW DAVIS

Central comes short of the prize but looking forward



Central boys soccer coach David Alborno doesn't see his team's trip to the Class 2A state semifinals at US Bank Stadium Oct. 31 as a one-hit wonder.

He hopes to see his program back at the Vikings stadium the next two seasons as he had freshmen playing in the Oct. 31 loss to defending state runner-up Stillwater, 2-1. The Minutemen beat the Ponies earlier in the year on a penalty kick after a 3-3 tie in late August.

"This is not a one-time deal; we want to keep showing up," Alborno said. "As I told

the boys ... they have nothing to be ashamed of."

Central, which came into the semifinal game unbeaten at 18-0-1 struck first with when senior midfielder Aiden Cavanaugh put the Minutemen up 1-0 in the second half. The first half had been a defensive deadlock.

The Minutemen held the lead for six minutes until Ponies sophomore attack Gora Gora knotted the game at 1-1 with a goal. Ponies senior attack Spencer Scott then stunned the Minutemen with a goal kick immediately after

setting the ball, which put the Ponies ahead 2-1.

Alborno said "we weren't even ready" when Scott kicked the ball. Minutemen junior goalkeeper Owen Brooks couldn't get to the ball in time as it sailed to the left of him into the net.

Owen, who had a 16-0 record in goal going into the game, is among the key players who could be back for the Minutemen next fall. Midfielder Max Hand, who led the team in assists, and forward Makatar Yarrow, who had three goals and four assists before state, also have another season left of eligibility.

Central graduates leading scorer Daniel Barrett, a senior forward who had 14 goals and seven assists coming into the tournament. Fellow senior Mac Staloch had seven goals and ten assists at midfielder.

Central finished its season with the third place game against Minnetonka Nov. 2.

The Minutemen went unbeaten for the regular season and won the St. Paul City Conference with a perfect mark. They won the Class 2A Section title with a 1-0 win over Eastview Oct. 16, capping a tournament where the Minutemen didn't allow any goals.

Central beat St. Cloud Tech 6-1 on Oct. 25 in St. Cloud to open the state tournament and reach US Bank Stadium for the semifinals.

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PI: Dr. Kamil Ugurbil

Prior Affair hosts events to support community arts movement

Story and photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

BlackStack Brewing hosted 33 artists during business hours on Oct. 27-28, once again lending support to the community arts movement Prior Affair. The weekend event, called "Meet your Maker," introduced emerging and established artists to shoppers in a friendly, face-to-face exchange.

Prior Affair has been organizing events like this for the past year. Co-founders Skot Rieffer, a sculptor, and Addison, a papermaker/book

illustrator, met through theater work, learned they both were practicing visual artists, and decided to collaborate. Prior Affair was born, and they have hosted nine events so far—all at BlackStack Brewing (755 Prior Ave. N.) Painter and textile artist Elizabeth McAllister recently joined them as part of their planning team.

The three will convene a community meeting at 6pm on Sat., Dec. 8 at BlackStack Brewing. Artists and neighbors are invited to discuss where Prior Affair

is headed in the New Year in a casual, round-table conversation. One of the items for consideration is whether Prior Affair will move forward in filing for non-profit status in 2019.

Prior Affair organizes two large spring and fall events annually, and smaller, monthly events that present artists and neighborhood businesses before mutual audiences.

Rieffer said, "Addison, Elizabeth and I had all participated in art and craft shows before, but didn't particularly like the way

they were organized. My favorite thing about Prior Affair is that we're approachable—artists can come to us and suggest ways to make our events even better."

These are some of the neighborhood businesses that have lent support to artists in the form of product donations for events, or contributing space for event hosting: Work It, Celtic Junction, Pura Vida Massage, True Stone Coffee Roasters, Vistabule, Flanneljax, MN Tool Library, Brady Studio, Hamline Midway Coal-

ition, Expertise Fitness, BlackStack Brewing, and the landlords of 755 Prior Ave. N., Rod and Michelle Musson.

The next event is scheduled for Sat., Nov. 24, 2-7pm at (of course) BlackStack Brewing. Each of the Prior Affair events is loosely themed, and November's theme is gratitude.

Email prior.affair@gmail.com to inquire about participating as an artist. There is a \$25 application fee, negotiable in the case of financial hardship.



Prior Affair organizers (left to right) are Elizabeth McAllister, Skot Rieffer, and Addison.



Rita Drury of Drury Lane sews pillows and every size of bag imaginable. She uses empty coffee sacks provided by True Stone Coffee Roasters to create globally sourced, one-of-a-kind products that are impeccably well sewn.



MN Tool Library brought in 100+ pumpkins, sold them for \$8, and provided tools for people to create Halloween masterpieces. Egg beaters were used to scoop out the insides, which were then brought to the county compost site a few blocks away.



Painter Kelsey Oseid owns Kelzuki Art and Goods and heard about the Prior Affair event through local "art murmurings." Her medium is gouache, a paint somewhere between watercolor and acrylic.

Photo right: Shoppers responded to clay works by Ollie Schminkey of Sick Kitty Ceramics. They make molds of fingers and teeth, and use them to adorn hand thrown cups and bowls. They said, "Dentists are always interested in my work, but never buy anything because it might scare their patients."



Betsey Giles started knitting last May and creates her double knit scarves and hats on flat or circular looms. Through her business Three Bears Fun Fur, she has been crafting ultra-warm, faux fur hats for years.

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Tobacco shop receives variance; raises larger questions

By JANE MCCLURE

A shuttered University Ave. convenience store can become a smoke shop, the St. Paul City Council has decided. But with more business owners seeking distance variances for tobacco shops, council members are also asking city staff from the Department of Safety and Inspections to clarify how the distance between shops is measured.

The Oct. 24 vote is a win for Mussie Embaye, who operated the Little Grocery, 1724 University Ave. before closing it several months ago. He plans to open his new tobacco shop there.

But it is a disappointment for the Association of Non-Smokers Minnesota, who appealed a September Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) decision to grant the shop a distance variance. Neighbors, health and anti-tobacco groups sent letters in support of the appeal.

The BZA has acted on three similar variance requests in the past several weeks and has at least three other requests pending. As of Nov. 1, menthol tobacco products cannot be sold in convenience stores, grocery stores, gas stations and businesses that aren't dedicated tobacco or "smoke" shops. The definition of products is broad and includes cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, chewing tobacco and liquids used in electronic cigarettes.

The other wrinkle is that tobacco products shops are to be at least one-half mile apart. That regulation has been in place for several years. But the enabling ordinance isn't clear on how that distance should be measured, a point council members, city staff and tobacco foes all raised. Jerome Benner II of the BZA staff said a clarification for the distance would be submitted for



The Little Grocery, 1724 University Ave. (Photo courtesy of Google Maps)

City Council action soon.

Ward Four Council Member Mitra Nelson, whose ward includes the tobacco shop, said she didn't find that the BZA erred in granting the variance. The only way the City Council can overturn a variance is if an error is found.

Council members Dan Bostrom, Amy Brendmoen, Dai Thao, and Chris Tolbert agreed with Nelson. Rebecca Noecker and Jane Prince voted against denying the appeal, saying that they sided with the association and its arguments based on the distance issue.

Brendmoen indicated that the influx of new tobacco shop requests was something predicted when the city enacted the menthol restrictions. She noted that before the ban, there was no tobacco shop in her Fifth Ward.

That's not the case now.

What council members hope will control tobacco sales is a cap of 242 licenses citywide for tobacco sales, which the council adopted last summer. Embaye told the council at an October public hearing that he has already obtained such a license, and could find another place to open if he was denied approval for the former grocery store site. But opening there allows him to retain his current lease.

1724 University Ave. is 2,600 feet from Vape Pros, 681 N. Snelling Ave. Vape Pros sells e-cigarettes and accessories. A variance of 40 feet was needed to allow for the new shop to open.

The anti-tobacco association, which has championed several city restrictions on tobacco prod-

ucts in recent years, has worked on restricting youth access to tobacco products. Menthol is seen as a gateway, or introduction, to tobacco use.

Jeanne Weigum of the anti-tobacco group said the variance requested by Embaye doesn't meet all of the BZA's required findings. One objection is that granting a variance is inconsistent with the city's intent to have a minimum set distance between shops.

Weigum added that allowing a variance, and more shops, promotes tobacco use. Allowing the shop isn't consistent with the city's comprehensive plan, and will change the character of the area.

But Embaye said he should be granted the variance and

that he had shown hardship. He told both the BZA and the council that selling tobacco products is the only option he has at this point. Many of his sales are of menthol products. By becoming a tobacco product shop, the University Ave. storefront can have more than 90 percent of its sales from tobacco products, including the sale of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, loose tobacco, plants, herbs, and smoking devices.

BZA staff recommended approval of the variance, citing the business's location in a commercial district, the fact that Little Grocery has long sold tobacco products, and the distance requirement hardship.

Union Park District Council made no recommendation.

Toro and Twins help to rebuild fields at West Minnehaha Rec

The Toro Company, the Minnesota Twins, and the City of Saint Paul will join forces to renovate and rebuild youth baseball and softball fields in Saint Paul. On Oct. 31, volunteers from partnering organizations, with additional support from Saint Agnes School and the community, collaborated to reconstruct West

Minnehaha Recreation Center's baseball field and two softball fields bordered within Minnehaha Ave., Grotto St. N., and Pierce Butler Rte.

"We were excited about the opportunity to improve the fields at West Minnehaha Recreation Center," said Mike Hahm, St. Paul Parks and Recreation

Director. "Through this incredible partnership with the Minnesota Twins and Toro, we will be able to ensure these well-loved, well-used fields elevate the experience in this neighborhood for years to come."

Toro and the Twins are committed to providing this community with new,

high-quality ball fields under professional guidance of the Twins Grounds Crew and Toro Sports Turf Managers.

Renovation activities for the baseball field included leveling the playing fields, re-sodding the outfields, laying agri-lime, rebuilding pitching mounds, and other miscellaneous projects.

Improvements to the softball fields include leveling the infield and removing and repairing sod.

"The Twins are proud to once again join with our longtime partner Toro to restore the fields at historic West Minnehaha Recreation Center," Minnesota Twins Senior Director of Community Relations Bryan Donaldson said. "Both organizations are committed to providing safe, quality places for youth to play baseball and softball. The fact that our own employees volunteer their time to personally refurbish the fields is always the highlight of these projects."

Saint Agnes School contributed \$10,000 for the field rebuild. Also, Bloomington-based Toro and the Twins Community Fund together donated \$20,000 to the City for the renovation project. "Every community should have safe fields to enjoy baseball and softball. Toro is proud to partner with the Twins on improving the fields at West Minnehaha Recreation Center. This project provides a unique opportunity for Toro to combine our people and products to provide high-quality playing fields for people of all ages," said Judson McNeil, President of The Toro Foundation.

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Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Lumberyard site transformation goes on

The transformation of the old Weyerhaeuser Lumberyard site into the Legends of Berry housing goes on, as the St. Paul City Council and the city's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) acted on various aspects of the project in October.

St. Paul Leased Housing Associates is redeveloping the site at 777 and 778 Berry St. into two buildings, one of workforce housing and one for seniors. The project won a needed variance Oct. 22 from the BZA.

The two buildings will have front entrances directly across the street from each other. The zoning code requires a front yard setback of at least 10 feet. The proposed developments each have a covered front walkway with a zero setback, driving the need for a variance.

The variance request drew no opposition and had a recommendation of support from St. Anthony Park Community Council.

Earlier in October the St. Paul City Council approved a financing and spending plan for the Department of Parks and Recreation for \$323,191, to use parkland dedication funds for the creation of a new park at 700 Emerald St.

The city requires that new developments provide funding for park space, donation of property, or do a combination of both.

The new development will have three lots, tow parks and three streets, in a plat approved by the council in May. Park space has been called out as a need in this part of West Midway, in various land use studies



The concept drawing for the Legends of Berry front entrance at 777 and 778 Berry St. The proposed developments each have a covered front walkway with a zero setback, driving the need for a variance from the regulation requiring a 10 foot setback. (Illustration provided)

dating back to 2008.

University-Dale project moves ahead

Redevelopment of the northwest corner of University Ave. and Dale St. continues to pick up needed support. In October the Metropolitan Council and St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), gave the project needed approvals.

Northwest University and Dale received \$949,250 in Metropolitan Council Livable Communities grant funds to support affordable housing near existing and planned transit service. The project was one of four that split almost \$4.5 million.

"The Livable Communities program goes a long way toward supporting and pro-

moting economic growth and prosperity in the region," said Council Chair Alene Tchourmoff. "A critical component to achieving prosperity is the availability of affordable housing. These grants all support the creation of affordable housing that's close to transit and other types of transportation. Each project focuses on a different group of people in need of affordable housing."

The mixed-use development would replace commercial and office buildings, along with a vacant lot that was once the home of the Flick, an X-rated theater. The Flick and its across-the-street neighbor, the Faust, were part of a cluster of "adult" businesses in the University-Dale area, along with the Belmont Club. The city bought out the business owners in the 1980s.

The Flick was torn down years ago and has been green space since then. The mixed-use development eyed for its site and adjacent properties could create 32,000 square feet of office and commercial space and 40 affordable housing units near a plaza and green space.

Since the Livable Communities program became law in 1995, the council has approved grants totaling nearly \$375 million to assist projects that have created or retained more than 52,000 jobs, cleaned up 2,300 acres of polluted property for redevelopment, created or preserved nearly 22,000 affordable housing units, and leveraged billions in additional public and private funds.

Northwest University Dale is led by Wellington Management and will be owned by University and Dale Limited partnership. It will include 40 housing units from single rooms to three bedrooms, at varying rates of affordability based on area median income.

The project cost is estimated at \$13.5 million including private funds, housing tax credits, and Metropolitan Council, state, and Ramsey County grants. The project was one of two on University Ave. that received Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from the HRA in October, and one of four city-

wide. The Federal Tax Reform Act of 1986 created the Low Income Housing Tax Credits Program, which provides a reduction in federal tax liability to owners and investors of qualified low-income housing developments that comply with

federally-imposed rent and tenant income restrictions for 30 years. The credits are coveted by developers.

Northwest University Dale has up to \$298,793 in reserved credits for 2019.

Northwest University Dale is also in the hunt for additional dollars, and was one of six projects the city submitted to site cleanup and tax base revitalization dollars.

Other area development

PPL Ain Dah Yung Supportive Housing has \$217,700 earmarked for its new housing for homeless Native American youth at 769 University Ave. The \$13 million project includes 42 housing units.

Another \$366,266 is allocated for the St. Paul Preservation Project, which includes some multi-family properties around the city including two in the 800 block of Englewood Ave.

Another area project submitted was for work at 641 N. Fairview Ave. and at Raymond Station, a development near Raymond and University avenues.



The concept drawing for the Legends of Berry at 777 and 778 Berry St. The two buildings would be across the street from each other and is moving forward through City of St. Paul Council approval. (Illustration provided)

PROSPECTIVE PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

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Monitor

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Handi Medical gets Ethics Award

Handi Medical Supply, Inc., 2505 University Ave. W., received the 2018 BBB Torch Award for Ethics for businesses of 51-175 employees. The Better Business Bureau® of Minnesota and North Dakota's (BBB) Torch Awards for Ethics were named at a ceremony held Oct. 26. BBB's Torch Awards for Ethics recognizes leading area businesses that uphold the highest standards and display an outstanding level of ethics and integrity, in every aspect of their day to day operations.

Art & Craft Fair scheduled Dec. 1

Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., hosts its Annual Art & Craft Fair on Sat., Dec. 1, 9am-4:30pm.

This event has been popular since its inception, 20 years ago. Local artists present a wide variety of handmade items, including wooden items, jewelry, photographic canvases, pottery, fiber products (knit, felted and needle felted), and much more.

Meet the artists, and shop from a large selection of unique, affordable items. This is a great opportunity to buy directly from the people who make these items, in a friendly, casual setting, while enjoying great food and beverages.

Parking is available behind the building as well as on the street.

Loving the Neighbor is weekend series

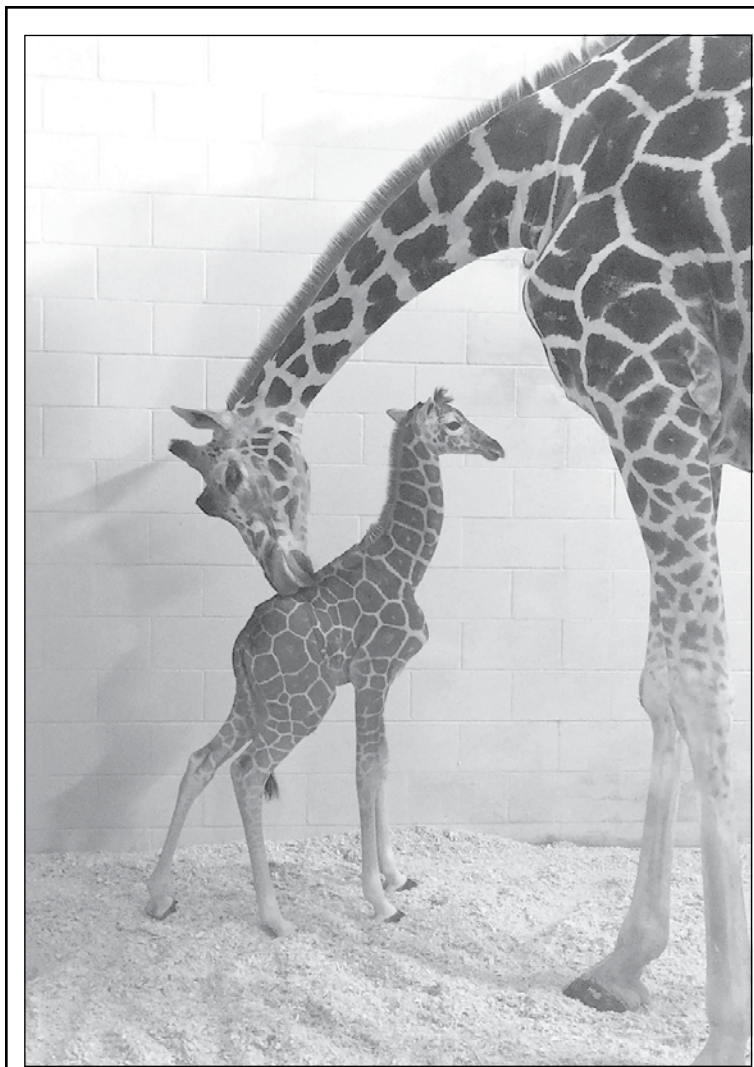
"Loving the Neighbor You Hate: A Weekend with James Alison" is planned Nov. 9-11 at House of Mercy, 436 Roy St. N. A \$10 donation is requested.

In a political climate where ideological polarization drives us to turn philosophical differences into interpersonal hatred, we need help to stop. Is it possible to fundamentally disagree with someone and not only love them but possibly even enjoy their company—wouldn't that be a great world to live in?

James Alison, a British, Catholic theologian and author, will tell us how to get there. Coming just two days after the midterm elections only increases the relevance of the discussion.

Fri., Nov. 9, 7pm, the topic is LGBTQI issues in the Church. Surveying the collapsing closet, are we ready to be the adults in the room?

On Sat., Nov. 10, 7pm, the topic focuses on Loving the Neighbor You Hate. Alison engages and interacts on divisions in the time of Trump, Brexit, and the polarizing collapse of the social fabric.



Baby giraffe born at Como Zoo Oct. 2. (Photo by Zookeeper Jill. Photo provided)

Como Zoo welcomes baby giraffe

Como Zoo welcomed a new baby giraffe to its herd Oct. 2. Coming into the world at 5'8" and 120 pounds, the baby is standing tall with mother Daisy shadowing over her. The baby made her public debut on Oct. 10.

The new baby female is the eighth calf born to Daisy and the 22nd giraffe born at Como Zoo in the last 24 years. Como's current herd consists of Daisy, Clover, Skeeter (father) and the yet-to-be-named calf. This is Skeeter's sixth offspring, five of which have been female.

The giraffe is the tallest of all land-living animal species. They can be as tall as 18 feet tall and have a prehensile (used for grasping) tongue as long as 18 inches. During the first two years of a giraffe's life, it doubles in height, often standing over 12-feet tall. Giraffe gestation lasts between 14 and 15 months, after which a single calf is born. Like human fingerprints, the markings or spots of a giraffe's coat are unique to each.

Reticulated giraffes are native to the dry savannas and open woodlands of sub-Saharan Africa.

Como Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). AZA is America's leading accrediting organization for zoos and aquariums and accredits only those institutions that have achieved rigorous, professional standards for animal welfare and management, veterinary care, wildlife conservation and research, education, safety, staffing and more.

On Sun., Nov. 11, the morning preaching will be held at the Faith Mennonite Church and evening preaching will be held at 5pm at House of Mercy.

Having lived with the Dominican Order between 1981 and 1995, Alison currently travels the world as an itinerant preacher, lecturer, and retreat giver. He studied at Oxford University and the Jesuit Theology Faculty in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. He is the author of "Knowing Jesus, Raising Abel: The Recovery of the Eschatological Imagination,"

"The Joy of Being Wrong," "Faith Beyond Resentment," "On Being Liked," "Undergoing God" and "Broken Hearts and New Creations: Intimations of a Great Reversal." He is known for bringing the work of the great French thinker René Girard to a wider public.

Do the Dow plans annual open house

The annual Do the Dow art open house is scheduled for Fri., Nov.



Bulgarian band Nomadi. (Photo provided)

Nomadi plans first concert Nov. 17

The first concert of the new Bulgarian band Nomadi will perform Sat., Nov. 17, 6:30-9:30pm at Celtic Junction Arts Center, 836 Prior Ave. N. The band highlights modern and traditional folk music. Members of this unique band are Alexandra Georgieva (vocals, gadulka, keyboard), Natalie Nowytski (vocals), Nikolay Gueorguiev (gadulka), Toli Georgiev (clarinet, bagpipe (gaida), keyboard), and Eric Ray (accordion).

9, 6-10pm and Sat., Nov. 10, 12-8pm at the Dow Building, 2242 University Ave. W.

There are over 40 artists in the Dow building, which has four levels of intriguing odyssey to explore, sometimes you get lost...seriously. Along this intense journey of eye-candy, you will encounter painters, sculptors, woodworkers, metalworkers, art galleries, ceramic artists, drummers, poets, muralists, screen printers, musicians, and installation artists.

Support group meetings for families

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 in St. Paul on the fourth Monday of the month from 6:30-8pm, at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy. There is free parking in the ramp. For information, call Jennifer at 507-254-5524.

Local blood drive planned Nov. 21

Memorial Blood Centers will hold a blood drive on Wed., Nov. 21, 9:30am-1:30pm at the Midway Campus of HealthEast, 1700 University Ave.

Donating blood is convenient and safe when you are healthy, well and free of antibiotics for 24 hours (unless taken daily for a skin condition), symptom-free for at least three days following a cold or the flu, and 17 years or older (16 with writ-

ten parental consent, form available at mbc.org).

While walk-in donors are always welcome, advance appointments are encouraged. To register for a blood drive, schedule online at www.mbcherohub.com, or contact the sponsoring organization directly.

Welcoming Days at Hamline Elementary

Hamline Elementary, 1599 Englewood Ave., has set aside time for drop-in daytime tours. It is one of the best ways to see the Hamline Elementary community in action.

Staff and current families will take you on a tour, answer your questions, and introduce you to the people, partnerships, and programming. No prior appointment necessary—just drop in, check in at the Main Office and they'll do the rest. Children are always welcome on welcoming days! And you can always call the school (651-293-8715) to set up a tour for another day and time most convenient for you.

Welcoming Days are planned for Tuesdays, Nov. 13, Dec. 12, Jan. 8, and 22, 9-10:30pm; and from 1-2:15pm on Tuesdays, Jan. 15, 29, and Wed. Feb. 6.

QPR class offered Nov. 14 at NAMI

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. QPR is the most widely taught gatekeeper training program in the United States, and

Continued on page 12

In Our Community

Continued from page 11

more than one million adults have been trained in classroom settings in 48 states. The QPR classes will be offered on Wed., Nov. 14, 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.

Tournament game scheduled at Allianz

The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (ConCACAF) have announced that Allianz Field soccer stadium will host Group D of the 2019 ConCACAF Gold Cup, which includes the United States, in their first match day of the tournament on Tues., June 18, 2019.

The ConCACAF Gold Cup is the official national team championship of the region, crowning the best of North, Central America and the Caribbean and featuring some of the hemisphere's best players and teams. Next summer's tournament will be the first to feature an expanded version, with 16 countries vying for glory.

The complete groups and schedule will be announced early next year, once all nations have qualified for the Gold Cup via the ConCACAF Nations League Qualifier, with rounds being held now and in March of 2019. To date, the six national teams that participated in the 2018 FIFA World Cup Hexagonal qualifier round—Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States—have automatically qualified for the 2019 ConCACAF Gold Cup.

The host venue, Allianz Field, broke ground in May 2017 and is expected to be completed in February 2019. The 19,400-capacity seat stadium is more than 80 percent complete to date. Interior bowl seat installation is nearing completion, the final panels of the exterior PTFE skin have been hoisted, and the stadium grass will begin to be planted in the coming weeks. The privately financed, soccer-specific stadium features a 2,800-capacity safe-standing supporters' section with a 34-degree grade that will create a wall of fans behind the south goal.

Season tickets for 2019 at Allianz Field are sold out. Season tickets ranged from \$360/season up to \$450/season.

Tap dance lessons weekly at Can Can

Can Can Wonderland, 755 Prior Ave. N., sponsors Keane Sense of Rhythm: group lessons in tap dancing, every Friday from 4-6pm. The event is free after \$2 cover. Learn to tap dance in this fun, low-pressure environment. They even have tap shoes for you! Tap lessons are held in 20-minute increments between 4-6pm. Pop in anytime! All ages welcome!

Beginning percussion class scheduled

A co-ed beginning Samba

Percussion Class, Samba Songs, is planned at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., for Fri., Nov. 16, 7-8:30pm. Instruments are provided. Register at www.womensdrumcenter.org. Samba is accessible, exuberant and fun to play. No experience necessary. \$20.

Bungalow Club to meet Nov. 18

Join the Twin Cities Bungalow Club on Sun., Nov. 18, 1:30-3pm, to learn the story of a little-known, nationwide housing project spearheaded by Minnesota architects during the bungalow era. The program will be presented at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1895 Laurel Ave. The program is free for Bungalow Club members, and \$5 for non-members.

In the early nineteen-teens, a group of prominent Minnesota architects grew concerned as they watched a societal shift in house building passing them by. The emerging middle class was building tens of thousands of bungalows and other small homes across the United States, but professional architects were virtually frozen out of the process. At the time, prospective homebuyers on a budget could find scores of free or inexpensive house plans through lumberyards, magazines, newspapers, and kit home manufacturers such as Sears & Roebuck.

In response, the Minnesota architects conceived a strategy to provide professionally designed small house plans to young families across the country for a small fee—a significant departure from the traditional role of architects working closely with individual clients to create a customized home design.

Learn how this bold plan succeeded with the support of professional architects nationwide, and how it was threatened by growing concerns that it would ultimately devalue the role of the architectural profession. This presentation will showcase homes in the Twin Cities that were built using plans produced by the Architect's Small House Service Bureau.

Star Party planned with Mike Lynch

St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave., will hold a special Star Party with Mike Lynch on Wed., Nov. 14, 6:30-8pm. Marvel at the moon, constellations, planets, galaxies and more with Lynch, a meteorologist at WCCO Radio. The event will begin with an indoor orientation on astronomy followed by opportunities to view planets, star clusters, nebulae, galaxies and other wonders of the night skies. Dress for the outdoors!

Ujamaa Place given MCN 2018 award

Ujamaa Place, headquartered at 1821 University Ave. W., has been presented with the Anti-Racism Initiative Award from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN).

Ujamaa Place is a culture- and gender-specific, community-based nonprofit organization

in St. Paul/Ramsey County serving African American men ages 18-30. The Ujamaa Place Theory of Transformation program re-engages young Black men, helping them transition out of incarceration, unemployment, homelessness, and poverty into educational, employment, and life skills programming. Since Ujamaa Place's doors opened in 2010, approximately 2,000 young Black men from Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area have come to Ujamaa needing help. To date, no man enrolled at Ujamaa Place has reoffended.

MCN, who names the Nonprofit Mission and Excellence Awards, was founded in 1987 to meet the increasing information needs of nonprofits and to convene nonprofits to address issues facing the sector. With over 2,200 nonprofit member organizations, it is the second largest state association of nonprofits in the U.S., with a mission to inform, promote, connect, and strengthen individual nonprofits and the nonprofit sector. They are located at 2314 University Ave. W.

Acoustic concert at Celtic Nov. 30

Adam Kiesling and Scott Keever celebrate the launch of their two respective solo albums with an acoustic concert at Celtic Junction Arts Center, 836 Prior Ave. N., on Fri., Nov. 30, 7:30-10pm. Advance tickets are \$12; \$15 at the door.

Adam Kiesling's new CD, simply titled "BANJO & GTR," includes solo arrangements of some of Adam's favorite old-time tunes and songs, as played on the guitar and banjo. Scott's newest album "Solo Guitar Vol. 1" focuses on his original solo compositions and showcases his wide range of styles. Produced by Raymond Yates, it includes Scott's work in open tunings, and on both nylon and steel string guitars.

Holiday Market planned Nov. 17-18

New Life Presbyterian Church, 965 Larpenteur Ave. W., will hold their Holiday Fair Trade Market on Sat., Nov. 17, 10am-4pm and Sun., Nov. 18, 11am-1pm. Choose from fair trade handi-crafts and food items from around the world. Finish your holiday shopping early and know that you have helped fair trade artisans and food producers with your purchases. Enjoy soup and snacks in the cafe when you shop. Cash or checks are preferred.

Holiday Market scheduled Nov. 17

Activities for children and families start and end the day at the Hamline Church Holiday Market, 9:30am-3:30pm, on Sat., Nov. 17 at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave.

Santa Claus and his elves will open the sale doors and will hear wishes until 11am. Enjoy all kinds of crafts and vintage items, baked goods, vendor products, books, craft supplies and more. Soup luncheon by St. Columba volunteers starts at 11am and lasts until the soup is gone. At

Register at your local Recreation Center for fun-filled fall activities

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

- Adult Indoor Soccer, on Sun., Dec. 2-Mar. 31, 5-6:30pm, \$5/weekly
- Art/Wine/Pizza, on Mon., Dec. 3 6:45-9pm, \$50
- Women's 35+ Basketball, on Sun., Dec. 2-Mar. 31, 6:30-7:30pm, \$4/weekly
- Family Movie Series, on Fri., Nov. 30-Dec. 28, 3:30-5:30pm, Free
- Parent's Night Out, Fri., Dec. 7, 6-9pm, \$10/child
- Senior Gamers, ages 55+, on Tues. ongoing, 1-3pm, Free
- Holiday Craft, ages 8-12, Mon., Nov. 19-26, 6:15-7:15pm, Free
- Taekwondo, ages 4-17, on Tues./Thur. ongoing, 4:30-5:30pm, \$50/month

***Join the Northwest Como Booster Club by contacting Thao Vue at Northwest Como

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

- Gobble Gobble Art, ages 1.5-5, Tues., Nov. 20, 6-7pm, \$15
- Holiday Ornament Making Party, ages 1.5-5, Tues., Dec. 18, 6-7pm, \$15
- Red Cross Babysitting Class, ages 11-17, Fri., Nov. 16, 10:30am-5pm, \$60
- Parent/Child Tot Time, ages 5 & under, on Mon./Wed./Thur., 9am-Noon, Free
- Adult Pickleball, on Wed., through Dec. 9, 1-3pm, \$2/daily
- Earth Moon Yoga, adults, on Tues. (7:45-8:45pm), Sat. (11am-Noon), \$5/class
- Pilates-Core/Strength/Flexibility, on Mon./Wed., 7:15-8:15pm, \$5/class
- Senior Fitness, adults, on Tues./Thur., 9:30-10:30am, Free
- Challenge Square Dancing, adults, on Mon., ongoing, 6:30-9pm, \$7/weekly
- Senior Day, ongoing Thur., 10am-3pm, Free
- Women's Self Help Book Club, adults, on 3rd Thur./mo., 6:30-8pm, Free
- Taekwondo, ages 4-17, on Mon./Wed./Fri. ongoing, 4:30-5:30pm, \$50/month
- ***Winter Wonderland, Tus., Dec. 11, 5:30-7:30pm, Free
- ***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

- Tot Time, birth-5, on Fri., through Dec. 28, 9:30-11am, Free
- Gym Walking, adults, on Thur. thru Dec. 13, 2:30-3:30pm, Free
- Senior Gym Bowling, ongoing Fri., 9:30-11am, Free
- Super Hero Engineering with LEGO, ages 5-7, Fri., Nov. 16, 9am-12pm, \$25
- Pickleball, adults, Thur. through Dec. 13, 12:30-2:30pm, \$2/session
- Soo Bahk Do, ages 5-adult, Thur., ongoing, 5:30-6:30pm, \$45/mo
- ***Dinner With Mr. and Mrs. Claus, Fri., Dec. 7, 5:30-7pm, \$5/person or \$25/max family
- ***Join the Langford Park Booster Club by contacting Courtney Moriarty at Langford Park

2:30pm hear Minnesota author Anne Gillespie Lewis read her new children's book, "A Perfect Christmas Tree."

Get a jump on your holiday shopping! Free admission, although a non-perishable food shelf donation is welcomed. Questions? Email hamline-women@gmail.com or call 651-646-3473.

Fall Flower Show open at Conservatory

The popular 103rd Annual Fall Flower Show continues at the Como Park Marjorie McNeely Conservatory through Nov. 25, from 10am-4pm.

The show features hundreds of chrysanthemums of many different cultivars. The colors for this year's show are predominantly red and yellow. Yellow Swiss Chard and Chilly Chili peppers will serve to accentuate the beautiful red and yellow chrysanthemums.

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 ill-

ness. 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.

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.

Events planned at Merriam Park Library

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

Continued on page 14

Local filmmaker makes her mark with 'sentencing films'

Article and photos
by JAN WILLMS

Local filmmaker Barbara Wiener can add to her resume that she helped to liberate an African country. This accomplishment comes as part of her journey on the path of making sentencing films.

Wiener has been a filmmaker and teacher for the past 30 years. She has worked in public television and currently teaches film at Film North, 550 Vandalia Ave., and at North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park. She also founded TVbyGIRLS, a nonprofit that collaborates with and mentors teen girls using the tools of filmmaking to develop critical thinking, leadership, and social change film work.

She did her first sentencing film in 2014. She has completed two more.

"They're called sentencing films because they are used in sentencing," she said. "In general, it's not a trial. The defendant has already said yes, I am guilty of the crime. All the legal arguments have already been made, and now it's up to the judge to sort through all the information for both the prosecutor and defense attorney."

Wiener explained that the films are usually created for the judge to view to get the perspective of the defendant in the case before pronouncing sentencing.

"The first one I did, I knew the lawyer, Robert. His son had been in one of my films. Robert was one of the lawyers defending five Gambian American men," Wiener said. The middle-aged men had been part of a small coalition of Gambians living in America who planned a bloodless coup of the Gambia government after their countrymen had been living under a brutal dictatorship for 21 years.

"I had never heard of The Gambia (officially the Republic of The Gambia) and did not even know where it was," Wiener recalled. It is the smallest country in continental mainland Africa, and in 1970 The Gambia became a republic within the English Commonwealth and established as a democracy.

But in 1994 Yahya Jammeh overthrew the government, became the new leader, and banned all opposition political activity. Jammeh turned into a brutal dictator, according to the accounts of The Gambian people and based on his own words, caught on video. Reporters were jailed and tortured, as were his political enemies or anyone who disagreed with him.

Gambians in America had appealed to the US State Department, European Union, the UN, and the African Union; anywhere anyone would listen. It seemed that no one cared, according to Wiener.

The coup by Gambian Americans was not successful. Wiener said she learned they had been betrayed, some killed and the rest ran for their lives back to the United States.

"They violated a US law written in 1874 called the Neutrality Act that makes it illegal for American citizens to take up arms against a county we are at peace with," Wiener explained. The FBI charged them with a federal crime, and the men were facing up to 30 years in prison.

Wiener met with the lawyers and looked at the charges. The at-



Filmmaker Barbara Wiener

torneys admitted the men had broken the law, but they were good people. "I don't think it matters whether they are good people," Wiener told them. "I think we have to do a film where we get the judge to feel like he is walking in their shoes...they were doing what early Americans did, saying no to oppression."

In this film, Wiener never interviewed the defendants but instead, with an assistant, went to five different states and talked to Gambian Americans who could describe the imprisonment, the torture, and the fear The Gambian people had lived under for the past 21 years. She was also able to obtain videos of Jammeh describing his acts of violence and even footage of his guards beating up American citizens in Washington, DC, who protested during a visit he made to the United States.

The one-hour film, "The Pain of a People," was entered in evidence and shown not just to the judge but to the courtroom. After viewing the film, the judge in the case asked for an extra day to make the sentencing decision.

"The longest sentence given was nine months, and some were given parole," Wiener said. Although the coup had not worked, the bravery of those involved was celebrated, and within a year The Gambia was liberated. Jammeh had been defeated in a fair election, and when he refused to give up his power, the African Union stepped in and escorted him out.

"The Gambia is still struggling," Wiener said, "but it is a democracy again. It shows the power of courageous heroes. If you can hear a story of people willing to be heroic, then people gain hope, and they can be heroes, too."

Wiener was again called by her lawyer friend about another case, a man who had a wonderful career, beautiful home in the suburbs and a great family with two sets of twins. But he risked it all to go to the Dark Internet and view child porn, and he was caught in an FBI sting. He was removed from his house immediately, and his children were not allowed to see him.

"He was not a pedophile and did not hurt his children, but he did something terrible because children were hurt somewhere who were in these pictures," Wiener said. But his children wanted their voices heard. This was the guy who went to all their sports events, supported them and was the guy they adored. They felt no one was listening to them.

"I was called in to work with the kids," Wiener said. "I interviewed them and captured each one of them and how they felt, got their family interactions. The goal was for them to have a voice, and



Barbara Wiener at work behind the camera.

work that into the sentencing so they would not be completely isolated from their dad."

He was sentenced to three years. The tragedy was compounded when the mom fell and died from a hemorrhage while doing laundry in the basement six months after he went to prison.

The children were left without either parent.

"I wouldn't have done a film for the father, because I wouldn't do something that would support a person watching child pornography, but I felt it was really important to do that film for the children."

Wiener recently completed another film in which she interviewed a defendant who had admitted his guilt and did not repent. The case is so current Wiener cannot discuss the details.

"This is the only one in which I have interviewed the defendant," she said. "He told what happened, what his experience was, what he did and why. It is important if you break a law that it has a component to it," Wiener noted, "that takes a look at a bigger law and morality of choice."

Wiener said that she gets



Barbara Wiener works as a film teacher as well as director and writer.

very drawn into the story when making these sentencing films. "I try and communicate the truth of whatever is the subject," she said. "I feel strongly about people and their stories, and the flip side is I get very involved."

Putting out real stories that resonate and are about how people are resilient in what they do is Wiener's goal. She said she has always had a passion for social justice and hopes to continue creating sentencing films along with all of her other work.

"Unless you really think about the emotional aspects in telling a story, you end up with cat videos," Wiener commented with a smile. "Those may be fun, but we need people telling real stories with skill."

Wiener said her father once told her she was too sensitive, but she said she feels very strongly about the kinds of films she does and feels very connected. "I don't know if that makes me a better filmmaker, but it makes me a happier one," she said.



Barbara Wiener works with crew on producing a film.

In Our Community

Continued from page 12

Neighborhood poet Jim Bohan is out with his first book—"I travel in rusting burned-out sedans." He'll read poems from his book that are dark, funny, lyrical, insightful, and in your face, on Tues., Nov. 13, 7-9pm.

The Women's History Lecture Series will make three presentations in November. All lectures are presented by Jill Zahniser, Ph.D., and author of "And Then She Said," and co-author of "Alice Paul: Claiming Power."

First in the series is planned for Wed., Nov. 14, 7-8:30pm and titled "Mum Bett: Suing for Freedom in Revolutionary America." In 1780, Elizabeth Freeman, known as "Mum Bett," became the first enslaved person in America to sue for her freedom. She was inspired by the language of the 1776 Declaration of Independence. Her lawsuit led directly to the abolition of slavery in the state of Massachusetts. Hear the moving story of her drive to be free.

"The Trial of Susan B. Anthony," will be presented Mon., Nov. 19, 7-8:30pm. Susan B. Anthony died before American women won the right to vote in 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment. But she voted once—in 1872. Her vote was judged illegal, and she was arrested and subsequently tried. The media sensation of her trial became Anthony's soapbox to broadcast the necessity of "Votes for Women!"

The last of the Legendary Women Series, "Minnesota's Wanda Gág: Reinventing the Picture Book," will be held Wed., Nov. 28, 7-8:30pm. Wanda Gág is well-known to Minnesotans as the New Ulm-born author-illustrator of "Millions of Cats" (1928). However, her work won acclaim well before she turned to works for children. Discover Gág's varied career and international recogni-

tion as well as her colorful "Roaring '20s" personal life in this final talk of the season.

The Merriam Park Book Club meets Mon., Nov. 26, 6:30-7:30pm. The title they will discuss is "Swamplandia!" by Karen Russell.

There are Family Storytimes at the library on Fridays, 10:30-11am. Spend time sharing stories, songs, and rhymes with your child while building a foundation for reading success. Preschoolers, toddlers, and babies 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.

Paw Pals with Katie and Kerrie is planned for Thur., Dec. 6, 6-7pm. Read to a friendly dog who loves to sit and listen to stories. For young readers ages 6-12. Please register by calling 651-642-0385 or stopping by the library's service desk.

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 smartphones. Bring your questions and, problems, and concerns. If we can't answer the question, we'll find resources or organizations that can! No registration required.

News from Hamline Midway Elders

Chair Yoga with Nancy will be held Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am at Hamline Midway Library (1558 West Minnehaha) through Dec. 13. Nancy Giguere leads these free

classes. Sitting in a chair or standing and using the chair for support, you'll learn fundamentals of yoga postures and breathing, practice tension release, and begin building strength and flexibility.

Tai Chi Classes will be held Mon., Nov. 12 and Nov. 19, 11:30am-12:30pm, at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Tai Chi is a gentle exercise that increases flexibility and strength; reduces the pain and stiffness of arthritis, and improves balance. Older adults who have never participated in a Tai Chi class are encouraged to give this a try.

The next Monthly Luncheon is planned for Tues., Nov. 13, 11:30am at Hamline Church United Methodist. "What's New with Medicare," will be presented by a representative from the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging. Chef Erik Hendrickson will prepare a wonderful meal, and blood pressure checks will be provided. New attendees are always welcome at our "Second Tuesday" free-will donation luncheon events.

Knitting Group meets Mondays, 1-3pm, at Hamline Church United Methodist. 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.

Reading Buddies are 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 we'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.

Jody's Documentary Film Series will screen "93Queen." on

Wed., Nov. 28, 1pm at Hamline Midway Library. Jody Huber introduces the films and leads a discussion after each showing. Snacks are provided, and people of all ages are welcome to attend these free last Wednesday of the month events.

Hamline Midway Elders serves older adults utilizing many wonderful volunteers, but they want/need more individual and group volunteers (of all ages) for tasks like fall raking, driving, friendly visiting, snow shoveling, and event assistance. Flexible days/hours. For more information, please contact Laurel Collins of Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or laurel@hmel-ers.org.

Music & Arts Series concerts planned

Hamline Church United Methodist continues its line-up of artists and performances as its 2018-19 Music & Arts Series.

"Chanting the Divine: An Evening of the South Asian Devotional Tradition of Kirtan" is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 1, 7pm at Hamline University Klas Center, Third floor—The Kay Fredericks Room on the Hamline University campus. Kirtan is the musical tradition of call and response chanting from the Bhakti Yoga tradition in India. Join the Twin Cities-based band Kirtan Path in participatory singing, open to people from all backgrounds, cultures, and religions. This event is not ticketed; a free-will offering will be collected at the door. Co-sponsored by Hamline University.

The Hamline University A Cappella annual Christmas Concert will be held Sun., Dec. 2, at 4pm at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. This event is not ticketed; a free-will offering will be collected at the door. Parking is available in the Hamline Church parking lot.

Rosetown Playhouse stages performance

The fur will fly—as will the feathers and hooves and conniving penguins!—when Rosetown Playhouse presents a madcap musical version of "Madagascar Jr.," with a cast of area youngsters ages 7-17. Performances will take place Nov. 30-Dec. 2 at the Roseville Area Middle School Theater.

Based on the smash hit DreamWorks film, "Madagascar – A Musical Adventure," "Madagascar Jr." follows a furry, feathered, and finned group of animals that escape from New York City's Central Park Zoo and head out on a zany, song- and dance-filled expedition to the kooky land of Madagascar.

Kaitlen Osburn is directing "Madagascar Jr.," which includes lively characters Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman Giraffe, Gloria the Hippo, and the hijinks-minded penguins.

Showtimes are 7pm on Fri., Nov. 30 and Sat., Dec. 1; the Sun., Dec. 2 show is a 2pm matinee.

The RAMS Theater is located at 15 E. County Road B-2, Little Canada.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65+), \$10 for students ages 6-12, and \$7 for children 5 and under. Purchase online at www.RosetownPlayhouse.org, call 651-792-7414, ext. 2 to leave a message for a quick call-back, or at the door 45 minutes before show time.

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., Dec. 3 for the Dec. 13 issue.

Classifieds

Monitor

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

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Monitor Classifieds*, PO Box 168, Osseo, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the *Monitor* by Dec. 3 for the Dec. 13 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the *Monitor's* website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

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Orphan bank signage can stay; but only for one year

By JANE MCCLURE

A longtime bank sign at University and Snelling avenues can remain in place for one more year, and be used to promote the remaining Midway Center businesses. Then it must come down. That is the decision of the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), which voted 6-0 Oct. 22 to force the sign's removal.

The board rejected an appeal by property owner RD Parent Investors LLC, one of the New York-based entities that own Midway Center. Since summer RD Parent has sought to retain the sign, which served Midway Bank and later, American Bank, for decades.

Shopping center representatives have argued that the sign is part of the center. But city staff ruled that the sign was the bank's sign, was abandoned and should come down.



Allowing the sign to stay in place for one more year is seen as a compromise

Over the past year, Midway Center and its superblock bounded by St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues and Pascal St., has changed

dramatically. The Allianz Field Major League Soccer stadium sprung up after Rainbow Foods, Walgreens, and other smaller storefronts were torn down. Big Top Liquors' longtime home was razed after that business moved into the former Perkins restaurant. Less

The sign at the corner of Snelling and University has been a long-time fixture and remained even after the banks that used it ceased to be at the location. The City Council overrode a unanimous vote of the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals to remove the sign. Midway Center received a variance to keep the sign for Midway Center advertising, but only for one year. (Image courtesy of Google Maps)

than half of the original strip mall is still standing.

Midway Bank operated at the Snelling and University corner from 1960 until 2001, when the bank was sold. It then operated under new ownership as Dakota Bank and later as American Bank. A bank hasn't operated at the property since 2013, although the property was used for internal operations and storage after customer service ended.

The bank building was eyed as a site for Midway Walgreens and went through the Planning Commission review and approval process for a drive-through window and building addition in 2014. That project never materialized. The building later hosted city task force planning meetings for Midway Center. It was torn down several months ago.

The shopping center owner contended that the sign should be considered part of Midway Center and should remain. City zoning staff disagreed and indicated that the sign was part of the bank, which for many years was under separate ownership from the shopping center. The zoning administrator said that the sign was abandoned and should come down.

In St. Paul, business owners who leave a location yet wish to preserve a sign for a future occupant are to paint their signs a neutral color or reserve the sign face within 30 days.

If a sign isn't reused in one year, the sign is to come down. City staff received a complaint about the sign in May.

The sign is also considered by city officials to be off-premises advertising, akin to a billboard.

The city staff decision was appealed to the BZA. The board held a public hearing in September and laid the matter over twice. One layover was because the board split 3-2 on one vote. A majority of four votes is needed for the BZA to act. A second vote was laid over to allow city staff and property owner representatives time to reach a solution.

Eric Galatz is an attorney for RD Parent and its two affiliated shopping center ownership companies, RK Midway. He said the sign would be used to advertise Midway Center businesses and Allianz Field. Because the property is under the control of lessee Snelling-Midway Redevelopment LLC, Galatz said it should be considered as one parcel.

Other commissioners disagreed about the sign, with some saying it needs to come down and others saying the redevelopment presents unique circumstances due to the size of the superblock and the sign's past and proposed use.

Galatz contended that the sign is needed by the remaining Midway Center businesses. "The businesses are really struggling," he said.

BZA Chairperson Gloria Bogen said the bank property is a separate platted lot, and that the bank property is now a construction site. She questioned the claim that it is part of the shopping center. Jerome Benner II of the BZA staff noted that Midway Center's superblock has long operated as a group of large and smaller parcels, with no set sign plan.

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Hamline professor receives \$300,000 to study mass shootings

Jillian Peterson, assistant professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice and Director of the Center for Justice and Law at Hamline University, has been awarded a two-year, \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop new insights into the causes of mass shootings and possible ways to prevent them in the future.

The grant is one of few DOJ awards made available to specifically study gun violence.

The funding will help establish a comprehensive national database of mass shootings to assist policymakers in developing strategies for interventions and prevention of these events.

"The enlarged database will enable a nuanced and more complete picture of people who commit mass shootings and the environments in which those events take place," said Peterson.

Titled "A Multi-level, Multi-method Investigation of the Psycho-social Life Histories of Mass Shooters," the proj-

ect will build on Peterson's existing database of mass shooting events. The expanded data set will include individual-level psycho-social variables, community level social-ecological factors, and information obtained through interviews with incarcerated mass shooters.

The grant also provides resources to share the results with stakeholders and decision-makers so that data can be used to develop evidence-based intervention programs and policies.

Hamline undergraduate students have worked on Peterson's research in the past and will continue to be a part of the team during the next phase of the work.

"Professor Peterson's groundbreaking work provides our students with an exceptional opportunity to be a part of critical research that has the potential for real-world impact," said Hamline's Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Marcela Kostihova.

Poetry readings will celebrate new book by Jim Bohan

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Local poet Jim Bohan just experienced something that doesn't happen every day. Not only did he publish a poem, but he also published 82 of them in a newly released collection called, "I travel in rusting burned-out sedans."

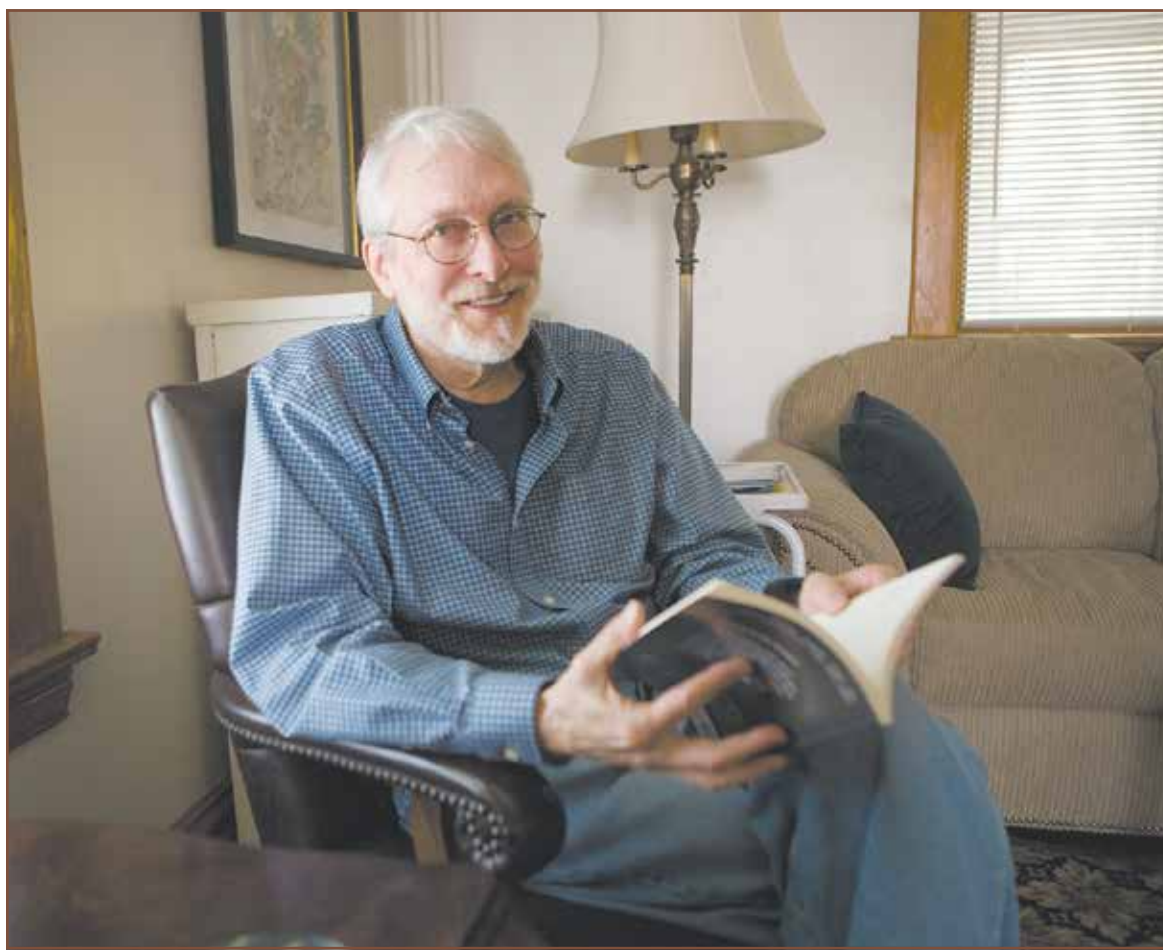
"I submitted my collection to more than 20 publishers before getting picked up by Unsolicited Press in Portland, OR," he said. "There are a tremendous number of good poems in this world that don't get published."

Bohan has lived in the Merriam Park neighborhood with his wife, Bonnie, for 34 years. They raised two children there, and are now helping care for their 16-month-old granddaughter. At 71, Bohan has been writing poems and songs for more than 50 years. He writes quietly at his desk and prefers longhand on real paper for early drafts. He doesn't multitask much. If he goes for a walk, he takes a notebook with him and jots down ideas for poems—but he stops walking while he does it. He said, "I do something related to poetry every day, whether it's writing myself or reading other poets."

He held his first book launch event on Nov. 7. His second will be Tues., Nov. 13 (7pm) at Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.

In addition, on Tues., Nov. 27th at Common Good Books (38 Snelling Ave. S.), and on Wed., Nov. 28 at Subtext Books in downtown St. Paul (6 W. 5th St.), Bohan will have a shared reading with local poets Joyce Sutphen, Sharon Chmielarz, and Norita Dittberner-Jax. He said, "I'm so pleased to be reading with these women who, in addition to Michael Bazzett and Ethna McKiernan, are some of my favorite Minnesota poets."

A Minnesotan through and through, Bohan has stayed pretty close to his roots. "I grew up four blocks from where we live now, attended St. Mark's Catholic School, St. Thomas Academy, the University of St. Thomas, and finally



Merriam Park resident Jim Bohan is a poet and songwriter born and raised in St. Paul. His debut poetry collection, "I travel in rusting burned-out sedans" was just published by a small, independent press in Oregon. The book title was chosen for a poem by the same name. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

the U of M."

He went on to have a long career as a writer, but it didn't always involve poetry. Looking back, he said, "I first got published in my 20's, and that maybe wasn't so good for me. When I was a graduate student at the U of M, the editor of the student newspaper gave me a front-page box in the Arts and Entertainment section. That set up an unreasonable expectation that I would get paid for writing poetry."

As it turned out, poetry soon got put on the back shelf. In different chapters of his life, Bohan would go on to play in a rock band and a folk trio, work as program director for the Irish American Cultural Institute, learn the ropes of book publishing, and finally begin freelance writing in 1993. "Most notably," he said, "I wrote

about cars for the Star Tribune and articles for various trade magazines. I didn't love it, but sometimes I got to write stories on things I cared about—like

car seat safety for children."

Bohan continued, "A few years ago, a poet friend invited me to join her writing group and I quickly got back into

writing poetry. I had lived a lot of life by then, and I realized that it was okay to write about that. When I was young, I thought poetry was supposed to be profound, and grandiose—with high toned language. Suddenly I was writing about ordinary stuff, like preparing for an estate sale after my Mother's death."

By his description, Bohan writes three kinds of free verse (which means no formal rhyming pattern): short, lyrical poems; "prosier," sometimes humorous poems; and more difficult, obscure pieces, ones that sometimes even he doesn't understand.

Laying in for winter

By James Bohan

Tell me a story, any story, so I have something to pocket, something to pull out one dark day, the kind when you clean out every nook, every place, then look for more, to find something – anything – you can use.

For more information about upcoming events or to schedule a reading, contact Jim Bohan at 651-645-4797 or email him at jamesbohan@yahoo.com.

Copies of the book "I travel in rusting burned-out sedans" will be available for purchase at any of the scheduled events. Discounts are available for book clubs and other large orders.



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