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Monitor



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A Living Nativity scheduled for Dec. 10 at Bethel Lutheran

The three-hour event takes a year of planning and up to 100 people to organize

By JAN WILLMS

For the fourth year, the sights and sounds of Bethlehem at the time of Christ's birth will be re-enacted at a pantomime presented by Bethel Lutheran Church. A Living Nativity will be offered to the congregation and the public Dec. 10 between 6 and 8pm at the church, 670 W. Wheelock Pkwy.

Congregation members will take part in a skit that shows the birth of Jesus. There will also be a Bethlehem Marketplace offering visitors a glimpse of what trades might have been offered in Biblical times.

"We added the Marketplace last year," said Anna Zimmerman, Director of Discipleship and Outreach at Bethel Lutheran. "We call it the Bethlehem Walk, and that will go on from 5:30-8pm. People will have a chance to experience what it was like in the marketplace." A Living Nativity was created by Jordan Ray, who held Zimmerman's position until last year, and the church's pastor, David Seabaugh. When Zimmerman arrived for last year's production, she brought along the idea of the Bethlehem Market. "I had seen it in other churches; I saw one in British Columbia," she noted. "So I presented the idea to our church, and they said yes."

Last year the church's basement, which holds a large fel-



Bethel Lutheran Church, 670 W. Wheelock Pkwy., will present A Living Nativity Dec. 10, 6-8pm. (Photo provided)

lowship hall, was also opened to people attending. This gives them an opportunity to sip on coffee or cider or sample some of the 400 cookies baked by women in the congregation.

"That brought in about 100 more people last year," Zimmerman noted. "It offered a warm place for people to sit and have fellowship with each other."

She said the weather has so far not been a problem, but there are always contingency plans. Zim-

merman said the congregation brings blankets for extra warmth if needed, and there are bleachers so people do not have to sit or stand in snow. There is also a fire pit for extra heat.

Cravin' Pies, Belasquez Family Coffee and Bundles of Love, a church charity to help mothers in need, have all participated. Last year there was also a translator, who translated children's names and spelled them out in Biblical Greek.

Zimmerman said she has also



In 2015, A Living Nativity included an open Fellowship Hall for warmth, friendship, and tasting one of the many cookies available. (Photo provided)

gotten in touch with Concordia Academy, which presents a craft show in November, to have them contact all those participants who might want to offer their crafts during the Living Nativity.

"Bob from Bob's Cock-a-Do-dle Zoo brings live animals for the production," Zimmerman said. Sheep and goats, as well as other animals, take part in the pantomime. Shows are offered every 15 minutes. When they are over, children can come up and pet all the animals.

Zimmerman said that Seabaugh had written the scripts for the skit each year until this one, since he is leaving to serve a congregation in Illinois. "I reached out, and Jeff Burkart, a professor from Concordia, agreed to write the pantomime. He did a beautiful job," she said.

The presentation calls for a show team, which includes actors for the skit as well as Roman

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Melissa Cortes takes reins as HM Coalition Community Organizer

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Melissa Cortes stepped into her role as the community organizer and communications specialist for the Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC) in September.

A political science graduate of Hamline University, she said, "My college experience opened my eyes to what community could be. Even before going to my first class, it was clear that students were expected and encouraged to be part of this neighborhood."

Cortes was born in Los Angeles, CA where she was raised by her mother—a single mom. "My mom got involved with community action early," she explained, "and it made a strong impression on me growing up. One memory I have is of my grandmother, who was confined to a wheelchair. Our family lived near a city park, but my grandmother couldn't enjoy it because the park wasn't handicapped accessible. My mom got on that, and the necessary changes were made. I



Melissa Cortes is the new community organizer and communications specialist for the Hamline Midway Coalition. She said, "I've come to value the question, 'What kind of engagement do we want to do?'" (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

have a photograph of my grandmother sitting in the park in her wheelchair, and it continues to inspire me."

"I moved to St. Paul to at-

tend Hamline University," Cortes said, "and soon found myself volunteering with Hamline Midway artist Lori Greene on community art projects. I also got involved with Hamline Midway Elders, shoveling snow and raking leaves for senior citizens. I started making community connections."

Cortes was strongly influenced by a class at Hamline University taught by former St. Paul Mayor Jim Scheibel called People, Power, and Change. She went on to become a campaign manager for City Councilman Russ Stark.

"The Hamline Midway neighborhood has tons of energy," she said, "and it can move in different directions very quickly. We're in the process of changing the way HMC works. We want to get away from being so office-based. We want to get out in the community more and meet people where they work, rather than being administrators sitting in an office. We want creativity to be a bigger part of our engage-

ment process."

In this time of transition at HMC, the staff is working hard to listen to the diverse voices of neighborhood residents and business owners. Toward that end, HMC is hosting its first annual Open House and Annual Meeting from 6-8pm on Tues., Dec. 13, at Hamline University's East Hall #106. The Open House will feature food, beverages, a report on HMC activities, and board elections. The public is invited to attend.

HMC is an action-oriented neighborhood organization that develops and supports initiatives in community building, transportation, economic vitality, sustainability, neighborhood identity and more. HMC also coordinates participation in public policy decision-making and provides high-quality information to the community on matters of public interest.

In addition, HMC can provide fiscal sponsorship for neighborhood organizations.

It is one of 17 district councils in the City of St. Paul.

Cortes wears a lot of hats, including providing technical support and communications expertise for HMC events. The next one coming up is the Second Annual Hamline Midway Pop-Up Show on Sat., Nov. 26. It will be held at Celtic Junction from 11am-4pm, with a focus on Twin Cities small businesses providing artisan gifts for the season. 40+ vendors and artists will sell their wares, creating an authentic "shop local" experience, and Santa Claus will make an early season appearance. Organizers for the event are HMC board member Greg Anderson and his spouse Christine.

"Even though all of my family is still in CA," Cortes concluded, "something about St. Paul keeps me here. HMC has had a meaningful impact on this community. I look forward to being part of the team that is deepening the relationship between HMC and its constituents."

Minnesota writer Brent Olson to discuss the art of writing

Story by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Brent Olson, a writer from Ortonville in western Minnesota, will speak at the Merriam Park Library on Mon., Dec. 5. This Friends of the St. Paul Public Library event will run from 7-9pm, and all are welcome.

The presentation is being organized by Mark Kile, Merriam Park Library's branch manager. "I picked up the Sunday *Star-Tribune* newspaper last July, and was intrigued by an article about Olson," Kile said. "The article focused on his latest enterprise, reviving a small town café in Clinton, MN— not far from where he lives in Big Stone County. I was bitten by the itch of curiosity!"

Kile continued, "I was planning a vacation to the western side of the state in a few weeks anyway. I tracked down one of Olson's books through our system, 'Lay of the Land: a View from the Prairie.' I loved the book and was inspired by the short form of Olson's essays. I've always wanted to write but had felt intimidated by the process. Suddenly I was writing vignettes in the form of letters. I was able to describe memories of my parents, my childhood growing up in Africa, all kinds of details that were important for me to remember."

Kile made the pilgrimage to Olson's Inadvertent Café not long after. To hear him describe it, the Café is a modest place: three round tables surrounded by folding chairs. Everything on the menu costs \$5, with coffee thrown in for free. People start rolling in as soon as the doors open at 6:30am. Relatives and friends of Olson's are thick, but there are others who come through town and stop at the café too.

"In a similar way," Kile said, "I hope that the Merriam Park Library can become a living room for this community—a place where people can gather to express their curiosity, their joy, a place where they can come to learn."

What is it about Olson's writing that would light such a fire under a perfectly reasonable librarian? Olson said, "My essays have always been about the stuff of life: for me that's been farming, raising a bunch of kids, and trying to be a decent guy. If there's a common thread that runs through my writing, it's that I've learned to embrace my mistakes."

"I've been a writer for more than 20 years," Olson continued, "I don't have any formal training as a writer; I just wanted to see if I could do it. My advantages growing up were that I was given two smart parents, and a house full of books. I went to Hamline University for a year until I ran out of money. I probably could have afforded to go to the U of M, but I couldn't find anything in the course catalog that really interested me. I moved back to Ortonville and started farming instead. I come from a farming family."

For most aspiring writers, the road to publication is paved with letters of rejection. Not so for Olson—at least not in the usual way. "In 1996," he said, "I sold the first three articles I ever wrote to the *Farm Journal*, the second largest farm publication in the



Brent Olson is the author of the "Inadvertent Café" and four other books about life in Southwestern Minnesota. On Mon., Dec. 5, at the Merriam Park Library, he'll serve up wit and wisdom from the prairie, and talk about his life as a writer, farmer, and owner of a small-town café. (Photo submitted by Brent Olson)

country at the time. I typed out the articles, put them in separate envelopes, and sent them to the east coast office of the *Farm Journal*. One of the articles got lost in the mail, and eventually the editor asked me to re-submit it. I did so, ending my accompanying letter with a congenial, "Hope you don't lose this one!" She wrote back immediately to say that my sense of humor was not appreciated and that my writing career with the *Farm Journal* was over."

Olson went on to write for his local newspaper, *The Northern Star*, *Living the Country Life* and many other publications. He has filed stories from six continents and published five books. Olson's fifth book, called "The Inadvertent Café: Lessons in Life, Business, and the Limited Value of Being a Do-Goooder" was published last month.

"I farmed full-time for 30 years," he explained. "A few years ago, we subdivided our land

into three parcels and rented it out. I imagined myself entering a peaceful chapter of life, maybe getting a dog and going for long walks in the country. But in 2012, I ended up opening a café in a neighboring town instead. I didn't really mean to, so I called

it the Inadvertent Café."

Because the café only serves breakfast, there's still plenty of time left for writing. Olson explained his writing practice, saying, "I'm an essayist, so I spend a lot of time thinking, and I think better when I'm doing something physical. When I go to type an essay, I've already thought it through. I've found the farming life, the cooking life, and the writing life are very compatible."

Olson continued, "My wife of more than 40 years, Robin, and I live on the edge of a 120-acre wetland. My great grandparents homesteaded this land and built the house we live in. Now and then, I dream of building a writer's shack on the property just far enough from the main house that I couldn't connect to the internet. For me, it's a big distraction."

"I would encourage anyone with an interest to write," Olson said, "because every person has at least one interesting story to tell. The best thing these days is that there's no longer a geographic barrier. You don't have to move to New York City to become a writer. You can live where you want to and still have a writer's life."

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Monitor In A Minute

By JANE MCCLURE

Como by the Lake apartments obtains \$80 million in funds

The Como by the Lake apartment complex's elderly and disabled residents worried several months ago that they could lose their homes when the property went up for sale. Purchase by nonprofit housing provider Aeon staved off that possibility, and the property will remain Section 8 housing.

In October the apartments at 901 Como Ave. were the site of Gov. Mark Dayton's announcement of \$80 million in funding for affordable housing projects this year. The funds will support 57 developments and 1,831 housing units across the state. Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Commissioner Mary Tingerthal said that Minnesota doesn't have enough housing for its needy. The

\$80 million is seen as a step in the right direction.

Had legislators passed a bonding bill this spring, Dayton said more funds would have been available.

Since taking over the Como building, Aeon has sought assistance. A bid for city-issued low-income housing tax credits from the city fell short in a close competition with a Summit-University project. From the state, \$2.96 million in tax credits is earmarked for the Como by the Lake project itself.

Several other St. Paul projects were also funded.

Como by the Lake has provided affordable housing under the Section 8 program for 30 years. Its longtime owners wanted to sell once that contract was up. The building could have been sold and rented at market rate, displacing many residents, before Aeon stepped in. Aeon bought the

building for \$8.5 million in January and plans to make needed building improvements.

Liquor stores stay open longer

St. Paul liquor stores can keep their doors open until 10pm Monday through Saturday, as a result of a city ordinance change adopted Oct. 12 by the City Council.

The 8pm weekday Monday through Thursday closing has been one of the earliest in the state. The push for longer hours was championed by craft breweries, which under state law have to cease growler sales when liquor stores close. The new regulations take effect this month.

The change was brought forward by Ward Three Council Member Chris Tolbert. It drew a mixed reaction. Some liquor stores, including some in the Midway area, expressed opposition. Owners contended that the longer hours wouldn't be profitable

enough to cover the added costs. Store owners close to city borders and competitors with longer hours supported the change. That includes stores near the Roseville border.

Supporters said the longer hours are optional. Some plan to start with later Thursday hours and expand from there.

Craft brewers came out in force for the change, saying they lose beverage and food sales when customers cannot fill large bottles, called growlers, and take them home. The brewers can serve beer until 10pm. But the earlier cutoff in growler sales upset customers.

Street maintenance fees face challenge

St. Paul's street right-of-way maintenance fees face another court challenge, according to attorneys representing property owners throughout the city. Attorneys for property owners faced off with City Council members Oct. 5 at a public hearing on the 2016 charges. The 2016 fees are due this

month.

The fight already is due at Ramsey County District Court in December. Downtown churches won a round this summer at the Minnesota Court of Appeals when the court decided the fee functions as a general services tax, and not as an easement for a specific property's benefit. The appeals court sent the issue back to district court for more review.

The fees, which vary by type of street or alley, increase 2.5 percent in 2016. The vote to approve the fee was 5-2.

The charges generate about \$30 million a year, to cover costs of snow plowing, street sweeping, streetlight and sidewalk maintenance, and other related charges. Those arguing against the charges contend they are a tax and not a fee as city officials have contended for more than a decade.

Proponents believe the fees are a more equitable way of spreading the right-of-way costs around, assessing them to nonprofits and government properties.

Hamline Midway Library plans monthly events

The Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha, is offering a wide array of activities:

Chair Yoga is on Thursdays, Nov. 10 and 17 and Dec. 1, 8, and 15 at 10:30am. The program is taught by Nancy Giguere and sponsored by the Hamline Midway Elders Association.

The Teen Book Club (for grades 9 and up) will meet Sat., Nov. 12 at 3-4pm and Dec. 10, 3-4pm to discuss graphic novels, Read Brave books, and more.

The Baby Boomers and Better Book Club meets on Sat., Nov. 19, 1-2pm, to discuss "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand.

The Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club meets Sat., Dec. 3, 1-2pm. Email Gerri Balter at gerribalter@gmail.com or call 651-224-5570 to learn the latest books under discussion.

The Show and Tell Book Club for Grades 2-4 meets Sat., Dec. 3, 1:30-2:30. Enjoy snacks and celebrate your favorite books! New

members are always welcome.

Science Saturday will meet on Sat., Nov. 12, 1:30-3pm for fun with Pop Ups and on Sat., Dec. 10, 1:30-3pm to explore toys. These hands-on activities are for school age kids and their families.

The Mini Masterpieces series features arts workshops for preschoolers in November. On Mon., Nov. 14, 6-7:15pm, ArtStart presents Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, giving kids a chance to make art with scraps and discards. On Mon., Nov. 21, 6-7:15pm, children can make paper shadow puppets to retell familiar stories.

The library will host Preschool Storytimes in English on Fridays from 10:30-11am, with upcoming storytimes on Nov. 18, Dec. 2, and Dec. 9.

On Sat., Nov. 26, 1:30-2:30pm, the library will host Gourd-geous. Preschoolers and school-age kids can drop in and decorate a small gourd to take home.

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Funds sought for three local projects

The long-awaited redevelopment of the northwest corner of University and Fairview avenues is starting to take shape. Goodwill-Easter Seals of Minnesota is seeking \$50,000 in Metropolitan Council funds, to start exploring site conditions. The project was one of three submitted in late October by the City of St. Paul.

Goodwill-Easter Seals has long owned a large parking lot and other commercial properties at the corner, with only one property remaining in private hands. A sale of the Major Tire building is pending, according to a Goodwill-Easter Seals official. The nonprofit already owns other buildings and a parking lot. Recently the non-profit closed a more upscale resale store it operated in a former service station. Before Goodwill bought that property, it was Lee and Dee's, a popular restaurant.

Long-range plans for the site include denser, mixed-use redevelopment. The properties eyed for redevelopment are south of the Goodwill facility on Charles Ave., which houses a variety of programs and a discount retail store.

Metropolitan Council provides funds for transit-oriented development projects through its Livable Communities Program,

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Development plans along University proliferate

which has a demonstration account and a tax base revitalization account. Developers seek the funds through cities. Cities can submit up to three projects per funding cycle.

Goodwill-Easter Seals ranks second of two submissions for site investigation, behind Ain Dah Yung Center request for \$28,500. That is for housing development in Frogtown.

A second request, for \$40,000 in demonstration account funds, was submitted for the planned Lexington State Apartments on Lexington Pkwy. just southwest of Lexington and University. The funds, if awarded, would cover predevelopment costs.

The Livable Communities request was one of two the city submitted in October for major projects. Several projects were submitted for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for contamination cleanup and investigation grants, and to the Met-

ropolitan Council for Tax Base Revitalization Account Program. These include requested assistance for redevelopment of the former Lexington Outreach Library site at 1080 University Ave. and for the proposed RiverEast School on N. Kent St.

Lexington Station did just share in an earlier Metropolitan Council grant awards of \$5.6 million. The affordable housing development, which is planned to have 243 dwelling units, was awarded \$800,000 toward site acquisition.

The proposed 151-unit senior citizen housing complex, Sanctuary on Vandalia, was awarded \$1.3 million for site acquisition and pollution cleanup. Iota is one of two developments near the Raymond Ave. light rail station to be funded. The other, Union Flats, received \$679,865 for the same purposes. It would include 216 affordable housing units as well as two pocket parks. Both of these developments are on former industrial sites.

Vandalia Tower is for sale

First & First, the Minneapolis developer behind the successful Vandalia Tower redevelopment, is putting that property and 16 others up for sale.

The development company has transformed the former King Koil mattress factory and other old industrial properties into mixed-use developments in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The properties house offices, restaurants, a coffee house and craft breweries. The buildings combined have more than 500,000 square feet of space.

CBRE will be selling the properties. Vandalia Tower is just southeast of the University-Cretin-Vandalia intersection. Other properties are in the Minneapolis North Loop, Whittier and Minneapolis Northeast neighborhoods.

Snelling-Midway planners honored

The St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic De-

velopment (PED) was honored with one of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce 2016 Leaders in Local Government Awards. The awards salute made public organizations and individuals for innovation, excellence, and success.

The PED planning division was honored for its planning work on the Snelling-Midway site, its work along Green Line light rail and its planning for former Ford site redevelopment in Highland neighborhood. A Major League Soccer stadium and redeveloped Midway Center are proposed at Snelling and University, on property owned by Metropolitan Council and RK Midway.

Longtime business leader dies

Warren William Larson, a longtime business leader, and advocate in the Midway, died peacefully Oct. 21. He was 90 years old.

Larson, a Minneapolis native, was a U.S. Marine veteran. He was the founder and president of Midway Can Company, later Midway Container. He also served as vice president of the FarmOyl Company. He was active with the Midway Chamber.

He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

• Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon visited Como during the school-wide mock election held on Oct. 25. Over 900 Como students voted at the polling place which was stationed in the Como Auditorium. AP Government and Politics students served as election judges, administering a registration table, and distributing official ballots for the presidential election provided by the Secretary of State's Office.

Several local media outlets covered the event at Como including KSTP, KARE11, the Pioneer Press and the StarTribune. Seniors Eli Freberg, Joe McCune-Zierath, Chong Xiong, Divine Uchegbu, Rachel Ruskin, Jackson Muehlbauer, Lizzy Larson, Hannah Rhee, Trenton Phillippi, Marie Wulff and Minna Stillwell Jardine were all interviewed or quoted in the news stories, expressing intelligent and thoughtful ideas about the democratic process and this election season.

• The Academy of Finance (AOF) continues to thrive at Como with 300 students in the magnet program across all four grades this academic year. A Financial Literacy Fair was held at the school on Oct. 25 with twenty volunteers from the Federal Reserve Bank leading breakout session with students. On Nov. 3, AOF juniors attended a field trip to the 3M campus as part of the BrandLab Marketing internship program.

Other recent AOF highlights included seniors Titi Yusef and William Toney representing Como's AOF in a meeting with U.S. Senator Al Franken in St. Paul on Oct. 19 as part of an exploratory education visit the Senator conducted as part of his work on the Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Senate Committee. Several AOF juniors also attended the Carlson School of Management college visit and tour on Oct. 27.

• The Como Robotics Team par-



News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Como students dive into the middle of the school year



Como Park's Academy of Finance (AOF) students met with Federal Reserve Bank employees who led breakout sessions as part of Financial Literacy Day on Oct. 25. (Photo submitted)

ticipated in the Minnesota Robotics Invitational at Roseville Area High School on Oct. 15. Como's BEASTBot did well in a challenging set of qualification matches and proved their adaptability to many competitors. In Robotics, alliances are formed with other teams, and the first place team from qualifying matches chose Como as an ally.

In the end, Como's BEASTBot worked together with Irondale's KnightKrawler team and Central's MinuteBots to triumph as the tournament champions. Coaches Donna Norberg and Mike Fischer said the team was proud to collect a first-place tournament trophy, and are excited for the regular season to start next January.

• Students in Ms. MaryClare Bade's Health classes participated in the National "Kindness in Chalk" Day on Oct. 31. The Kindness in Chalk activity is an anti-bully movement which was started a couple of years

ago in Minnesota. The Health classes decorated the sidewalk in front of the school with positive messages reinforcing positivity, acceptance, respect and support for their peers.

• The Como Marine Corps JRTOC Ball will be held on Nov. 11 at the St. Paul Hotel. The event coincides with Veteran's Day and celebrates the 241st birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. Como's cadets will dress in their formal

attire for the plated dinner in the Promenade Ballroom. Retired USMC Colonel Paul Adams will be the Guest of Honor.

• Como Park High School's Advanced Placement (AP) Night is Tues., Nov. 22 from 6-7:30pm. AP Night is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to learn more about Como Park Senior High School's AP program from staff, parents, and a student panel. Middle school students and families interested in learning more about Como's award-winning AP college prep curriculum will be able to visit with current AP students and teachers and ask questions about the AP experience. 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 Molly McCurdy Yates at 651-744-5354.

• Como boys' basketball coach John Robinson and colleague Donnell Gibson, assistant coach and Gibson Foundation President, are implementing the Sat-

urday Breakfast Club and Basketball Clinic for their team. The coaches wanted to send a clear message stressing the importance of academics coming first. "We want to equip our young men with the tools necessary for them to succeed at the next level," said Robinson. Gibson went on to say that, "the young men who show up consistently every Saturday are demonstrating their commitment to not only creating opportunities for themselves but for building a strong team."

In addition to having a home cooked meal, compliments of Robinson, participants receive tutoring and academic advising from Como school counselor Michael Grant. The academic session is followed by a basketball skills clinic led by the Rip City basketball staff.

• The Como Park Booster Club is encouraging the community to support Como on "Give to the Max Day" on Nov. 17. Please give generously to help support extracurricular activities at Como Park High School. Student programs and clubs including music, athletics, robotics, student council, yearbook, math club, and more are aided by the Booster Club based on grant requests. If you are interested in finding more information about the Booster Club or desire to make a donation, please go to givemn.org/organization/como-parkboosterclub.

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By TRUDY DUNHAM

Food! Glorious food! November is traditionally a time of feasting and thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. But it is also a time to highlight the downside: one in five children in Minnesota goes hungry every day. About 50 million Americans, or 1 in 6, live in food insecure households: they don't know if they can afford to feed themselves on a daily basis.

Yet, one-third of the food produced globally for human consumption, about 1.3 billion metric tons, is not consumed: it is wasted. We waste enough to feed the world's hungry. In the US, we waste about 40% of food produced for our consumption.

But how does this relate to climate change, and to our community's resilience to climate change?

It wastes energy and increases greenhouse gas emissions. In the US, about 34 million tons, or 68 billion pounds, of food are wasted each year. Growing and transporting each ton of wasted food results in an estimated to produce about 3.8 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, nearly 150 million tons per year. This waste uses about 300 million barrels of oil each year, or about 4% of the US oil use. Reducing food waste reduces our carbon footprint.

It also wastes time and money. Think of the effort by farmers, manufacturers, transporters, grocery stores and restaurants to produce these tons of wasted food. And your effort: Americans throw away about 25% of groceries purchased, an annual cost of about \$1300-\$2275 for the average four-person American family.

So what can we do about it?

- Understand the "sell by" date on your food. "Sell by," "use by" and "best by" dates are suggested time

Ready and Resilient Hamline Midway

By TRUDY DUNHAM

Preventing food waste while feasting

frames for best quality; the food is still safe to eat after these dates. Often these dates are created by manufacturers, and not based on research or food safety guidelines.

- Don't buy more food than you will likely use. The bigger jar may cost less per ounce, but only if you eat all the food in the jar. The two-for-one deal only works in your favor if you eat both of the products.
- Plan your meals, buying only foods you will use in your at-home meals. Limit impulse buys. Limit unplanned restaurant meals that result in the food at your home going uneaten.
- Consider buying "ugly" (bruised) fruits and vegetables if you will be chopping or stewing it: you can save money at no cost to taste or appearance.
- When you eat out, order ala carte or smaller portion options from the menu if you know you won't eat it all. Request a doggie bag or bring your own container so you can bring leftovers home. Then, remember to eat those leftovers before they spoil!

Once you get the food home, there are procedures you can use to prevent food waste:

- Maintain proper refrigerator temperatures; 35-38F is recommended (bacteria growth rates accelerate around 40F, and things freeze at 32F). Use the high humidity draw-

er for foods sensitive to moisture loss and that give off ethylene (e.g., strawberries, lettuce).

- Invest in products to lengthen food shelf life. Examples include reusable, compostable "green bags" which allow ethylene and moisture emitted by fruits and vegetables to escape and FreshPaper sheets infused with herbs that inhibit the growth of bacteria. Inserting nitrogen to push oxygen out of a sealable food container is another option.
- Join the Clean Plate Club. Use smaller plates and smaller portions to decrease the amount served, and thus the uneaten food left on a plate. (Did you know that our plate size has increased more than a third since 1960?)
- After your meal, use leftovers you won't be eating the next day to make your own "frozen dinner." You will appreciate the convenience of the already prepared meal!
- Compost your food waste. No matter how efficient we are, there will always be some food waste. Use the Ramsey County Organic Recycling program.
- Finally, consider advocating policies and practices that discourage food waste. Some innovative practices are:
 - Suggest that grocers provide smaller packages of fresh fruits and vegetables, and replace two-for-one deals with mix-and-match options.

- Encourage restaurants to offer smaller portion options.
- Update federal tax incentives to encourage businesses to donate nutritious foods; often the cost of packaging and transporting excess

A Living Nativity

Continued from page 1

soldiers who will be announcing the birth to those gathered in the fellowship hall. "Last year we focused on shepherds and angels," Zimmerman explained. "This year we are focusing more on the Wise Men." She said that the play always is about the birth of Christ, but looked at from different perspectives.

The show team also includes those who assist with stage managing, costumes and audio/equipment.

"The actors can choose to speak or not speak," Zimmerman added. "It is a pantomime skit purposely. So if Little Sally Johnson is afraid to speak, she can just stand and be an angel. All ages participate and attend. It is definitely a family event."

There is a media team, a hospitality team and a building team. "We take the stable apart and put it up each year," Zimmerman said. "We will set it up in a few weeks while it is still warm out."

She said the planning for the next year's Living Nativity starts be-

fore the current year's event is even over. "I started reaching out and brainstorming about two weeks ago." Then, right after the event, "we look at what went right and what didn't work. Then I revisit that the next year."

Zimmerman said that although she coordinates the event, it is totally a church undertaking. She said it involves participation from 75 to 100 people.

But all the work is worth it, according to Zimmerman. "Christmas is so rushed, and so much emphasis is put on gifts and Santa Claus and shopping. But we like to remind the community the reason we celebrate Christmas is that Jesus Christ came and saved us from our sins. That's why we share the story."

She said the pantomime is by and for the congregation, but it is also an outreach to the wider community. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

"And we always make sure we tell people the story is not over when A Living Nativity ends. They are always welcome to join us for a candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, too."

foods costs a business more than just throwing it away.

- Suggest legislation to discourage waste: France has banned large grocers from throwing away or destroying unsold food, requiring they donate it to charities.

As you enjoy the bounty of the Thanksgiving holiday, consider the environmental costs of food waste. Do what you can to prevent it!

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

fore the current year's event is even over. "I started reaching out and brainstorming about two weeks ago." Then, right after the event, "we look at what went right and what didn't work. Then I revisit that the next year."

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Hamline Wind Ensemble
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

A Cappella Choir
4 p.m., Hamline Church

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

University Chorale
7:30 p.m., Sundin Music Hall

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Orchestra
2 p.m., Sundin Music Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Jazz Ensemble
4 p.m., Anne Simley Theatre



HAMLIN
UNIVERSITY



Did you know drivers need to stop for pedestrians at every corner?

Stop for Me working to educate drivers and pedestrians to prevent crashes and fatalities in St. Paul, state

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Someone walking or biking is hit by a car every other day in St. Paul.

Someone is killed every other month.

This is despite a state law that says vehicles must stop for anyone at a crosswalk or intersection.

And, all of these crashes were preventable, according to St. Paul Police Department Sgt. Jeremy Ellison, who is the Toward Zero Death Grant Coordinator.

"This is an extremely important topic," Ellison stated. "We need everyone to do their part in reducing the number of crashes. Drivers need to slow down and look for pedestrians at every intersection, whether it's a marked or unmarked crosswalk. Pedestrians need to walk safely and never get in front of a moving vehicle."

Stop for me. Every corner. Every time.

To improve safety for people who use St. Paul's sidewalks and cross the streets, community members created the Stop For Me campaign.

It is organized by St. Paul's 17 district councils, St. Paul Smart Trips and the St. Paul Police.

Stop for Me is working to:

- Bring attention to how often pedestrians take their life into their hands when they cross a street or parking lot.
- Raise awareness that state law requires drivers and cyclists to stop for pedestrians at every intersection, whether or not there is a painted crosswalk or stoplight.
- Educate everyone who uses the streets that they need to share the road, show more respect and patience, and recognize that the moment we step out the door, we are all pedestrians, according to Ellison.

He added, "We need to do something about the number



Stop For Me educates drivers about Minnesota's pedestrian safety laws and enforces the laws in partnership with local law enforcement. To get involved email jeremy.ellison@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call 651-266-5457. (Photo courtesy of District 10 Community Council)

of people who are being struck by vehicles. Too many of our friends, neighbors, and family, are needlessly being hurt, injured or killed by vehicles."

"This campaign is important and making an impact because it brings together community volunteers, city staff, and the St. Paul Police Department to work towards a common goal: making St. Paul safer for pedestrians," said Samantha Henningson, Legislative Aide to City Council President Russ Stark of Ward 4. "Having a city that's safe (and pleasant!) for pedestrians increases our economic competitive advantage with other cities, improves public health, and puts more eyes on the street which is good for public safety."

Stop For Me educates drivers about Minnesota's pedestrian safety laws and enforces the laws in partnership with local law enforcement.

During set events, volunteers don high-visibility clothing to cross the street at designated intersections recognized as troublesome or otherwise unsafe for pedestrians. Law enforcement officers are present to issue citations to drivers who fail to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

A dozen District 10 residents, including Council Member Amy Brendmoen, put their foot down for pedestrian safety in May as the Como Community Council held its first Stop for Me pedestrian safety event.

Residents gathered at the intersection of Lexington Pkwy. and E. Como Lake Dr., where park paths cross north of the Pavilion. This corner is the second-most-dangerous intersection for pedestrians in the neighborhood, according to a survey of community residents.



Volunteers, St. Paul Police and St. Paul Smart Trips, are working to bring attention to how often pedestrians take their life into their hands when they cross a street or parking lot. They aim to raise awareness that state law requires drivers and cyclists to stop for pedestrians at every intersection, whether or not there is a painted crosswalk or stoplight. An event calendar is posted at www.stopforme.org. (Photo submitted)

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

MN State

Statute 169.21 PEDESTRIAN.

§Subd. 1. Obey traffic-control signals. Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic-control signals at intersections as heretofore declared in this chapter, but at all other places pedestrians shall be accorded the privileges and shall be subject to the restrictions stated in this section and section 169.22.

§Subd. 2. Rights in the absence of signal.

(a) Where traffic-control signals are not in place or operation, the driver of a vehicle shall stop to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk. The driver must remain stopped until the pedestrian has passed the lane in which the vehicle is stopped. No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield. This provision shall not apply under the conditions as otherwise provided in this subdivision.

(b) When any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

During the event, volunteers repeatedly crossed the street to emphasize that state law requires drivers to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk—marked or unmarked—every corner, every time.

Other local events included Pierce Butler Rte. and Hamline in Nov. 2015; Snelling and Englewood in June; and Como/Front/Dale and Jessamine/Dale in Sept. During National Walk to School Day on Oct. 5, multiple events were held in the Como/Midway area, and there was another push at Hamline and University on Oct. 19.

These events were in addition to other enforcement activities when officers ticketed offenders, but volunteers were not involved.

The city's goal for 2016 was to do a total of 34 pedestrian safety events, two in each of the city's 17 district councils. There were actually a total of 60 events between Oct. 1, 2015 and Sept. 30, 2016.

"SPPD and the city of St. Paul are committed to pedestrian and bike safety," observed Ellison.

Continued on page 7

DID YOU KNOW?

- Pedestrians are ten times more likely to die in a collision with a car than drivers or passengers are likely to die in a collision between two cars.

- In 2015, 40 pedestrians died in Minnesota after being hit by a motor vehicle; 900 were injured.

BY THE NUMBERS

From Jan. 1- Oct. 23, 2016, in St. Paul

Pedestrians	Bicyclists
Crashes: 136	Crashes: 110
Injuries: 112	Injuries: 76
Fatalities: 3	Fatalities: 0

*Information from <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/police/pedestrian-and-bike-crash-data-city-st-paul>

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Stop For Me campaign

Continued from page 6

Get involved

The goal for 2017 is to continue to increase the number of events and impact on driving behavior in St. Paul. "We are also working closely with public works to provide feedback and make engineering changes when appropriate," said Ellison. "Anyone interested in participating in the events should go through their district council representatives or if they prefer can contact me directly." He can be reached at jeremy.ellison@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-266-5457.

An event calendar is posted at www.stopforme.org.

Why aren't drivers stopping?

In the city of St. Paul, it is because they weren't paying attention.

When asked, "Why didn't you stop for the pedestrian?" the most common response during enforcement events is that they did not see the pedestrian.

"We interpret this to mean that they were not paying attention, whether they are distracted by a phone or perhaps daydreaming," said Ellison. "We also know that drivers who drive slower (say 25 miles per hour) and actively look for pedestrians, do see them and do stop for them."



Volunteers debrief at the end of the May 19, 2016, pedestrian safety event at the intersection of Lexington Pkwy. and E. Como Lake Dr. This corner is the second-most-dangerous intersection for pedestrians in the neighborhood, according to a survey of community residents. During the event, volunteers repeatedly crossed the street to emphasize that state law requires drivers to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk—marked or unmarked—every corner, every turn, every time. (Photo courtesy of District 10 Community Council)

A few drivers have said they were not aware of the law requiring them to stop at all marked and unmarked crosswalks.

"While the state crosswalk law is pretty old at this point, there hasn't been enough education or enforcement historically," observed Henningson. "We are starting to change this in St. Paul, but drivers aren't educated about the law, and they are not paying attention to pedestrians."

The problem is everywhere, pointed out Ellison. "There is not a specific location in the city (or

metro area for that matter) that this is not an issue," he said.

One of the campaign struggles has centered on how to reach the broader community. "If you look at the crash data, you can see that only 38% of the drivers who hit pedestrians/bikers are from St. Paul. The majority live in another part of the metro area," observed Ellison.

Stop for Me is working with partners at the county and state level to try to educate more broadly and call attention to the issue. "Our goal is to increase compliance with the Minnesota Crosswalk Law statewide," said Ellison.

"We know that if we can change driving behavior, we will save lives. The police department alone can't solve this problem. We know that by working closely with our partners in engineering, education, and the community, we will have the most impact."

Are pedestrians always acting safely?

While the majority of pedestrians involved in crashes are acting

appropriately, there are instances when they are illegally crossing, whether that be mid-block or against the light, according to Ellison.

Part of the Stop for Me campaign includes helping pedestrians be safe.

"We always tell them the number one rule is never to step in front of a moving car," said Ellison. "We teach them how to put their foot into the crosswalk, so they satisfy the legal requirement of crossing in the crosswalk, while still being able and ready to step back if needed for safety."

"The one thing that many of the citizen volunteers we train say," noted Ellison, "is that they were not aware of how much distance they needed to give vehicles to safely slow down and stop. On a 30 mph road, vehicles are given 193 feet to see the pedestrian crossing, slow down and stop."

In addition to the Stop for Me campaign, the city, and St. Paul Schools applied for and received a grant from Minnesota Department of Transportation to do rapid planning workshops for Safe Routes to Schools at three schools: Chelsea Heights, Upper Farnsworth, and Bruce Vento.

"From a city perspective, pedestrian and bike safety are priority issues but we have hundreds of miles of streets and thousands of intersections," said Henningson. "It makes sense to start with schools because if you make an area safer for students, it will be safer for everyone else, too."

Walking is healthy but leaves people vulnerable

"We often hear from people who are intentionally seeking out more walkable neighborhoods and from others who are concerned with a lack of pedestrian safety where they live and work. It's not surprising," stated Jessica Treat of Transit for Livable Communities, 2356 University Ave. W. "Walking is an affordable, healthy, and sustainable way to get around—but it also means you're vulnerable."

"Pedestrian fatalities are up in Minnesota this year," Treat added, "and fall is typically a particularly dangerous time. In our communities and as a region, we can and should do more to ensure people of all ages and abilities can stay safe while they are out and about on foot. How our streets are designed, how our traffic laws are enforced, and to what extent we're investing in safe and accessible infrastructure all have major roles to play in making that happen."

SAFETY TIPS

DRIVERS

- Stop for crossing pedestrians at every intersection, even those without crosswalks or stoplights
- Before making a turn, look in all directions for pedestrians
- Leave lots of room between you and the pedestrian when stopping
- Scan the road and sides of the road ahead for pedestrians
- Look carefully behind your vehicle before backing up, especially for small children
- Watch for people in wheelchairs and motorized carts, who may be below eye level
- Put away the cell phones, food and make-up
- Stop for pedestrians, even when they are in the wrong or crossing mid-block
- Never pass or drive around a vehicle that is stopped for pedestrians
- Obey speed limits and come to a complete stop at STOP signs

PEDESTRIANS

- Make eye contact with drivers and ensure they see you and will stop
- Clearly show your intentions to cross
- Watch for turning and passing vehicles
- Look across ALL lanes for moving vehicles before proceeding
- Stand clear of buses, hedges, parked cars or other obstacles before crossing
- Cross in a well-lit area at night
- Wear bright-colored clothing and reflective material
- Mount a safety flag on a wheelchair, motorized cart or stroller
- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections; don't cross mid block
- Remove headphones and stay off cell phones while crossing
- Obey all traffic signals
- Don't rely solely on traffic signals; look for vehicles before crossing
- Always walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic
- If intoxicated, don't walk without assistance, a cab ride home may be a safer option

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In Our Community

Monitor

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

Gospel Night Worship scheduled Nov. 13

Hamline University welcomes the community to the 27th Annual Gospel Night Worship Service, "We Exalt Your Name," on Sun., Nov. 13, at 7:30pm. This celebration of the legacy of gospel music in the Black community will be held in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave.

Featured performers include the Hamline University Gospel Choir as well as Jovonta Patton & Deliverance For Youth, Steven Daniels & Shiloh Temple Gospel Choir, and Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. The program also includes a tribute to gospel music icon Tamela Mann.

Hosted by PRIDE Black Student Alliance, this event is free and open to the general public, but attendees may contribute to a free-will offering to a local charity organization.

Merriam Park Book Club meets Nov. 28

The Merriam Park Book Club will meet Mon., Nov. 28, 6:30-7:30pm at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. In November they will discuss "Rez Life" by David Treuer.

Reformation subject of Bible study

Religious reformer Martin Luther and the Reformation will be the subject of Bible study at Jehovah Lutheran Church (1566 Thomas Ave.) at 10:45am, Sundays through Dec. 4. The sessions feature video presentations by Luther schol-

ars followed by a discussion led by Jehovah Lutheran member Dr. Suzanne Hequet, who teaches church history at Concordia University in St. Paul. Luther was the catalyst for a revolution in church and society that rocked Europe and eventually the world, starting in 1517. Admission is free and follows worship at 9:30am.

Hunger Banquet planned Nov. 21

Students at Hamline University will hold an Oxfam Hunger Banquet on Mon., Nov. 21, 11:30am-12:30pm. The event serves as a lunch, an educational experience (speakers to be announced), and a fundraiser for Oxfam America. All members of the community are welcome to attend.

Local groups worldwide organize Oxfam Hunger Banquets to bring to life inequalities in the world and challenge the more economically fortunate to realize how their decisions affect others. At the event, each guest draws a ticket randomly assigning them to the high-, middle-, or low-income tier as determined by World Development Report statistics, and is served a corresponding meal.

The 15 percent in the high-income tier are served a gourmet meal. The 25 percent in the middle-income section eat a simple meal of rice and beans. The 60 percent in the low-income tier waits in line for small portions of rice and water. Organizers hope the event will empower attendees to participate in social change, educate others, and help Oxfam partners who are finding solutions to end poverty and hunger.

Attendees are asked to donate to Oxfam America, an international development and relief agency committed to developing lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and social injustice.

SPIRE receives BBB ethics award

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Minnesota and North Dakota's® awarded a Torch Awards for Ethics to SPIRE Credit Union, 2025 Larpenteur Ave. W. BBB Torch Awards for Ethics recognize premier area businesses which display an outstanding level of ethics and integrity in all aspects of their day-to-day operations. SPIRE received the award in the 176+ employee category.

"Learning about the worthy businesses chosen as finalists and winners is always uplifting," said David Aafedt, Chairman of the Board for BBB and shareholder at Winthrop & Weinstine. "One thing stands out loud and clear: their commitment to ethics is unwavering."

Nutcracker Ballet scheduled Nov. 19

Immerse yourself in the classic holiday tale of "The Nutcracker Ballet," on Sat., Nov. 19, 3:30pm at the U of M St Paul Student Union Theater, 2017 Buford Ave.

More than 50 dancers from the Twin Cities area will bring the story of Clara, her Nutcracker, and the Sugar Plum Fairy to life in this magical production. Featuring original choreography by Zachari Wetz, Pas de Deux Dance Studio's "The Nutcracker Ballet" is perfect for the whole family and a great way to kick off the holiday season. Pas de Deux Dance Studio is based at 1899 Larpenteur Ave. W. 3 Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, with group discounts available; no admittance under age 4. Call 651-731-2966 for further information.

Co-ed Drum Circle planned Nov. 25

The Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., will present a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., Nov. 25, 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm, and freedom of expression will be explored. The cost is \$10 at the door, and all experience levels are welcome. Drums are provided. Info and registration can be found at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

Craft/Bake Sale planned Nov. 19

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., will hold their Craft and Bake Sale on Sat., Nov. 19, 9am-1pm. Lunch will be available for \$4 from 11am-12:30pm. They will have holiday gifts, goodies, and a quilt raffle.

Storytelling takes stage Nov. 20



Storyteller Carol McCormick

TELLABRATION!™ a Family Storytelling Concert of tales and songs about Thanksgiving and gratitude will feature Storyteller Carol McCormick on Sun., Nov. 20, 12:30-1:30pm at Lexington Kids Daycare (Garden level downstairs), 701 Lexington Pkwy. Children are free but must be accompanied by an adult. Adult tickets are \$5. The concert includes refreshments.

McCormick has been a professional storyteller for over 30 years. She has presented programs at many schools, conferences, fairs, libraries and festivals in the Midwest. For further information about her work see www.carolmccormick.net.

Winter clothing donations sought

Jehovah Lutheran Church is gathering donations to help Congolese refugees and ex-convicts.

Needed are children's sweaters, pants, jackets, hats, mittens, snowsuits, children's boots and similar items are welcome for Congolese. Mark donations for CEEDS, the Center for Employment and Education Development Services that helps refugees escaping years of civil war in that nation. The group has an office in the church.

Winter coats are needed, especially 2X and 3X sizes, backpacks and duffel bags for Crossing Home, a service that helps ex-convicts transition to new lives. Also needed are a dresser and a 10x15-foot carpet. Mark the donation for Crossing Home, which also has an office in the church.

Donations can be left in the church's donations corner to the left of the Thomas St. entry on Sunday mornings, or arrange another drop-off time by calling the church at 651-644-1421. Jehovah Lutheran is at 1566 Thomas. Receipts for tax purposes are available.

Monthly family support group meets

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors free support groups for families who have a relative with a mental illness.

Led by trained facilitators who

also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy. N. on fourth Monday of the month (Oct. 24), from 6:30-8pm. There is free parking in the ramp. For more information, call Jennifer at 507-254-5524 or 651-645-2948.

Hamlet to take stage in Nov. at Hamline

Hamline University Department of Theatre & Dance will begin its 86th season with "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare and directed by Hamline Professor Jeff Turner. Hamlet opens on Fri., Nov. 11 and runs Nov. 12, 17, 18, and 19. All performances are at 7:30pm in Hamline University's Anne Simley Theatre.

Considered one of the greatest plays of the modern epoch, Hamlet tells the story of a youthful prince confounded by the death of his father, the King of Denmark, and angered by his mother's sudden marriage to his uncle, the newly elected king. When the ghost of his father returns to urge Hamlet to avenge his foul and most unnatural murder, the play springs to life as the prince, consumed by grief, struggles to enact revenge with devastating consequences. Though written 400 years ago, it is a play that truly speaks to the anxieties and obsessions of our contemporary age. It holds a mirror up to nature reflecting the best and worst of human existence. Hamlet is centered on a deeply flawed young man who is worked into a frenzy of mania and madness as he attempts to do the right thing in an absurd and unjust world.

Tickets are \$2 for Hamline students, \$3 for ACTC students and staff, \$8 for adults and \$5 for outside students and seniors. Reservations are recommended and can be made through the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or via e-mail at tickets@hamline.edu.

Keystone offers monthly events

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

Health insurance/Medicare counseling. Free health insurance counseling from certified counselors available by appointment at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. One-hour

Continued on page 9



The annual Night Train season open now through Feb. 25.

Railroad Museum opens annual Night Trains

Night Trains season is a special Holidays tradition at the Twin City Model Railroad Museum, 668 Transfer Rd., Suite 8. It is running every Saturday evening from 6-9pm through Feb. 25.

Night Trains season comes to the dozens of model railroad layouts in a magical way; the lights are turned down, the buildings and street lights glow warmly, setting the scene for specially lighted models of vintage passenger trains. The make-believe town of Matlin is buried in a blizzard, and throughout the Museum the layouts are adorned with miniature Christmas lights and decorations.

This year Santa will be visiting the Museum on Sat., Dec. 17. He will have a sack of goodies for good girls and boys. Bring your camera and tell Santa about the train you want for Christmas. There's no additional admission to see Santa!

For more information visit the Museum's web site, www.tcmrm.org. Admission to this special show is \$15 per person and free for children age four and under. Discounted group rates are also available for groups of four or more (max 10).

In Our Community

Continued from page 8

appointments from 10am-1pm, Thursdays, Nov. 17, and Dec. 15. Call 651-645-7424 for an appointment.

Foot care available on the first Monday of every month. Half-hour appointments are available on the first Monday of every month by appointment (call 651-645-7424). Cost is \$20 per session.

Blood pressure checks. Merriam Park Community Center has a blood pressure check station available every work day during office hours. Staff members will assist you if necessary. Call 651-645-7424 if you have questions.

Fit and Fabulous Exercise. For everyone over age 50 of all abilities. Classes include stretching, warm up, endurance work, cool down, guided relaxation, and fun. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:30-11:15am. Cost is \$10 per month or \$25 per year for Silver & Fit members. Call 651-645-7424 for more information or simply drop by.

Meals on Wheels. Receive nutritious, delicious meals at your home. Fresh, hot, cold, or frozen meals are available every weekday to all who need nutritious food in their lives. Cost is based on a sliding fee. Call Keystone Community Services at 651-645-7424 for more information or to sign up for meals.

Volunteers needed to Grind Out Hunger

Compatible Technology International (CTI), 800 Transfer Rd. (Ste 600), is the premier innovator of farm tools for small-plot farmers in Africa. CTI's grinder is hand-powered, and it can grind millet, coffee, cocoa, peanuts, corn, rice, medicine and nutritional supplements, and a host of other products. The grinders increase yield, take less time than traditional methods and lift farm families and their communities out of hunger and poverty.

There is a volunteer opportunity to which the community is invited: come to the CTI office for two hours on Thur., Nov. 17 to

put together grinders to test and repackage before they are shipped to Africa and around the world. Two-hour windows are available between 8am and 7pm. Please visit CTI's website to sign up: www.compatibletechnology.org or call 651-632-3912.

New church to open in area Dec. 4

Centennial United Methodist Church is opening a new campus at 2200 Hillside Ave. on Dec. 4 at 10am. It is a Reconciling Congregation, and all are welcome to join them for their first worship service in their newly renovated space.

Hundreds of volunteers sought

Prepare + Prosper (P+P), 2610 University Ave. W., is looking for hundreds of volunteers for the upcoming tax season. P+P trains all volunteers who in turn put their skills to use throughout the Twin Cities by preparing taxes, working one-on-one with customers to discuss their individual financial goals, and providing customer support and service for taxpayers.

"You can make a tangible difference," said Tracy Fischman, P+P executive director. "Volunteers play an important role in helping hardworking families with low-incomes turn tax time into a money moment. A tax refund can account for 30% or more of one's annual income. When families receive this refund, they use it to pay down debt or pay bills, make important purchases, and save."

In 2016, volunteers returned \$24.7 million in refunds for 13,000 taxpayers. Additionally, volunteer financial advocates helped 1,200 customers save \$1.9 million of their tax refunds.

Because of the significant refunds that low-income taxpayers receive, they are often targeted by paid preparers that charge high fees. At P+P's free tax preparation sites, volunteers provide customers with access to 100% of their refunds and financial services at no cost.

Volunteer positions include customer service specialists, financial advocates, tax preparers, and tax reviewers.

Additionally, P+P is looking for volunteers who speak Spanish and Somali. Tax knowledge is not needed for all positions. All volunteers receive training and support, and those preparing and reviewing tax returns will become IRS-certified.

P+P operates eight sites in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Hopkins, and Bloomington.

For those interested in volunteering, P+P is holding orientations now through Dec. To sign up for an orientation, visit <http://www.prepareandprosper.org> or contact Kelly Quicksell, volunteer resources coordinator, at volunteer@prepareandprosper.org or by calling 651-262-2163.

TU Dance opens 13th season Nov. 18-20

TU Dance (located at 2121 University Ave. W.) opens its 13th performance season with choreographic responses to contemporary tensions of race, culture, and identity. The St. Paul-based dance troupe will be on stage at The O'Shaughnessy, Fri. and Sat., Nov. 18-19 at 8pm, and Sun., Nov. 20 at 2pm.

Since the company's founding in 2004, TU Dance has often navigated complex themes of social change. Two world premiere works reflecting these challenging topics will be featured.

In the TU Dance-commissioned world premiere of "In Witnessing," and Choreographer Uri Sands' premiere of "Matter," a work created in collaboration with TU Dance company members to address recent local and national tragedies involving racial bias and profiling. Also on the program is a reprise of Sands' "Tearing" (2005).

Tickets are \$24, \$29 and \$34 with discounts for students, seniors, military, MPR, TPT and groups of 10 and more. For more information and tickets, contact The O'Shaughnessy Ticket Office at 651-690-6700.

Ginkgo Art & Craft Fair slated Dec. 3

For more than 20 years, St. Paul landmark Ginkgo coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., has hosted an art and craft fair for local artists. The 2016 Art & Craft Fair will take place on Sat., Dec. 3, from 9am-4:30pm.

This Fair showcases 15 local artists, with unique, high quality items at reasonable prices. The products include knit and felted items, quilted products, wooden items, metal sculptures, chain maille and other types of jewelry, and much more.

Recreation center activities



Registration for Fall Classes/Activities for Langford, Northwest Como, and North Dale Recreation Centers is now open. Here is what's beginning soon. Check your local recreation center for the whole fall offerings. To Register for activities you can: call the center, go to the center, or online at stpaul.gov/activityregistration.

Northwest Como Rec Center

1550 Hamline Ave. N., 651-298-5813

- Art: Wine & Cheese & Art, on Mon., Dec. 5, 7-9pm
- Senior Gamers for adults, on Tuesdays, 1-3pm
- Women's Basketball, ages 35+, on Sundays, 6:30-7:30pm/\$4 weekly fee
- Men's Soccer, Sundays, 5-6:30pm/\$5 weekly fee
- Taekwondo, for ages 6-17, on Tue./Thur., 4:30-5:30pm
- Art: Christmas Cooking Art for ages 4-9 on Thur., Dec. 29, 1-3pm

North Dale Rec Center

1414 St. Albans St. N., 651-558-2329

- Cribbage Night for adults, Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm
- Challenge Square Dance, Mondays, 6:30-9pm
- Taekwondo, for ages 4-5 & 6-17
- Pilates/Mind/Body/Strength, Mon./Wed., 7:15-8:15am
- Babysitting Training, ages 11-17, on Fri., Nov. 18, 9am-4pm
- Dr. Seuss and Me, ages 3-5, on Sat., Nov. 19, 9:30-10:15am
- Parent and Tot Play Time, on Mon./Wed./Thur., 9am-Noon
- Laughter Yoga, 1st Thursday of the month, 12-12:45pm
- Yoga/Earth/Moon on Tues./Sat.
- Senior Fitness on Tue./Thur. from 9:30-10:30am
- ***Winter Wonderland at North Dale on Thur., Dec. 8 from 5:30-7:30pm/Free,

Langford Rec Center

30 Langford Pk., 651-298-5765

- Tot Time: ages 1-5, on Thur., 9-10:30am
- Soo Bahk Do: ages 5-Adult, on Thur. at 5:30-6:30pm
- Rock Band Jam: ages 12-15, on Fri., at 6-7:30pm
- Adult/Senior Walking, on Fri., at 1-2pm
- Gym Bowling for seniors, on Fri., at 9:30-11am
- Babysitting Training, ages 11-17, on Thur., Dec. 29, 9am-4pm
- Pilates for adults, on Thursdays for Beginners and Intermediates
- ***Dinner With Mr. and Mrs. Claus at Langford, Fri., Dec 2 from 5:30-7pm. Fee: \$5/person, \$25 Family max.

To Register or inquiries on fees, you can call the recreation center, go to the center or online at stpaul.gov/activityregistration.

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Virtual Reality Arcade opens its first TC location in Vandalia Tower

Voxel announces the opening of its first Twin Cities location, which offers a high-end, curated experience for a special event or an unforgettable night out. The Voxel team, headed by three Minnesota locals, will hold a public open house on Sat., Nov. 12, from 6pm until midnight at its newly renovated space in Vandalia Tower, 550 Vandalia

St., Suite 218. The Grand Opening event will feature a suite of custom hardware solutions and a library of cutting-edge experiences to bring the best of VR to the Twin Cities.

The parlor boasts a captivating, immersive environment in which to explore several different virtual worlds. Each of the three Virtual Reality areas in the parlor can be

reserved for private parties, allowing the group to snack, socialize, and spectate as individuals interact with the virtual surroundings. With a newly remodeled space and customized equipment allowing a wide-range of free movement, Voxel offers a fun, mesmerizing group experience that will not be found in most living rooms. Voxel allows the ability to explore the expansiveness of VR without a huge up-front investment from users.

Voxel is committed to evolving with the emerging Virtual Reality technology. They hope to support developers in creating content, make VR accessible to a broad range of people, and ensure that a wide audience can experience VR in its best form.

More information on the Open House and reserving a free 15-minute demo can be found at www.facebook.com/voxelvrp.

Residential property values increases vary widely in St. Paul

Differing values make effective property tax increases range between .4 to 13.5 percent

By JANE MCCLURE

The owner of a median-value home in St. Paul could see a property tax increase of about \$99 in 2017, under the levies adopted this fall by the St. Paul City Council, St. Paul Public Schools, Ramsey County Board and the county's Regional Rail Authority. Impacts of the levy increases vary greatly from neighborhood to neighborhood, the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee was told recently.

Property tax statements will start landing in mailboxes in mid-November. State truth-in-taxation law required the three units of local government to review property tax impacts of their maximum levies in September.

Ramsey County has proposed a 2.8 percent levy increase with a 3.5 percent increase for the regional Rail Authority. St. Paul Public Schools has a 5 percent increase while the city is at 7.9 percent. The local governments can cut their levies between now and year's end but cannot increase them.

St. Paul's median value home saw an increase in market value from \$151,600 in 2016 to \$161,200 in 2017, a 6.4 percent increase. Shifts and changes within the property tax system itself, as well as the regionwide fiscal disparities property tax sharing system, changes in homestead exclusion benefits and other shifts, would account for a \$33 decrease. But levy and property tax increases would account for an increase of almost \$130. Factor in the decreases and the net is \$99.

Chris Samuel, property records and revenue manager for Ramsey County, said neigh-



borhoods with lower-valued homes are seeing greater increases in market values and, as a result, in property taxes. Those neighborhoods saw some of the greatest property value decreases during the recent recession and have been slower to recover.

Values in Frogtown and other areas had "pretty much tanked" during and after the recession, said Ramsey County Commissioner and joint committee member Janice Rettman. While homeowners should be "thrilled" to see increases, Rettman said the higher increase could be a shock to lower-income homeowners.

She reminded officials to let homeowners facing higher value and property tax spikes that they should apply for targeted property tax refunds. County staff does mailings to encourage everyone eligible to apply for the refunds.

Still, the comparison for property taxes payable in 2016 to 2017 aren't to change, even with the levy shift. The highest market value and property tax increase citywide is projected for Thomas-Dale or Frogtown,

where the median home value has increased from \$89,800 to \$99,800 or 11.1 percent. The typical homeowner there paid \$1,038 in property taxes this year and would see a \$140 or 13.5 percent hike to \$1,178 in 2017.

Similar increases are seen in East Side neighborhoods, including a 10.8 percent increase in values in Dayton's Bluff. No neighborhoods showed decreases. The lowest median increase is expected on the West Side, at 3 percent.

Monitor area neighborhoods will see varying property tax increases. In Como, the median value home increases from \$184,800 to \$195,400, for a 5.7 percent increase in

market value. Taxes would increase from \$2,731 in 2016 to \$2,826 in 2018, for a \$95 or 3.5 percent increase.

In Hamline-Midway a 3.6 percent increase is projected, from \$148,900 to \$154,200. Property taxes would increase from \$2,092 to \$2,115, \$23 or 1.1 percent.

Homeowners in the Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods, who have seen high increases in the past, would see the lowest median value increase. Values are estimated to increase just 3.3 percent for the median home, from \$257,850 to \$266,400. Property taxes would increase .4 percent or \$18, from \$4,032 to \$4,050.

County officials caution that individual market values can hinge on a number of factors, including comparable home sales in an area or whether or not a property owner has made physical improvements to a property.

In general, property values are increasing more in the city of St. Paul than they are in the Ramsey County suburbs, said Samuel.

Members of the advisory committee said that no one takes the decision to raise levies and property taxes lightly. Looking at some of the increases to lower-income neighborhoods, Deputy Mayor Kristin Beckmann said, "Some of that is hard to swallow."

Hamline Elementary School

By JESSICA KOPP

The Fall Festival and the future

Hamline Elementary's Third Annual Fall Festival was more than a good time; it was a step on the path to an exciting future for the school and that path is all about partnerships.

An event like the Fall Festival doesn't happen without collaboration. In addition to amazing support from the Hamline Elementary community and the existing partnerships with Hamline University and Hancock Recreation Center, this year the school worked with Hamline Midway Coalition whose contribution included their organizational expertise which provided the festival planning team with fresh ideas and the tools to make them

work.

Sponsorships from local businesses allowed the school to do more, too, including making the event free to all who attended and paying many of the artists and performers.

Local businesses and organizations were the backbones of the Community Expo—sharing their time, talents, and passion for their work and the neighborhood. Some of the best of the Midway was on display that day—the people and spirit that make it unlike any other St. Paul neighborhood.

The Hamline Elementary community is so grateful to all who planned, supported, and

celebrated—it was a beautiful day.

With the Fall Festival in the rearview mirror, Hamline Elementary is looking ahead, working to carry these partnerships forward and build new ones to foster meaningful connections between the school and neighborhood—partnerships that enrich the lives of Hamline students, their families, and the neighborhood itself. Stay tuned to learn more about an awesome opportunity coming to Hamline Elementary and find out how neighbors can bring their energy, know-how, and Midway Love to create a shared space for learning, connection, and community.

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by Nov. 28 for the Dec. 8 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor by Nov. 28 for the Dec. 8 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

AIR CONDITIONERS

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ART/BAKE SALE

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Craft Art and Bake Sale, Nov. 19 - 20, 2016 9 AM - 3 PM, 10 AM - 3 PM, 285 N Dale St., St Paul, MN 55103. 651-647-1804. <https://www.facebook.com/cabsale/> 11-16

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LANDSCAPING

Struggling with a neglected property, absentee landlord, or problem tenant on your block? Then find out how to effectively minimize their impact during a District 10 community forum on problem properties. The free forum is Thur., Nov. 10 at 6:30pm at the Como Park Streetcar Station.

The forum's goal: get you the practical understanding and hands-on advice you need to report, track, and navigate city departments so you and your neighbors can effectively reduce the impact of properties that are a nuisance, threat, or detriment to our community.

- The forum will feature:
- Officer Erik Diskerud, of the Western District FORCE Unit of the Saint Paul Police
 - Inspector Joe Yannarely, of the city's Department of Safety and Inspections
 - Andrew Johnson, a community member who has been dealing for years with problem properties

Put your name out there

The District 10 Como Community Council is seeking candidates to fill two board vacancies: one in Sub-District 2, one an At-Large seat. The special elections to fill the vacancies take place on Tues., Nov. 15 at 7pm, before the monthly board meeting, at the Como Park Streetcar Station.

• The At-Large seat is open to anyone who lives in District 10, which is the portion of Saint Paul bounded roughly by Snelling

Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director

Dealing with problem properties head on

on the west, Larpenteur on the north, Dale on the east, and the railroad tracks between Pierce Butler and Energy Park Dr./Front Ave. on the south.

- For Sub-District 2, you must live in the area between Hamline on the west, Larpenteur on the north, Victoria on the east, and the BNSF tracks north of Front on the south.

The elected candidates will serve the remainder of the vacant terms, which expire in April 2017. Any District 10 resident at least 18 years of age is eligible to run; so are representatives from businesses or institutions in the neighborhood. To submit your name or to find out more, contact the District 10 office at 651-644-3889, or by email at district10@district10comopark.org. Write-in nominations also will be accepted from the floor the night of the special elections.

Something to look forward to

Saint Paul's recycling program will undergo big changes beginning in January 2017. Among the highlights:

- Eureka Recycling will replace bins with covered, wheeled carts
- Pickup will switch from curbside to alleys
- All multi-unit buildings will have the opportunity to recycle
- Residents will get wheeled carts after Thanksgiving

We'll keep you up to date with more details as they become available. Stay tuned to District 10's website: www.district10comopark.org.

You're invited to sit in

The District 10 board and standing committees meet monthly—and community members are always welcome to attend, participate, and speak or raise concerns. The schedule:

- Como Community Council Board meeting: Third Tuesday, 7pm. The next meeting, on Nov. 15, features special elections for board vacancies and a presentation by MnDOT engineer Mark Lindeberg, who will outline

plans to improve pedestrian and bicycle access over the Snelling Ave. bridges between Midway Pkwy. and Hamline University.

- Land Use: Typically meets on the Monday before the first Wednesday, 7pm. The next meeting is Dec. 5.
- Neighborhood Relations and Safety: First Tuesday, 7pm. The next meeting is Dec. 6.
- Environment: Last Wednesday, 7pm. The next meeting is Nov. 30.

All meetings are at the Como Park Streetcar Station, at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

Hamline Midway Coalition

By MELISSA CORTES, Community Organizer

Candidates sought for HMC Board of Directors

Represent your neighborhood, run for the HMC Board of Directors. Declare your candidacy by Wed., Nov. 30.

Hamline Midway Coalition is seeking candidates for its Board of Directors. Anyone age 16 or older that resides within, owns property within or owns a business that is headquartered and principally operates within the Hamline Midway is eligible to run AND vote in the board elections. If you are interested in working with an informed and engaged group of neighbors to focus on local issues around transportation, development, sustainability and more, consider running for the board.

Anyone interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors must return a completed application to the Executive Director no later than 5pm on Wed., Nov. 30. To request an application, or for more information about serving on the HMC

Board of Directors, please contact Michael Jon Olson at 651-494-7682 or michaeljon@hamlinemidway.org.

Annual Meeting & Open House

This year Hamline Midway neighbors have the opportunity to connect and share their work with the Hamline Midway Coalition at the first Annual Meeting & Open House. This meeting will take place on Tues., Dec. 13, 6-8pm at Hamline University's East Hall 106.

If you or your organization would like to share a brief summary of the programs held in the Hamline Midway at the Annual Meeting, please contact Melissa Cortes at 651-494-7683 or melissa@hamlinemidway.org.

At this Annual Meeting, HMC will hold in-person voting for its Board of Directors. Full candidate profiles and questionnaires will be posted to the HMC website www.hamlinemidway.org/elections2016 following candidate application deadlines Nov. 30. If you would like to make arrangements for in-person voting outside of those time frames, feel free to contact Michael Jon Olson at 651-494-7682 or michaeljon@hamlinemidway.org.

hamlinemidway.org.

Midway Holiday Pop-up Shop

Start checking-off your holiday shopping list with gifts that have a Midway twist. This year, it's easier than ever to shop locally for the holidays. The Midway Holiday Pop-up Shop will be held on Small Business Sat., Nov. 26, at The Celtic Junction, 836 Prior Ave, from 10am-4pm.

You'll find dozens of local businesses, crafters, artisans, and artists—all from in and around the Midway area—selling a wide range of local goods and gifts for everyone on your shopping list. Santa Clause himself will be showing his support for local businesses, too. He'll be dropping in between 10:30am and 12:30pm. So, bring the kids to share their wishes, and enjoy live music and carols, holiday baked goods and drinks—all while you support our local businesses, and fill your holiday list with gifts from close to home.

Want to be a sponsor or volunteer of this well attended event? Contact Greg Anderson at 651-967-1181 or gregs_pc_repair@yahoo.com.



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Sunday 9:00am - 1:00pm

CIB recommendation process changed by St. Paul City Council

By JANE MCCLURE

Hoping for a new bicycle route, a tot lot or park redesign? Your wish will likely have to wait, at least until 2020. How St. Paul funds its playgrounds, fire stations, recreation centers, and other public facilities is changing, as a result of City Council action earlier this fall.

The 45-year-old Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) won't include a citywide competitive process in 2017, for 2018-2019 projects. Nor will it include a comprehensive task force review process. Instead, the focus will be on completing Frogtown's Scheffer Recreation Center and West Midway's Fire Station 20 in 2018-2019 and maintaining existing infrastructure and programs.

Capital maintenance is a growing need citywide. Council President Russ Stark, whose Fourth Ward includes several area neighborhoods, said he is noticing more city facilities in need of repair. One example he cites is Hamline-Midway's Hancock Recreation Center, which has water damage.

"We see examples similar to that all over the city," he said.

An upcoming inventory of all parks buildings and facilities should give an indication of the extent of what has to be repaired. The cost could easily reach into the millions of dollars. Add in deferred maintenance at libraries and other facilities, and the costs will only rise. The council wants to add \$630,000 to the 2017 budget for capital maintenance, on top of more than \$1 million already earmarked by Mayor Chris Coleman. But council members said that just scratches the surface.

Parks and libraries get a lot of use and sustain a lot of wear and tear. Changing needs is another issue, especially for libraries where technology and facility use have rapidly evolved. Rondo Community Outreach Library at Dale and University avenues is just ten years old. But it needs about \$500,000 in renovations due to heavy patron use as well as changing space needs.

Some activists, booster clubs, and district councils had already started discussing which capital projects to submit in 2017. The change means that projects may have to wait. That is likely to include work on Dickerman Park at University and Fairview avenues, modernization of the Hamline-Midway Branch Library at 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., and the long-delayed, multi-million dollar plan to extend Pierce Butler Rte. to I-35E.

The Pierce Butler extension, which has a cost of more than \$11 million, has been discussed since the late 1980s. Ward One Council Member Dai Thao and Department of Public Works Director Kathy Lantry recently butted heads over a Public Works decision to move a smaller amount of funding from Pierce Butler to

other projects.

What is described as a capital improvements project process "pause" is driven by various factors. One is the city's growing need to maintain its existing facilities. Stark said the large cost of new facilities is another factor in reviewing the process. The 2016 capital budget is \$40.463 million. 2017 has \$54.288 million penciled in. Most is dedicated state and federal funding for specific projects or is earmarked for ongoing projects and programs.

The most flexible funding is about \$11 million per year,

which may cover one large project. Major requests sometimes have to go through multiple funding cycles. "That's a hard way to do a project," Deputy Mayor Kristin Beckmann said.

A third issue is racial equity, to make sure everyone has a chance to be involved in the process, and to look at changes in community engagement.

A fourth concern is volunteer time. Not only do volunteers develop projects and shepherd them through the process, volunteers from all 17 district councils serve on the CIB Committee's three cit-

izen task forces. Some district councils struggle to find task force volunteers for several weeks of meetings.

CIB Committee members agree with the need for a process review and changes. But they do have concerns and frustrations with the process, especially the city administration's penchant for inserting large projects or coming in with its own list of projects before there is any discussion. Another concern is that projects submitted by city departments have more resources to draw on than volunteers can muster.

CIB Committee member

Joel Clemmer has served on all three CIB task forces. He said one frustration for task forces is that they spend much time reviewing and ranking projects, only to have large projects move ahead at the last minute. "It feels like a fait accompli sometimes."

Another worry is that of not allowing any community-driven projects to be submitted in 2017. "My concern would be that you're taking away the community's voice for two or three years," said committee member Paul Raymond. "I think there's going to be a backlash."

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