



Midway Como monitor

www.midwaycomomonitor.com

JUNE 2006
Vol. 30 No. 10
20,000 Circulation



Your Neighborhood Newspaper for Over Twenty-Five Years

What's INSIDE

Feature.....3



Neighbors make
Midway 'green'

News.....6



SuperTarget gets
City's site OK

Feature.....8



'Fancy Dance'
comes to library

News.....9



City OKs LRT
recommendations

University Ave. ethnic businesses await 'boom' of light rail arrival

By JAN WILLMS

As you drive along University Avenue, at least three grand opening signs announce the beginnings of another Asian-owned business. The hard work ethic of the Asian community is evident along the lower stretch of University, with restaurants, newspapers, grocery and clothing stores, as well as other enterprises, opening their doors.

Some wonder whether light rail coming to University Avenue could be a second renaissance for the commercial corridor, or perhaps the death knell for some of these small ethnic businesses.

Take, for instance, Bui's Asian Cuisine, located at 411 University Avenue West.

Although nondescript on the outside, when you enter you are enveloped in the warmth of the light orange and red color scheme, offset by the black ceiling. Servers in matching light orange shirts move quickly to cater to customer's needs.

"We wanted to give it a modern Asian look," said Sam Bui, who with his wife, Sue, opened the restaurant in March 2005.

On a recent Saturday, the restaurant is busy with patrons enjoying the dim sum menu.

According to Bui, dim sum means "from the heart," and a mixture of Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai dishes are served from carts that are wheeled to each table.

Over 50 choices of food are available, and the food is steaming hot as it is dished out to each diner.

The dim sum menu is served Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and weekends from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m..

"We try to serve exotic foods, as well as some of the more regular dishes for the 'amateur' diners," Bui said. One cart offers seven kinds of dumplings, another has seafood, and another has Chinese sausage and barbecue. Customers may also order off the menu.

Bui works in the restaurant part-time, spending his days as a design engineer for punch presses. His wife, who has a background as a medical assistant, now devotes her full time to the restaurant. She is the daughter of the owners of Mai Village, which operated earlier from this location before moving to a new building down the street.

For Bui, coming to the United



Sam and Sue Bui opened Bui's Asian Cuisine, located at 411 University Avenue West, in March of 2005. (Photo by Terry Faust)

States offered him what he considers a second chance. He was 11 years old when he escaped from Vietnam in a boat.

"On the day we left, there were two boats," he said. All the passengers aboard the other boat were lost, and his sister thought he was on that boat and had died.

"But we reached the Philippines, and spent time on a couple

16 years later, owning our own restaurant."

Bui has a long history of restaurant experience. He said his mother cooked many of the traditional family dishes, and when the family moved to New Orleans for his father's work, he learned cooking in New Orleans restaurants.

He moved back to Minnesota for school, studying business at

way of cooking; I learned a lot," Bui said.

He has 9-10 employees working on dim sum days, about 15 altogether doing various shifts.

"We buy quality meat," he said, "because I am a very anal guy. We also clean our own bathrooms, because we have our set standards," he said.

He said that he thinks the stretch of University where his restaurant lies needs a lift.

"The most amazing thing about the United States is that around the capitol, here in St. Paul and nationally, in Washington, DC, there is so much crime and poverty. In Vietnam, the area around the capitol is very clean."

He said he would like to see more police out walking a beat on the street, or working as mounted patrols. He is concerned that crime has risen over the past few years, and he said he would like to see Frogtown improve its image.

He has not yet decided what might be the best path for light rail, although he thinks it might bring more harm than good to a business such as his. "It depends

**"The Asian businesses are 99 per cent
against the LRT on University Avenue,
but we don't have a strong voice."**

- Nghi Huynh, Asian American Press

of islands there before we came to the United States," he said. His wife left Vietnam after the war, and he met her here six months before her family opened Mai Village.

"I decided to help them, and I was one of the first cooks at Mai Village," he said. "I never thought I would be in the same location,

Century.

"Then I started real cooking," he added, being taught by two chefs, Chinese and Japanese, with 20 years' experience. He worked as a sushi chef and tepinyaki chef, where he cooked the meal at the table, at the Kabuki Restaurant in Eden Prairie.

"Sushi is such a meticulous

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

1885 University Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-645-7045

Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

Managing Editor:

Denis Woulfe

Advertising:

Denis Woulfe

Photographer:

Terry Faust

Production/Illustrations:

Bob Wasiluk

Contributing Writers:

Eric Nathanson, Deborah Brotz,
Jane McClure, Nancy Giguere,
Jessica Flannigan, Tom Conlon,
Jan Willms, Sherri Moore,
Nate Hamilton, Deb Robinson,
Benita Warns, The Cheapskate,
The Food Snob, and The Bachelor



Now, communicate with the Midway Como Monitor electronically!

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

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

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

All rights reserved. The contents of the Monitor cannot be reproduced without express written permission of the publisher. Copyright ©2006.



The Midway Como Monitor is typically published the second Thursday-Friday of each month. If you're not receiving a timely delivery call 651-645-7045



Midway Como in a Minute

Islamic Center new expansion on hold

Plans to expand the Al-Taqwa Islamic Center have hit a snag. Until a property leasing question can be cleared up, a parking variance cannot be granted to allow religious services to take place on the main floor at 735 N. Snelling Av.

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals voted unanimously May 22 to lay over the center's major variance request until June 5 at the earliest. The layover disappointed center members and supporters. More than three dozen turned out for the BZA meeting to show their support.

The center has office space on the second floor of the building and would like to lease the first floor for services. (Building code issue would not permit worship services on the second floor.) Converting the first floor space from office to worship space use would require 40 additional off-street parking spaces, which the building doesn't have. Hamline University and Hamline United Methodist Church have offered to share parking. But that parking area is about 630 feet from the Snelling building and would require a variance for its use.

Center representatives said they have an verbal agreement to lease the first-floor building space. But the property owner told the BZA and City Attorney's office staff that there is another tenant for the space. The property leasing question means the BZA cannot act on the Islamic Center's request, according to Assistant City Attorney Peter Warner. He and Zoning Specialist John Hardwick met with the building owner and center representatives during a recess in the meeting,

and decided that the variance should not go forward.

To obtain a zoning variance or other type of zoning change or permit, an applicant must own a property or have a written lease to use the property. The BZA stated that if there isn't a lease for the first-floor space, the Islamic Center can get its city application fee refunded. But that still leaves the center without a place to worship.

Hamline Midway Coalition had recommended approval of the variance with conditions, after holding a special community meeting May 21. But city staff recommended denial, saying that the proposed parking agreement only would provide space if space is available and isn't a guarantee of 40 spaces. Distance to the parking lot is also a concern raised by staff.

Parks and Rec Dept. reviews Oxford plans

Waiting to see the dirt start flying at the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center/Oxford Pool site? Be prepared to wait a little bit longer. Because project bids came in about \$3 million over the mark, St. Paul Parks and Recreation staff are working with the project architects to see what costs can be winnowed down to stay within the \$11.2 million project price tag.

That means a groundbreaking for the expanded facility may not be until July at the earliest, said Parks and Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid.

"The bids were significantly over the project costs," said Ken Wehrle, project manager for Jimmy Lee/Oxford. "So we're looking at what we can cut and what we can keep in the plans."

The project is budgeted at \$11.2 million, including the

\$1.772 million St. Paul Public Schools is paying for two of the three new gyms.

Ward One Council Member Debbie Montgomery said she is seeking additional funding to make sure the project can go forward as planned. But unless the project is built with an eye toward constructing future phases beyond 2007, Bierscheid said there is no additional city Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) money available for 2006-2007.

Jimmy Lee/Oxford is one of two large recreation facilities on the drawing boards in Ward One. The other is the proposed Kroc Center in Frogtown, which the Salvation Army wants to build. That project lacks a \$5 million match from the city. Although Randy Kelly committed to the match more than a year ago, Kroc Center never went through the CIB review process and the money wasn't put in the city's budget.

Bierscheid and Wehrle said the city is asking the Jimmy Lee/Oxford project architects to do what is called value engineering, to see if that can bring down the project costs. They'd like to get the project out for new bids soon but there is no specific timeline yet.

The delay is a disappointment for area residents, especially those who use the recreation center and pool facilities. Oxford is the only city-owned and operated indoor swimming pool. It was closed in February to prepare for renovations, including the addition of a water park and improved pool facilities for swimmers of all ages.

Jimmy Lee will have its existing facilities remodeled and new facilities added including three new gyms. Two of the gyms are being built in cooperation with St. Paul Public Schools. Central High School, which is just across

Lexington Parkway from Jimmy Lee/Oxford, has shared Jimmy Lee/Oxford facilities with the parks department for many years.

Dale Street townhouse proposal moves ahead

A proposal to build 16 townhouses along Dale Street is moving ahead but not without concerns about the costs and level of public subsidy for 11 of the units. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), approved the final pieces of funding for Dale Street Townhomes May 24. Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation has been working on the project for several months, with Habitat for Humanity involved in building some of the units.

Total cost of the development is almost \$5 million. The city share of costs is \$1.138 million.

On May 24 the HRA Board approved selling land on Dale Street between LaFond and Blair avenues to GFCDC. The HRA Board also approved gap financing in the form of a \$828,824 forgivable loan.

GFCDC is building 11 three-story two and three-bedroom units. Habitat is building five more. The Habitat units will be sold to owners at or below 50 percent of area median income.

The GFCDC units will sell for prices between \$175,000 to \$215,600 each.

The vote was 6-1 with Council Member Pat Harris against. He opposed waiving requirements that call for selling the GFCDC-built units to households at or below 80 percent of area median income. The waiver request would have to be approved by federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Expert Service, Flexible Commissions and Services!



Eric E. E. Oberg
Broker, Builder, Notary

Cellular 612.817.6833
Office 651.330.3359
eric.oberg@comcast.net
1425 Minnesota Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55104

Licensed in Minnesota & Wisconsin



595 N. Snelling Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104
651-645-6600
www.mosaiconastick.com
An artist-owned mosaic supply shop, community classroom & artist studio

SUPPLEMENT YOUR INCOME

Not ready for a career change,
But need a little extra cash
each month? Let me show you how.
Call 877-258-0343

St. Paul is getting fit for business.

Come network while you walk. The St. Paul netWALKING kick-off event is at Como Park on Thursday, June 22 at 4pm.

To learn more or RSVP, call (651)325-8355 or visit www.netwalking.net.

netWALKING
Walking works for us.

Hampden Park Co-op

Natural Foods at Great Prices and Excellent Quality



Expect the Best!

Visit Hampden Park Co-op Today

~ New Member Orientation Twice a Month!

928 Raymond St. Paul 651-646-6686 M-F 9-9 Sat. 9-7 Sun. 10-7

Neighbors bring 'green' to the Midway

By JESSICA FLANNIGAN

After watching Dutch elm disease affect trees all over her neighborhood, Barb Spears saw an opportunity to make a difference in the Midway. "I thought it would be nice to do something in my own backyard," she said.

As a Midway resident of 17 years, Spears worked with neighbors to start the Hamline Midway Tree Team in September. This group is working on planting new trees throughout the Midway.

While the City of Saint Paul enjoys a number four national rank for environment and green achievements, more residents like Spears are finding ways to bring green to the Midway.

The Green Guide, a consumer-oriented environmental publication, ranked Saint Paul as number four nationally in an article recognizing cities across the country who are working on energy efficiency, pollution control and healthy living spaces. The Green Guide presented the top 10 cities "whose green achievements set the standard for others."

Midway greening changes have been taking place for over 10 years, according to Steve Mitrione, Midway Greenspirit Community Garden Coordinator and Midway resident, but several groups have just started recently.

"There has been more attention placed upon the green infrastructure of our community," said Mitrione. "This parallels city-wide appreciation of the role of green infrastructure in our city."

Several groups and organizations are working together to create a strong environmental-friendly community, said Stephanie Hankerson, Master Gardener and Neighborhood Coordinator.



The Friends of Horton Park group, led by Stephanie Hankerson, spends one day per month working on native plant gardens in Horton Park, which is located in the northwest corner of Hamline and Minnehaha Avenues in Midway. Above, Hannah Texler works with a patch of bloodroot. (Photo by Terry Faust)

"There has really been an explosion of folks interested in greening and other environmental topics in the Hamline Midway area," said Hankerson. "The fever has spread."

The Friends of Horton Park group, led by Hankerson, spends one day per month working on native plant gardens in Horton Park, which is located in the northwest corner of Hamline and Minnehaha Avenues in Midway. This initiative consists solely of volunteers.

"There is an amazing pool of talent that lives in the midway," said Hankerson. "We're really just beginning to unearth a lot of resources and a lot of unusual

grants."

The Hamline Midway Tree Team, in partnership with the Hamline Midway Coalition, received a \$3500 grant from the Home Depot Foundation through Tree Trust and a \$1000 grant from Odwalla.

"We worked together to write the grants," said Spears, Urban Forester and Hamline Midway Tree Team Leader.

The group, which started in September, chose to focus on providing trees for schools and residents in conjunction with Arbor Month which is the month of May.

The Hamline Midway Tree Team provided Arbor Month ed-

ucational materials and donated trees to Galtier Magnet School, LEAP International Academy, Friends School and Hancock-Hamline Magnet Elementary School. Trees were also donated to many Midway residents as a part of the grant.

"We really wanted to provide a native tree variety because we're losing trees rapidly to Dutch elm disease," said Spears. "We were able to purchase 71 native trees to put into the community."

Schools and residents who were approved for a tree are required to attend a tree planting clinic with comprehensive training on planting and maintaining trees. "People understand that we need to replace trees that are lost to Dutch elm or weather, but existing trees really need to be maintained," said Spears.

Residents approved for trees will have the opportunity to talk to volunteer tree consultants before making decisions on tree species for their yard. The group is offering ten tree options.

"The environmental benefit of planting trees is clear. By increasing urban forest, we can make an immense environmental impact," said Hankerson, who is also part of the Hamline Midway Tree Team. "It's an amazing thing to see people come together for this."

The Hamline Midway Tree Team will provide mulch and trees to community members who have been approved for the trees on May 16th.

"We really take trees for granted," said Spears. "While we did this for the environment, this has been strong for community building as well. This really shows that there are members of our community that do care."

Tree Team members are volunteering their time to plant trees

for residents who are physically unable.

"Midway greening projects make for a better community to live in and a better understanding of how the environment affects our lives," said Mitrione. "Our goal is to increase interaction between community members and increase understanding of food issues while providing a space for people to enjoy gardening."

The Midway Greenspirit Garden is expanding and the team is partnering with other groups in the neighborhood. The garden is financed by gardener fees, while the land has been leased from the city of Saint Paul for free. This group receives plant donations from Minnesota Green, a project of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society which links plant donors with community gardens.

"It's great to come home to my neighborhood and see these issues talked about. As people join forces for this common goal, strong relationships happen," said Hankerson. It's exciting to see neighbors making Midway an even better community to live in."

(Editor's Note: Friends of Horton Park meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at noon. Participation in the community gardens of Horton Park does not require major commitment. All community members are welcome. For more information, contact Stephanie Hankerson at hank@usfamily.net or visit the website at www.hamline.edu/~ghankerson01/index.html. Midway Green Spirit Community Garden, Midway's own community vegetable garden, is also in full swing. For participation or plot availability contact Steve Mitrione at smitrione@earthlink.net.)

Ethnic businesses

Continued from page 1

on how it is designed and how it is laid out," he said. "The smaller businesses can't afford to lose customers for long during construction. A couple days might be okay, but any longer and we don't have the resources to continue."

From his perspective of having been a part of the Midway for 31 years, Nghi Huynh, publisher and editor of the Asian American Press, has a more definitive view of light rail and its repercussions for Asian business owners.

"There are three major issues that Light Rail can bring," he said. "The first is the elimination of parking space on the street. Secondly, during construction, even if it is section by section, business will be interrupted. They worry about whether they can survive."

Huynh said the third issue is the increase in property taxes.

"If you own, you will pay a high property tax, and if you rent, you will pay higher rents," he said.

"The Asian businesses are 99 per cent against the LRT on University Avenue, but we don't have a strong voice. We would like to see the LRT along I-94, where it would be faster and cheaper."

Kou Vang, who owns JB Realty

at 1600 University Avenue, is also concerned with the major construction during building a light rail line.

"When the traffic flow is disrupted, these small businesses don't have the financial strength of a Fortune 500 company to draw on," he said.

Janice Rettman, Ramsey County commissioner, has been doing a lot of listening to residents, business people and community leaders since light rail along University has been under consideration.

She said there would be major impact during construction for small businesses.

"The business owner needs to know what is included in light rail plans to make sure his or her business stays open, that parking is available, and that the bus can continue to stop by to drop off and pick up people," she said.

"People also wonder how customers on the north side and south side of University are going to cross the street to get to a business, both during and after construction," Rettman said.

She said many of the Asian and other ethnic merchants have put everything they have into their businesses, with different generations involved. "There is a lot of pride there," she said. "And they can't afford to take time off to go to meetings all the time."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Now anchoring the neighborhood.



Coming Winter 2006

Anchor Bank's Snelling crew is ready to break ground on our new location. And, as you'll see from our building going up on the corner of Snelling and Interstate 94, we're here to stay.



ANCHOR BANK

Member FDIC

BANKING & WEALTH MANAGEMENT SERVICES

www.anchorlink.com

153 Snelling Ave. N. • St. Paul • 651-747-2900
(Loan and Deposit Production Office)

In the last few months, I have written of my relationship with my stepdaughter and her plans for her wedding. Much of my writing has centered around Krista's mother, who didn't want her to marry. In a nutshell, her mother, Rita, wanted her to live the life she had chosen for her, not the life that Krista wanted for herself.

We had struggles throughout the year of planning the wedding. Her father was upset that his daughter had problems with her mother at what should have been such a happy time, but was so pleased to see her deal with these problems in such a mature way. She tried to reason with her mother, then finally, suggested therapy, which her mother never quite had time for.

We both endured tearful phone calls from Krista when everything became too much for her to handle. At one point, I was standing outside a restaurant, on a cold rainy night, comforting her via my cell phone.

Both of us tried to be supportive and gently coached her through the stress of planning a wedding, while working a very demanding marketing job, selling her condo and buying another.

We gave her money for the wedding, with lots of love. I suggested she think of it as a big sales meeting; something she planned frequently. I hoped to lessen the stress she felt to make everything perfect.

Her mother, on the other hand tried to make things as difficult as possible. It was as if she had read the book, "How Not To Act At Your Daughter's Wedding" The book must've had special chapters on how to be rude to your ex and his wife. Here are what I imagined as suggestions from that book:

1) At the shower, announce loudly that the wedding will be your saddest day.

At the shower, Rita gave a glimpse of her despair with a loud statement about how she would cry all day of the wedding. She clearly showed that she wasn't having a good time by the constant frown or fake smile on her face.

After the shower, Krista had told her mother that IF she came to the wedding, she would have to accept Krista's decisions. She had read books on planning weddings with divorced parents and had decided that I would sit in the first pew, closest to the center aisle, so her father could step back and join me after walking her down the aisle. You can imagine how well that was received.

2) Promise to be nice, but don't mean it.

At the wedding rehearsal, when the wedding coordinator had gathered us together and informed us about who would be seated first, second and so on. Rita immediately went looking for Krista to have her change the

Stepping In

By SHERRI MOORE

How not to act at your daughter's wedding



arrangements. I tried to lighten the situation with a few jokes and offered to go down the aisle while everything was being worked out behind the scenes. In the end, I was where Krista wanted me to be, in the front row with my husband.

3) Act as though you like people at the rehearsal dinner, but don't mean it.

In full view of many guests, Rita went up to my son, and gushed all over him. She asked him why she hadn't seen him in years, but Sean wisely smiled and kept his mouth shut.



4) At the wedding, demote the stepbrother.

The day of the wedding, things were tense, but civil. The photographer called out for the Bride's brother for a picture. Rita yelled out for all to hear, "She doesn't have a brother!"

Krista said loudly, "I do too."

5) Make a scene in the bride's dressing room when the flowers don't meet your expectations.

While I was upstairs, visiting the groom, Rita was having a very unpleasant discussion with the florist about how

her corsage was supposed to be a wrist, not a pin-on. Then she stormed out of the room in disgust.

Krista's bridesmaids immediately comforted her and joked her out of her sadness. Later, Mr. M's white rose fell off of his boutonniere as the florist pinned it on. The florist became upset and I calmed her down by reminding her that no one would notice. She

said he was the bride's father, and should have a rose. Mr. M. said he didn't need a rose to know that, and we all laughed.

6) At the reception, try not to smile.

Many guests asked me who that woman was who was frowning. I answered politely, that it was the bride's mother. My nephew asked me if she was in pain, and was there something we could do to help her. I answered that she was in pain and there was nothing anyone could do to help her.

7) Leave the reception early.

Happily, Rita left early and deprived everyone of her presence. The good news was that she would not be on the honeymoon!

Krista had told me that she had instructed her mother what behavior would be acceptable at the wedding, and her mother had agreed to be nice. I remember telling her father that I didn't expect her mother to honor the agreement. Some people won't change because they don't have to. By being difficult, Rita managed to garner a lot of attention, even my nephew's.

As a stepparent, I was trying to stand back and come forward only when asked. The wedding plans were made with stress and concern, not to mention keeping an eye on the expense. Krista demonstrated that she is her own woman. She started out saying she would marry and managed to do that with grace, dignity and a sense of humor. Even though her heart was broken by her mother's behavior, she stood straight, stuck out her chin, smiled, and kept going.

She reminded me of a bride from many years ago. Her friends and some of her family told her she was crazy for marrying her out-of-state boyfriend. He came with baggage, a divorce and a daughter. The bride stuck to her guns, sold her house, quit her job, battled her ex in a custody fight, packed up her son and herself, and off they went to California. The bride told all that would listen that it was the right thing for her to do. She was married with plenty of angst from the in-laws, but managed to smile. It's been 22 years and I still think it was the right thing to do.

(Sherri Moore is a freelance writer and former resident of the Como neighborhood. Sherri welcomes your comments and can be reached at sherrimoore@msn.com.)

I participate in a professional choir group called the Saint Paul Vocal Forum (saintpaulvocalforum.org). We recently gave a concert on the topic of "War and Peace." It was the best concert we've done and the message got everyone thinking, myself included, about how to promote peace in our communities and neighborhoods.

My neighbor's yard boasts a sign for the Minnesota Neighbors for Peace. Just as a concept, a message of non-violence seems like something that would appeal to everyone—no matter their political leanings. I've been meaning for a long time to check out the web site that the sign lists: mnneighbors4peace.org. My choir concert was the catalyst that made me do so this month.

From the Minnesota Neighbors For Peace web site: "The desire to cultivate peace, human rights, social and economic justice, civil liberties, and environmental responsibility throughout the world is now stronger than ever. Meeting and working with our neighbors on our shared visions for the future has strengthened our communities and empowered us to work together toward a brighter tomorrow for our neighborhoods, cities or towns, state, country, and world."

New to the Neighborhood

By NATE HAMILTON

Peace is in our hands



Now that sounds about right to me.

I also found that The Minnesota Neighbors for Peace is hosting a Potluck Picnic on Sunday, July 30 from 4 to 8 p.m. It will be held at Newell Park in Saint Paul and all friends, family and neighbors interested in supporting efforts for peace are welcome. "Please join us for a picnic, a time to feast and socialize with friends old and new while enjoying a beautiful mid-summer evening," the announcement reads. "Please bring a dish to share as well as your own beverage, utensils, plate/bowl, and blanket or lawn chair."

I spoke with one of the organizers, Krista Menzel, about this event. She said that at past picnics they have had entertainment, lots of kid's activities and even a talent show. The purpose of the picnic is to bring together like-minded people to have fun and raise awareness about

their groups. Krista tells me the picnic has taken place sporadically through the last two to three years and usually attracts upwards of fifty to seventy five guests.

Minnesota Neighbors for Peace has five Saint Paul neighborhood groups including a Como Park group, a Hamline-Midway group and a Saint Anthony Park group. There are six Minneapolis groups and a whole host of metro wide branches.

"We don't really exist as our own organization," Krista explains to me, "but we are a rather a cooperative network of community based peace/justice groups in the state."

From my particular point of view, I would say we all have a desire to promote peace in our lives and in our world. For me, this also stems from a hope that I can raise children who are peacemakers—who excel at conflict resolution, who know how to share and play nice, cooperate, and be empathetic.

I try to explain this to Krista as we're talking about the picnic. It's a tough question. "Well I think what we can do for children is encourage them to hang out with other people who think a certain way about the world—and then do our best to show them how to live peacefully."

Episcopal Homes plans to build senior housing...

Latest phase of Lexington Park continues

By JANE MCCLURE

The latest phase of Lexington Park is moving ahead as Episcopal Homes' plans to build 50 low-income senior housing units won needed St. Paul Planning Commission approvals June 2. The commission approved variances and recommended St. Paul City Council approval of a needed zoning change. No date for City Council action, which requires a final public hearing, has been set.

No one attended a May 25 Planning Commission Zoning Committee public hearing to speak against the project. Lexington-Hamline Community Council recommends approval, as does city staff. One argument for the variances is the site's topography. Part of the site was excavated many years ago for one of its earlier occupants, the Lexington Ballpark.

Lexington Park is a retail-office-residential development at the southwest corner of Lexington Parkway and University Avenue. For many years the site was occupied by a strip mall, a car wash and a well drilling business. Episcopal Homes will occupy a 46,605 square-foot parcel that was once the site of Keys Well Drilling and two homes. The property is currently zoned for business use. Episcopal Homes and lead project development Lexington University Limited Liability Partnership want to rezone the property for multi-family resi-

dential use.

The site also requires three variances before the project can move ahead. These are:

*Front yard setback. A 25-foot setback is required, which the building meets. But Episcopal Homes wants to build a canopy from the building's front door to the sidewalk, which would make the setback zero feet, according to City Planner Patricia James.

The building's front door

The variances were approved on three conditions. One is that the property rezoning ultimately wins approval from the St. Paul City Council. A second condition calls for site plan approval by city staff. A third condition is that a lot split, to separate the Episcopal Homes property from the rest of the site, win city staff approval.

Mike Trossen of Trossen Wright Plutowski Architects said the rezoning and variances are

the federal government's housing agency, which focuses on creating home ownership opportunities and affordable housing options. HUD also enforces federal fair housing laws.

Episcopal Homes had hoped to start construction in June, but that has been delayed. Construction will take about 10 months.

Episcopal Homes has its main campus at Fairview and University. The campus includes Seabury, a 50-unit affordable rental building for senior citizens that is similar to the proposed Lexington Park building. There is a 10-year waiting list for Seabury units, an indication of the strong demand for this type of housing. Demand for low-income senior housing is especially strong in Ward One.

James and Trossen pointed out that without the variances and zoning change, senior housing cannot be built on the site. One concern Episcopal Homes Executive Director Marvin Plakut has raised is that the site's space was further reduced by a St. Paul Public Works requirement that there be an east-west access road through the southern part of Lexington Park. The road is just north of the proposed Episcopal Homes project.

The need to add the road prompted Episcopal Homes to move its parking underground. Although there will be 50 units of housing, most of the residents aren't likely to own cars, accord-

ing to Plakut.

Episcopal Homes is the second-to-last piece of Lexington Park to fall into place. An Aldi grocery store and TCF Bank were recently built. Wilder Foundation plans to break ground for its new headquarters building later this month. On May 23 the St. Paul Port Authority Board approved a \$33.310 million conduit revenue bond for the project.

Episcopal Homes is expected to help meet community demands that there be housing on the Lexington park site, something the developers and city have been roundly criticized for neglecting. Two years ago the Lexington Design Advisory Group, a community advisory committee that is overseeing the development plans, reviewed the Episcopal Homes proposal along with housing proposals from Central Community Housing Trust and Centex Homes.

The final part of Lexington Park is expected to be a residential or residential-commercial development at the southeast corner of the site, just east of Episcopal Homes. Wellington Management, the lead developer of Lexington Park, has been planning that part of the development for several months. No timeline for that part of the development has been announced. It will be reviewed by the Lexington Design Advisory Group before it is submitted to the city for any financing or zoning changes.

Episcopal Homes had hoped to start construction in June, but that has been delayed. Construction will take about 10 months.

will lead to Dunlap Street.

*Side yard setbacks. This is determined in part by building height. The average height of the building is 47 feet nine inches, which puts the required side yard setback at 23 feet 11 inches. The south side yard is 15 feet, requiring a variance of eight feet 11 inches.

*Minimum lot size. The requirement under the proposed multi-family zoning is 1,500 square feet per unit. With other factors such as underground parking factored in, the lot would only allow 37 units. The variance is for 383 square feet per unit or a total of 19,159 square feet.

needed so that the housing can be built. This will be Episcopal Homes' first housing outside of its longtime campus at University and Fairview avenues. Forty-nine one-bedroom apartments and one two-bedroom caretaker's apartment are planned in the three-story building. The building will have 21 underground parking spaces.

Last year the project obtained a federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 202 Supportive Housing Grant, which is for low-income elderly housing. As a condition of the HUD grant, rents in a building must remain affordable for 40 years. HUD is

LETTERS

Thankful
for smoke-free
St. Paul bars

On our second date, we shot pool, drank beer, flirted...and inhaled second hand smoke. Back then, my date (now husband) and I had little idea how damaging it was to our health or the health of the folks behind the bar. Our most recent date—nine years later—was at the Dubliner. We sat at the bar, drank beer, wondered if the baby-sitter would get our kids to bed on time, flirted...and enjoyed the smoke-free air.

After seeing loved ones suffer with lung disease, our eyes were opened to the dangers of cigarette smoke. Because of the high levels of second hand smoke in bars, everyone in the bar becomes a smoker, whether they want to be or not. Everyone is exposed to the same toxins (carbon monoxide, benzene, formaldehyde, just to name a

few). The bartenders. The wait staff. The patrons. Since the St. Paul smoke-free ordinance took effect, we can see a band at the Turf Club, or pop in to the Half Time for a pint and a good conversation, without worrying about second hand smoke. Let's keep St. Paul bars smoke-free.

Autumn Elizabeth Connell
Hamline Midway resident

Thanks for Monitor
trash nuisance story

I would like to thank Deborah Brotz for her expose on the trash nuisance in South Como. Since I recently moved only a block from the events she described on Front Avenue, I would like to mention that there are plenty more properties in this neighborhood that could use some clean up.

David A. Ross
South Como



The Midway Como Monitor is typically published the second Thursday-Friday of each month. If you're not receiving a timely delivery call 651-645-7045

Dentistry For All Ages

Creating Smiles to Last a Lifetime

Offering the Latest Advances in Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Introducing the *Waterlase* M.D.



water • laser • comfort

Come see how the
Waterlase® M.D.

can improve your dental experience.

New Patient Special
\$50 OFF
1st appointment
with this ad, expires 7/13/06

- Certified Invisalign™ orthodontic provider
- Zoom II™ in-office tooth whitening as seen on ABC's Extreme Makeover
- Cosmetic tooth colored fillings
- The Wand™ computerized anesthetic system
- Gendex eHD high definition digital x-rays
- Nobel Biocare system implant surgery & restoration • Stabilize dentures

- Waterlase® M.D. – No Drill Dentistry
- Diagnodent® Laser decay detection
- Biolase Plus laser gum treatment

- Oral surgery • Root canal therapy
- Well trained caring, courteous professional staff
- No interest financing plans available

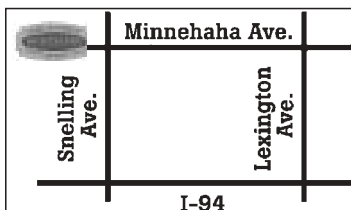
Your neighborhood dentist for over 23 years

"For Care You Can Trust"

Steven R. Hagerman, D.D.S.

1605 Minnehaha Ave.
(Just west of Snelling on Minnehaha)

651-646-2392



SuperTarget gets City's OK on site plan

By JANE MCCLURE

The new Midway SuperTarget can get off of the drawing boards and onto site work, with St. Paul City Council approval of the project's site plan and a parking variance May 24. If all goes as planned the new store will open in July 2008.

But will the controversial project be the last new "big box" retail store on University Avenue? The answer to that question is yes if you ask Mayor Chris Coleman. In June a Planning Commission task force begins to discuss land use issues along University and the proposed Central Corridor transit project. The task force's co-chair is Hamline-Midway resident and Planning Commissioner Reggie Aligada. A key focus for the task force will be transit-oriented development. One overarching criticism of the Midway SuperTarget plans are that the new store will be located farther away from the proposed Central Corridor and current University Avenue bus lines.

University UNITED Executive Director Brian McMahon said he hopes that the city will resolve the problems inherent with a lack of a comprehensive



The new Midway SuperTarget can get off of the drawing boards and onto site work, with St. Paul City Council approval of the project's site plan and a parking variance May 24. If all goes as planned the new store will open in July 2008.

University Avenue plan and development framework, so that community members don't have to go through another development battle. One long-standing criticism of University is the lack of a master plan for transit-oriented development. Smaller plans for specific intersections have lacked the ability to bring

about zoning changes to encourage such development.

"We welcome SuperTarget into the Midway and while we acknowledge that Target did make some changes to the design based on community input, we continue to hope that Target will still take the opportunity to truly do transit oriented development on this

site," said Coleman. "Building in a dense urban environment requires new approaches, and as we move forward with the planning for light rail transit on the avenue, we must continue to develop a long-term vision for development on University." The mayor signed off on the Target site plan and variance request May 26.

Some district councils and University UNITED had suggested a development moratorium along University Avenue, until the land use issues can be resolved. But Coleman opposes the idea of a moratorium and instead said he would aggressively

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

The Cheapskate:

Rarely does the Cheapskate lead off our Triptych of Taste, preferring to correct the many errors of fact and opinion put forth by the Food Snob and the Bachelor.

However, the Russian Tea House is Cheapskate territory. This place is the exception to the dictum: "Fast, cheap, good: Pick any two."

It's fast: The food is not quick-order, but it's ready the moment you walk in the door. It's the kind of food that tastes



Without Reservations

Russian Tea House: Fast, cheap and good

best when slow-cooked ahead of time and kept piping hot in a big, steaming pan.

It's cheap: We paid no more than \$20 for more sustenance

than our far-from-dainty appetites could consume, plus hot spiced tea and warm-from-the-oven dessert pastries.

It's good: Even though I was

stuffed and we had to get back to the office pronto, I found myself standing at the tray return, slurping up that last spoonful of the Bachelor's borscht. I could not abandon it.

Here's what else I ate. One cabbage roll – which proved not only a lip-smacking entrée but a free cooking lesson. Co-owner Linda Alenov explained that instead of trying to wrestle the spiced meat mixture into un-

wieldy American-variety cabbage leaves, they simply form the meat into a roll and simmer it in a bed of shredded cabbage. It tastes every bit as good, and it's easier to eat. I can't wait to boast of this newfound shortcut to my Hungarian mother-in-law – but before I mention it, I'd better cookup a batch so I have that tone of world-weary experience.

Moving on: I also heavily sampled the Bachelor's borscht – the first borscht that ever made me understand why borscht is so big. I could taste fresh carrot, fresh beet, and fresh potato, yet the flavors were so well mingled that the total was greater than the sum of the parts. Or however that saying goes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

"Oooh, that hurts!"

THE NEXT TIME you have something snap, bend, stretch or generally go beyond where it should, we can help to put things right. With superior quality, easily accessed and affordable care. Early and late hours. Call anytime to know more.



Nutrition Services and Occupational Health to on-site Radiology and Labs, and more.

Offering comprehensive care since 1965: From OB/Gyn, Pediatrics and Family Medicine to Internal Medicine and General Surgery, from

FRIDLEY MEDICAL CENTER 763-785-4500
ROSEDALE MEDICAL CENTER 763-785-4300
BLAINE MEDICAL CENTER 763-785-4200



www.multicare-assoc.com

Russian Tea House

1758 University Ave.

651-646-4144

Open Tues.-Fri., 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Target

Continued from page 6

encourage transit-oriented development as well as protections for small businesses and employees.

The Midway Target controversy, which played itself out over the past several months, is just the latest in a series of debates between developers and community groups. The council voted to deny the appeal, which was filed by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 789, Lexington-Hamline Community Council and University UNITED.

Target wants to build the first urban SuperTarget here. The new 184,000-square foot store would replace the existing 146,000 square-foot store. Target would like to start construction this summer and open the new store in July 2008.

Council members Jay Benanav and Debbie Montgomery spent several weeks negotiating with the community groups and Target officials. Although not everyone's priorities could be addressed, "we were able to come to some agreements," Montgomery said.

"I don't think you're going to find another Target like this one," Montgomery said.

Benanav said Target deserves

thanks for its willingness to negotiate with the community and city. "I think we were able to get much of what we were looking for," he said. The SuperTarget parking lot will be broken up with walkways and landscaping to improve pedestrian safety. There will be a larger transit stop at the Hamline Avenue bus stop and a covered walkway leading to the store's main doors.

McMahon said Target's efforts to make the lots more pedestrian-friendly shouldn't be minimized. "This is the first national chain that has made that kind of gesture," he said. "That's a major accomplishment."

But other groups involved in the appeal were less positive. LHCC Executive Director Jessica Treat said that while pedestrians may appreciate the improvements, she doesn't see those as major gains for the community.

Treat predicts Midway area residents will be watching Target closely as other Twin Cities area SuperTargets are developed. "We'll be curious to see what Edina and Apple Valley get and whether we just got the crumbs," she said.

Bernie Hesse, a leader with the UFCW, said the city sold out its union workers for a few minor gains. He accused the City Council of caving to Target and asking for more. "Why does the Midway always have to settle for crumbs?"

Hesse is concerned that once SuperTarget and its full-service store opens, it will hurt union employees Rainbow and Cub Foods. He had pushed for Target to end union-unfriendly practices.

Ward Two Council Member Dave Thune said he almost voted against the Target site plan and variance, due to the company's stance. But he also respected the

SuperTarget plans call for tearing down the former Four Points Sheraton at Hamline and St. Anthony avenues, and putting the new store on that site. Target bought and closed the hotel last year.

Other points include:

*Target will work with city staff to improve the appearance of the building along Hamline and Syndicate Street, adding display

opens, a job fair will be held for residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. The focus will be on the Summit-University, Frog-town, Lexington-Hamline, Snelling-Hamline, Hamline-Midway, Merriam Park, North End and Payne-Phalen neighborhoods.

*Current Target employees should be allowed to participate in a program that allows them to work at other Target stores during the months after Midway Target closes. There will be a shutdown of a few months between the closing of the old store and the opening of the new SuperTarget. Current Midway Target employees should be offered the chance to return once the new store opens.

*Ryan Construction, lead contractor for Target, will operate its own minority and women subcontractor program when building the new store.

Energy program meant to reduce energy consumption.

*Target shall participate in the Midway's proposed Safe Cities initiative by contributing \$200,000 to a fund for closed-circuit television cameras along University.

*Target shall work with Metro Transit to locate a bus stop mid-block on Hamline, to line up with the planned pedestrian walkways. The current University bus stops are at University and Syndicate and at the southwest corner of University and Hamline.

- Union leader Bernie Hesse

"Why does the Midway always have to settle for crumbs?"

work Benanav and Montgomery did to improve the site plan and wanted to support that.

"I dislike Target's anti-union stance and I wish that would change," Thune said.

The site plan agreement does make several other concessions sought by the City Council and community groups. Target will work closely with the city and community to design two outlots on University Avenue for new development. One goal for the city is to have a hotel put on one of the lots, said Benanav. Target's Midway

windows. Parking lot landscaping and other improvements will also be added.

*If there is a master plan developed for the Midway area that includes Midway Marketplace and Midway Center, Target will also be involved.

Benanav praised Target's willingness to break up its parking lot with a new north-south street midway through its parking lot. He said that kind of design should be considered in the future for the two retail centers to the west.

*Before the new SuperTarget

Without Reservations

Continued from page 6

Dessert: Here's where I have rein in the hyperbole. It was fantastic. I had a fresh-baked pastry filled with melty dark chocolate and poppy seed. It's a combination I would never dream up, but trust me, I'll be doing more than dreaming about it from now on.

Bottom line: Nothing against the Wendy's next door. In fact, until recently I had a weekly dinner date with an older neighbor with a fixed menu: one Wendy's take-out hamburger, no onions, and a medium Coke – and those living room suppers were a highlight of my week.

However, during that narrow window of time when you have the choice between Wendy's and the Russian Tea House next door (just four hours a day, five days a week), there is simply no contest. The Tea House is fast, cheap, and good – and you don't have to pick any two.

The Food Snob

I grew up in a state to the south and west of here, a true melting pot of ethnic diversity with a large percentage of eastern Europeans. We often ate in a Czech restaurant, and my mother tried most of the ethnic recipes printed in the local paper. One of her favorites was called a runza, a mixture of hamburger, cabbage and onion baked inside a soft bread dough. When she didn't feel like making them herself, we'd stop by the Runza Hut, a regional chain that still exists today.

The runzas of my childhood are identical to the pierogis served at the Russian Tea House. Biting through the yeasty, slight-

ly sweet dough into the moist filling brought me right back to childhood.

If I'm not mistaken, the same filling is poached in the aforementioned cabbage broth to create the "stuffed cabbage." And the vegetable broth, with a few added root vegetables, becomes the borscht. That practical, efficient approach exemplifies the Russian Tea House. The food is certainly not varied, but it's all carefully prepared and amazingly cheap.

On a recent weekday, we were the only customers eating our lunch on the premises. We clomped upstairs to the dining room, where the owner said she'd once lived. On the wall was a yellowed newspaper clipping announcing that a "displaced" Russian family was relocating to St. Paul. Somehow they'd come to own this house, and created two businesses in it. One brother opened the tea-house with his wife, and the other created a guitar store, which became famous due to the owner's friendship with George Harrison. Photos of Pete, the now-deceased guitar store owner, with his friend, also decorate the teahouse's dining room but the guitar store itself has become a chapel.

George Harrison was known to direct his private jet to the St. Paul Airport and drop in on Pete occasionally. I wonder if he ever enjoyed the simple pleasures of borscht, perogis and stuffed cabbage. Certainly he must have sipped a cup of tea from the samovar while trying out a vintage Fender or Gibson.

As a restaurant, the Russian Teahouse isn't exceptional. But the old house that sheltered a family of refugees and somehow became a beacon to the rock world, now provides sustenance to hungry people of all nations for a price anyone can afford.

The Bachelor

When I was in third grade, I became acutely aware of "the bomb." How and why did Orwellian visions of nuclear holocaust enter my consciousness? I have no idea. (I was far too busy watching reruns of Gilligan's Island to be bothered with reading anything, let alone a heady classic like "1984.") But when it did enter my mind, it dug itself in. Whereas my previous paranoidias had focused on swim lessons and grandma's house, suddenly I was paralyzed by images of my charred limbs smoldering like spent Roman candles in the wreckage of my family's three-bedroom Roseville rambler. I was convinced it was only a matter of time.

Yup, I had bought all the propaganda hook, line, and sinker. Russians were bad. We were good. God may have been on our side, but still I felt the end was nigh. No sense study-

ing, doing chores, playing nice with my siblings, or refraining from blowing up my mother's peonies with firecrackers. My fate was sealed, and I had nothing to lose.

Yet the end did not come. The nukes remain nestled in the their North Dakota silos, and my self-centered, nihilistic view of the world drew more wrath from my siblings and parents than the Russians could ever have delivered.

But nonetheless, my fascination, dread and reverence for everything Russian was born. I've nurtured my absurd stereotypes of the red empire over the years and carried them with me into the Russian Tea House. Hmmmm. No dancing bears. No men in furry hats squatting on the floor kicking their legs out in front of them. And what's George Harrison doing staring down at me? Back in the USSR, indeed! Are we sure this is a "Russian" tea house? I did spot

some ornately painted eggs for sale. Not my deal, but quintessentially Russian in my book. [The Cheapskate notes: When the Bachelor spotted the exquisite eggs, he turned to the Snob and asked with his typical style and grace: "Are those eatin' eggs?"]

As for the food... ah, yes... this is what I had always envisioned the comrades eating on the damp, dark, forlorn expanse of Red Square as they watched the missiles rumble by on May Day. I have been dabbling with vegetarianism so was limited to the borscht and dessert. I burned my mouth on both – patience not being my strong suite – but other than that, pretty darn tasty.

Maybe these Russkies aren't so bad after all?

If you would like to discuss the history of Faberge eggs with the Bachelor, or be a guest columnist for one of our next reviews, please contact us at withoutres@yahoo.com.

Selling or Buying...Count on Carol! Bringing you Experience & Results!

• 1685 Englewood Avenue

Amazing home with 4 finished levels! Vaulted game room w/pool table, loft & media room! 5BR/3BA Huge yard! **\$489,000**

• 1204 W. Minnehaha Av.

Lovely 2 story filled with charm! Gorgeous woodwork, hardwood floors & built-ins! 3BR/2BA **\$219,900**

• 1729 Hewitt Avenue

Beautiful Dutch Colonial Craftsman Moved from Hamline U in 1995! All new mechanicals & natural woodwork! 4BR/2BA **\$399,000**

• 1260 W. Minnehaha Av.

Loaded with updates new birch kitchen & appliances! 3BR/2BA **\$199,000**

Carol Abbott 651-481-6710

Bringing You Neighborhood Experience & Results

www.carolabbott.com

Edina Realty



You've been around enough to know that
Service
MEANS A LOT.

KATHY BJERKE SHARON VANCE DICK SWANSON

Park Midway Bank
2171 University Avenue • St. Paul 651-645-3800 www.parkmidwaybank.com
Also located at 2305 & 2300 Como Avenue • St. Paul Member FDIC

THE LEADER IN IMPROVING OUR URBAN COMMUNITY

Why Chinese?

- It is the business language of the future.
- It is the most widely spoken language in the world.
- It is a way to connect to the Chinese culture.

Register now for bilingual and bicultural elementary education
GRADES K-3 OPEN FOR FALL 2006
Before and after school care will be available

651-494-8666
www.yinghuaacademy.org
1355 Pierce Butler Route
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

英華 | YINGHUA ACADEMY
Mandarin Chinese-Focused Elementary School

Forward in Faith 125 Years 1880-2005

HAMLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

8:00 AM Prayer Worship

9:30 AM Traditional Worship

9:45 AM Child Care

10:30 AM Hospitality & Fellowship

1514 Englewood Avenue - St. Paul 651-645-0667

ATTENTION UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, FACULTY & INVESTORS!!

Great Income & Rental Potential!
1678 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul • \$289,900

4 Bed, 2 Bath, Prof-Landscaped Backyard. New Tilt in, easy clean dbl.hung, dbl paned windows in 2003. Jacuzzi Tub, and 2nd supplmntl heat upper lvl. All Original HDWDs, New tile / granite in Kitchen. New front and rear roofs and copper piping. My gardens will inspire, relax, and rejuvenate you!

Call Troy Ziesmer, Realtor, CBBurnet, (612) 396-8769
www.1678Hewitt.com

St. Paul resident brings 'Fancy Dance' to Hamline Library

By DEBORAH BROTZ

After attending his first powwow at the age of 4, Larry Yazzie, 39, who was raised on the Meskwaki Indian Settlement in Tama, Iowa, began dancing the Fancy Dance at age 5. The Fancy Dance is beloved for its flamboyant and colorful regalia, as well as the physical challenge it poses for competition dancers. In 1995, he won the World Championship for the Northern Style Fancy Dance in Ledyard, Conn.

Performing throughout North America as well as South America and Europe, Yazzie's current solo show, "Native Pride Dancer," balances entertainment with education and features the high-energy Fancy Dance. On June 20, at 7 p.m., he will perform at the Hamline Midway branch of the St. Paul Public Library, at 1558 Minnehaha Ave., in the first of the Summer Reading performances for children.

As a contemporary form of dance, the Fancy Dance is one of the newest styles of traditional dancing of the powwow world. Originally referred to as the war dance, it incorporates brighter outfits and faster movements than traditional dancing.

"It's a way of expressing myself through dance," said Yazzie.



On June 20, at 7 p.m., Larry Yazzie will perform at the Hamline Midway branch of the St. Paul Public Library, at 1558 Minnehaha Ave., in the first of the Summer Reading performances for children.

"The first time I saw the powwow, I knew I wanted to dance from then on. The music, the people, the beautiful regalia, the feathers everything just comes together. When you put the music

and drumbeat together with the mind and spirit, you just go into a different zone. Your spirit is lifted when you hear that music."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

'Beep' ball game gives vision to blind baseball experience

By JAN WILLMS

The toughest part is the running.

I have just been watching a practice of the St. Paul Midway Fighting Lions, a baseball team whose members are blind.

Now they are about to play a short game of beep ball at the Iglehart field in Saint Paul. The 16-inch kitten ball beeps so that the players can identify its location through sound.

I am going to join with them, and so I am not at an advantage, I don a black mask that lets me see nothing.

The pitcher and the catcher are sighted. Kent Evans, who is pitching this Saturday, said that unlike in regular baseball, in this game the pitcher works for the batter.

He starts to throw the ball, and you hear him say "Go-set-ready-pitch." As the ball crosses the base on the word "pitch" I strike—and miss.

I get four chances to hit the ball, and if I miss all four, it is set up as a tee ball. I feel where the ball is and attempt to strike it.

The fourth strike, and I hit the ball.

I hear everyone shouting "Run", and I head toward a base. According to Coach Dennis Stern, there are two bases—one ten feet off the third base line and one ten feet off the first base line. When contact is made between the ball and bat, one of the two bases at random starts to buzz. The hitter then runs to that base and must make it there before an opposing team member picks up the ball.



A fast line drive eluded Jennifer Dubbin but was picked up by Marilyn Highland.

Although hitting the ball was extremely difficult, I find that running is almost impossible. I have been told that sighted spotters will make sure I don't run into anything, but I realize how dependent I am on seeing any obstacles in my way. And I walk, sticking my hands out in front of me, and of course, I am out.

Now I am assisted to the outfield, where I stand by a sight-

ed spotter. By shouting numbers between one and six, he will let me know the location of a ball that has been hit, and whether it is coming directly towards me.

My concern is that a pop fly might come in my direction, and I don't worry so much about whether I will catch it as I worry about whether I can avoid it. I fight an urge to pull my mask off, just for a moment, so I can see what is going on.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

City Council approves recommendations for light rail option on Central Corridor

By JANE MCCLURE

Light rail should be the mode of transit if and when the proposed Central Corridor transit improvements are built on University Avenue. Central Corridor must serve those who already depend on existing bus service to get around. It also must serve the neighborhoods it passes through, with more stops. The St. Paul City Council approved its recommendations for the Central Corridor May 24 and the Ramsey County Board did likewise May 23. Those recommendations went on to the Central Corridor Coordinating Committee.

The committee was to make its Central Corridor recommendations June 6, after this edition of *Midway Como Monitor* went to press. That recommendation goes to the Metropolitan Council and its Transportation Committee. The council will make its decision June 22. The Metropolitan Council will send that decision on to the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA).

The recommendations on mode of transit need to go to the Central Corridor Coordinating Committee by June 6, said St. Paul city planner Allan Lovejoy. The committee, made up of area elected officials, makes its recommendation to the Metropolitan Council.

Once a decision is made on a mode of transit, preliminary engineering for the project can begin. Lovejoy said that work would start in late 2006 or early 2007, and take 18 months to two years.

Although most people agree that the committee and council will select light rail as Central Corridor's mode of transit, much of the project comment heard over the past month has centered on issues to be addressed in project preliminary engineering. The City of St. Paul has agreed to take comments on the preliminary engineering issues through July 19. Number of transit stops, mitigation of construction and corridor operation impacts on businesses, park and ride issues, design of the corridor at Snelling and University, pedestrian safety and other key issues will be addressed during the two-years that preliminary engineering will take place.

The coordinating committee and Metropolitan Council have had to weigh hundreds of thousands of oral and written comments received over the past several weeks. Hearings on the Central Corridor's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) drew more than 500 people the week of May 22. Hearings were held at four places along the route, including Lao Family Community Center, University of Minnesota, Minnesota History Center and Central High School.

More than 250 people commented at the public hearings, with more people commenting at a May 17 St. Paul City Council hearing. Most representatives of the business and institutional community in the downtown areas and along University Avenue came out very strongly for light rail, as did the University of Min-

nesota and many non-profit organizations.

David Stokes, a Midway Chamber of Commerce Board member and Welsh Companies employee, said light rail will be of great benefit to the Midway. "One big plus is that it will help business employees and

fits. Nor would it accommodate transit demand over the long term.

Fritts also cited the benefits

coalition backing light rail on University Avenue. The partnership is setting up a business advisory task force to work on the project and is planning ways to assist businesses impacted by construction and light rail operations.

Other business groups, including Minneapolis

more than 40 years ago. Fliers for some of the EIS hearings evoke memories of the destruction of much of Rondo, St. Paul's historic African-American community, when more than 600 properties were lost.

Central Corridor may not mean the loss of homes and businesses to make way for a road. But then as now, the issue is one of environmental justice, said Central Corridor Equity Coalition Lead Organizer Veronica Burt.

"Many low-income and minority constituencies along the corridor don't believe that the preliminary locally preferred alternative—LRT on University—is designed to benefit environmental justice communities," Burt said. There are concerns that low-income people and people of color in the Summit-University and Frogtown neighborhoods will have their businesses and homes sacrificed for the benefit of the region.

Gentrification, loss of ethnic businesses, rising property taxes and displacement of residents and businesses are fears the equity coalition has raised. Another worry is potential cuts to the bus system many rely on. Burt is urging officials to reconsider the University route, or to look at tunneling or elevating the transit line for its entire length.

Longtime Frogtown resident and transit activist Lisa Lee, who has followed Central Corridor issues since the 1980s, is concerned about the high costs and lack of flexibility of rail versus bus. She describes Central Corridor as an "\$840 million bus route." She is concerned about the number of bus runs that will be lost on Route 16.

Sheldon Gitis, a South St. Anthony Park resident, refers to the Central Corridor project as "highway robbery." He notes that \$100 million of the \$840 million light rail cost is for road improvements and describes the Central

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



others come to the Midway in a timely manner."

Light rail would not only help the business community in providing reliable transportation to jobs, it would also provide long-term economic development benefits for the Midway area, said Midway Chamber of Commerce President Lori Fritts. The Chamber represents 425 businesses and industries that employ about 50,000 people.

Chamber members are excited about the possibility that light rail could spur more redevelopment and growth along the corridor. Fritts said. Building a busway wouldn't provide the same bene-

light rail has for regional competition. "There are going to be more light rail lines built" due to the success of Minneapolis' Hiawatha Corridor, she said. "Without Central Corridor, we will be left behind. We will just have buses." The Midway business community also is preparing to help businesses that might suffer negative impacts as a result of light rail construction. The Chamber is a member of Central Corridor Partnership, a business

neapolitan Downtown Council, City of Lakes Chamber of Commerce and ethnic chambers, are lining up behind the idea of light rail on Central Corridor. So too is the University of Minnesota, which had several faculty, staff and students at the May 22 hearing. University of Minnesota Vice President Kathleen O'Brien said, "A highly effective transit system is essential to our campus."

While most speakers support light rail, there are many concerns. History is an undercurrent of today's Central Corridor debate. Some recall the demolition of the old Rondo neighborhood when Interstate 94 was built



CORNELIA HOUSE

Gracious Independent Living



If you don't need a "senior community" right now, you'd fit right in. None of our residents do either.


Our residents are here because *they* wanted to choose their next home instead of having it chosen for them. They also like the idea of living on a *continuing care campus* that offers all the care and services that they may ever need. The great neighbors are just the icing on the cake. If you're 62+, one of our one or two-bedroom designs could be *perfect*! All the security and amenities that you expect, of course, plus available heated parking. Visit us at www.ehomesmn.org. Or call 651-288-3931 for a tour.

1840 University Ave W • Saint Paul MN 55104
Part of the Episcopal Homes family



IRIS PARK COMMONS

A Community of Heart



"If you want to hear from a resident who shopped around quite a bit, let's talk after your tour."

Gale Frost

Gale Frost looked at a dozen other places before choosing us. That's why he has offered to talk with you before you make *your* choice. We offer comfy, secure apartments with a menu of assisted living services for age 55+. One or two-bedroom and studio designs, most with views of Iris Park or our own private campus. Some are available through County programs. Visit us at www.ehomesmn.org or call 651-646-1026. We'll be happy to arrange a tour (and a talk with Gale).

1850 University Ave W • Saint Paul MN 55104
Part of the Episcopal Homes family

In Our Community

Native Pride Dancer at Hamline Midway Library

The Summer Reading Program performances at Hamline Midway Branch of the St. Paul Public Library begin with a dramatic presentation by local "Native Pride Dancer," Larry Yazzie, on Tuesday evening, June 20, at 7 p.m. Meskwaki and Dine, Mr. Yazzie is a consistent champion in powwow competitions in the colorful, fast-paced and physically demanding "fancy dance" style of Native American dancing. A participant since early childhood, he has performed as a singer and dancer throughout the United States and also internationally.

The Summer Reading Program is intended to encourage children and teens to continue reading during the summer. This year's theme is "Catch the Beat at Your Library." Performances continue with The Drumming Librarian (June 27), The Magic of Brian Gilbertson (July 6), The Banjo Dancers (July 11), Bill the Juggler (July 13), and Wendy's Wiggle, Jiggle and Jam (July 20). Tuesday performances are at 7 p.m. and Thursday performances are at 10:30 a.m., all at the library.

Summer Reading Program materials for children and teens, including lists for recording reading done, can be picked up at any Saint Paul Public Library or the Bookmobile, beginning on June 17. All are welcome to attend the Summer Reading Kick Off event at the Central Library in downtown Saint Paul on Saturday, June 17, beginning at 11:15 a.m. Special activities and entertainers will be featured.

Summer storytimes by library staff will be offered for preschool and early elementary-aged children on Tuesday, June 13, at 7 p.m. and for toddlers and preschoolers on Wednesdays, July 19 and 26, at 10:30 a.m.

The library is located at 1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue. For more information, please contact the Hamline Midway Branch Library at 651-642-0293, or access the Library's Website at www.sppl.org.

Hancock Senior Club looks for participants

Hancock Senior Club is looking for adults 55+ who are interested in playing card and dice games on Thursday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. at Hancock Rec. Center, 1610 Hubbard Ave. Beginners and advanced players are welcome. For more information please call 651-298-4393.

Hancock Recreation Center is offering a fun summer learning camp for youth ages 7-13 years. The week-long M.A.R.S. Camps will focus on: Math, Art, Reading and Science. M.A.R.S. Camps are

'Fancy dancer' comes to Hamline Midway Library



On June 20, at 7 p.m., Larry Yazzie will perform at the Hamline Midway branch of the St. Paul Public Library, at 1558 Minnehaha Ave., in the first of the Summer Reading performances for children.

offered from 12 noon-4 p.m. on the following weeks: July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28 and July 31-Aug. 4. New activities will be offered each week, so children may register for one, two, three, or all four weeks. Childcare from 4-5:30 p.m. is also available for \$35/week per child. Cost per child is \$75 and includes lunch and all supplies. Multiple child and multiple week discount available. Scholarships are available thanks to a generous donation by the Midway Men's Club. Call the recreation center for scholarship information.

Art of Breastfeeding topic La Leche meeting July 11

The Art of Breastfeeding and Avoiding Difficulties is the topic of the next meeting of Como-Midway La Leche League, to be held on Tuesday, July 11, at 7 p.m.

Mothers-to-be, mothers, babies and toddlers are invited to attend. La Leche League meetings offer breastfeeding information and support through mother-to-mother helping.

A lending library on a wide variety of related topics is also available. For meeting location or more information, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

Rummage Sale at St. Bernard's Parish Center

A Rummage Sale will be held at St. Bernard's Parish Center (Gernium St. at Rice) on Friday, June 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturday,

June 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., June 11 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Fri., June 16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sat., June 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Furniture will be available, household items, clothing for all ages, and baby items.

"Treasure Cove" Theme for July VBS at Jehovah

The hunt for the "greatest treasure" begins Sunday, July 16 at Jehovah Lutheran Church, corner of Snelling and Thomas, with the annual Carnival on the parking lot of the church. The carnival kicks off the summer Vacation Bible School (VBS) running evenings through July 20. This year's theme, "Treasure Cove," includes "Discovering Treasure, Knowing Treasure, Sharing Treasure" and more treasure chest surprises.

The free community carnival begins Sunday at 6 p.m. with many games, lots of prizes and a Moonwalk. Boy Scout Troop #243 will sell popcorn, pop and hot dogs for a nominal price.

The Monday through Thursday VBS sessions start with supper at 6 p.m. (free will offering) in the church fellowship hall followed by story, craft, game and skit times until 8 p.m. Experienced teachers will help children discover the treasure theme through the daily Bible stories and activities. Pastor Bob Benke will lead a Bible class for adults.

To learn more about Vacation Bible School at Jehovah please call Dawn at the church office: 651-644-1421.

Arthritis program planned June 13

"Get a Grip on Arthritis," an event to help promote joint health, will be held on Tuesday, June 13 at 1514 Englewood Avenue from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to consult one-on-one with representatives from the MN Arthritis Foundation and observe or try out arthritis friendly exercises. A nutritious meal will be available for a free will donation. Transportation is available by calling Monica at 651-209-6542.

Daytime drivers willing to transport seniors to medical appointments and persons who would like to be matched with a senior for "friendly visiting" may call the Hamline Midway Elders office at 651-209-6542. Hamline Midway Elders provides volunteer and professional services to keep seniors in their own homes.

Senior federation picnic at Newell Park June 13

Greater Ramsey County chapter of Minnesota Senior Federation will host a potluck picnic at noon June 13 under the picnic shelter at Newell Park, 900 N. Fairview Ave., rain or shine.

The Country Gentlemen, a six-piece band led by John Gordon, will entertain during lunch. Other band members are Terry Fergeson, Tommy Fergeson, John Sutherlin, Dave Weston and Randy Ybarra.

The event is free and open to all interested seniors. Senior Federation and chapter leaders will provide baked beans, hotdogs and buns. Attendees are asked to bring a salad, hotdish or dessert to share, plus their own utensils and beverages.

The chapter serves residents of Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, New Brighton, Oakdale, Roseville, St. Paul and Shoreview. Bus riders may arrange transportation to the park from the Federation office, 1885 University Ave. W., St. Paul; arrangements must be made in advance by calling Pete Wyckoff, 651-783-5014.

For more information, interested persons may call Keith Miller, 651-777-0109.

Scout pack 243 garage sale June 23

Cub Scout Pack 243 is having a garage sale on June 23th from 8-5 and June 24th from 9-12. The garage sale will be at 1335 Rose Place in Roseville, near Cty. Rd. C. and Hamline Ave. We are looking for your help. Please consider coming to our sale and/or contributing donations for the

sale. Donations are taken until June 22 by Sandy Kolar at 651-644-6858 or Stephanie Cardenas at 651-636-1443. All items remaining after the sale will be donated to charity.

Tree identification tour in Como Park June 17

A tree identification tour will be held in Como Park on Saturday, June 17, 1 p.m., sponsored by District 10 Environment Committee and held in conjunction with Como Lake Water Festival. Meet at the "TREE TREK" sign by the exhibition tent just south of the Lakeside pavilion.

See Pines, Firs, Spruces, Cedars, Oaks, Hackberries, Ash, Ohio Buckeye, Magnolia, Catalpa, Kentucky Coffee Tree etc. as well as description of some major tree diseases. More information call 651-646-4226.

War Plays Project performed June 22

Letters To, Letters From, Letters Never Written: A Production of the War Plays Project will be performed Thursday, June 22, 7 p.m. (discussion and refreshments to follow) at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 West Minnehaha Avenue.

The voices of Minnesota veterans from across the years live today through Letters To, Letters From, Letters Never Written, a production of the War Plays Project.

Actor and director Frances Ford has compiled a 50-minute, simply-produced, but fast-moving presentation of letters, journals, and memories of soldiers from the Civil War to the present.

As seven professional actors read the actual words of the soldiers themselves, the reality of war and its effects upon the participants and their loved ones reverberate. Letters engages audiences and starts conversations about the impact of war on all of us.

The War Plays Project aims to educate and enlighten citizens — particularly young people—about violence and war and, perhaps more importantly, its impact on individuals and society, through theatre, the spoken word, and the facilitation of community dialogue. With support from Twin Cities Friends Meeting, Veterans for Peace Chapter 27, Fellowship of Reconciliation, and individual donors, the War Plays Project offers its presentation to schools, educators, and community groups.

Suggested donation is \$5, but not required.

Sponsored by: Merriam Park, Crocus Hill/West 7th, Como Park, and Hamline-Midway Neighbors for Peace.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

In Our Community

Continued from page 10

Storytelling for Families at Coffee Grounds

The Coffee Grounds Coffee Shop will sponsor a delightful evening of stories with local storyteller, Dwight Wilcox. Summer's here and school is out, but learning never ends. Why does a pig have a flat snout? Why does a dog have four legs? What would happen if you've

never seen a mirror? You'll learn the answers to these questions and many more silly facts at the June 20 "Storytelling Pajama Party." You will even get to make and take home a Korean hacky-sack.

The event will be Tuesday, June 20th, at 6:30-7:30 p.m., at The Coffee Grounds Coffee Shop, 1579 Hamline Avenue. The event is free.

For Further information contact Pam Schweitzer at 651-487-3376 or The Coffee Grounds at 651-644-9959. The event sponsored by the Northstar Storytelling League and The Coffee Grounds Coffee Shop.

Como Lake Water Festival planned Saturday, June 17

The Como Lake Water Festival will be held Saturday, June 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Rain or Shine, On the grassy area near the Schiffman Fountain, just south of the Lakeside Pavilion, (1360 North Lexington Parkway, St. Paul). Come celebrate clean water at this popular, free family event.

The event will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Help spruce up beautiful Como Lake with a shoreline clean up. Volunteers will earn a coupon for free face painting and receive lunch courtesy of Black Bear Crossings on the Lake.

From noon to 4 p.m. the festival continues with activities, music, performances and lots of fun! You can: Enjoy the acoustic band Coconut Groove and Tricia and the Toonies puppet show; Learn about watersheds and water quality issues through "hands-on" activities for all ages; Take a walking tour of the park's shoreline restoration and new rain gardens; Go on a tree trek and learn more about trees around the lake; Paddle around Como Lake in a canoe or paddleboat; Learn how your activities affect our

lakes — no matter where you live; Gain useful tips on environmentally-friendly lawn care and landscaping; Look at, and learn about, the different reptiles, amphibians and other critters that live in and around Como Lake; Learn to fish; Enjoy crafts and games; Enter the "I Am A Clean Lake Hero" youth poster contest (guidelines are at www.capitolregionwd.org)

Register ahead of time if you want to volunteer for the clean up. Trash bags will be provided, but volunteers should bring gloves.

This event is sponsored by the Capitol Region Watershed District, Black Bear Crossings on the Lake, District 10 Community Council and the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation. The Capitol Region Watershed District, working to protect and improve the water resources of our district, covers portions of St. Paul, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Maplewood, and Roseville.

To register as a volunteer, or for more information, contact Debbie Meister at 651-647-6816 or meisterd@qwest.net.

Central Corridor

Continued from page 9

Corridor as a "\$740 million hood ornament" for what is actually a road reconstruction project.

Gitis contends that Central Corridor light rail is being driven by business at the expense of the poor, calling it a "bulldozer of a business idea." Gitis describes Central Corridor as a "transit reduction project" because the draft EIS proposes reducing Route 16 and 50 bus service along University.

Several groups, including area district councils, are raising concerns about the plan's current mile between station stops along University Avenue. The stops are at Raymond Avenue, Fairview Avenue, Snelling Avenue, Lexington Parkway, Dale Street and Rice Street. District councils commenting on Central Corridor want to see more stops. Merriam Park Community Council would like to see a stop added at Cleveland Avenue. Summit-University and Thomas-Dale community councils want stops added at Western and Victoria.

MPCC believes that Central Corridor needs to serve residents of the neighborhoods around University Avenue, said Community Organizer Theresa Heiland. That can best be done by adding stops.

But more stops add to travel time, according to consultants who are working with the Central Corridor Coordinating Committee. In April the committee heard a report indicating that as travel time increases along Central Corridor, ridership is lost. Reducing travel time affects the cost-effective index the federal government uses to rank and fund transit projects.

Another concern several speakers raised is impacts Central Corridor could have on existing University bus service. The draft EIS suggests that transit riders transfer to and from local bus service to reach destinations between stops. But Heiland and other speakers noted that the draft EIS calls for less frequent Route 16 service, once Central Corridor is up and running. Transit activist Lisa Lee noted that the loss of bus service, as well as longer waits for service, will cause a hardship for many people who don't have cars.



Pedestrian and bicycle access along and across University Avenue, and access to businesses during construction and Central Corridor operations are other issues raised. Betsy Leach, who chairs the Hamline Midway Coalition's Transportation Committee, said residents want to be assured that they'll have access to local businesses and that a rail line doesn't become a barrier between neighborhoods.

Leach said there are fears that the transit project "is being done to them rather than done for them."

The District Council Collaborative, a group of 11 St. Paul district councils and one Minneapolis neighborhood association, also is concerned about area residents who rely on transit to get around, said Frank Schweigert, a Hamline-Midway resident who chairs the

collaborative. The group hosted several public information meetings in May to educate the public about Central Corridor.

The collaborative supports light rail and has raised several issues to be addressed in preliminary engineering. The importance of connecting bus routes along Central Corridor, effective traffic control along the route, preservation of access to businesses, and the need to address spillover parking in area neighborhoods are among the concerns the collaborative is bringing forward.

The group also wants to see a citizens' advisory committee set up during the preliminary engineering phase of the project. Schweigert said that committee should be a group with "real power to influence decisions."

"Where in this process do we make sure local neighborhoods have a voice?" said Merriam Park Community Council and District Council Collaborative member Anne White. She said that much of the information in the draft EIS is technical jargon and is difficult for the public to understand.

White said that done right, Central Corridor could be an asset to area neighborhoods. But her fear is that the project's goals will be lost in the scramble to obtain the \$840 million in funding needed for the project and in the push to "get 'er done."

MENARDS®

Manager Trainee

Great benefits and earning potential. Career opportunities available upon completion of training program. Bachelor's degree in a business field required. Must be open to relocation. Additional \$2.50 per hour for weekend hours.

Morning Stock Crew

Positions Available: 5 A.M. - 9 A.M. No nights. No holidays. additional \$2.50 per hour for weekend hours. Contact General Manager or HR Coordinator at Menards.

Apply in person at:

MENARDS®

2005 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104

Check us out online at: www.midwaycomomonitor.com

Summer's Always Perfect at the YMCA



Special Summer Memberships Memorial Day to Labor Day.
Enroll May 22nd through June 30th.
Join up and jump in the fun!

Midway Family YMCA
1761 University Avenue • Saint Paul • 651-646-4557

Y150
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Future of 500 jobs at Rock-Tenn's Midway plant remain uncertain

By JANE MCCLURE

Saving 500 jobs at Rock-Tenn's Midway paper recycling plant means finding a permanent new source of energy—soon. The plant loses its 5.5-mile long steam line and steam power in mid-2007. The possibility that a new energy source could be refuse-derived fuel (RDF) prompts questions about plant emissions, conflicts with recycling programs and the environmental repercussions of burning garbage. Rock-Tenn, St. Paul Port Authority and city officials met with Merriam Park Community Council's Land Use Committee and neighborhood residents May 17 to discuss those issues. The company agreed to set up a community advisory council.

"We are downwind of Rock-Tenn, so there are concerns about the future fuel source," said Land Use Committee Chairperson Jim Marti.

Neighborhood residents at the meeting asked for more information on plant emissions, both from the fuel oil plant and any potential garbage burning. Barb Thoman, who lives in Merriam Park, said a study of air quality if needed before any changes are made at Rock-Tenn. "There are already 27,000 vehicles per day on Cretin Avenue and 175,000 on Interstate 94," she said. Residents are concerned that increasing motor vehicle emissions, coupled with any change in emissions from the plant, will further erode air quality.

The need to find a new energy source comes at a difficult point for Rock-Tenn and the recycled paper industry, said Rock-Tenn's Steve Haselman. At one point this spring, local Rock-Tenn officials weren't sure if the parent company would even

keep the Midway plant open.

"Our industry is in a recession," Haselman said. Foreign competition, especially from China, is hurting U.S. paper recyclers. "So this doesn't come at a good time. It puts us in a bind."

"One thing we're very concerned about is that Rock-Tenn not shut down," said Port Authority Vice President Lorrie Louder. Losing Rock-Tenn's jobs, on the heels of Ford Motor Company's closing its Highland Park plant, would be "devastating" for the city.

Environmental advocates also want to see Rock-Tenn stay open, but not with garbage as a fuel source. One organization raising objections is Eureka Recycling, which operates curbside recycling programs, neighborhood cleanups and other waste reduction programs for the City of St. Paul. Eureka Recycling Executive Director Susan Hubbard is objecting to a lack of public discussion about RDF and lack of funds to study feasibility of other energy options. Although Rock-Tenn has been discussed fuel alternatives for the past few years, Hubbard said Eureka only learned recently of those discussions.

"You don't know what is in the trash so you don't know what you're burning," Hubbard said. One byproduct of RDF burning is dioxin, which is a known carcinogen.

Hubbard said burning trash as a fuel source is likely to generate strong community opposition. "Do we have to go through a discussion about whether it's a good idea to burn trash when the community says it's not?"

Hubbard wants Rock-Tenn and Port Authority officials to look at using clean biomass,

such as wood waste or agricultural products, as an energy source. She is concerned that the current studies Rock-Tenn and the Port Authority are doing are skewed toward using RDF. Haselman said the technology for a power plant could be used for either of the fuel sources.

Rock-Tenn and Port Authority officials say they are still considering fuel sources other than garbage, such as wood waste or biomass. But in St. Paul, waste wood—including branches and logs from county compost sites, is already claimed by District En-

tal studies of a new power plant have to start soon.

"If Rock-Tenn goes under, where would newspapers that I put out at my curb go?" asked Land Use Committee Member Curt Decker. Hubbard by saying that Eureka currently doesn't contract with Rock-Tenn to take St. Paul's recycled paper. Instead, most paper collected here goes to out-of-state paper mills.

Rock-Tenn, which began operations as Waldorf Paper Products in 1908, is the Midwest's largest paper recycling plant. The plant processes about 50 percent

2007; the current High Bridge plant will be torn down in 2008. The new plant is under construction.

Rock-Tenn's interim power source will be an on-site plant that uses fuel oil. But the costs of fuel oil or natural gas as a power source are high and could be strikes against efforts to keep the St. Paul plant economically viable.

Under a best-case scenario, a new power source for Rock-Tenn would begin operations in 2011. But Rock-Tenn and Port Authority officials note there are many unresolved questions about a new power plant. No site has been selected, although Rock-Tenn's 42 acres of Midway property are a possibility. Rock-Tenn would prefer not to own the plant, but instead buy power from it.

A new power plant could be part of a larger West Midway district energy system, an idea that has been discussed for several years. Anne Hunt, who oversees environmental policy for Mayor Chris Coleman, said the mayor is excited about the possibilities of a biomass facility for the Midway. Four years ago University UNITED hosted a conference on that idea. But finding grants to study such a proposal, let alone build a \$140-million plant, has been a challenge.

If RDF is used at Rock-Tenn, it most likely would come from the NRG plant at Newport. About 20 years ago, Ramsey and Washington counties worked with Xcel Energy to build an RDF plant there. The plant has the capacity to produce 460 tons of RDF per year. The fuel, which looks like gray fluff, is used at converted Xcel Energy coal-burning plants in Red Wing and Mankato.

The counties are interested in finding more markets for RDF and have signed letters of support for Rock-Tenn in its quest for funding for a power plant. When the counties built the Newport plant, state law allowed counties to mandate that all garbage generated in the counties be taken to the facility. But the Minnesota Supreme Court struck down the solid waste designation laws a decade ago, and the counties have had to subsidize the plant since then as more garbage is taken to landfills.

Although the Newport plant was considered cutting-edge when it was built, use of refuse-derived fuel has fallen out of favor due to emissions and the impact on the overall solid waste stream. "Refuse-derived fuel directly competes with recycling," Hubbard said. "Everything in your trash is recyclable or compostable." After a recent successful pilot project in Highland Park, Eureka is preparing to do citywide recycling of organic waste. That would allow residents to recycle everything from orange peels to pizza boxes in closed curbside containers.

"You don't know what is in the trash so you don't know what you're burning."

- Eureka Recycling Executive Director Susan Hubbard

ergy and used to generate steam downtown. Without systems in place to collect and transport metro area or statewide wood waste or clean agricultural biomass from rural Minnesota, it's very difficult for Rock-Tenn to plan to use such fuel sources.

"The problem is, there just isn't any infrastructure to make that work," said Rock-Tenn Plant Manager Jack Greenshields. And with a goal of opening a new power plant as soon as 2011, there isn't time to put that infrastructure together. Environmen-

of Minnesota's recycled paper.

Since 1983 Rock-Tenn's power has come from Xcel Energy's High Bridge Plant. The steam line is most visible along Ayd Mill Road and the CP Railroad tracks. The steam is used to generate electricity. This source of energy will be gone when Xcel opens a new natural gas-fired High Bridge plant to replace its coal-fired plant. With the current plant will go the ability to generate steam Rock-Tenn needs. The actual shutoff of the high-pressure steam is expected in mid-



Allstate.

You're in good hands.

Doris Menne
Allstate Insurance Company

1575 W. Minnehaha Ave
(Corner of Snelling and Minnehaha)
St. Paul, MN 55104

DorisMenne@allstate.com

Auto • Home • Life
FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

If you think you're paying too much
for your insurance, call me for a **FREE**
no obligation evaluation.

651-917-2445 • Fax: 651-917-2441

MN Ins. Lic. #2010513



Central Baptist Church

420 Roy Street N., St. Paul

651-646-2751

Dr. Ronald Saari, Senior Pastor

SUNDAYS AT CENTRAL

June 11, 18 and 25

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

Classes for all ages

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesday Activities

SUMMER KICK-OFF

6:00-8:30 p.m. Youth (Junior High and Senior High)

7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study/Prayer time

Daily Child Care

6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Care for children ages 6 weeks through Pre-Kindergarten

Summer Care for Kindergarten through age 12

Call: 651-646-2846

Second phase of Midway Parkway/Arlington street work in full swing

By DEBORAH BROTZ

If you're stuck in traffic on Snelling and you're trying to avoid the congestion by diverting to side streets, think again. The second phase of the Midway Parkway/Arlington street work, which began in April, is in full swing. Street reconstruction is being done from Arlington to Hoyt and from Snelling to Sheldon.

"We're revising the storm sewer system to better handle rains because of flooding up there," said Dan Haak, project engineer of the Arlington/Pascal

Street Paving Project for St. Paul Public Works. "We're taking out small pipes and putting in big pipes."

Streets are being reconstructed in that area with new curbs, new driveway aprons, new street lighting, new asphalt pavement, and new boulevard sod.

"Everything will be brand-new when we're done out there," said Haak. "This is a huge project. We did part of it last year and will do the other part this summer."

The street work is being

done because most of that area didn't have any curbs.

"They were the old, oiled street style," said Haak. "We have about 100 miles of streets that were the old, oiled style without curbs. We do 10 to 12 miles each year. It's quite a program."

For the first time, the Capitol Region Watershed District and St. Paul Public Works is doing a project together. They are putting in eight rain gardens.

"There's one great big one at Hamline and Midway," said Haak. "It's the largest rain gar-

den. The Capitol Region Watershed District is supposed to start planting that on June 3."

Rain gardens are important to help keep Como Lake clean.

"They help filter water before it gets to Como Lake," said Haak. "The idea is to try to get as much water to infiltrate into the ground so less water is going to Como."

The less water going to Como Lake, the better.

"The more water you send to Como, the more flooding and pollutants you get," said Haak.

"Rain gardens keep the water in a local area where it falls."

The Midway Parkway/Arlington street work won't be completed by State Fair time.

"It probably won't be done until September or October," said Haak. "There is potential for disruption during the State Fair. We're trying to get as much done as possible to keep the disruption to a minimum during the fair. We have to have Midway Parkway, Hamline, and Hoyt open during the fair. All those are heavily used during the fair."

Fancy Dance

Continued from page 8

In addition to applying black and white lightning bolts to his face, Yazzie's vibrant red, green, yellow, and blue outfit for the Fancy Dance, which he calls his Saturday Night Special, consists of beadwork, feathers, and a head roach made up of porcupine hair. With two eagle feathers on the top, there are two bustles, made up of different colored macaw feathers. At the end of the feathers is horsehair.

Yazzie wraps sheep bells on his leg right below the knee to help him keep in time with the rhythm of the drum.

"The outfit weighs about 8 pounds," he said. "It can be heavy

especially when you dance to an upbeat tempo."

Michael Jordan's fancy footwork on the basketball court inspired Yazzie to approach dancing as a sport. He guzzles Gatorade and loads up on pasta, studies videotape of his own performances, and picks up new steps watching MTV.

Yazzie is excited about his June 20 performance at the Hamline Midway Library.

"I'll be rocking the world," he said. "I'm doing the high-energy Fancy Dance, telling the history of the dance and where it came from and my story, how I started dancing and where it has led me."

Never turning down any place where he is asked to perform, Yazzie says it's a way for him to let the world know about Native Americans.

"It's my way of letting the world know, we as Native Americans are alive and well," he said.

GFCDC Executive Director Kris Graham, told City Council members that the average annual median income in Frogtown is \$29,000, below the \$78,000 area median income. Frogtown needs to balance out its population and its housing stock, to bring in higher-income residents. The neighborhood is also trying to bring in a high-quality housing development to Dale Street, which the GFCDC and other neighborhood groups consider to be Frogtown's "Main Street."

-Compiled by Jane McClure

Midway in a minute

Continued from page 2

City Council members debated what an appropriate level of subsidy is and what income groups the units should be sold to. Frogtown is seen as already having a fairly high level of low-income housing and a need to provide more housing choices, said Interim Planning and Economic Director Tony Schertler.

Ethnic businesses

Continued from page 3

Rettman said the small ethnic business owner is concerned how he or she will fit into the development design of light rail. "They worry that they will be displaced," she said.

"We must make a commitment that there will be zero per cent business closures due to light rail," Rettman said.

Rep. Cy Thao (DFL) said his biggest concern is whether the mom and pop businesses will survive the construction phase of light rail.

"Their margin of profit is pretty small, and I don't know whether they can sustain very long," he said.

He said many Asian businesses fill a certain niche, with most of

their customers being Asian American. "Will light rail increase their customer base, which is at a maximum right now?" he asked. "There are lingering questions."

Thao said he is in favor of light rail for the sake of the whole region, but he is concerned about the impact it will have on Asian businesses.

However, Bui and his family are no strangers to adversity, and will deal with the impact of light rail when it arrives.

Bui, whose name means treasure, said this has been a tough year for his family. His in-laws were ill, and his brothers came to live with him when Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans.

"If the business goes well, I hope they can stay and go to school here," he said.

He is counting on the loyalty of his customers to prevail, should the building of light rail adversely affect his restaurant while construction is ongoing.

"We're still retaining our way of life. We're able to retain our culture and keep it alive."

In addition to learning some steps of Fancy Dancing, children get a lot out of watching Yazzie's 45 minutes to one hour of performance.

"They get a sense of energy and education and a way to have fun learning something they have never tried before," said Yazzie.

Ginny Toms, library associate part-time at Hamline Midway Branch, expects Yazzie's performance to be very enjoyable. He was featured in a Smithsonian Magazine November Issue 2002 article on the art of Fancy Dance.

"While some people may have seen this before, this may be others first experience seeing Native American dancing," she said. "This is something out of the ordinary. We try to present things that will catch children's attention. We want them to have good memories that they will associate with the library and the world of books."

Yazzie's performance at the

Hamline Midway Branch is important in making the Native American community more visible in St. Paul.

"We try to bring in different ethnic groups to perform so people have different experiences within St. Paul, which is done at all our branches," said Toms. "The Summer Reading Program has been going on for over 40 years."

Yazzie's dance style expresses the social and philosophical value of his culture.

"It's a way to keep my culture and my art alive," he said. "I see dancing as an art. It's a way to make my people proud and to make my family proud of who I am. It's important to me to keep my culture alive and as a way of making my people proud."

With a family, Kaye, his wife, who is Lakota from South Dakota; his son, Jessup, 7, who has been Fancy Dancing since the age of 2; and his daughter, Samarra, who is about a month old, Yazzie has big dreams for the future.

"I would like to produce my own dance show, whether it be

New location. Same great care.



HealthPartners Center for International Health
has moved just down the road to the
HealthPartners Midway Clinic.

Get the same great care and more convenient access to:

- Pediatrics
- Laboratory
- Radiology/Imaging
- Pharmacy
- Bus Line – Metro Transit routes 16 and 50S
- Free Parking
- On-site interpreters

For more information, call 651-999-4740



Just a few minutes west of Regions Hospital. Go west on University Ave. and turn left at Dunlap St. The clinic is on the right with free parking in back.

HealthPartners®
Center for International Health
451 N. Dunlap St. • St. Paul

'Beep' ball

Continued from page 8

"Welcome to my world," said Kevin Moldenhauer, one of the players. Moldenhauer plays beep ball on weekends, but teaches high school juniors and seniors computer skills during the day.

Every Saturday the group of men and women gather at this field to enjoy the experience of baseball. Some have never had sight, and others can remember a time when their vision was better.

"The first time I went up to bat as a blind person, I sensed the same anticipation that coursed through my veins as I waited for the pitcher's throw as when I had more sight," said Clarence Schadegg.

He went on to say that the crack of the bat hitting the ball, the cheers of the crowd and the smell of hot dogs cooking on charcoal grills are all a part of the game.



Coach Dennis Stern. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Beep ball was invented in 1964 by Telecom Pioneers of America, a service organization of Bell Telephone.

"It was created to make American's favorite pastime possible for

all visually impaired and totally blind athletes," said Stern.

Tom Heintl, who has played beep ball internationally for 31 years, said those involved with creating the game were also involved in technology for the space program. "The shock absorption qualities and insulation of the ball were designed for the shuttle system," he said.

Heintl said that although over the years he has gotten a couple of black eyes from being hit by ball, there are very limited injuries due to the game itself.

A Minnesota beep ball team was formed when Stern read about the game in a Lion's newspaper. The current team was started about three years ago. It is sponsored by the St. Paul Midway Lions.

The team frequently plays business people wearing blindfolds at a Saint Paul Saints game. According to Stern, Mayor Chris Coleman was one of the players last year.

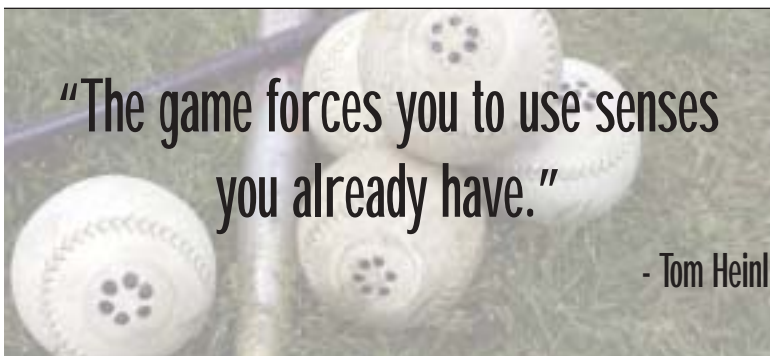
The local team also plans to watch eight of the top beep ball teams in the country play at Bowling Brook, IL, in June.

"The game forces you to use senses you already have," Heintl said. "You have to use those senses in a specific way. It motivates you to feel freer."

He said the team is always looking for additional volunteers or players. Anyone interested can call Heintl at 651-489-8609.



Jerry Lindau runs to the sound-emitting pylon that is first base. (Photo by Terry Faust)



offering a unique selection of wine, beer & spirits at affordable prices

the little wine shoppe

MONDAY - THURSDAY
10:00AM - 8:00PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
10:00AM - 10:00PM

CLOSED SUNDAY

Located at Como & Carter in
Milton Square
(between Micauber's Bookstore & All Seasons Cleaners)

2236 Carter Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
(651) 645-5178

off street parking available

log onto our website for upcoming store events:
www.thelittlewineshoppe.com

COMMUNITY
Ice Cream Social
A 100-year-old Lyngblomsten tradition!

L Tuesday, July 11
2:00 - 8:00 PM
Lyngblomsten Courtyard
Midway Parkway & Pascal Street, St. Paul

Food at old-fashioned prices, music, entertainment, and games for ALL ages. EVERYONE from the community is invited. Bring your families, friends, and neighbors! Hymn Sing outdoors at 6 PM and the St. Anthony Park Band at 7 PM.

(651) 646-2941
www.lyngblomsten.org

SIDEWALK SALE at the Lyngblomsten Gift Shop starting at NOON

TWIN CITIES RISE!

Frustrated with trying to find a job? Desire to update your work skills? Ready to make some changes to obtain new skills and get a job?

Twin Cities RISE! a job training program can help you obtain marketable life and job skills that can lead to a career position earning \$20,000 or more, plus benefits.

Make an investment in your future by calling today! In Minneapolis (612) 338-0295 or in St. Paul (651) 603-8520.

Gardening on the Avenue event draws a crowd

Maniko Solheid carefully planted beautiful flowers in a planter outside of Moxie Hair Salon on Snelling Avenue Saturday May 20. Volunteers participated in "Gardening on the Avenue" to help create a more welcoming, green and beautiful Hamline-Midway neighborhood.

In recent years several of the planters on Snelling Avenue have been taken care of by businesses and individuals. However, about a dozen out of the 35 planters needed to be planted and cared for. In an effort to beautify and green the Hamline-Midway neighborhood, residents and business owners participated in "Gardening on the Avenue" Saturday May 20 by volunteering their time planting beautiful flowers in the dozen planters along Snelling Avenue.

"Gardening on the Avenue" was spearheaded by the Hamline-Midway Environmental Group to support all 35 planters to be planted and cared for with a consistent watering service to keep the plants healthy and alive. The Hamline-Midway Coalition, Hamline University and local businesses participated in raising funds to purchase plants for the dozen planters, and to pay for the city to water all 35 planters on Snelling from Hamline University to University Avenue throughout the entire growing season.

"Gardening on the Avenue" will continue throughout the summer. Volunteers are needed to gather monthly at 9 a.m. every 3rd Saturday at the Hamline-Midway Coalition Building to take care of the plants. Dates are June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, and October 21 or until end of growing season.

The Hamline-Midway Environmental Group meets regularly every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Hamline-Midway Coalition Building from 7-8:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Mike for more information at mike_textler@hotmail.com or RSVP if you would like to participate with "Gardening on the Avenue."

Classifieds

Monitor Want Ads are now 80 cents per word. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. \$8.00 minimum on all classifieds. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classifieds are accepted over the phone with credit card payment only (\$16 minimum order). Want ads must be in the Monitor before July 3 for the July 13 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information.

ADDITIONS

Kustom additions, kitchens, bathrooms, hardwood floor sanding, patio decks, garages, vinyl siding, sheetrock, taping, sanding, texturing, expert workmanship. Marty. 612-724-8819. 6-06

BUY AND SELL

Vintage lights, house hardware. Doors, tubs, radiators, etc. Also furniture hardware 651-644-9270. 5-06

EMPLOYMENT

Children's Music Director - 10 hours per week; Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Primary responsibility for 3 children's choirs. Contact Como Park Lutheran Church at 651-646-7127 for a job description and application or visit www.comoparklutheran.org. 6-06

Nursery Director/Caregiver - 3.5 hours per week; Sunday mornings. Candidates must be at least 21 years of age, CPR certified. Contact Como Park Lutheran Church at 651-646-7127 for a job description and application or visit www.comoparklutheran.org. Looking for delivery carriers to deliver the Monitor approximately 3 to 4 hours per month. Pay by route. Great for supplemental income! Call 651-458-8053, ask for Lloyd. 12-03

HAULING

Hauling/Rubbish. Small trees cut down or trimmed. Licensed and insured. 612-869-8697. 6-06

INSTRUCTION

Learn Spanish in relaxed, friendly environment. All levels, private/semi-private lessons. On Snelling Ave. btn. Blair and Fry. www.spanishclassmn.com; 651-644-4556. 6-06

LAWN SERVICE

Lawn mowing. Free estimates. 651-770-0802. 6-06

Kern Lawn Service - total maintenance, lawn, trees and shrubs, 20 years experience, John (cell) 612-328-6893. 3-07

Complete lawn service. 11 years of experience in your area. Jeff. 651-695-1230. 6-06

MOVING/HAULING

Moving/Hauling/Small demo/Clean-up. Prompt, dependable, fair cost. Roger 612-616-1987. 12-06

MUSIC INSTRUCTION

Fun, affordable & professional Private Lessons: Violin, Piano, Guitar, Banjo, Cello, Viola, Bass, Voice, Mandolin, Fiddle, & Harp. We make music fun! wwwSimplyStringsStudio.com 651-457-1724. 3 Metro Locations. 5-06

ODD JOBS

Will do odd jobs this summer. College student will help with household chores, heavy lifting, and lawn maintenance. E-mail Adam at arnelson@csbsju.edu or call 651-283-9636. 8-06

PLUMBING

Change pipe to copper. Replace toilets, sinks, tubs/shower, water heater, etc. Ceramic tile. Ad a new basement bath. Terry. 612-306-7878. 7-06

REAL ESTATE

Lake Lots For Sale - Rare opportunity. 2+ acre lake lots near Siren, Wisconsin. Only 90 minutes from St. Paul. Call Betty Knutson at ReMAX Northwoods Realty, toll-free 877-648-0648.

PAINTING

Painting - specializing in wallpaper removal. Average house \$600, average 3 rooms \$200, average garage \$200. Jim 651-698-0840. 7-06

Interior/exterior painting, enameling, spray textured ceilings, plaster patching, free estimates. Bob. 651-633-5565. 10-06

PIANO TUNING

Piano Tuning & Repair. Registered Piano Tuner & Technician. 651-489-3181. CharlesFruhstuck@mac.com. 6-06

Quality piano tuning and repair, reasonable rates. Call Robert Clough, at 612-722-7586 or email robtclough@aol.com. 3-07-00

PICTURE FRAMING

Custom Picture Framing. Be'Monte Frames. Call 651-647-6681. Ask about our special dimensional photo framing. We frame your memories. Since 1992. 7-06

SERVICES

Zappa Construction and Handyman Services. Additions, remodel, mechanical, drain cleaning. Free estimates. Quality work at an affordable price. Stu - 651-271-6925. 8-06

Prestige Concrete & Driveway Company. Garage Slabs, steps, floors, sidewalks, patios, custom work-Jim, 651-290-2689. 4-07

Landscape, Garden, Starters: we deliver composted manure, and all landscape products, rock, soil and sand. We accept brush, yard waste, Kern Landscape Resources, 915 No. Albert, 651-646-1553. 3-07

Tree Trimming/Removal. Free estimates. Reasonable prices. Call Jonathan 651-497-6893. 6-06

Chimney Repair - tuckpointing, rebuilding, damper repairs & replacements, brick, foundation & masonry, raincaps, roof repair. Leske Company—for 90 years—651-488-9668. 3-07

RAM Handyman Services, LLC, reasonable rates, no job too small. www.ramhandyman.com Rich 651-485-9680. 2-07

Professional Exterior and Interior Painting, wall repair and plastering; ceiling texturing, wallpaper-hanging, moderate prices; free estimates, licensed, bonded, insured; Merriam Park Painting, 651-224-3660, 651-552-2090. 1-03

WANTED

Wanted: Previously viewed VCR video tape donations for PHA Sr. Hi-rise. Tax credit available. 651-647-0471. 6-06

WANTED TO BUY

Top cash paid. Older furniture, crocks, glassware, beer items, much miscellaneous. 651-227-2469 (anything). 12-06

Paying the most cash for your furniture, dishes, glassware, knicknacks, costume jewelry, antiques, pictures, lamps, household items etc. I make housecalls. Call Mary 612-729-3110. 6-06

WRITING

Writing a paper for admission to Harvard? A resume for your company's web site? A journalist with 25 years experience is available for assisting folks who need help in writing. Reasonable rates. Call 651-486-9760. 12-02

TSCHIDA BROS. PLUMBING

- Remodeling & Repairing
- Water Heaters
- Discount For Seniors



1036 FRONT AVE.,
LICENSED • BONDED
LIC. NO. 7212

651-488-2596

KERN LANDSCAPE RESOURCES

kernlandscaping.com
Environmental processing
and landscape supplies

We Deliver All Products

Start off your spring garden.
We have composted manure

We Accept:
Brush
Yard
Waste
Stumps
Sod &
Soil

We Also Sell:
• Decorative
Landscape Mulches
• Decorative
Landscape Rock
• Soil Amendments
(compost)
• Top Soil & Sand

Pierce Butler & 915 No. Albert
(3 blocks east of Snelling) 651-646-1553
M-F 8am - 5:30pm Sat 10am - 4pm

CHIMNEY REPAIR

- St. Paul's Oldest Chimney Repair Co. -

- TUCKPOINTING & REBUILDING
- DAMPER REPAIR & REPLACEMENT
- BRICK, FOUNDATION & MASONRY WORK
- FIREPLACE REPAIR
- RAINCAPS & SCREENS
- FLASHING & ROOF REPAIR

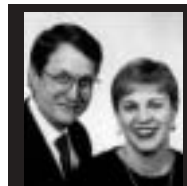
We Stop
Leaky
Chimneys

LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED

OVER 90
YEARS
COMBINED
EXPERIENCE

Water Repellent
Treatment
Stops Leaks
and Deterioration

Leske Co
651-488-9668



MY HUSBAND IS AMAZING!
He Builds and Fixes almost anything!

professional handyman services
Russell Dedrick • Remodeling •
651 776-1780 • Additions •
State Lic# 20113561 • Renovations •



Randy Irish - Master Painter

Fine Painting and Repair Services

Interior and Exterior
30 years experience • References

Call 651-336-3846 for a free estimate

Nilles Builders, Inc.
525 Ohio St.
Additions • Remodeling
Renovation • Windows & Siding
General Contracting
Licensed • Bonded • Insured #4690
651-222-8701

Merriam Park Painting

- Exterior & Interior
Painting - Enameling
- Ceiling Texturing
- Wallpapering
- Free Estimates



Call Ed, 651-224-3660 or Norm, 651-552-2090

ROOFING
Nilles Builders, Inc.
Full Warranty
Licensed • Bonded • Insured #4690
651-222-8701

NormanDale Electric Co.



Residential, Commercial
& Industrial

651-644-0655

Norman D. Bartlett Free Est.

PRESTIGE CONCRETE & DRIVEWAY CO.

• Garage Slabs

- Steps • Floors • Sidewalks
- Patios • Custom Work • Footings
- Exposed Aggregate

FREE ESTIMATES

Licensed-Bonded-Insured

CALL JIM

651-290-2689

SERVING METRO AREA

Licensed for St. Paul City
Walks, Curbs & Approaches

Next deadline: July 3
Next issue: July 13

Zappa Construction and Handyman Services

Additions • Remodel • Mechanical • Drain Cleaning

FREE ESTIMATES

Quality Work at an Affordable Price

Licensed and insured • Lic.# 20546353



Stu - (651) 271-6925

I admit it: I'm a tree hugger. And I was in my element at the Minnesota Festival of Trees, which took place in Como Park near the Lakeside Pavilion on May 20th. This annual arbor celebration was organized by the St. Paul City Forestry Department.

There was food from Black Bear, music by the Teddy Bear Band, photo ops with a friendly foam character called Elmer the Elm, ceremonial tree plantings by local dignitaries, Lakota drummers, and Crystal Norcross preformed the incredibly complex 21-hoop-dance. Anyone could go on an aerial bucket ride and look out over the treetops to the lake beyond.

Along the nearby shoreline, I joined a few volunteers planting dogwood, elderberry, and ninebark shrubs. For two hours we dug in the mud and debated the pedigree of the mulberry seedlings nearby. Were they native red mulberries or non-native hybrids? Should we pull them up as invasives or was the sweet taste of mulberry pie grounds for amnesty? Never one to take arborcide lightly, I voted to "Save the Mulberries."

Near the Hamm Falls, the Society of Commercial Arborists were instructing kids how to climb trees with equipment that looked more familiar to the sports of rock climbing and spelunking. Children in harnesses were pulled high into an oak tree and were then encouraged to repel back down to the ground. Their nervous exhilaration was obvious, and I wished I could have gone up there myself.

By the time we reach adulthood most of us learn to keep our feet on the ground. Who, at any age, would climb into a 100-foot tall spruce tree during a violent storm, as philosopher/writer John Muir liked to do? "The slender tips fairly flapped and swished in the passionate torrent . . . while I clung with muscles firm braced, like a bobolink on a reed," he wrote in 1894. What inspired insanity! Still, I'd rather just sit on a low branch of an oak during fair weather. However, there were a few daring competitors at the Festival of Trees that looked like they could have joined John Muir up in that swaying spruce tree.

To the casual observer, the festival's Tree Climbing Championship looked like an extreme sport for the foolhardy, but it's serious business for professional tree trimmers.

It was a perfect afternoon for stretching out in the warm grass and watching someone else tempting the fates out on a limb. Actually, the competitors were helmeted and securely rigged in climbers' saddles so only a major equipment failure would have put them in serious danger. Yet, as I watched each climber ascend up a majestic 70-foot tall hackberry tree, I couldn't help feeling a little queasy.

Rebecca Richardson was the first climber in the Masters Challenge event (the last event of the festival). On her first throw, she was able to secure a line over a sturdy limb some 50 feet up into the hackberry. She shimmed up into the tree by wrapping her legs around the rope and thrusting her body upward. Once she reached the top, she maneuvered her way around the tree's



Neighborhood Naturalist

By DEB ROBINSON

Arbor ardor at the Festival of Trees

crown to reach four different bells, which she rang with a pruning saw. That accomplished, Richardson had 20 minutes to return to earth and remove all of her equipment from the tree. Through it all, she was being scrutinized by judges who tallied her performance on her safety procedures and her technique.

In the blink of an eye, Richardson dropped out of the

tree. She landed safely on the ground to a round of cheers and applause from the small but enthusiastic audience. It wasn't a reckless leap—she showed faith in her skills, her equipment, and the tree itself. She knew the strength of the branch that held her lifeline.

Rebecca Richardson's bio said she started climbing trees when she was a youngster and it showed. Her performance, along

with all the other festival competitors, volunteers, and sponsors provided inspiration for a future generation of tree enthusiasts.

As we walked back towards the pavilion, I saw a child around five years old climbing a 16-foot ash tree. A young man, presumably the child's father, was boosting the adventurous little climber up into the swaying sapling . . . and another tree

hugger was born.

Endnotes: *30th ISA International Tree Climbing Competition will be held in Mpls July 29 & 30. More info: www.isa-arbor.com *Como Lake Waterfest, a free event (June 17 from noon to 4pm), will include an educational Tree Trek at 1 p.m. led by tree expert, Jason Smith. Go to the tent south of the Como Lakeside Pavilion. For more info: 645-4393. *The Capitol Region Watershed District is sponsoring an urban natural resource photo contest for their 2007 calendar. The deadline is Oct.13, 2006. Photos must be taken within the CRWD boundaries. For more info: Debbie at 651-644-8888 or Debbie@capitolregionwd.org *To contact this writer: dmrobinson@bitstream.net



Rebecca Richardson starts her climb in the Masters Challenge. (Photo by Deb Robinson)



Kids received tree-climbing instructions at the Minnesota Festival of Trees. (Photo by Deb Robinson)

Fun is Good!

Your Noisy Neighbors Are Having a Party...13 Times in June!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 EP 7:05	2 CB 7:05	3 CB 7:05
4 CB 7:05	5 LIN 7:05	6 LIN 7:05	7 LIN 7:05	8 LIN 7:05	9 SF 7:05	10 SF 7:05
11 SF 1:05	12 LIN 7:05	13 LIN 7:05	14 LIN 7:05	15	16 SC 7:05	17 SC 7:05
18 SC 3:05	19 STJ 7:05	20 STJ 7:05	21 STJ 7:05	22	23 SC 7:05	24 SC 7:05
25 SC 1:05	26 SC 7:05	27 PEN 7:05	28 PEN 1:05	29 PEN 7:05	30 LIN 7:05	

☒ Home
☐ Away

Subject to Change

Tickets begin at \$3 for kids and \$4 for adults.

Yes, you CAN get Saints Tickets! Call for tickets, order online, or just show up on gameday and we'll get you in...guaranteed!

651-644-6659 saintsbaseball.com

ATTENTION UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, FACULTY & INVESTORS!!

Great Income & Rental Potential!

3 Blocks from Hamline University!!

1305 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul **\$199,000**

2BD, 2 BA Main & 1 BD, 1BA Upper.

New Carpet, Updated Electrical, Fresh Paint and More!!

Call Troy Ziesmer, Realtor, CBBurnet, (612) 396-8769

www.1305Hewitt.com