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What's INSIDE

Feature.....3



Residents set out to 'paint the town'

Feature.....8



Midway groups make a difference

News.....13



Crosby Block gets a chance

Feature.....14



Hope Chest store battles cancer

New building named in former mayor's honor...

Latimer reflects on role in Job Corps' turbulent start

By JAN WILLMS

"Crime will rise! Insurance rates will increase! Property values will fall!"

These three fearful refrains were ringing loud and clear when the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center was first being proposed in Saint Paul in 1977.

George Latimer, who was mayor at the time, remembers the controversy well.

The Department of Labor wanted to place a federal Job Corps center at the old Bethel College and Seminary site at Snelling Avenue and Arlington Streets in Saint Paul.

The Job Corps, which was designed to house, feed, train and pay unemployed and unskilled youth had begun nationally in 1964. And now it was coming to Minnesota.

Latimer took time out last week from his busy schedule as a labor arbitrator and visiting professor of urban studies at Macalester College to reflect back on a time when it was questionable whether the Job Corps would even come to Saint Paul.

As the Hubert H. Humphrey Center celebrates its 25th year by naming its new cafeteria after him September 27, Latimer recalls a time when feelings for and against the center were passionate and compelling.

Latimer had been mayor for a year when the Job Corps site in Saint Paul was proposed, and his support for it became a lightning rod for controversy about the Job Corps coming to the Como neighborhood.

"I think in local and national governance, there are all kinds of issues that can be negotiated for decent outcomes," he said recently when asked about the Job Corps Center's beginnings. "There are only a very few issues you are definitely for or against."

Like many issues during his years in office, Latimer took a position on the Job Corps and didn't waffle due to political pressure.

The Job Corps and what it entailed was one issue Latimer was strictly for.

"This was central to my value system," he said. "I was untroubled by the decision I made. I have made accommodations on many



Former Mayor George Latimer said he knew the values in Saint Paul were very supportive of what the Job Corps was about when it was first proposed back in 1977. He says he knew in his core then and now that the people of St. Paul believe in this kind of thing. The Humphrey Job Corps Center, 1480 Snelling Avenue North, will be honoring Latimer by naming a new building after him at their 25th anniversary celebration on September 27. (Photo by Terry Faust)

issues during my career, but education and job opportunities are too important."

"By the time the Job Corps issue came around, I knew my own community of Saint Paul pretty darn well," Latimer added.

"I could say with authority the values in Saint Paul were very supportive of what the Job Corps was about," Latimer said. "I knew in my core then and now that the people of this city believe in this kind of thing."

But not everyone felt the same way as Latimer.

"Some were fearful who lived right around the area where the Center would be built," Latimer said. "And others preyed on that fear."

Initially, when the proposal was first aired that a Job Corps site be built in Minnesota, there

were meetings between Gov. Rudy Perpich's office and various prime sponsors. In a late April 1977 meeting the old Bethel College and Seminary site was identified, among others, as a possible location for the Job Corps Center. Two community meetings followed in May, and Latimer sent letters of his support for the Bethel site to Gov. Perpich, Sen. Hubert Humphrey, Rep. Bruce Vento and others involved.

There was not much activity on the proposal from May until September. But in September complaints started being voiced that people living in the Como community did not favor the Bethel site. Concerns were expressed that the people had not had a voice in the decision, in spite of the earlier public meetings in May.

At a raucous meeting held in

October, the concerns were voiced about Job Corps' presence, and the crime increase and lowering of property values that would surely follow in the wake of the Center's construction.

"I knew people had to be assured," Latimer said. "Based on our history, I felt the Job Corps was an idea Saint Paul supported. I was fully aware of the anger and the fear, but I was confident most people believed in what I was doing," he added.

Latimer said the most difficult issue to counter in the discussions was what people talked the least about, racism.

"If you get a group of people in a meeting, it is not likely they would articulate that too many people of color would evoke their fears, yet the brochures put out by the opposition to the Job Corps Center clearly were calculated to raise social fears," Latimer said.

"Then and now, I don't think you get anywhere in a difficult situation by labeling people who are on one side or another," he said. "That's a very dangerous and unproductive course of argumentation, and you get nowhere with it."

Latimer said that he was not familiar with the ethnic composition of the Job Corps at its beginning, but he felt it served a need to provide training for people of all races, especially minorities who haven't had equal opportunities for employment.

"It would be dishonest not to expect you would be reaching young people of color in the Job Corps if you're doing a good job," he said.

During the turbulent times when the Job Corps Center site was being considered, Latimer said the opposition would take a news article about an incident that occurred at a site in Gary, IN, and pass it around. "The ones pushing the fear were beneath contempt," he said.

Latimer said he knew change is a hard thing, but he also knew he was never going to give up.

He said the possibility that the Job Corps proposal would fail was always there.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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BNSF Railway request postponed til mid-Sept.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway's request to construct a new crane maintenance facility has been posted until mid-September. BNSF officials were to appear before the St. Paul Planning Commission Zoning Committee August 31, but sought a postponement to September 14. Any decision by the full Planning Commission won't be made until September 22 at the earliest.

The intermodal yard has generated complaints about noisy operations for years. The yard is north of Newell Park and its surrounding neighborhood. Neighborhood residents and the railroad have also wrangled over expansion of operations. In 1996 a building erected without proper city permits was allowed to remain in place by the Planning Commission, despite protests from neighborhood residents.

The railroad's intermodal facility is on Pierce Butler Route between Snelling and Prior avenues. BNSF needs an enlargement of non-conforming use permit to build the new facility. The building would house cranes used and repaired on the site and would allow the railroad to move the equipment and maintenance work indoors. The building would be located on the north central portion of the property, next to an existing maintenance building. It would be 9,600 square feet in size.

City staff recommend approval of the request, with additional conditions on the permit. One condition is that all work associated with the structure shall be limited to the hours of 6 a.m.-6 p.m. The structure shall be built

with sound insulation or similar materials to abate noise created by the work within the structure.

No work may be brought in from outside of the facility. All work conducted here shall be limited to equipment that is operated by BNSF and its partners at the Pierce Butler site.

A Planning Commission decision will be final unless it is appealed to the City Council.

Proposal for developers sent to Planning

A proposal that would require residential developers to provide park space or pay a fee for park improvements has been sent to a St. Paul Planning Commission committee for review. More than half a dozen people attended an August 11 public hearing on the proposed park land dedication ordinance. The hearing was a continuation of a hearing that began in July.

Three people testified August 11 and the commission received additional letters for and against the ordinance. Proponents say the ordinance would help the city provide badly needed park land when new housing is built but opponents cite potentially high costs, especially for low-income housing projects.

Lexington-Hamline resident and farm in the City community gardening program founder Anna Waschesha, Lowertown resident Judith Morin and Mike Kimball of the Minneapolis Park and recreation Board testified in support of the ordinance August 11. All three spoke of the need to maintain existing green space and provide more park and open space where it is needed.

Kimball told the Planning

Commission that Minneapolis is working on a similar park land dedication ordinance and should be adopting it in the months ahead. He said providing park land with new housing developments will help Minneapolis compete with suburban communities that provide park land when new housing is built there.

The Minneapolis ordinance isn't identical to the St. Paul proposal, which targets larger developments. Minneapolis would require a fee or land dedication if there are any net new housing units created.

Kimball said Minneapolis is also looking at the same issues of a fee or land dedication for affordable housing projects. Some community development corporations have indicated that adding park land or a few would add to project costs.

A Planning Commission committee will review the public hearing comments and bring a recommendation back to the full commission, most likely in late September or October. After the commission makes its recommendation the proposal goes to the St. Paul City Council for a final public hearing and vote.

New adult businesses face moratorium

New adult entertainment businesses face a one-year moratorium when trying to find locations in St. Paul, as a result of regulations adopted by the St. Paul City Council. No members of the public attended an August 16 public hearing on a proposal to enact a moratorium on the establishment of adult entertainment uses or the relocation of such uses.

The council has been advised

by the City Attorney's Office that the city's conditional use permit standards may not be fully applicable to adult entertainment uses.

The council adopted an interim moratorium ordinance July 26. It will be in place until the permanent moratorium is adopted. That moratorium can be in place for up to one year, or until the Planning Commission completes a zoning study and the City Council approves it. State law doesn't allow a moratorium to be extended beyond one year.

Adult entertainment businesses already must meet a variety of zoning regulations, which restrict where such businesses can be located. There are distance requirements from other land uses such as day care centers, schools and places of worship, and distance requirements between adult entertainment businesses. One consequence of the regulations is that any new or relocated adult entertainment businesses would have to be restricted to industrial districts.

The proposed moratorium isn't applicable to R & R Books, which is at 674 University Av. That business is St. Paul's only remaining adult bookstore and video arcade. It is being forced to relocate as a result of a commercial redevelopment project on its block. The city and store owners have been unable to agree on a new store location.

In early July R & R Books filed a lawsuit against the city in U.S. District Court, asking that the city's current adult entertainment zoning regulations be thrown out. R & R Books' attorney successfully argued that the city's current regulations are unconstitutional and restrict free speech. That prompted the need to look at new regulations.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

Latimer

Continued from page 1

"There were plenty of respectable-sounding alternatives to

the Bethel location, and the Department of Labor could not wait forever to establish a site," Latimer said.

But he held firm in his support of the Job Corps being placed in Saint Paul, and that sustained him when angry constituents encircled him at community meetings and threatened to annex the neighborhood to Falcon Heights.

On Dec. 29, 1977, Gov. Perpich conditionally approved the Job Corps Center. This move, however, seemed to trigger even more opposition and a lawsuit. The Como-Falcon Heights Coalition was organized in January 1978 to lead the fight against the Job Corps.

When Gov. Alan Quie came into office, he recommended looking at an airfield in Duluth as the site.

The District Court ruled in favor of the Job Corps being built at the old Bethel site, stating that such a move would not substantially alter the character of the neighborhood and an Environmental Impact Statement was not necessary. Following an appeal, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the District Court's ruling.

Finally, on July 15, 1981, the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps



"I still feel awfully good about this city and its neighborhoods."

- George Latimer

Center opened its doors.

Despite the controversy, Latimer had clung to his belief that the Job Corps Center would be a good thing and eventually gain the respect and support of the community.

"Saint Paul has a number of good souls," he said.

Latimer said he considered himself to be the beneficiary of

many things.

"I ran because I thought the city had great potential, and I was attracted by that notion," he said. "I drew upon the expertise of the City Council, Ruby Hunt, Dave Hozza, Bob Sylvester and Bill Wilson. They were really good."

Latimer himself was approachable, often answering his phone in his office after hours when his secretary had left for the day.

"We didn't have a spokesperson for the mayor," he said. "It was a simpler time. Today things are different."

He said that although he often called the years he worked as mayor "The Golden Years," he considers that in many respects Saint Paul has never been more beautiful or better run than today.

"I still feel awfully good about this city and its neighborhoods," he said. "It's a healthy city, and people are investing themselves in it. I see a sense of community."

As to whether it would be easier or more difficult to start a Job Corps Center in Saint Paul today, Latimer said he just doesn't know.

But then he smiles, and says, "I still have confidence the people in this city would do the right thing."

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Residents, businesses “paint the town” neighborhood by neighborhood



Carly Schmitt is using her artistic talent to beautify the Como neighborhood. Schmitt is currently painting a mural on the west wall of Schroeder's Bar at Como, Dale and Front Street. (Photo by Matt Schmitt)

By SARA SCHABER

For those who have heard the expression “Paint the Town,” meet Julie GebbenGreen and Andrea Erickson. GebbenGreen and Erickson along with their neighbors have painted their pavement. Literally. Instead of pulling out the paintbrushes for home improvement projects, neighbors hit the pavement to build community spirit and calm traffic. Paint the Pavement, which was sponsored by Leadership in Support of Neighborhood (LISN) and the City of St. Paul took place on August 26 and September 9.

During Paint the Pavement neighbors organized groups to paint designs on the residential streets. The locations were on Englewood Ave. and Syndicate Street and Van Buren Ave. and Pascal Street. LISN, which initiated Paint the Pavement, is a joint collaboration between the Hamline Midway Coalition and Hamline University.

Julie GebbenGreen, who was featured in the October 2005 *Midway Como Monitor*, got involved in the LISN program after seeing a write up in a local newspaper looking for people who were interested in supporting their neighborhood. GebbenGreen, who has done community

work in the past, was immediately drawn to the LISN challenge.

“The goal of LISN is to ‘grow leadership’ within the Hamline Midway community. The idea was heavily researched by Hamline University and the Hamline Midway Coalition for several years before it was implemented,” said Hamline University Media Relations Director, JacQueline Getty. “The program helps to identify future community leaders and to empower them to do something that will positively impact the Hamline Midway area.”

Last year, 12 people were chosen from the community as “fellows” to be ambassadors for LISN. The fellows attended various leadership trainings and came up with initiatives that improved and celebrated the Hamline Midway neighborhood.

GebbenGreen’s LISN fellowship was two pronged. Over the past year, she and Andrea Erickson, another LISN fellow, have been working on the “Paint the Pavement” initiative. GebbenGreen has also been passionate about place-making within the Midway Como neighborhood.

“Placemaking consists of people claiming the places they live and creating spaces that are filled with meaning and charac-

ter,” GebbenGreen said. “It involves people investing themselves outside their house and bringing human vision closer to the street.”

Back in March GebbenGreen and Erickson attended a workshop in Portland, Oregon put on by David Engwicht. His seminars concentrate on calming traffic and re-imagining spaces.

Engwicht, who is from Australia, started the organization, Creative Communities International. They challenge community leaders and politicians to think “outside the box” when addressing community issues like busy neighborhood streets.

“Engwicht speaks about creating intrigue within your neighborhood,” GebbenGreen said. “The workshop was revolutionary and definitely made me think about my neighborhood in a whole new light.”

Similar to Paint the Pavement, Portland has a program called Intersection Repair. During Intersection Repair, neighbors painted designs on various urban streets. This program inspired GebbenGreen and Erickson to create Paint the Pavement.

With the support of the City of St. Paul and the participating neighborhoods, they were able to run with the idea. GebbenGreen was able to get 88% of the households in her neighborhood to consent to Paint the Pavement.

“You can’t get 88% of America to do anything,” GebbenGreen said. “People are yearning for connection in their neighborhoods.”

This year another group of fellows will be announced and asked to brainstorm more community building ideas. Recently, LISN held a reception to honor the great work of GebbenGreen and all of last year’s fellows.

LISN is made possible through grants totaling over \$275,000 from local foundations including Otto Bremer Foundation, St. Paul Travelers Foundation, F.R. Bigelow Foundation, The St. Paul Foundation and various individuals.

The neighborhood revital-

ization does not stop with Paint the Pavement. In another St. Paul neighborhood, local artist Carly Schmitt is using her artistic talent to beautify the Como neighborhood. Schmitt is currently painting a mural on the west wall of Schroeder's Bar at Como, Dale and Front Street.

The project is part of the Great Northern Corridor Revitalization Project, and is being funded by Schroeder through a match grant with the City of St. Paul and SPARC.

The Great Northern Corridor project is a collaborative effort sponsored by the Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation, SPARC and District six and seven.

SPARC, the other organization involved in the mural, is working hard to revitalize the Hamline Midway and Como

neighborhoods in St. Paul. They are a community based non-profit developer whose mission is “to maintain healthy, affordable and sustainable neighborhoods by improving residential and community vitality.”

“People in neighborhoods have the ability to control certain issues,” said SPARC Executive Director, Jonathan Sage-Martinson. “SPARC is here to help people improve the quality of their neighborhoods and make them better places to live.

In collaboration with various neighborhood businesses and organization, SPARC has worked hard to revitalize the Como, Dale and Front Street facade. This includes the Schroeder's mural. They have also cleaned up various industrial parks in the area.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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Andrea Erickson and her niece, Alethea Odrerir, work on painting the pavement at the first organized Paint the Pavement on August 26. During the Paint the Pavement events, neighbors organized groups to paint designs on residential streets.

Cares and Cures

By JANE KILIAN, M.D.

Good advice from Sara

My friend Sara is one of the smartest people I know. I call her when I can't figure out practical and important day-to-day questions. Such as – what should I do with all the books we have that we don't need? Do you think I should replace the back step with cement or wood? Could you come look at the tree in our front yard and let me know if we should chop it down or not?

I have learned a lot about life from her. We worked together for a long time, and therefore have attended many farewell, new marriage, new baby, you-name-it parties for our friends. Whenever the occasion is a baby shower, she writes in the card for the new mom: "Eat when the baby eats, and sleep when the baby sleeps." I have passed that advice on countless times to parents with new babies. It is good advice.

She knew what to do when there was a rat in my toilet ("flush it, if it came up it can go down") and what to do when my parakeet was dying ("just put the cage in another room and shut the door").

Through the years, Sara has been right about many things. And now there is national research confirming her wisdom. Recently there have been a number of studies showing that children and teens benefit greatly from eating dinner together as a family.

As I watched Sara raise her two children, she had a meal ready for her family between 6-6:30 p.m. each evening. Yes, she also had a job. Yes, she cleans her own house. Yes, her kids were involved in other activities. But supper together almost every day still happened. To her it just made sense. She says it's easier to cook at home than to go out for food.

Research done at the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) shows that when families have dinner together 5-7 nights a week, the adolescents do better when compared with teens who eat 0-2 dinners per week with their families.

Specifically, the family meal plan (whether it is breakfast,

lunch or dinner) seems to result in teens with better grades; lower use of drugs, alcohol and cigarettes; better overall diets; fewer eating disorders; decreased obesity; and delayed onset of sexual activity. Adolescents who eat with their families are more likely to be emotionally content and are at lower risk for thoughts of suicide. They also say they are more likely not only to confide in their parents but also to believe that their parents respect them.

Promoting the concept of family meals, CASA has created National Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner With Your Children. This year the date is September 26th. (For more information about family meals, and National Family Day, check out the following web site: www.casafamilyday.org)

They are quick to point out that one shared meal a year is not their goal. To be effective, the shared meals need to be consistent and frequent. Another study showed that family meals get better with practice. The less often a family eats together, the worse their experience can be. Conversation is more difficult or strained and food is less healthy when the meals are shared infrequently. So repetition is key.

Researchers acknowledge that there likely are other factors, in addition to frequent family meals, that contribute to these good outcomes for kids. Are these families functioning better in terms of overall parental involvement? Perhaps.

But with a common thread ...consistent family meals... showing positive results in studies at CASA, the University of Minnesota, and Tufts University (among others) it seems like a good investment for the proposed payoff.

Deciding to prioritize family meals may require adjust-

ments: changing schedules for both parents and children; turning off the TV, computer, and phones; and generally reassessing priorities for how your family uses time. All family members can participate in the meal process ... setting the table, helping with food preparation, and cleaning up afterwards.

I have a friend who used to give each of her adolescent children a weekly budget with which they were expected to purchase food and prepare a meal for the family. It provided them with great lessons in budgeting, cooking, and sharing responsibility for the family.

People are often resistant to change. Teens might act bored or irritated with having to chat with parents. But the CASA research showed that a majority of teens who ate 3 or fewer meals a week with their families wished they did so more often. Don't underestimate the importance of your role in your children's lives. An hour spent at dinner each night could be more valuable than a myriad of extracurricular activities that spread your family in too many directions.

September is a month of change ... new school schedules, new activities, and earlier darkness. If you aren't already eating together as a family, I urge you to consider the wisdom of my friend Sara (and nationally known researchers). Plan more frequent family meals. It won't guarantee that the adolescent years will be pain free. Even Sara's kids caused her some strife. But with this kind of data, you can only win by sharing family meals. Trust me. I've learned to listen to Sara.

(Dr. Kilian is a family practice physician who lives and works in the Midway Como community. She believes that good medicine means caring for people as well as curing diseases. We want to address your health concerns so please let us know what topics you would like to see in future columns. If you have suggestions or questions, write to the Monitor c/o 1885 University Avenue West, #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Or e-mail denisw@aplacetoremember.com.)

LISN jump-starts leadership in Hamline-Midway neighborhood

By JANE MCCLURE

If you've noticed murals in the street, attended a block club meeting, learned more about local history or started to simplify your life, you may be a beneficiary of LISN, Hamline-Midway neighborhood's leadership development program. LISN or Leadership in Support of Neighborhood (LISN) marked a key milestone August 28 with the graduation of its first 12 fellows and the announcement of 10 new program participants. The LISN participants were honored at an event at Hamline University's Klas Center, along with their families.

"I believe LISN is transforming the Hamline Midway Coalition," said HMC President Patrick Sheehy. By helping the neighborhood develop new leaders, HMC and Hamline University are helping the neighborhood become a more self-actualized community.

LISN began at a time when neighborhood leadership development and training opportunities have been lost. Wilder Foundation is one of the few groups providing leadership training, a marked contrast to the situation several years ago. Several Twin Cities foundations have dropped or cut back on leadership training funding. The St. Paul Companies, now St. Paul Travelers, dropped its LIN or Leadership Initiatives in Neighborhoods Program a few years ago. The city's district councils, which have faced funding and staff shortages, discontinued an annual training day due to lack of staff

time and funds.

But LISN is helping fill that void. Tom Duke, director of LISN, said the idea was discussed for several years. He said the program is a way to enhance Hamline Midway as a strong and vibrant neighborhood.

The 2005-2006 participants may be done with their projects, "but we're not really letting go of them at all," Duke said.

The graduating fellows are:

*Therese Baumann, a block club member and volunteer at Hancock-Hamline University Collaborative Magnet School, started the Hamline Village Simplicity Circle. The circle is organizing an alternative gift fair this December, where participants can make a donation to a charity in someone's name, in lieu of a gift.

*Yaseem Dominick. A member of the St. Paul Islamic Center and HMC Board, Dominick worked to organize neighborhood youth in a community service project.

*Andrea Erickson. Erickson, a block club coordinator, launched the popular Paint the Pavement Program, a community-building and traffic calming program. The idea came from a program in Portland, Oregon.

*Robin Espy. A member of Zion Lutheran Church, Espy worked with Keystone Community Services (former Merriam Park Community Services and Neighbor to Neighbor) to improve a food shelf that serves the neigh-

borhood.

*Julie GebbenGreen. This block club volunteer was part of the Paint the Pavement team and traveled to Portland to see the work there. She is very interested in place-making through public art.

*Samantha Henningson. The Hamline University staff member works on the Hancock-Hamline Collaborative and worked on traffic calming on Snelling Avenue. Her project included a mural installed by university and elementary students, and an arts event.

*Krista Mather. She is a co-founder of the Hamline Midway history Corps and worked to organize events and set up the organization's web site. She also did research to help others learn about the history of their homes.

*Wendy O'Leary. She is a block club leader and Block Club Steering Committee member who worked with the steering committee to create opportunities for neighbors to get to know each other.

*Maria Olson. An active community gardener, Olson's LISN involvement centered on the Hamline Midway Tree Team and the Hamline Midway Environmental Group, which she now chairs.

*Claire Press. A former HMC Board member and board president, Press started a Youth Employment Success program to connect neighborhood elders in the Hamline Midway Elders Program to young people who could help

them with chores.

*Phil Reinhardt. A neighborhood resident who is active in his block club and the Snelling Avenue Business Initiative, he co-founded the Hamline Midway History Corps and helped organize neighborhood events and a web site for those interested in neighborhood history.

*Jesse Winshel. A member of the Hamline Midway Coalition Land Use Committee, he was interested in getting people of diverse backgrounds together. He organized movie and music nights at Griggs and Hancock recreation centers, which each attracted about 100 participants.

The 2006-2007 LISN

*David Albornoz. He would like to do more volunteer work with kids through the sport of soccer, using the game to build community.

*Molly Cave. A recent Paint the Pavement participant, Cave would like to use her LISN experience to better connect with neighbors.

*Diane Fay Dodge. She is interested in sustainability. Dodge hasn't rule out working on several of the LISN projects.

*Krista Finstad Hanson. She founded the Hamline-Midway community yard sale, her LISN project is to go a walking map of neighborhood public art and to try to bring artists and potential site owners together to bring more art

to the community.

*Amanda Herrera-Gundale. She is interested in environmental education and in working with young people. She has a number of ideas for a possible project or projects.

Charity McCoy. She'd like to work on a project at Hamline Park Playground, involving neighborhood young people, to make the park more attractive and functional.

*Audrey Matson Lies. She has wanted a neighborhood 4-H club for her children to be involved in, so she is starting one herself. Matson Lies is hoping to involve Hamline students and Ramsey County Extension staff.

*Emmy Vadnais. She and her neighbors have worked on problems at the Hamline-Thomas corner and the Super USA store there. What began as a focus on problems is an effort to make the intersection more attractive and functional.

*Stephen Wensman. He will work on an update of the Hamline-Midway neighborhood plan's land use section. Hamline-Midway was one of St. Paul's first neighborhoods to update its community plan in recent years, but much work remains to be done on the land use chapter.

*Amanda Ziebell-Finley. She will work on a project with the LEAP Academy at Wilson School, to take advantage of the ethnic diversity there and get the school more involved in the community.

State allocation for Central Corridor light rail saved, but debate continues

By JANE MCCLURE

A \$7.8 million state allocation for the Central Corridor light rail line has been saved. But disagreements over the project between Ramsey and Hennepin counties and the Metropolitan Council almost scuttled the funding, which was approved this spring by the Minnesota Legislature. The debate highlights the disagreement between county and regional officials over what the light rail project scope should be.

Ramsey County commissioners, meeting at the Regional Rail Authority Board, met in special session August 29 to approve the agreement. Hennepin County commissioners also acted August 29; Metropolitan Council acted August 23.

Had the counties and regional government not been able to reach agreement by September 1, the state dollars would have been forfeited. The 2006 Minnesota Legislature approved the money as part of its bonding bill, adding the condition that the counties and Metropolitan Council reach agreement on cost sharing.

The agreement is only the first in what could be a series of funding agreements for Central Corridor, if the project gets the go-ahead at the federal level. But the agreement, called a memorandum of understanding, does lay the groundwork for ongoing capital and operating funding.

The August 29 Ramsey County vote was 6-1, with Commissioner Janice Rettman against. Rettman said she continues to be worried about the potential ongoing operating costs for Central Corridor and how those could impact Ramsey County property taxpayers. It's not clear yet how much the operations will ultimately cost the county. Central Corridor isn't expected to start operations for several

more years, even if the go-ahead to build the line is given at all.

Rettman said the state should be doing more to fund transit operations, instead of expecting the counties to do so much. "We're a very small county," Rettman said. "And we're not a rich county."

Regional Rail Authority Chairperson Rafael Ortega said that with changes in state law, the operating cost burden could be eased. In November Minnesota voters will vote on changes to how the motor vehicle sales tax is allocated. Voters could decide to have the state dedicate a share of the sales tax dollars specifically to transit, giving transit its own dedicated source of state funding.

The counties-Metropolitan Council agreement needs to be in place not just for the state bonding dollars. It is also needed as the Central Corridor draft environmental impact statement (EIS) makes its way through a Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) review process this summer and fall. If the federal government gives the project the go-ahead, preliminary engineering for Central Corridor starts next year.

Key points of the agreement approved August 29 include:

*If federal capital funds become available for Central Corridor design and construction, Ramsey and Hennepin counties will fund one-third of any required local match to the federal dollars. Ramsey County's share of the one-third will be 70 percent and Hennepin County's will be 30 percent. Ramsey County's share for capital and operating dollars is larger than Hennepin's because most of

11-mile rail line is in Ramsey County.

The rest of the local match would come from the state.

*Ramsey and Hennepin counties will provide funding for one-half the net subsidy needed to operate light rail along Central Corridor. Ramsey County's share will be

to \$930 million, even without all of the additional station sites sought by St. Paul district councils and community groups.

The proposed tunnel on the University of Minnesota East Bank campus, the Snelling-University intersection and construction in downtown St. Paul are acknowledged as three of the most potentially costly places along the line. One suggestion has been that the rail line end short of Union Depot, a move the Ramsey County Board vigorously opposes.

Hennepin County is supporting Ramsey County's stance on the depot and the goals of using its old concourse as a multi-modal transit hub. But Metropolitan Council members continue to raise concerns about the high cost and warn that the rail line may not be able to extend all the way to the depot.

Metropolitan Council Chairperson Peter Bell was authorized by the Metropolitan Council to wrap up agreement negotiations. Bell and Ortega said some issues had to be set aside, to be negotiated later. One issue Ramsey County wants more of a say on is level of transit service. But that isn't something to be dealt with in the current memorandum of understanding. Ramsey County wants approval of the level of service in the memorandum approved August 29 but agreed to take that clause out.

Alignment issues also have to

be worked out in the future, during the preliminary engineering phase. The agreement does allow for the Central Corridor alignment to be modified, said Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority Executive Director Kathy Despiegelaere. Commissioner Tony Bennett has already mapped out a proposed new downtown route, and has taken about 70 people on a tour of his proposal. He believes the changes would cut costs of building rail downtown.

"Everyone will have a seat at the table to work out these issues," said Bell. Ramsey and Hennepin counties will have seats on a corridor management committee, which will oversee project preliminary engineering. He said the counties shouldn't carve out positions prior to the start of that work and project negotiations.

Bell cautions that getting the federal funding match is likely to require modifying the Central Corridor project to some extent. "This project will not be built unless we get federal matching funds." The Metropolitan Council is aware of the issues raised by Ramsey County, the City of St. Paul and community groups but is trying to balance those with fiscal realities.

"First and foremost we have to view this as a transportation project," Bell said. St. Paul has two Planning Commission task forces studying land use issues along Central Corridor, which are looking at housing, economic development and jobs. Those will be "ancillary components" of the project, Bell said. "All of these things are important but they do have a tendency to increase the costs."



70 percent of the one-half and Hennepin County's share will be 30 percent of the one-half.

Operating funds also come from passenger fares and the Metropolitan Council, which operates Metro Transit.

The push to get the agreement adopted by September 1 has fueled the debate over which aspects of the Central Corridor project may have to be cut. Project costs have already climbed from \$840

LETTERS

The difference between Democrat and Republican parties

Thank you for the excellent article about David Schultz, our own "local guru" on politics and civility. While I agree with almost all of his comments, I do have to point out a difference between the Democrat and Republican parties in Minnesota. Schultz said you can't be conservative or pro-life in the DFL anymore, or pro-choice and moderate in the Republican party. He's right about the extremists chasing out moderates in the Minnesota GOP, but I believe the Minnesota DFL is still a "big tent."

I was one of the liberal, pro-choice, urban senators who organized behind the scenes to elect our new leader, Senator Dean Johnson, a pro-life Lutheran pastor and National Guard general who used to be a Republican and represents a conserva-

tive rural area of Minnesota. While our DFL Senators have deeply held differences on emotional and divisive issues like abortion, guns, same-sex marriage, and environmental regulation, our Senate DFL caucus has stood together with Senator Johnson. The reason we have navigated those difficult waters successfully is that as Democrats we share key values: economic and social justice, hope and opportunity for all, and belief that government can help all of us achieve our best potential together as a community that cares for one another. Therefore, we focus on education, jobs, health care, transportation and a clean and safe environment rather than fighting over divisive social issues.

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Ellen Anderson
State Senator

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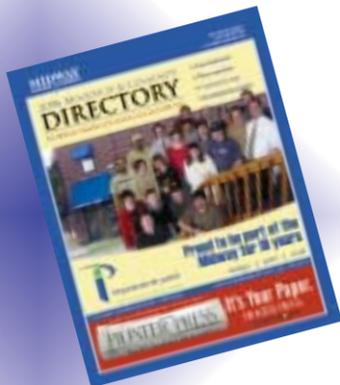
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Would partial moratorium on development help University Avenue's future

By JANE MCCLURE

Would a partial moratorium and restrictions on development be a benefit or bane to University Avenue, at a time when transit-oriented development is being studied all along the street? That's the latest debate taking shape along the street as University UNITED has brought forward an interim transit-oriented development zoning overlay district for the city's Planning Commission and City Council.

The UNITED Board approved the proposal in July and sent it out for public comment. Hamline-Midway Coalition approved the proposal in concept form but is studying its details and hosted a community meeting attended by almost 40 people August 28. HMC's full board will take a position in September.

Summit-University Planning Council's Neighborhood Development Committee reviewed the proposal in August, then sent it back to a committee. Merriam Park, Lexington-Hamline and St. Anthony Park community councils have voted to support the proposal.

The proposal comes at a time when a St. Paul Planning Commission task force is studying land use and development issues along University. That group, which held a series of workshops the first week of August, is preparing recommendations to shape future development along University, in anticipation of the Central Corridor light rail transit line being built there.

The task force is hosting a community open house 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, September 16 at the new Rondo Community Outreach Library at University Avenue and Dale Street. Visitors can learn more about planning and development issues related to Central Corridor, and weigh in on a proposed development strategy to tie in with the proposed transit project. There will be informational displays and a time to discuss the project and ask questions. A presentation is planned at 11 a.m.

But the task force recommendations may not get to the Planning Commission and City Council until early 2007. Then it could take several months to get commission and City Council approval. University UNITED Director Brian McMahon said getting an interim ordinance in place now would ensure that future development along University is more in synch with the coming transit improvements.

"This may be the only way to keep property along the corridor available for development that is more oriented toward transit and is more friendly to pedestrians and bicyclists," said Mat Hollinshead. He is working with UNITED on the land use proposal.

McMahon points to recent battles about development of the Snelling and University CVS, the

Midway Super Target and Lexington Park as reasons to put zoning protections in place now. All of the projects sparked controversies over design and whether the developments fit into a vision of University as a more dense, transit-oriented and bicycle and pedestrian-friendly place.

"I think we're just tired of fighting these battles one by one and seeing University redeveloped on such a piecemeal basis," said McMahon. That's why UNITED is calling for a more comprehensive approach and interim protection for University until permanent zoning and land use changes can be made. The ordinance would affect University Avenue for its entire length in St. Paul, as well as one block north and one block south. The moratorium area would be expanded between Snelling and Lexington, to include properties south to Interstate 94. That would include the block south of Midway Center, which had been eyed as a possible site for a Lowe's home improvement store and Best Buy. That project has stalled in recent months, in part due to community concerns about land use and public subsidies.

A similar ordinance process recently wound up on Grand Avenue, when the City Council adopted a zoning overlay district with additional regulations for the eastern part of that street. New building heights and footprints will be regulated there.

The University proposal calls for an appropriate mix of land uses and density along University, to maximize the public benefit of the current bus transit system and the proposed light rail line. The secondary intent of the interim regulations is to decrease dependency on motor vehicles and reduce the impacts of motor vehicle congestion and air pollution. One goal of the interim ordinance to promote development that is more pedestrian, bicycle and transit-friendly.

The ordinance would set specific development standards for areas within one-quarter mile of a proposed light rail station, with minimum floor area ratios and specific and design standards.

Some task force members are interested in the proposed ordinance and moratorium. "This would be a year's hiatus from allowing new development," said Anne White, a Merriam Park Community Council member who serves on the task force. She said the UNITED proposal provides a good way to slow down redevelopment while the long-term future of University Avenue is studied.

White said she had asked city staff why the city wasn't land-banking along University, buying up sites that could become valuable redevelopment sites in the future. But she was told the city has no funds to buy and set aside property.

One need for the ordinance

is that land speculation is already occurring along University, said Hollinshead. At University and Snelling, what is now the CVS site sold less than a decade ago for \$800,000. CVS paid \$2.8 million for the corner and recently sold it to a private investment group for more than \$6 million.

But the interim ordinance is generating controversy because of what it would ban. New and used automobile and motorized vehicle dealership, vehicle leasing businesses, service stations and repair shops would not be allowed to open.

Drive-through facilities, including those for banks, fast-food establishments and pharmacies, would also be prohibited.

The proposal also includes density standards for the jobs or number of housing units created by redevelopment. It would also relax the off-street parking standards for some types of development.

The intent is to attract high-quality development that complements the planned transit project. McMahon said there has been a history of allowing businesses on University Avenue that may not be welcomed in other neighborhoods. He said drive-throughs are an "affront" to the corridor and contradict the kind of community many people want to see.

Most City Council members say they're waiting to see more information on the proposal. Historically the council has split on the idea of any kind of development ban or moratorium, although a majority typically favor such measures.

Ward One Council Member Debbie Montgomery said she's more interested in well-designed projects than in simply banning certain types of businesses. "I think there's room for drive-throughs if they're designed in a way that doesn't conflict with where people are walking," she said.

In Hamline-Midway neighborhood, there are worries that including the residential area of Sherburne Avenue in the zoning study area could open up what is now a residential neighborhood to more dense redevelopment. Another concern voiced at some neighborhood meetings is that the UNITED proposal could delay some redevelopment proposals.

SUPC Executive Director Steve Boland said that because some properties along University have sat vacant or underused for a long time, "there may be a feeling that some development is better than nothing."

That is a hard question, Hollinshead said. But he said communities should think in terms of redevelopment that provides jobs that pay a good living wage, rather than settling for any jobs at all. Big box development usually doesn't bring in the types of jobs that are permanent and that pay enough to support a family.

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Midway service organizations struggle to survive, make important contribution



Mike Wright, booth manager for the Midway Men's Club at the Minnesota State Fair, oversees food and beverage operations for the youth fundraising projects. (Photo by Tom Conlon)

By TOM CONLON

Mike Wright had just wrapped up his sixth year as day shift manager of the Midway Men's Club State Fair booth when he said his greatest reward was having people come by to say "thanks for funding my playground team." Its a payoff that's kept Wright, and the organization, going strong.

Wright, a 22-year member of the Midway Men's Club, took on the food and beverage booth's management duties after selling M&L Sports, his longtime sport team equipment business at Snelling & Selby Avenues in 2000. "My own children benefited from our Club funding their playground sporting activities,

and this is one small way I can give something back," he said. The booth, which sells hamburgers, brats, beer, pop and related food/snack items typically grosses about \$100,000 per State Fair season.

However, service groups don't always have such an easy time reaching their goals. While Midway youth and other organizations benefit, longtime Midway-area service and fraternal organizations who sponsor them are struggling with aging memberships and changing lifestyles of potential members.

The Midway Men's Club and Midway Lions Club, two service organizations whose members raise money for many charitable

causes, once were sought-after organizations to belong to in an era where people valued institutions, worked and worshipped close to home, and had more time.

Across the country, traditional institutions known to many over the years – Lions Clubs, Boy Scouts, Women's Groups, freemasonry lodges and many other service, fraternal and improvement organizations – have seen a decline in membership since at least the early 1960s. Local institutions have not been immune to this trend.

Harvard Professor Robert D. Putnam's 2000 book, *Bowling Alone*, chronicles the decline of civic engagement and social capital and their impact on service and fraternal organizations, among others. He concludes that more women in the labor force, greater mobility among Americans, demographic transformations and technological transformation of leisure contributed to the decline of participation in traditional institutions like the Lions Clubs, churches, Parent Teacher Associations, women's groups and other organizations.

The Midway Men's Club, a local service club not affiliated with any national or international organization, formed in the early 1960s over a church dispute.

Wright said the Men's Club exists solely to fund youth activities (usually around \$30,000 annually) in the Midway area. The



A State Fair goer buys tickets from Midway Lions Club volunteer Carol Gokus Sept. 3. (Photo by Tom Conlon)

Hancock and Griggs playgrounds, local hockey associations, boy and girl scout troops and tutoring supplies for an educational partnership between Hancock Elementary School and Hamline University are among the Club's benefactors.

Fundraising is accomplished solely through one activity: the Midway Men's Club State Fair food and beverage stand. Wright, who is the daytime stand manager during the fair, said the stand itself fueled a controversy at St. Columba's Catholic Parish in the late 1950s.

"The Old Snelling Avenue Commercial Club had our booth until they dissolved and were bought out by the St. Columba's Men's Club in the 1950s," he said. "In the late 1950s, St. Columba's first and longtime pastor Michael Casey died, and was replaced by Father Louis Morin (now deceased). He was a very pious man, and he did not feel it was appropriate for the men's club to be selling alcohol or gambling type of activities. At the time, we were sharing our profits with community youth organizations as well, so there was also an attempt to pool all resources from the stand's income solely to the parish. As a result, a number of Men's Club members who disagreed with that decision formed an independent group known as the Midway Men's Club, whose goal was to solely fund neighborhood youth activities."

In later years, St. Columba re-started its men's club, but was smaller and primarily parish-focused. Over time, the Midway Men's Club grew in numbers and a variety of community members joined. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Club peaked with over 180 members, and no new members were accepted until 1984, when Wright was one of six accepted to replace deceased members.

Despite the club's name, women are now also welcomed into membership. For a service organization, it's a bargain too -- an \$8 initiation fee and \$3 annual dues thereafter, more than made up with free food at the mostly monthly evening meetings – ironically, held in the St. Columba Parish hall. "Our only requirement to belong is you must work one shift at our State Fair booth each year," said David Dahl, a four-year member who is a member of the Club's youth activities committee.

Despite such benefits, membership today is about 150 (130 of whom are active) but has recovered from its low of 100 in the late 1980s and early 1990s. "While it has been dominated by middle aged people, we've been seeing more younger people join – especially those who as children may have benefited from our funding their programs and as adults now want to give something back," Dahl said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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Volunteers serve food and beverages to fairgoers on Sept. 3 at the Midway Men's Club Minnesota State Fair booth. One shift per year is a requirement of all Men's Club members. From left to right: Mike Wright, Bonnie Collins, Audrey Nordin, and Tom Thomas. (Photo by Tom Conlon)

The Food Snob

Frankly, it was difficult to snub my other favorite Asian restaurants along University Avenue and try Que Nha. With Tai Hoa just across the street, Hoa Bien up a couple of blocks and Cheng Heng (not Vietnamese I grant you) down a ways, the idea of trying a new place was making me insecure. Too many choices can drive a person mad.

Que Nha, in the Brownstone building on the corner of University and Victoria, is bright and clean with friendly service and fast cooking. Of the five entrees we sampled, all were tasty. The Bachelor's Curry Mock Duck (\$6.25) was spicy and savory with plenty of vegetables. He vacuumed it up in a hurry. I tried the Steamed Rice in Earthen Pot (\$6.95) and enjoyed the crusty bits of rice that formed on the bottom. The Cheapskate, who loves the hot and spicy chicken at Vina, ordered it here (\$6.25) and got quite a tasty version, with real grilled chicken (not the stuff with the painted on grill marks).

We brought two guests to Que Nha. The bassett hound lover with the pointy hairdo proved to be a good and adventurous eater. He sampled the hot and spicy goat (\$9.95), which tasted pretty generic and swam in a cornstarch-thickened sauce. Our final guest, a sassy young Jodie Foster impersonator, ordered the noodle egg roll salad (\$5.95). Whoever was working the grill in the kitchen isn't afraid of high heat, and her meat slices were thoroughly incinerated. Otherwise the dish was fine.

Que Nha is a perfectly fine restaurant. It will have trouble finding a place in my heart because of my many other favorites along the same street. But a favorite restaurant is a very personal thing. Stop in – this may become your new top choice on University Avenue.

The Chow Hound

When we walked into the building, I was pleasantly surprised at the surroundings. On one wall there were kimonos, and on the other some sort of string instruments. Compared to my recent trip to Hoa Bien (where the walls are mostly empty) it felt quite welcoming. While it might not make the perfect romantic setting for one of The Bachelor's mythical dates, it was great for lunch.

I took one look at the menu and immediately my eyes crossed. Just as The Food Snob points out, too many choices can drive a person crazy. Luckily I was spared the trouble. Before I had a chance to begin reading, The Food Snob volunteered me to try the hot and spicy goat.

While we were waiting I sampled a shrimp spring roll that came with an especially tasty sauce. I also had the pleasure of trying shrimp on sugarcane, which looks like an orange tire tread, but has an amazing sweet grilled flavor. When the spicy goat came, I had shoveled in at least five bites before realizing that the sauce left something to be desired. It wasn't bad, but I think The Food Snob's description of "cornstarch-thickened" is accurate.

Thanks a lot, Food Snob. In the future, I'll take my sweet time with the menu.



Without Reservations

Another fine choice on University Avenue

The Bachelor

In case my loyal readers have not noticed by now, your beloved bachelor can be a little thick at times. Daylight savings time, Martinizing, courtship ... these concepts have long mystified me.

Another of nature's enigmas that has haunted me is that of mock duck. I went years without mustering up the intellectual wherewithal to ask myself, "Just what IS this mock duck?" I had the fuzzy notion that it was some sort of cynical Chinese waterfowl – one that I was not particularly interested in grinding between my molars.

Imagine my surprise when someone (no doubt that know-it-all Food Snob) eventually slapped me to my senses and explained that mock duck was not a bird at all (hence the "mock"), but rather a bean curd-based substance, or at least that's how I explain it now. Of course, the need to make this gelatinous brown goo look like freshly plucked duck's skin is beyond me.

So, with mock duck now an established part of my eating repertoire, it was with the serenity of the Buddha that I ordered the Curry Mock Duck with Vegetables (just \$6.25). I squealed with glee when my food came well before the entrees of my companions, and downed half of it before their meals arrived. (I steadfastly refuse to abide by this ridiculous social more of waiting until everyone receives their food before eating – that's an offense against instant gratification.)

As seems to be the case with the 13,000 or so Asian restau-

rants along University Avenue, the portions at Que Nha are huge...just the way I like 'em. The dark brown curry sauce that puddled at the bottom of my plate had a kick to it that I wasn't quite expecting, but it worked well with the sweetness of the coconut milk. The thinly sliced carrots retained their firmness, and the mock duck retained its goosebumpy squishiness. The rice was plump and chewy, with just enough stickiness to keep me entertained while I picked it off every conceivable surface area around me. I left a happy bachelor.

Now if someone could please explain what bean curd is, I'll be happy.

The Cheapskate

As a rule, I view appetizers as a tax on the impatient. They reel in the likes of the Bachelor and the Food Snob, people who cannot wait eight minutes for their entree and cannot envision that in 35 minutes they will be staggering out the door, groaning and holding their bellies, wondering why on earth they ordered appetizers.

When it comes to spring rolls and egg rolls, however, I always have to eat my words. Those are appetizers I can't resist. Chopped up into little bite-size morsels, with a good sweet/peanutty sauce to dip into, those are well worth the \$2.95 you will pay at Que Nha for a pair of either fried or fresh rolls. I also broke another cardinal rule of cheapskateness by actually purchasing a beverage. I can't re-

sist the sweet, strong, creamy Vietnamese Ice Coffee.

Naturally the Snob had to also order the most expensive appetizer her eye fell upon, the \$4.95 Grilled Shrimp on Sugar Cane. That money buys you two grilled shrimp, each spread-eagled over a short stick of sugar cane. They tasted good, but \$4.95? We're talking entrée money here.

My undivided recommendation at Que Nha is the Hot and Spicy Chicken. Don't worry – it's not THAT spicy. You can get it with vegetables or just with sliced

onions, either way for \$6.25. As the Snob has noted, the chicken had a fresh-from-the-grill flavor that was outstanding, and the sweet-hot sauce hit the spot. Considering that several of my fellow diners kept coming back for more while their own entrees languished, I feel I can recommend it without reservations.

Another reason I recommend Que Nha is the bright, clean simplicity of the space. The Vietnamese décor is understated, and the place just feels clean and open. We found the staff extremely friendly, ready to talk over recommendations, and very quick. The Snob may find herself torn among too many Vietnamese restaurants along University, but I say that the combination of good food, excellent price, top-notch service, tasteful décor, and uncrowded and unharried atmosphere is not all that easy to find. I've got both thumbs up for Que Nha.

Que Nha Restaurant
849 University Ave.
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Sun. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Next deadline: October 2
Next Issue: October 12

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In Our Community

Mayor hosts Central Corridor open house

Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman will join City staff and community members at an open house September 16 at the new Rondo Library to inform residents on proposals surrounding the redevelopment of the Central Corridor.

The open house will take place on Saturday, September 16 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Those who attend will have the opportunity to learn more about planning and development of the central corridor and provide their thoughts on current plans and progress on the project.

More information is available at www.centralcorridoronline.com or by emailing centralcorridor@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Creative Curriculum workshop offered

A Creative Curriculum/ Break the Textbook Habit, will be offered for homeschoolers at Hamline Midway Library on Tuesday, September 19, 7-8 p.m.

This session is packed with ideas to help you break your textbook dependency. We will discuss style and approach, as well as content ideas. You'll be excited about your homeschooling plan and ready to jump-start the new year!

Kim Jaworski is a veteran homeschooler and Independent Peabody Tester. This workshop grew from her own homeschooling style and a bit of "what I wish I knew earlier" wisdom. Kim offers workshops on a variety of homeschooling topics for support groups and statewide conferences.

When/Where: Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7-8 p.m. at the Hamline Midway Library.

The workshop is free and open to the public. We will meet in the auditorium located in the basement of the library.

Storytimes at Hamline Midway Library

Play and Learn Storytimes will continue at the Hamline Midway Branch of the St. Paul Public Library on Thursday afternoons, September 21, October 5 and October 19, all from 1 to 3 p.m. They are for children from age zero through preschool and their parents or care givers, and will be provided by Theresa Fountain, of Resources for Child Caring. Play and Learn Storytimes include play time, some story reading, and more play, all on a theme for the session. Family, friend or neighbor childcare providers will also be able to find out about training, grant opportunities and

other resources available to them.

Storytimes by library staff will also be offered. Please call the branch for days and times.

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.

Fall bazaar and old-fashioned meatloaf dinner

The Como Park Lutheran Church Fall Bazaar will take place on Saturday, October 14, at 1376 Hoyt Avenue West. Come shop for handcrafted items and baked goods 1 to 6 p.m. Enjoy coffee/tea 1 to 3 p.m. Come for dinner 4:30-7 p.m., which includes beverage and dessert and will benefit the Como Park Area Block Nurse Program. Adults \$7.50, Children 4-12, \$5, under 4 \$3.

Cub Scouts meet at Jehovah Lutheran

If your son is in first through fifth grade and is interested in cub scouts, join us at Jehovah Lutheran Church for join scouting night. Pack 243 meets most Monday evenings during the school year at Jehovah Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m. Join us on Sept. 11th at 6:30 p.m. to learn more.

If you are unable to join us on Sept. 11th, come to our kick-off picnic at the Como Park fire rings on Sept. 18th beginning at 5:30 p.m. In cub scouts there are games, crafts, camping and much, much more. Your son will learn skills that will last him a lifetime. Jehovah Lutheran Church is located on the corner of Snelling and Thomas Avenues in the Midway area. For more information or questions, call Sandy Kolar, Cub Master, at 651-644-6858.

New pastor to be installed at Zion Lutheran

Pastor Nirmala Reinschmidt will be installed as Zion Lutheran Church's new full time Pastor, Sunday, September 17th at the 10 a.m. Worship service.

Pastor Ralph Baumgartner, Bishop's Associate for the St. Paul Area Synod of the ELCA will lead the Installation service. Pastor Nirmala comes to us from First Lutheran Church in Brooklyn Park, MN where she has served for the past 6 years.

Pastor Nirmala has a background in Education and History. She has studied at Madras Univ., and Madurai Univ. India Pastor Nirmala has also studied here in



Pastor Ike Leimberer

New pastor at TC Christian Fellowship

"Twin Cities Christian Fellowship" (formerly known as Midway Community Church) recently announced that Ike Leimberer has become the new lead pastor. Ike has taken over the leadership of a ministry that has roots in the Midway area since 1907.

He has been a pastor for over 12 years, spending the past eight years on the pastoral staff of two large churches in the area. Currently he also serves as an adjunct professor at Crown College.

Ike holds degrees from Crown College in Bible, Youth and Pastoral Ministries, with graduate work in Christian Outreach at Concordia University. He is a passionate communicator that has spoken across the nation for different organizations including the Franklin Graham Association. He and his wife Christine have been married for 14 years, have 4 kids and live in the Midway area.

Twin Cities Christian Fellowship is located on the corners of Charles and Fry at 1632 Charles Avenue.

More information can be found at: www.tcChristianFellowship.org or by phone at 651-204-6527.

St. Paul. She holds an MA in both Divinity and Theology at Luther Seminary.

Breastfed Baby topic of La Leche meeting

Baby Arrives: The Family and the Breastfed Baby is the topic of the next meeting of Como-Midway La Leche League, to be held on Tuesday, October 10, 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.

Free family Halloween party October 27

A free family Halloween party Oct. 27, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., will be sponsored by the Midway YMCA, 1761 University Avenue, St. Paul Public Libraries, Ginkgo's Coffee House, St. Paul, and Parks and Recreation Service Area 4 Recreation Centers. Each child must be accompanied by an adult!

Activities will include Carni-

val Games, Coloring Area, Tattoos, Ghost Bowling, Game Room For Teens, Slightly Spooky Story Time (5:30-6:45 p.m.), Origami, Meal Deal for \$2. (Hot Dog, Chips & Drink)

Parking is available: street parking, west parking lot, north parking lot, Griggs-Midway Building Lot.

'Between Two Altars' forum at Jehovah

Jehovah Lutheran Church member Paul Carlson, teacher at Avalon School and Midway area resident, will facilitate a discerning look at six basic life issues on six Sundays from 9 to 10 a.m. in the lounge of the Lutheran church on the corner of Snelling and Thomas Avenues beginning in mid-September.

Each session includes video commentary by noted church historian Marty who engages local Minnesotans in conversation on topics concerning mind, body, work, wealth, neighbors and technology.

All are welcome to join the continuing discussion under Carlson's leadership. Please enter through the Thomas Avenue door. Coffee and rolls served. Call Dawn for more information: 651-641-1421.

Fall Festival held at Northwest Como Rec

The Annual Fall Festival will be held at Northwest Como Rec Center on Saturday, Sept. 23, 4 to 10 p.m. The event includes Youth Soccer Games, Jump Castel, Carnival Games, Old Fashion Family Races, and Bonfire. Join the fun, concessions will be sold.

Volunteers are needed to help with large event. If you can help out for a two-hour shift, please call KT at 651-298-5813.

MOMS Club Open House at the Playground

The St. Anthony Park/Como West (west of Lexington, north of Pierce Butler) Chapter of MOMS Club would like to invite moms who are home with their children full- or part-time during the day to an "Open House at the playground" on September 22. Find out about our group, and let your kids make some new friends. Come to Tilden Park, on Arona Ave, between Albany and Almond Avenues, to chat with other moms while our kids play.

MOMS Club is an international nonprofit organization that offers daytime activities and support for mothers who have made the choice to be home during the day with their children. Local chapters offer a calendar of daytime activities for mothers and their children, community service opportunities, and a monthly Mom's Night Out.

For more information about the open house or MOMS Cub, please contact Tara at 651-646-8885.

Luncheon for seniors on 'Music Making' Oct. 10

"Music Making & Wellness" will be the topic at a luncheon for seniors on Tuesday, October 10 at 11:30 a.m. at 1514 Englewood Avenue. A music therapist will discuss and demonstrate the significant benefits of using the areas of the brain required to make music. Free transportation is provided and a free will donation is taken for the meal. Call HM Elders to make reservations or for more information about the event (651-209-6542).

Hamline Midway Elders is a neighborhood non-profit that helps keep seniors healthy and connected while living in their own homes. The services are available for all HM seniors. Call Monica to learn more and to ask about individual and group volunteer opportunities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Midway service

Continued from page 8

Nonetheless, the days of large community participation in institutions are unlikely to return. "When I grew up on Blair Avenue, most of my neighbors were all large families," Wright said. "We knew each other regardless if we went to Galtier, Hancock, St. Columba's or Central Lutheran Grade Schools because the playgrounds, churches and community activities united us as a neighborhood. We've lost much of that - families are smaller, the neighborhood has aged, and it is a much more diverse community of people who were not here then. Activities which were once neighborhood based are now spread out ge-

ographically, with parents hauling kids around larger areas to belong to sporting leagues or scout troops because there are fewer closer to where we live. Service organizations like ours have been impacted by this as well."

Wright added that the 12-day 2006 State Fair booth grossed its usual intake, leaving about \$45,000 in profits. "Many vendors reported about a 10 percent drop over last year due to two rain days, including one Sunday, which can be real revenue killers," he said. "I think we would have been up had we had perfect weather every day, but no one but the good Lord can control that."

"The fair board also asked us to make some structural improvements to our booth before the 2007 fair, so we may only be able to give out about \$20-\$25,000 this year after we factor in improvement costs and supplies," Wright

said.

The Midway Lions Club, chartered in 1940, had 125 members at its peak in the 1980s (about the time Lions opened to women members). Today the chapter has 71, according to Dennis Stern, the club's 2005 past president. Dues are \$180 annually and the chapter meets for twice-monthly luncheons (once in summer months) at O'Gara's Bar and Grill. Meetings typically include a speaker of interest to the community or Lions Club charitable priorities. The international service organization, whose motto is "We Serve," was founded in Chicago in 1917. Like many others of its kind, the Lions have been impacted by the trends of an aging membership, busier lifestyles and to what some see as an outdated approach.

"In the past, Lions and other groups tended to have a one-size-fits-all approach to meetings and

service activities," Stern said. "Service will always be our role - raising funds for the hearing and visually-impaired (Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Journey for Sight, and others), diabetes research and other community needs."

"However, we're seeing positive trends by using technology communities to our advantage," Stern said. "We now are re-emphasizing the power of networking and sharing our talents and resources between members. We're moving towards individual communities of interest as clubs or key activities within traditional clubs."

Stern added the Midway Lions Club may consider evening meetings to accommodate different work and lifestyles as well. Funds are raised through pull-tab operations at Plum's, J.R. Macs and the former Mitch's bars in the Highland Park/West end neighborhoods (replacing former bingo op-

erations at other sites), as well as one day selling ride tickets at the Minnesota State Fair (Sept. 3 is the Midway Chapter's day). The club also sponsors annual Palm Sunday pancake breakfasts at St. Mark's Catholic Church and fall Spaghetti dinners (Monday, Oct. 2nd at O'Gara's Bar & Grill, 5-8 p.m., is the next) open to the public.

The implications of declining interest and efforts by service and fraternal organizations to turn the tide with new programming, recruitment or appeals in the Midway and elsewhere remain to be seen.

"The power to turn anything around rests in its committed members and communities," Wright said. "We hope, in some small way, that the Midway Men's Club is one group that leads our community back to its roots of volunteerism, charitable work, and improving the lives of our youth."

In Our Community

Continued from page 10

MMSA Church welcomes Father Williams as pastor

Maternity of Mary-St. Andrew School and Maternity of Mary Parish are pleased to welcome Father Peter Williams as the new school canonical administrator and church pastor. Father Williams is one of nine children who grew up in Stillwater, MN. He was ordained in 2004 and holds an MBA from the Carlson School of Business at the U of M. One of his brothers is also a priest.

There are still openings in preschool through eighth grade. It's never too late to register! Contact Flo Schmidt at 651-489-1459 for more information or to arrange a tour.

MMSA School is located at 592 West Arlington Avenue in St. Paul's Como Park area. The school serves children preschool through grade 8.

Midway Lions sponsors spaghetti dinner Oct. 2

The North Suburban Blind Branch Club of the Midway Lions will sponsor a spaghetti and meatball dinner at O'Gara's Bar & Grill, Snelling & Selby Avenues, on Monday evening, Oct. 2, 5-8 p.m. Complete dinner includes salad, garlic toast, coffee or soda, and dessert. The cost is \$9.

Bethel German Dinner with Raffle Sept. 23

Bethel Lutheran Church will host a German Dinner September 23 at 5:30 p.m. Raffle tickets for merchandise donated by local businesses are available when purchasing dinner tickets and during the event. This fundraiser will benefit The Dwelling Place, a shelter ministry for women and children who are in need of immediate safety. The Dwelling Place also provides support groups for families in crises.

The Dwelling Place is currently in the process of raising \$75,000 in order to increase staff and security at their two shelters. For more information about The

Dwelling Place, their programs and volunteer opportunities visit www.thedwellingplaceshelter.org

Dinner tickets are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child or \$20 per family. Retail merchandise, gift cards and restaurant coupons donated by local businesses will be won in raffle drawings at this event. Raffle tickets are priced at \$1 per ticket. To highlight these drawings, we are raffling a vacation accommodation package worth \$500+, which includes 8 days/7 nights at your hotel choice to be used within 3 years. Raffle tickets for the vacation package are priced at \$25 per ticket. Thrivent Branch #30010 is contributing moneys to The Dwelling Place in support of this event.

Bethel Lutheran Church is located on the corner of Wheelock Parkway and Maywood Street, one block west of Dale Street. For ticket information or questions about Bethel Lutheran Church, its programs and ministries, call (651) 488-6681 M-F 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. or visit www.bethelstpaul.com

Reading Buddies needed at Crossroads Elementary

Reading Buddies are needed this fall at Crossroads Elementary (543 Front Ave). Reading Buddies work one-on-one with students by listening to students read or helping stu-

dents learn reading skills. For more information, please call Lynda Anderson at 651-767-8547 or email at Lynda.Anderson@spps.org.

KinderMelodies classes offer musical learning

KinderMelodies classes begin again in September and are open to families with children ages newborn and up. Classes differ in length and adult participation depending on the age of the child.

Kindermusik incorporates the most current research on early childhood development and provides families with a special place for learning and connecting with other parents and children through music and movement.

KinderMelodies classes include fifteen 35-40 minute classes and a set of take-home materials.

Fall classes begin Sept. 18 at several eastside locations including: Wednesdays and Thursdays at Como Park Lutheran Church, 1376 W. Hoyt Ave.

The KinderMelodies program was created by music educators and child development experts for Kindermusik International, the world's most trusted name in musical learning.

Through a unique blend of multi-level activities that includes creative movement, vocal play, object and instrument exploration,

and a colorful literature component, children's growth and development are stimulated and all of their senses engaged.

For more information about KinderMelodies curriculum, visit the website: www.kindermelodies.com. Or call KinderMelodies at 651-235-SING.

Como Park High School Class of 1985 Reunion

The Como High School Class of

1985 Reunion will be Sept. 30.

The Como Park High School graduating Class of 1985 is pleased to announce a reunion to celebrate their 21st year. The reunion is Saturday, September 30, at Gabe's By the Park. It will begin at 7 p.m. Appetizers will be provided. R.S.V.P. to Dennis Kuchenmeister at 651-503-6992 or DennisKuchenmeister@edinareality.com Como Class of 1986 welcome to come after their reunion party.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

In Our Community

Continued from page 11

Cub Scouts hold Fall Roundup in St. Paul

The Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops from neighborhoods throughout St. Paul are encouraging boys to join and become a Scout. During the Fall Roundup interested kids and their parents can meet Scouts and adult leaders from their own neighborhoods and find out more about the opportunities Scouting can provide.

Coming up there is fall camping, a special Archery Day and other fall and winter events in which Scouts compete and have fun. In all the Scouting activities boys learn new skills and activities which truly help them Be Prepared.

Between September 11 and September 22 Packs and Troops will be holding Join Scouting Nights. Simply contact Boy Scout District Executive, Houa Xiong at

651-254-9126. Using interested boys' zip codes, interested boys and parents can be directed to the local Packs and Troops closest to their neighborhoods. Information will also be posted at www.northernstarbsa.org/northstar.

Mosaic the Snelling Avenue planters Sept. 28

Community Mosaic Sessions Come to open studio times to create mosaics or the planters. All activities at Mosaic on a Stick, 595 N. Snelling. The mosaics will be completed and installed in fall 2006. There is no cost to participate. Sponsored by the Hamline Midway Coalition and Mosaic on a Stick. Thursday, September 28, 7-9:30 p.m. and Saturday, September 23rd, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

"3rd Saturday Gardening on the Avenue" - the welcoming Snelling ave planters of 2006 is scheduled for Sept. 16 at 9 a.m. Please confirm with Everett, EVERETT@USGO.NET.

Como area hockey registration coming soon

Como Area Hockey Association will be holding registration for boys and girls ages 3-14 years in September. The registration times are September 14 from 6-8 p.m. and September 16 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The registrations are being held at North Dale Recreation Center located at 1414 North St. Albans.

The hockey season begins in early November and continues until the end of February. Most practices are held at Biff Adams Arena near Como Avenue and Western. For more information contact Lisa McClellan at 651-489-5938.

St. Columba plans 'Taste of Ireland' Sept. 23

On September 23 the Church of St. Columba located on the corner of Hamline and Lafond will be hosting an Irish Dinner, Irish Dancing,

and Irish Music. Dinner will consist of Irish Stew with all the fixings. Irish music will be performed by the well known Irish group Clairseach from 5-8 p.m. A performance by the Rince na Chroí Irish Dancers will be from 6-7 p.m. Outside in the parking lot area will be the St. Columba Irish Pub.

Under the tent will be the Irish group Paddy Wagon, a young upbeat Irish band, who will be performing from 7-11 p.m. Eggrolls and chicken wings along with Beer, Wine, Water, Soda will be served. There will be games for the children in the school and also a raffle with some fabulous prizes. A week free stay in Hawaii, a autographed bobble head of Joe Mauer, a signed jersey from Troy Williamson from the MN Vikings and more. Bring your family, neighbors and friends over to St. Columba and enjoy the dinner, music and dance!

Zion gathers donation for Keystone food shelf

On Thursday, August 4th Zion

Lutheran Church at Lafond and Al-dine served free sweet corn and hot dogs while encouraging a cash donation to Keystone Community food shelf. About 120 members, neighbors and friends enjoyed the food and donated in excess of \$460.

Zion's foodshelf support increased a year ago with each household using a coffee mug to collect their spare change. The mugs were purchased at Axman on University Avenue and decorated during Bible School in August 2005 by Zion's kids. Mug collections from the congregation are over \$2000 in the past 12 months.

Former Mayor Latimer honored at Job Corps' 25th anniversary and dedication ceremony

The Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center recently announced plans for a 25th Anniversary celebration and a dedication ceremony honoring former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer. On Wednesday September 27, the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with events from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Activities will culminate in a dedication ceremony for the center's new cafeteria, to be named in honor of Former Saint Paul Mayor George Latimer. The dedication ceremony will be held at 12:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. Members of the press are invited and encouraged to attend this event on Wednesday September 27. The Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center is located at 1480 Snelling Avenue North, in Saint Paul.

The 25th Anniversary events will include an open house, with escorted tours of the campus conducted between 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. At 11:30 a.m., guests who RSVP can join students and staff for a boxed lunch in the gymnasium. After the lunch, a ceremony honoring Former Mayor Latimer will be held in the gym beginning at 12:30 p.m.

During the dedication ceremony George Latimer will be honored for his instrumental role in opening the Humphrey Job Corps Center in 1981. Speakers will include Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center is a federally funded training center for individuals between the ages of 16 to 24 from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The Center provides education and training in multiple vocational areas to 350 to 400 students a year, most of whom live on campus. While at Job Corps, students train and work in vocational areas that provide them the necessary experience to find self supporting employment when they leave Job Corps.

The Humphrey campus is located at 1480 North Snelling Avenue in Saint Paul. For more information about the 25th Anniversary celebration and dedication ceremony, please contact Dan Cherryhomes at (651) 642-1133 Ext 143.

Next deadline: October 2

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**Hubert H. Humphrey
Job Corps Center
25th Anniversary
Celebration**

Wednesday September 27th:
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Dedication Ceremony for
Latimer Hall**

12:30 p.m.

Our new cafeteria will be dedicated to George Latimer, former Mayor of Saint Paul, whose efforts made it possible for the Humphrey Center to open at 1480 North Snelling Avenue Saint Paul.

<http://huberthumphrey.jobcorps.gov/html/centernews1.html>



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10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesday Activities
Fall Activities begin on September 20

5:30-6:30 p.m. Super Suppers (reservations needed)
6:30-8:00 p.m. Children(kindergarten-6th grade) Activities
"Around the World in 40 Wednesdays"
6:00-8:30 p.m. Youth (Junior High & Senior High)
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Property on Crosby Block may be getting final chance

By JANE MCCLURE

The historic Crosby Block, 1956 Feronia Av., may be getting one final chance. The St. Paul City Council could vote as soon as September 13 on an agreement to complete rehabilitation of the historic structure in 180 days. If final details of a settlement agreement can be worked out and approved by the council, the work could be completed in March 2007.

If the work cannot be done by then, the city would order that the building be demolished. Neighborhood residents say they'll be watching and monitoring progress on the building rehabilitation, and will let city officials know immediately if the work slows down or stops.

Ward Four Council Member Jay Benanav said the 180-day completion period has to be the owner's last chance to remove or repair the building. He is seeking to have exterior work, including installation of windows and securing of the building, to be steps done sooner rather than later.

"I think this can get done," Benanav said. But he made it clear that this is the owner's last chance.

One condition city officials are suggesting is that if the work doesn't get done, the owners agree to sell the building. A number of people have expressed interest in buying the building. Some have attended two August community meetings to discuss the project.

At one August community meeting, owner Naomi Isaacson said she would "probably" sell the building if the work doesn't get done in a set time period. But as of last week it was unclear whether that condition would be agreed upon by both parties.



The historic Crosby Block, 1956 Feronia Av., may be getting one final chance. The St. Paul City Council could vote as soon as September 13 on an agreement to complete rehabilitation of the historic structure in 180 days. (Photo by Tom Conlon)

"We need a bottom line," said Merriam Park Community Council Community Organizer Theresa Heiland. "The best scenario is that this gets finished and we'll have a beautiful building." But without a deadline, several people at the August 22 meeting said they're concerned the work won't get done.

The building has had more than two dozen summary abatement orders in recent months, to remove and repair broken glass, remove vehicles, clean garbage from the yard, secure the building, cut grass,

shovel snow and remove graffiti. It was gutted by a previous owner. Sindt has been framing in the interior and recently cleaned out the basement. But the building's condition required that the interior be stabilized, work that had to be done without heavy equipment.

Contractor Zech Sindt, who is leading the building rehabilitation efforts, outlined a work completion schedule at an August 22 community meeting. He has worked out a four-phase building rehabilitation plan of exterior and interior improve-

ments, with work on the exterior to be completed this fall. The plan also includes the construction of a garage.

Isaacson and Lauren Ballinger are listed as the current owners. Isaacson met with a group of Merriam Park residents in August to discuss her plans for the building. She plans a commercial office on the ground floor of the building and to use the upper two floors as living quarters.

Sindt outlined the schedule for about two dozen neighbors August 22. Isaacson didn't at-

tend. "This schedule looks good," Merriam Park Community Council President Scott Banas said. "But can you get it done?" Sindt said he can get the work done, with the exterior work completed by November. Neighbors are especially concerned that the windows, many of which are open, be closed before winter.

The Crosby Block is one of the oldest business buildings in Merriam Park neighborhood. It was designed by Barber and Barber Architects and built by J.N. Noble in 1888.

The building is named for its first owner, Herbert M. Crosby, who was cashier of the Bank of Merriam Bank and a Merriam Park and Midway area civic leader. The building is a remnant of the late 19th century business district that was in the area between the Iris Park and old Union Park areas of Merriam Park. Union Park, a largely commercial industrial-commercial area along Prior Avenue between University and St. Anthony avenues, was once envisioned as a major site for Twin Cities union stockyards. Some histories indicate that the Crosby Block was a part of this development, which would have brought thousands of jobs to the Midway. But when the main stockyards were built in South St. Paul more than a century ago, Union Park's grand plans were halted.

Over the years 1956 Feronia had a variety of uses. But the building has had a fall from grace in recent years. For a time it was an apartment building that generated numerous police and property code enforcement calls. It has been vacant since 1999 but has had a series of owners as various development plans didn't materialize.

Paint the Town

Continued from page 3

Schmitt, who is a White Bear Lake native, became involved in the project after responding to an email "call for artists". She submitted a portfolio and after going through the interview process she was selected for the project.

After double majoring in studio art and communication from Macalester College, Schmitt was honored by the Macalester art faculty with their highest award recognition for her artistic and creative achievement. Her mural work can be found in various homes, businesses and public spaces throughout the United States. The Martha Elliot Health Center, an affiliate of Harvard Medical Center is one medial institution that has commissioned her work. Schmitt was also featured on the television program "Home Team" for her mural work on the Vision House in Seattle, WA.

Schmitt has taken a collaborative approach with the mural. In addition to SPARC and the various other partners, she has two Macalester students helping as well as additional volunteers.

"In the planning process of this mural, I've tried to involve many different groups of people from the community so that they may develop a sense of ownership for the project," Schmitt said. "There were two major community forums at which we discussed ideas and imagery for the mural. I also spent a day at Como Park High School talking about the project and getting feedback."

The mural is set to be completed by the end of September. It is intended to capture the essence of the neighborhood and the different people who live within the community. It will also celebrate hope and growth for the future.

On September 21, SPARC along with the Great Northern Corridor Project will be celebrating the completion of the mural and industrial park clean up with a celebration on the Dale Street Bridge. From 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., neighbors can stop by to enjoy food, music and celebration.

"It is magical when people do art together," GebbenGreen said. "It really bridges our neighborhoods."

A locally-owned bank with local people. Imagine that.



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Hope Chest for Cancer opens Snelling location

By DEBORAH BROTZ

After losing both of her sisters to breast cancer and her mother to lung cancer (which more than likely metastasized from breast cancer), Barbara Hensley felt devastated. During her sisters' combined six-year battles, she became painfully aware of the challenges underserved women faced who had breast cancer. Seeing women who barely had enough money for food and rent and then were faced with fighting breast cancer disturbed and angered her. So, she decided to do something about it.

Resigning from her job as vice president of product management at Ceridian in 2001, Hensley founded the Hope Chest for Breast Cancer, which raises money through the sale of donated, upscale furniture, accessories and designer clothing, utilizing a chain of retail stores. The first store opened in Orono/Navarre in the Lake Minnetonka area in November 2002. The second Hope Chest for Breast Cancer Retail Store, at 571 N. Snelling Ave. (five blocks north of Highway 94), opened in July 2006.

Seeing her own future with breast cancer running in her family, Hensley had a preventive bilateral mastectomy in 1996. Her inspiration for the Hope Chest for Breast Cancer came from her two

sisters, which she lost to breast cancer.

"My youngest sister died in 1994," she said. "She was 42. Almost two years to the date, my older sister died of breast cancer. She fought the disease for 18 months, and it ravaged her body. I wanted to create a business model that would provide ongoing revenue to breast cancer causes."

Hensley feels her former executive vice president position for a Fortune 500 company has been very valuable.

"What I bring to the business is an understanding of business acumen," she said. "I have a really strong business background. I bring 25 years of executive business experience to Hope Chest. This gives it a good chance of success."

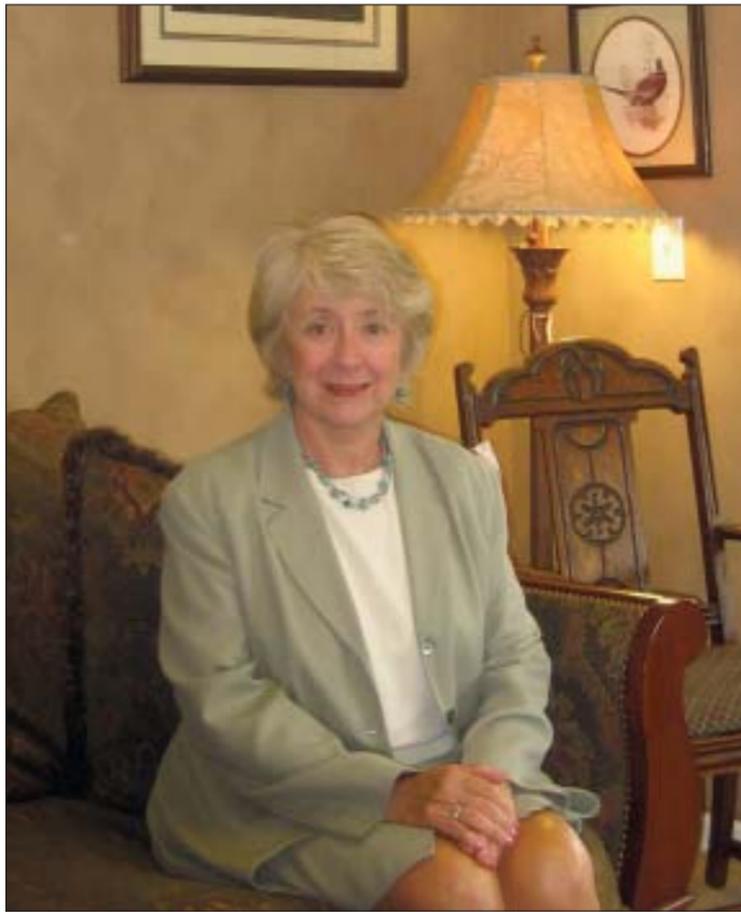
In 2004, the goal was to contribute \$50,000 to the Foundation and they contributed \$180,000.

Hensley decided to open a store in St. Paul because their other store is way on the west side.

"Lots of people from St. Paul come to our store," she said. "We needed to have a store on the east side. We knew the St. Paul community wanted to be part of this. We bought a 1920s building and parking lot. We totally gutted and refurbished it. It's just beautiful."

Snelling Avenue was chosen as the store's site because of its central location.

"We needed a place that is easy to give directions to," said Hensley. "We wanted a place that had parking. Our donors bring



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us items, and we wanted it to be easy for donors and shoppers."

Hensley gets a variety of new merchandise from interior de-

signers, manufacturers, and retail stores going out of business, as well as generous donations of barely used items from the Twin Cities community. The Hope Chest mantra is "excellent quality, excellent buys...all for an excellent cause."

"What's hard for people to understand is the high quality of items donated," she said. "We have marble tables, antique armoires, Henrendon sofas, sterling silver and Bavarian china sets."

Many of the items in the store are one-of-a-kind.

"If you see something you like, you should buy it," said Hensley. "It's a treasure hunt."

You never know what we're going to have. If you're looking for something particular and we don't have it, you can put it in our Wish Book."

Dolo Eggert, St. Paul's Hope Chest Retail Store manager, had previously worked part time at the Orono store.

"Most jobs I've had have been with organizations doing some good," she said. "I always wanted to be in retail. It was a good fit. I live in St. Paul so it's a lot closer to my house."

I was impressed with the mission of Hope Chest and the other people who worked there and wanted to continue to be involved with them."

Eggert enjoys her job because the things she does at the store are different every day.

"I can't get bored," she said. "There's too much to do. It's fun meeting all the different customers. A lot of people in here have been personally touched by breast cancer. The merchandise is exceptional, especially for the price."

The store always looks different.

"Virtually, we get something in every day," said Eggert. "It's always changing. It's like seeing a new store every month. There's such a range of merchandise. There will be something for everybody."

In addition to the retail store, Hope Chest hosts a variety of special events to raise money for the Foundation, which bring people together in support of a worthy cause. These events are what the Hope Chest refers to as "socially conscious entertaining."

"People entertain using Hope Chest facilities and give guests a wonderful opportunity to shop and it all has a social impact," said Hensley. "Often, people write checks straight out to the Foundation they're so excited about what we're doing."

Through the unique retail shop, grants/foundations, and a variety of social events, Hope Chest raises money to fund breast cancer research, early detection and treatment programs, and hospice care for those touched by breast cancer. At Hope Chest, a special emphasis is placed on helping people who are battling breast cancer with inadequate or no health insurance. But, Hope Chest gives money to organizations who disperse it, not individuals.

"For women experiencing breast cancer and don't have money, we pay rent and for childcare," said Hensley. "We try to help them get through treatment that is so hard on the body. We want to alleviate some of the financial pressure so they can concentrate on getting well."

The Hope Chest recently gave the University of Minnesota Cancer Center \$100,000 to fund an education program for women of different ethnicities who might not have the cultural background to understand the importance of early detection.

"We know if we get people screened and catch the cancer early, then they have a better survival rate," said Hensley. "Women of color have approximately a 35 percent higher mortality rate from breast cancer."

Starting Hope Chest was important to Hensley because she wanted to make a difference in breast cancer.

"I wanted to create something that would go on when I'm no longer doing it," she said. "I wanted something that would have longevity."

Hope Chest's long-range goal is to have 50 locations nationwide and raise \$10 million annually for breast cancer causes.

Ultimately, Hensley's hope is to get rid of breast cancer.

"I have two sons and three wonderful grandsons and someday when I'm no longer working and sitting in my rocking chair with my great grandchildren around me they will say, 'Gan, what did you do?'" she said. "I'll tell them I had the opportunity to work with fantastic people at Hope Chest. They'll look up at me and say, 'What's breast cancer?' I hope they won't know what breast cancer is because their moms do not have it. We would have gotten rid of it. I believe that's possible."

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While we enjoy these last fine days of summer, thoughts of winter are still far off. However, for the wild creatures that plan on surviving the coming deep-freeze, winter is already biting at their heels. Preparations need to be taken during this time of plenty. The lovesick cicadas that sing from the treetops and the grasshoppers that fiddle away on the sunny side of the house will not be among the survivors.

Two familiar critters employ two very different strategies for surviving until next spring. The Eastern chipmunk and the ruby-throated hummingbird share only a few attributes: they're very small, highly-strung, and antisocial.

Migration is the ruby-throated hummingbird's (*Archilochus colubris*) winter survival plan. The male hummingbirds start their incredible journey a few weeks ahead of the females. I started seeing the male hummers in early August, but by the end of the month I was seeing just the feisty females with no male in sight.

Each hummingbird would take a buzz around our yard to visit the scarlet runnerbean flowers. Any thing red was investigated first. Then they would check out the pink swamp milkweed, the purple petunias, and finally the blue chicory blossoms.

If you don't have late season flowers or a nectar feeder in your own yard, you can still see ruby-throated hummingbirds. Pay a visit to the "Enchanted Garden" in front of the McNealy Conservatory, but the hummers have a long migration ahead of them, so they won't be around for long. By early October there will only be a



Neighborhood Naturalist

By DEB ROBINSON

Bad-tempered beauties - strategies for survival

few stragglers left moving through our area.

Hummers are protective of their food sources and will chase off other hummingbirds, bumblebees, and even butterflies from their flowers or nectar feeder. In mid August, when I was up north at Itasca State Park, I watched wasps chasing hummingbirds and hummingbirds chasing bees, but the male hummers were the biggest bullies at the feeders.

I watched one late migrating male hummer sitting resolutely on top of one nectar feeder outside the Douglas Lodge window. He often spread his tail feathers to display his dominance and his head constantly jerked back and forth ready to fight off any interloper. And the other nearby nectar feeders buzzed with a multitude of squabbling female hummingbirds. Hummers simply do not like each other.

It takes a lot of energy to fuel the ruby-throated hummingbirds' 2,000-mile migration south to Central America. Sharing a food source is not a hummer value; nice guys finish last in the race to escape winter's cold. And flying south is the only option for these nectar-feeders to survive winter.

The tiny terrestrial-bound Eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*)



Illustration by Deb Robinson

can't migrate, but it does hibernate. Like the hummers, guarding one's food supply is a major part of the chipmunk survival plan.

The larger woodlands of Como Park are home to these attractive little rodents where they live their solitary lives on the forest floor. There may be as many as 30 chippies per acre, but each chipmunk defends a small territory and an underground burrow of its own.

Late in the day during the summer months, all the chipmunks living in the woodland hurl insults at each other from their burrow entrances in a can-

tankerous chorus of chips and chucks. The noise stops when all these grouches are satisfied that no other chipmunk would dare trespass on their property today.

Chipmunks forage in the forest for seeds, nuts, berries, insects, and slugs. They will even eat birds' eggs, nestlings, or voles if they get the chance. Each chippy gathers and then stores in its burrow a small mountain of non-perishable foods to tide it over until spring. Chipmunks are true hibernators, but they don't put on extra fat so they frequently wake-up in need of a winter snack.

By October the woodland is quiet. The chipmunks are already

snuggled into their burrows for winter. And most of the surviving hummingbirds will have buzzed down to Texas and will have made their nonstop, 24 hour-flight across the Gulf of Mexico to Central America. If all goes well, the bad-tempered beauties will return with the spring flowers.

Endnotes: *Buckthorn Busts in the chippies' woodland on Oct. 7 and 28 from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will meet at Como Pool Parking lot for coffee and treats before we do battle with the invasive buckthorn trees. Sign up: Environment@comopark.org or just show up. *Nature Photo Contest! The deadline for submissions to the 2007 Capitol Region Watershed District calendar is Oct. 13. More info: www.capitolregionwd.org or call: 651-644-8888 *The Como Zoo & Conservatory art classes start again this September. There are a slew of new offerings such as Animal Anatomy, Children's Book Illustration, and Desktop Publishing for artists! Info: www.comozooconservatory.org or call: 651-487-8272 *To contact this writer: dmrobinson@bitstream.net

Classifieds

Continued from page 15

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Date: Thursday, September 28
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Hamline United Methodist
Church
Contact: Carlos Sneed,
651-523-2423

Book Signing and Reminiscences with Vern Mikkelsen '49

Stop by Hutton Arena to see the new
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Vern Mikkelsen '49, who played
basketball at Hamline and then went
on to an NBA Hall of Fame career with
the Minneapolis Lakers.
Date: Friday, October 6
Time: 2-4 p.m.
Location: Hutton Arena Lobby
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Come and enjoy music, entertainment,
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