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INSIDE



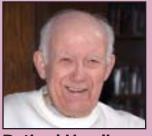
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City delays OK of SuperTarget

Urban Boat Builders builds boats, shores up lives of youth

By JAN WILLMS

Tucked away in the Midway area of University Avenue, on the corner of Pascal Street and University Avenue, is a shop that does not fit in with the typical retail stores.

A sign on the door identifies the space as belonging to the Urban Boat Builders, Inc.

Inside are boats, some in the process of being worked on and others that appear ready for launching.

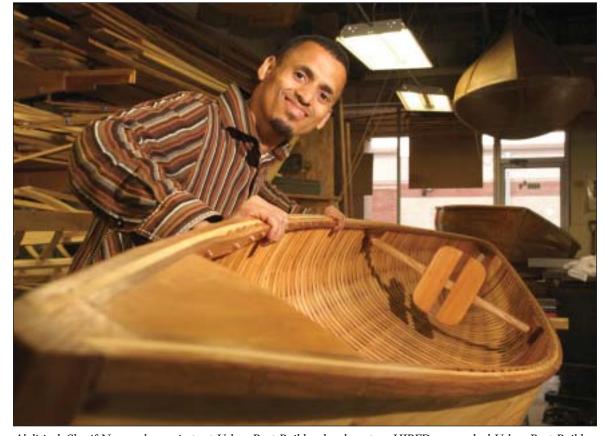
Some young men are putting the finishing touches on these boats as preparation is underway for a launching on Lake Keller, which took place the last weekend in April. Providing instructions is another young man, not much older than his students.

Phil Winger, building instructor and program manager for Urban Boat Builders, is living out his dream, working with youth and building boats.

Urban Boat Builders was incorporated as a nonprofit it 1995 and started its first project in 1996. Winger joined the staff in 2000.

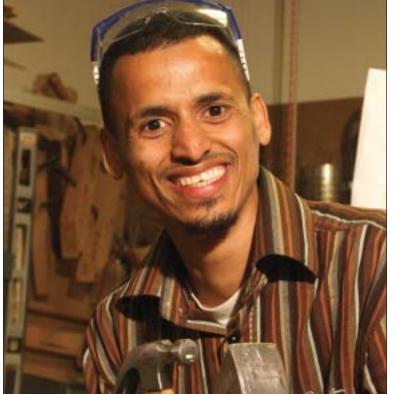
"We have partnered with HIRED, an organization that provides employment training for youth who fit a certain criteria," Winger said.

He said that HIRED ap-



Abdirizak Sharif Nur works on rivets at Urban Boat Builders headquarters. HIRED approached Urban Boat Builders last summer, wanting to partner to do a boat building project for about 10-12 youths. (Photo by Terry Faust)

proached Urban Boat Builders last summer, wanting to partner to do a boat building project for about 10-12 youths.



"Our agency has strengthened its emphasis on youth development," Winger said. "We have sharpened our definition of ourselves as a youth agency."

Winger said that Urban Boat Builders provides the program, the building space, the materials and the instructor. HIRED recruits good candidates.

"These are kids who have not had a lot of opportunities," Winger said. "Some are interested in the trades, others are craving hands-on experience."

Winger said most of the boys are still in high school or working on a GED.

"We started in late November with 10," he said. "We expect a certain attrition rate," he added. "Families move, or some of the guys decide this work isn't for them. This time around, we had a high retention rate until about a month or so before the project ended. I was happy with the level of interest and commitment with this group—it validated our pro-

Although their first boat building project last year had one young woman participate, the group this time was all males.

"I would like that to change and become more balanced," Winger said. "It seems like the trades are so male dominated."

Winger, who lives in south Minneapolis, is the only instructor for this project. His path toward becoming a boat builder has been a winding one.

"I grew up canoeing and had a little sailboat in my teens," Winger said, admitting that he liked to sail during thunderstorms. However, his college major was chemistry.

Upon graduation from college, he worked with youth at St. Joseph's Hospital in Minneapolis. "I was really surprised at how much I enjoyed working with kids," Winger said.

During a vacation break at St. Joseph's, he took a boat building class.

"It was one of the best experiences of my life," Winger said. "I remember asking an instructor if I could support a family building wooden boats. He said that depended upon my standard of living. I filed that information away."

Midway Como Ton

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Midway Como in a Minute

Wilder Foundation OKed for headquarters

Wilder Foundation can build a larger headquarters building than originally planned, with unanimous April 7 St. Paul Planning Commission approval of a height variance and site plan changes for the project. Wilder's new headquarters is part of the Lexington Park development at the southwest corner of Lexington Parkway and University Avenue.

The Planning Commission decision is final. It wasn't appealed to the City Council in the 10-day appeal period, so the decision will stand

Lexington Park is on the former site of the Lexington shopping center, a 1950s strip mall that was torn down recently. An Aldi grocery store and TCF Bank have already been built. South of Wilder are sites for Episcopal Homes senior housing and for Lexington Park developer Steve Wellington to develop condominium or a mixed retail-residential development.

Wilder's building as originally approved is ell-shaped, with 86,600 square feet of floor area. The site plan revision calls for enlarging the third floor of the building by 12,536 square feet. That would bring the total floor area to 99,136 square feet.

The originally planned parking ramp had 324 spaces. It now will have 80 more spaces, for a total of 404 spaces. One more floor

will be added to the parking ramp Wilder has about 370 full-

Wilder has about 370 fulltime and part-time employees. The office space and ramp are being added to accommodate future growth.

Lexington-Hamline Community Council and the Lexington Park Design Advisory Group support Wilder's change in plans. No one appeared at a March Planning Commission Zoning Committee hearing to speak against the plans.

The height variance for the parking ramp was to be granted with the condition that the ramp appearance be improved. Final approval of any improvements would be left to city staff.

Redevelopment dispute settled for St. Albans

A dispute over redevelopment at the southeast corner of University and St. Albans has been resolved. Ramsey County District Court Judge Steven Wheeler has ruled that the city can condemn property at the corner including Olson Brothers Liquor, R & R Books and Capital City Hatters. A vacuum cleaner sales and repair center has already relocated.

The judge's order allows the city to take the properties by eminent domain or condemnation. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, voted in September 2005 to acquire the property through eminent domain, a move that the property owners have opposed.

City officials contend that the property is a blighted and "deleterious" land use, and that it inflicts an economic blight on the surrounding area.

The corner has been eyed for redevelopment for the past few years. An earlier proposal to build senior citizen housing has been shelved. Instead a proposal for office-retail use is on the drawing board. Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation, Selby Area Community Development Corporation, Model **Cities Development Corporation** and Legacy Management are the co-developers, working with the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). Planned is a build a 21,080 square foot twostory commercial building, with a 34-space parking ramp and six surface parking spaces.

The judge's order was issued March 28, following a February public hearing. Wheeler heard the HRA argue a condemnation petition grant. The city asked the court to appoint commissioners to determine the amount of damages the affected property owners will sustain, when the city takes the property for redevelopment.

R & R Books is the city's last remaining adult bookstore. It has been at that location since 1976. R & R Books, the Olson family and other businesses sued the city last fall, saying the city's actions to condemn the store property are a violation of free speech rights as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. One dilemma R & R Books faces is if the city forces it to relo-

cate, current zoning ordinances would make it very difficult if not impossible for the store to find another location in St. Paul.

City approves plans for Emerald Street site

Plans to redevelop the western end of University Avenue took another step forward April 19 as the St. Paul City Council approved a preliminary and final registered land survey for Emerald Street Limited Liability Corporation.

The survey is for 2650 University Av, between Emerald and Curfew streets. Ellis Street is at the rear of the property. The survey and plat change creates three tracts for mixed use development, dividing up a 53,900 square foot parcel.

The property has more than 200 feet of frontage on University Avenue. It is a long, narrow property. It is between a University of Minnesota-owned building and colonial-style office building that will be torn down soon.

The Metro, a residential condominium development by Wellington Management, is currently under construction on the site. It will be near other Wellington projects, Emerald Gardens and Berry Place.

The land was rezoned for traditional neighborhoods or TN use in 2005, and also won site plan review. A conditional use permit was issued last year to allow a building that is 66 feet tall.

Chief Harrington calls it "a cop on every corner"...

Surveillance cameras could be added to Midway commercial corridors

By JANE MCCLURE

A closed-circuit camera system could come to University Avenue and Midway commercial ar-

eas as part of a larger public safety effort here. The St. Paul City Council and St. Paul Police Department are studying the use of cameras as a crime-fighting tool, both in crime prevention and traffic control efforts.

Following a presentation this spring, the City Council asked Mayor Chris Coleman's administration to weigh in on the ideas. City Council members are hoping for an update in May.

Even if there is City Council support for such a system, no timeline has been set for its installation and implementation. Nor is there a firm estimate of costs, although the figures could easily top the \$1 million mark.

St. Paul Police Chief John Harrington sees closed-circuit cameras as part of a larger crime prevention effort. "I believe this project really has a lot of promise," he said.

"It would be like having a cop on every corner," he added.

Harrington said the cameras could be part of a more comprehensive Safe City initiative in the Midway area, starting with Midway Center and possibly expanding to other commercial areas. The police chief sees no difficulties in obtaining \$1.2 million in federal grant funding for the program, as well as private grant matches totaling about \$500,000. One agency interested in participating in the program is Metro Transit.

The cameras would be a key piece of a larger system, which would also include better sharing of law enforcement information and improved radio communications to link law enforcement officers and private security. Quick notification of suspicious behavior, pictures of suspects and other information could be quickly shared. The system could also include call boxes available for the public to use to report crimes.

St. Paul Police have used closed-circuit cameras on a smaller scale in some neighborhood crime-fighting efforts, Harrington said. Cameras have been used in problem areas of the Frogtown and Summit-University neighborhoods, to combat gangs and drug dealing. The police

chief said the cameras have been effective in those efforts.

One factor that could push the closed circuit television camera idea along is the proposed Central Corridor project, which would bring either light rail or a dedicated busway to University Avenue several years from now.

Another impetus is a recent University UNITED survey in which area residents indicated that they have concerns about public safety while visiting Midway area retailers. "We began looking at that and asking, how can we change that perception?" Harrington said.

Midway businesses are interested in learning more about closed-circuit television systems as tied to a larger public safety effort. Midway Chamber of Commerce President Lori Fritts said Harrington did speak about the cameras at a recent Chamber luncheon. A meeting is being set up to discuss the idea further.

City Council members are also interested in the idea of us





Midway resident Paul Dadlez, who is president of the Hancock Booster Club, is interested in the bike rodeo as the parent of 7-year-old triplets. Above, Molly, Peter, Zoe (L-R) Dadlez practice their bike safety protocol in anticipation of the Rodeo in June. Dadlez and other organizers are hoping to make this an annual event. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Hancock Rec Center lassoes local kids for bike rodeo

By DEBORAH BROTZ

In 2004, there were 985 bicycle crashes in Minnesota with 937 injuries reported, 92 which were severe. There were 10 bicyclist fatalities in 2004, half of which were less than 15 years of age.

With bicycle crashes being mostly a warm weather occurrence in the five-month period of May through September, one-third of them in 2004 were most prevalent in the three-hour time period of 3-6 p.m.

With statistics like these, it's no surprise that Hancock Recreation Center wants to take some proactive steps in preventing bicycle accidents. On Sat., June 3, from 8:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Hancock Recreation, located at 1610 Hubbard Ave., will be holding a Bike Safety Rodeo for children 7 and older and their families. (Children ages 7-10 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or adult.)

St. Paul Police Officers Tim Bradley and Lucia Wroblewski, will teach bike safety, laws, etiquette, and communication skills. Participants will also learn correct balancing and riding techniques and will have an opportunity to ride on a Safety Obstacle Course designed by Officers Bradley and

"They have the expertise in bike safety and traffic law and are definitely seen as an authority on safety in the St. Paul community," said Tom Russell, St. Paul Parks and Recreation Service Area 4 coordinator.

The purpose of the bike rodeo is to promote safety among youth that choose biking for a recreational activity.

"Parks and Recreation promotes life long activities and this year is spearheading a health and wellness initiative," said Russell. "We also want to promote safety among the youth in our community. Initiated by Cathy Courtney and her staff, they thought it would be wonderful for the Hancock community, with all the busy streets surrounding it, to facilitate bike safety among the

youth in the neighborhood."

Courtney, recreation director at Hancock Recreation Center, came up with the idea for the bike safety rodeo after seeing them before on the East Side of St. Paul.

"I saw lots of children there," she said. "I thought it was a great idea. The kids were learning so much. The officer did a great job. I found out that the bike rodeo at Associated Bank (formerly Liberty State Bank) wasn't going to be held anymore."

Courtney decided she wanted Hancock Recreation Center to hold a bike safety rodeo because she thought it would benefit families in the neighborhood.

"I see a lot of bikers out in the neighborhood," she said. "A lot of children ride their bikes to the rec center. So, I thought it would be a benefit to all."

Officer Bradley suggested to Courtney that the bike safety rodeo be held for children 7 and older.

"It has to do with balance and coordination," she said. "Younger children do not have the balance and coordination to do hand signals and steer at the same time."

Courtney says it's impressive how many people in the neighborhood came together to help.

"It's been overwhelming," she said. "What a great surprise. So many people were able to make a contribution to this first-time event."

Courtney will be purchasing door prizes with a grant she received from Walmart.

"There will be a couple of bikes given away and numerous bike helmets," she said.

A lunch of hot dogs, chips, and juice will be served at Newell Park with a donation from American Bank

The bike rodeo specifically targets children 7 and older.

"We have found that this age group represents the largest population of bike riders among youth," said Russell.

The rodeo is sponsored by many organizations: St. Paul

Parks and Recreation, St. Paul Police Department, St. Paul Fire and Safety Services/Carl's Cause, Hancock Booster Club, GINGKO Coffeehouse, Boehm's Schwinn Cycle, Sibley Bike Depot, Midway Transportation Management Organization, Walmart, American Bank, Minnesota Dept. of Health/Injury and Violence Prevention Unit.

"Parks and Recreation always tries to partner with as many organizations as possible to make it truly a community event," said Russell. "Then the community takes ownership of the event. With Cathy Courtney coordinating, she will determine what each organization can add to the event whether it be sponsorship or expertise and then coordinate these offerings into a wonderful community event."

Members of the Sibley Bike Depot and St. Paul Fire Safety/Carl's Cause will be on hand to conduct free bike helmetfitting checks. Medical research shows that nearly 90 percent of brain injuries sustained in bicycle accidents could be prevented with the use of a helmet. But, for a helmet to do its job, it must fit well and be properly adjusted.

"The free bike helmet check is to assist parents and youth in determining if their helmets have the proper fit and if they are obsolete," said Russell.

Midway resident Paul Dadlez, who is president of the Hancock Booster Club, is interested in the bike rodeo as the parent of 7-year-old triplets.

"They're all avid bikers," he said. "We're living in the city. It's a good opportunity for them to be educated by experts."

The Hancock Booster Club is voluntarily staffing various stations at the rodeo and helping with lunch at Newell Park.

"We're making a donation to help support the cost of the event to keep the fee down so it's not as high with sponsors' support," said Dadlez.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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Viewpoints

Ask most people in the Midway about the advantages of living in the area and the most common responses are something like "great, central location," and "great neighborhoods." Both answers are clearly true, and both underscore what I value most about living in the Midway: if you choose to, you can get around well without driving.

As transportation choices and proximity to everything are the competitive advantages of the Midway, it is critical that we continue to improve upon these options and create a balanced transportation system that accommodates cyclists, pedestrians, and transit riders as well as motorists. How can this balance be achieved?

For transit riders, the Central Corridor light rail project, which appears to finally be moving forward, will provide higher quality, faster service to the major destinations along the route. Equally as critical, and yet undetermined, are the bus routes that will "feed" into the new light rail route, getting people to and from the station who live more than a few blocks away and making connections to local stops between stations.

For cyclists, we have the beginnings of a good bicycling network, but much work remains. More and better bicycle parking (bike racks) is also needed so that cyclists have a safe and convenient place to lock up there bikes. Relief is on the way on both fronts: A new bicycle/pedestrian path along the west-side of Lexington Parkway between Minnehaha and Energy Park Drive is planned for 2009, making an important connection over the railroad into Como Park. The extension of the Midtown Greenway into St. Paul along the Canadian Pacific railway is also in the works—the Greenway will be the area's first and only



Guest Column

By RUSS STARK

Transportation options make Midway unique

off-street bike/ped trail, connecting all the way to Stillwater and Chaska. In addition, Midway TMO is working with the City, Metro Transit, and other partners to install attractive bike racks at a number of neighborhood commercial areas in the vicinity.

For pedestrians, the Midway offers great walkable neighborhoods, interspersed with very high traffic, wide arterial roadways (think Snelling, University, etc.) that do not feel safe to cross. Many area residents and organizations have been working on ideas to help enliven streets such as Snelling with activity and art, which coupled with some modest roadway design changes can significantly calm traffic

For all of these users of alternative transportation modes, there is an urgent need for the City to change the zoning along University Avenue so that all developers (national chain retailers in particular) are required to build in a more urban, pedestrian-friendly manner, instead of the same old single-story with sea of parking model. Research conducted by my organization has also found that the City requires about 40% more parking at commercial and retail developments than is actually used or needed (take a look at the CVS parking lot any day of the week).

If there is one key to the success of the light rail proj-

ect it is creating attractive and safe bus, pedestrian, and cycling connections to the stations. These connections will help to maximize the benefits of the project for area residents and businesses, and minimize the number of people looking to park a car in the area and hop on the train. [There are many community meetings and oppor-

tunities to comment on the project throughout the rest of May. See www.centralcorridor.org and www.districtcouncilscollaborative.org for more information].

Spring is the season of the annual regional Commuter Challenge, which offers the chance to win great prizes for those who agree to try an alternative to driving alone to work before June 30. To join the more than 50 Midway area residents who have already signed up, go to www.metrotransit.org and click on the Commuter Challenge banner.

As part of this year's Challenge, this Friday, May 19th is annual Bike/Walk to work day. Events include organized bike rides leading into both downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis, where there will be refreshments, information, and workshops taking place at Rice Park and at the Hennepin County Government Center. For more information visit www.midwaytmo.org.

For kids and families, Hancock Recreation Center is hosting a bicycle rodeo in their parking lot the morning of Saturday, June 3, with free bike safety instruction, helmet-fitting, and an obstacle course. Contact the Rec Center for more information.

(Editor's note: Russ Stark is executive director of Midway Transportation Management Organization.)

Last month I wrote about several medical conditions that can manifest as a chronic cough. One of those conditions—heartburn—affects many people. So today's column will elaborate on that topic.

Heartburn is also called acid reflux, or GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease). Certain cells in our stomachs pro-

duce acids which help to breakdown our food. The lining of the stomach usually does a good job of protecting itself from this acid. However, if the acid escapes the stomach and enters the esophagus, you can feel pain.

Your esophagus is the tube that carries food from your mouth to your stomach. There is a muscle where the stomach and esophagus meet. It is called the gastroesophageal sphincter. Gastro means stomach. This sphincter acts as a gate. It is normally closed so that acid stays in the stomach. When you eat, this muscle relaxes to allow food into your stomach. This also sometimes allows acid to creep up the walls of the esophagus.

Heartburn can be mild or severe. The pain can be in a small area in the middle of your chest, or it can radiate the entire length of your esophagus and all across your chest. Many people end up in emergency rooms thinking that they are having a heart attack, only to learn that their pain is actually caused by stomach acid.

In addition to the pain or burning associated with reflux, other symptoms are a bothersome cough, hoarse voice, sore throat, sour taste in the mouth, and difficulty swallowing.

Cares and Cures

By JANE KILIAN, M.D.

The headache of heartburn

Occasional heartburn is bothersome, but shouldn't cause any long term problems. However, if heartburn is frequent (several times a week) and/or severe, the esophagus can actually become irritated and inflamed from the acid.

Certain foods make heartburn worse. It is different for everyone, but typical culprits are greasy and/or spicy foods, tomatoes, onions, alcohol, peppermint, chocolate, and caffeine. Lying down shortly after eating can cause acid to leak into the esophagus because the gate muscle is still relaxed, and you don't have gravity to keep the acid in your stomach.

Pregnant women and overweight people tend to have heartburn because of the increased pressure on their stomachs. Cigarette smokers and people with asthma are also often troubled by acid reflux.

To prevent heartburn you want to avoid the foods mentioned, and anything that you notice causes you to have symptoms. You can also sleep on 2 or more pillows, or even raise the head of your bed by placing the legs on blocks. Be sure the blocks are wide and stable.

Additional prevention measures include eating small

meals, eating low fat foods, and avoiding belts or clothing that put lots of pressure on your abdomen. And quit—or at least cut down—on smoking.

There are many medicines available if your prevention methods aren't successful. Ranitidine and omeprazole used to be available only with a prescription, but are now available over

the counter

If you try preventive measures and over the counter medicines, and if you still feel rotten, you should see your doctor. You may need additional testing or medicines in order to fix the problem. Warning signs—things that should prompt you to call your doctor—are swallowing problems, vomiting blood, or passing stools that are either bloody or black.

The snow is melting, the days are longer, and it is time to have a spring in your step. Don't be slowed down by acid discomfort.

Have fun. Stay happy and healthy.

(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.)

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Now that early summer-like weather has arrived in Minnesota, playing outdoors is a terrific way for kids to get healthy exercise. Taking a walk around Lake Como, hitting the neighborhood playground, the backyard tire swing or basketball hoop, local recreation facilities and swimming pools and the local beaches are all great for getting kids outdoors and active.

But playing outside comes with many hazards as well. My active little Jonah has new cuts, scrapes, and bruises nearly every day. I was recently reading up on some advice for keeping kids a bit safer outdoors. Here is a little bit of what I found out.

First of all, we all know that too much exposure to the sun can have unhealthy long-term consequences. Just one serious burn raises skin cancer risk. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, even one or two sunburns can significantly increase a child's risk for developing skin cancer later in life. Any child exposed to too much sunlight, regardless of his or her skin color is



New to the Neighborhood

By NATE HAMILTON

Safe fun in the sun

at risk for skin cancer and premature aging. Suggested tips for safe fun in the sun include wearing protective clothing when the sun's rays are the strongest—between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Parents can also encourage kids to play in shadier spots, and of course use sunscreen and lip balm when appropriate.

Another major outdoors nuisance is bug bites. From mosquitoes and chiggers to bee and wasp stings, each bug bite has its own unique issues and concerns. But with a small amount of prevention and intervention you can keep your kids, skin healthy and your summer fun uninterrupted.

You can eliminate backyard mosquito breeding sites by drain-

ing stagnant water out of cans, pots and yard depressions. Try to keep the lawn mowed and grassy areas cleaned up. You can also check with your local lawn and garden center for kid-safe, environmentally friendly insect treatments for your lawn.

From a preventative vantage, always apply an insect repellent before going outdoors. Studies have shown that DEET is by far the most effective mosquito repellent. Your children should also avoid wearing fragrances, scented sunscreens and lotions and bright colored clothing. Upon your return indoors from a long day of playing, it is always a good idea to take a nice bath and change into

But once the discomfort from a bug bite has begun, it is time to rely upon antihistamines to provide itch relief for your little one and to help reduce inflammation. With any type of abrasion, there may be the risk of an infection. Keep all open wounds clean and use an antibacterial ointment. And don't scratch! Apply a topical relief instead. Ice or cold compresses can help reduce the swelling and pain.

Leaves of three—let them be! You've probably heard that little rhyme about poison ivy, the plant that can cause an itchy rash. Look out for those poison plants! These plants can be anywhere—from the woods, around the lake path, to your own backyard. The green

leaves of poison plants blend right in with other plants and brush, so it is possible for an unsuspecting small fry to sit right down in a patch of poison ivy and not even notice. You will notice later, of course, when they start to itch!

The allergic reaction caused by poison ivy or poison oak causes rash and sometimes swelling. Not everyone will get a reaction, but most people will. The reaction can appear within hours of touching the plant or as many as several days later. It's itchy, too and it usually takes 1 to 2 weeks to heal. Cool showers and calamine lotion are the best treatments for these reactions.

Hopefully with these outdoor tips in mind, you can have a healthy spring and summer. Please note that I am not a physician (although I am married to an immunologist!) Always consult your doctor for more informed (and intelligent) medical advice.

(Nate Hamilton is a stay at home dad living in the Lake Como area. Contact Nate at nate@mdah.org)

Boat Builders

Continued from page 1

Winger moved to Seattle and worked in chemical research. "It was interesting, but I realized it was not a good fit for me," he said.

In 1998, he heard about the Urban Boat Builders organization. "I couldn't believe a place like this existed," he said.

Winger quit his job and volunteered at a maritime museum, the Center for Wooden Boats on Lake Union in Washington. The museum had a fleet of wooden

Winger knew he had found his calling. He applied for Northwestern School of Wooden Boat Building in the Seattle area and completed a nine-month associate degree.

unteers who were out in safety

Winger said that as well as working with the youth provided by HIRED, some youth are hired out of the Urban Boat Builders' budget to gain employment experience in the shop.

"A number of boys are from Boys Totem Town," he said. "Some participants were incarcerated, and when they got out, they have worked building boats.'

The location on the Midway is the only shop space. Winger said Urban Boat Builders does 50 per cent of its work in the shop, 50 per cent as satellite work.

"I take my little hatchback and drive to various schools, such as Totem Town," Winger said.

He said the boys would come in to work on the boats at least three times a week. The shop would be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-6 pm, and if the boys attended those three-

boat building, hung throughout the workroom and office. With each picture, he has put a quote by a well-known person, such as Einstein or Booker T. Washington.

"Because you have a product that is so functional, like a boat, you have to learn about teamwork, craftsmanship and perseverance," Winger said. "Those characteristics just develop.

"I feel very lucky to have found this job," he added. "It's such a great fit."

One of the boat-building students, Abdirizak Nur of Somalia, would agree.

"Phil is such a good teacher,

and he has taught me so much," Nur said. "I really appreciate HIRED and Phil giving me this opportunity to learn and build a

Nur, who has been in the United States for seven years, put in excessive hours working on boats, according to Winger.

He has been attending classes at the HUB Center and would come in after school every chance he could.

"I have put in a lot of time," Nur said, "and I learned so much about miscellaneous tools and different types of wood, like cedar wood and cherry wood. I used the

press drill, the band saw and the Japanese saw. We built the whole boat, beginning to end."

Nur said he was given a certificate for 144 hours as a participant in boat building. He said it was also a good way to learn more English.

Nur continues with school and also is working part-time at Goodwill in Roseville, but he considers himself able to build a boat

"In the United States, there is an opportunity to learn," he said. "And probably, in the future, I can use my knowledge about building

"These are kids who have not had a lot of opportunities."

- Urban Boatbuilders program manager Phil Winger

"It was pretty intensive, but I hour shifts they were eligible to really loved the work. The instruc- stay Wednesday nights until about tors were perhaps the most skilled teachers I ever had," Winger said.

He began pestering Urban Boat Builders with letters.

"I told them I had experience working with youth, and I wanted to do boat building. I started building a rowboat of my own," Winger said. "At the same time, Urban Boat Builders needed a part-time instructor. That turned into a full-time position."

Winger said that this project, which started last November, culminated in a boat launch April 29 at Lake Keller in St. Paul.

The boys built a canoe and a rowboat. They also have restored a boat that was re-launched. They have also been working on kayaks.

The five boys who took part in the launch brought friends and family to the event, as well as vol-

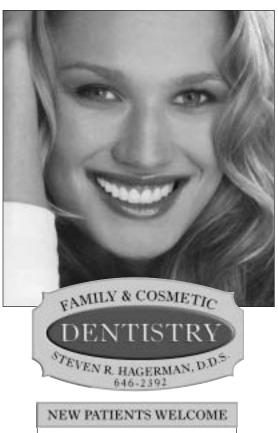
'We opened the shop Wednesday nights, and the boys would overlap with adult volunteers," Winger said. "It would work so well. The volunteers like what we do and like boat building. The kids like meeting new

He said the boys did not need to have had previous building classes, but needed to demonstrate that they were comfortable with hand tools before starting to work on the creation of a boat.

'It doesn't take long before we start," Winger said. "This is a recognized medium for youth development. It makes it so easy for them to develop a number of different traits," he added.

Winger has several photos of his students, working on the art of

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Decision on transit mode targeted for June 6...

Central Corridor gains momentum

By JANE MCCLURE

After years of idling, the proposed Central Corridor transit project is racing toward some key decisions. A series of public meetings will be held in May, with the intent of having a decision on a mode of transit on June 6. That's when the Central Corridor Coordinating Committee votes on whether light rail, a dedicated busway or the bus system with minimal improvements will serve University Avenue in the future.

The committee is made up of elected officials from St. Paul, Minneapolis, Ramsey and Hennepin counties, the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit. Its recommendation goes to the full Metropolitan Council, which will vote in late June. The Central Corridor project is moving ahead quickly so that it can make the next round of federal funding, Ramsey County officials said.

Central Corridor is a transit project that extends from downtown Minneapolis to downtown St. Paul. Most of its route is on University Avenue. It will connect with the Hiawatha light rail line in Minneapolis. The draft environmental impact statement or DEIS outlines the options of light rail, a dedicated busway or bus service largely as it is today. The document, which is more than three inches thick, was for-

committee, which is made up of local and regional officials, tentatively chose light rail as the preferred option more than two years ago. Most committee members say it's not likely they'll de-

committee, which is made up of local and regional officials, tentafall, most likely in November.

The committee recommendation goes on to the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee June 19, which is a tenta-

Central Corridor at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 17 at the City Hall/Courthouse. The council and Planning Commission want to hear from the public before the city takes a position.

But are enough opportunities being provided for public comment? When the Central Corridor Coordinating Committee met April 20, Ramsey County Commissioners Toni Carter and Janice Rettman argued for at least one more public hearing. They said it's important that constituencies that haven't been able to be as involved in the transit planning process be able to learn about and comment on Central Corridor. After much debate the committee did agree to add a fourth hearing.

"I think we need to give people more time to engage in the process," said Carter, whose district includes neighborhoods where there are high minority populations.

The Central Corridor Equity Coalition, which includes social justice, jobs creation, civil rights and community groups, asked for more opportunities to allow public comment. The coalition pushed for another public meeting as well as an extension of the comment period to 60 days. Snelling Hamline Community Council also asked for a longer comment period.

Morris said federal officials would prefer the comment period not be extended. Nor would Metropolitan Council Chairperson Peter Bell. "There is no way he feels he (Bell) can extend that comment period," said Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega.

Central Corridor Coordinating Committee Chairperson Dennis Probst said he, too, questions the ability to extend the comment period. Noting the delays in getting the draft EIS approved, he said, "We are almost two years behind where we are supposed to be."

Federal requirements call for only one public hearing on the draft EIS, said Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority Project Manager Steve Morris.

When the additional public hearing will be still isn't clear. The hearings must be planned so that there is time to have comments transcribed and prepared for the committee to review by June 5, said Despiegelaere.

Many groups along the Central Corridor are preparing to weigh in at the public hearings. That includes the District Councils Collaborative, a group made up of 11 St. Paul district councils and one Minneapolis neighborhood association. That group began a series of meetings April 26 and was to continue meeting through May 10.

District Councils Collaborative Co-Chairperson Anne White of Merriam Park Community Council said the draft EIS release means the neighborhoods groups need to weigh in quickly. "We have very little time to prepare," White said. St. Paul's district councils are being asked to look at the draft EIS and see how it compares to their district

"I think we need to give people more time to engage in the process."

- Commissioner Toni Carter

mally released April 22.

The draft EIS releases launches a 45-day comment period, which ends June 5. On June 6 the Central Corridor Coordinating Committee meets to review public comments and made a final recommendation on which mode of transit will be built in Central Corridor. The

viate from that preliminary deci-

The committee and regional officials are pushing to have a decision on transit mode submitted to the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) New Starts program June 30. Federal government approval of the project in August would launch the prelim-

tive date. The full Metropolitan Council will make its recommendation June 28.

Metropolitan Council approval sends the projects to the FTA. Once the FTA signs off, the project can go into the preliminary engineering phase. Central Corridor's move into preliminary engineering takes the project from Ramsey County as lead agency to the Metropolitan Council.

The preliminary engineering process includes more public meetings and input. Once that is completed and funding and final federal approvals are in place, construction can begin. A best-case scenario would have Central Corridor construction underway in 2010 and the line up and running by 2011 or 2012.

The primary focus of the upcoming hearings is to decide on a mode of transit, said Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority Executive Director Kathy Despiegelaere. She said there will be many more opportunities to comment on project details, such as system design, station locations, neighborhood parking management and pedestrian safety, during preliminary engineering.

Federal transportation officials announced April 12 that the draft environmental impact statement or EIS can go out for public hearings. The hearing schedule thus far is:

*6:30 p.m. Monday, May 22, at the Radisson Metrodome, 615 Washington Av. SE, Minneapolis. A open house starts at 5 p.m.

*5 p.m. Tuesday, May 23 at Lao Family Community Center, University Av. An open house starts at 4 p.m.

*8 a.m. Wednesday, May 24, Minnesota History Center Theater, 345 Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul. An open house starts at 7:30 a.m.

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, Central High School Auditorium, 275 N. Lexington Parkway, St. Paul. An open house starts at 3:30 p.m.

Persons who cannot attend the public hearings can also submit written comments, in letters or via email. The project web site can be accessed through Ramsey County's web site or at centralcorridor.org, or they can call 651-266-762 or 651-266-2784.

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Stabbing near Hamline causes concern...

City beefs up police overtime to fight crime

By JANE MCCLURE

The difficulty of addressing crime problems while trying to balance the city's budget are issuings facing St. Paul city leaders.

While St. Paul's 2007 budget woes may not be as severe as originally feared, a \$15 million gap is still on the drawing boards for the city's operating budgets as Mayor Chris Coleman's administration and department heads start looking at 2007 spending and financing plans. One immediate consequence of tight times is that St. Paul will hire just 12 additional police officers this year and not the 25 officers promised in the 2006 city budget.

But the city will spend an additional \$250,000 on police overtime to help curb what could be a spring and summer of crime. Coleman announced the overtime expenditure May 1, days after a spate of serious crimes raised concerns throughout the city.

One of those crimes occurred near Hamline University at about 10 p.m. April 26. A 19-year-old man was stabbed and beaten during a robbery, which occurred near Hamline United Methodist Church. The victim was approached by two suspects who asked to borrow money. When he said no, he was stabbed in the upper chest, kicked and punched. He was taken to Regions Hospital for treatment but is expected to recov-

er.

A similar crime occurred that same week near Macalester College. In that incident the victim wasn't injured. Little information has been released about the two male suspects in either crime. It's not clear if the two cases are related. Anyone with information is asked to contact St. Paul Police.

Another crime that worried city leaders was a fatal shooting near Central High School and Dunning Field April 26. St. Paul resident Deon Duffy, 21, died the next day at Regions Hospital.

Duffy was shot while riding in a van with suspected gang members on Marshall Avenue near Griggs Street. The shots were fired from another vehicle. Police believe Duffy and the other van passengers were a target and that the shooting was not random.

Duffy had been released from prison two days before he was shot.

The shooting happened at about 2:30 p.m. April 26, not long after school got out. Some students were outside of the school and at Dunning's basketball courts when the incident occurred. No one else was injured but the shooting has raised concerns in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Coleman said the shootings and spike in crime throughout the city mean more police patrols are needed. He also plans to set aside some funding for communitybuilding activities and

The 25 additional police hires were part of the general fund budget adopted by the City Council in December 2006. Then-Mayor Randy Kelly proposed the additional cops last year. He used increased public safety as a justification for a 3 percent or \$2 million increase in property taxes. It was the first levy increase in St. Paul in

laying many of them off in 2007 or slashing other city services to pay for police.

Police Chief John Harrington and other council members, including Dan Bostrom, still hope the 25 positions can be filled. The police department has 552 sworn officers, a number the police chief has long contended is about 100 short of the actual need.

In a discussion of the city

...the city will spend an additional \$250,000 on police overtime to help curb what could be a spring and summer of crime.

more than a decade.

Kelly had proposed the 2006 hires as part of a four-year plan to hire 100 new cops. But with a new mayor trying to address old budget constraints, the number had to be cut. During his successful campaign against Kelly last year, Coleman had questioned whether the city could afford to hire 25 additional police officers in 2006.

Some City Council members, including Council President Kathy Lantry, agreed. They said hiring all 25 officers in 2006 could mean budget earlier this year, Coleman had said that "everything" was on the table, including the promised police hires. The mayor said that one-time draw-downs on various reserve funds, ongoing cuts to state aids and other grants, and the years of holding the levy flat have created enormous budget pressures on the city.

Like Lantry, the mayor believes the city should not hire more police without having a way to pay for the officers over the long term. Much of the new administration's time has been spent trying to address the looming budget deficit. City Finance Director Matt Smith said the budget gap "is a bit of a moving target." Late last year city officials estimated they'd be trying to fill a budget hole of \$19.4 million. Expected changes in Local Government Aid from the state and other changes have reduced the gap to about \$15 million.

Smith said it will take a mix of permanent budget structural changes and one-time measures to bring the city's budgets back into balance. If the city had to make budget reduction to help address the gap, it would mean cutting more than 182 jobs. If the cuts were made proportionately by department, it would mean laying off almost 100 police officers and firefighters.

The mayor has just started work on the 2007 budget, Smith said. He gave the City Council an update April 12. The council discussed the ideas of property tax increases and other ways to increase city revenues. Also on the table is the need to look at budget areas where costs are rising. One huge question mark for the city is the impact of higher fuel prices, for everything from gas for police cars and dump trucks to keeping the lights on at the recreation centers and libraries.

Cameras

Continued from page 2

ing the cameras. But they also have questions about costs and related legal issues.

"There are pieces of this that make a lot of sense," said Ward Five City Council member Lee Helgen. He said if the program is successful in the Midway, it should be expanded to other commercial corridors in St. Paul.

But Helgen noted there are also significant privacy concerns when cameras are installed in public areas. Other council members also expressed interest in the idea, raising questions about capital equipment and staffing costs. One question council members want answered centered on effectiveness of the cameras in deterring crimes.

Harrington and City Council Research Policy Analyst Elizabeth Davis said research has shown that the closed-circuit cameras may not deter random crimes but do quell premeditated crimes. But results are mixed, when studies from England and around the United States are considered.

Two key advantages are that fewer officers are needed for surveillance of public areas and defendants are much less likely to challenge charges when there is taped evidence.

The City Council is looking at two different camera systems, said Davis. The systems are:

*Closed-circuit television cameras, similar to those that are used near many banks, convenience stores and retail stores. The closed-circuit cameras would be similar to those used in downtown Minneapolis' 13-block Safe Zone area. Minneapolis has 30 cameras downtown and there are

efforts to get similar systems in other city neighborhoods.

Minneapolis' Safe Zone is modeled after a Safe City concept used in other parts of the United States and in England. There are almost 150,000 closed-circuit cameras in England.

The cameras do provide a huge advantage to police and prosecutors, Davis said. In Minneapolis the videotaped evidence has resulted in a 100 percent conviction rate.

But the system isn't cheap. Minneapolis initially expected to spend about \$250,000 on its Safe Zone. That figure rose to \$1.6 million, although donations cut Minneapolis' actual costs to about \$900,000. Costs of additional wiring and the need for new, sturdy utility poles to hold the cameras helped push the costs up.

*Photo-cop, the Automated Traffic Enforcement or ATE cameras used at traffic signals to photograph and catch those who violate traffic laws.

St. Paul district councils have pushed for photo-cop since the 1980s

Minneapolis went ahead and installed photo-cop last year but had to shut the cameras down in March due to a legal challenge by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Minnesota Chapter. A Hennepin County District Court judge found that the tickets violate the state traffic code and cannot be enforced. The City of Minneapolis is appealing that decision and will seek legislative approval in 2007 to use the cameras again.

Minneapolis installed the cameras at a cost of \$956,000 per year, at 16 of its 800 signalized intersections. The program took in \$1.2 million in fines during its first eight months. There were

4,500 citations issued in the first month of the program alone.

St. Paul and Ramsey County officials have studied the ATE technology for many years. But the city's work group suspended activities pending the outcome of the Minneapolis legal fight.

Chuck Samuelson of the ACLU's Minnesota chapter said

the key issue in the photo-cop legal dispute is that the cameras can only identify a motor vehicle by license plate. Tickets were issued to the vehicle owners, regardless of whether or not he or she actually was behind the wheel at the time of the violation. That prompted the legal challenge.

The different between photo-

cop and closed-circuit television is that the courts have ruled that there is no expectation of privacy when a person is in a public area. Still, Samuelson said the privacy issues need to be considered. "Read the book 1984 and then ask yourself if this is the kind of society you want to be living in," he said.

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Calvin deRuyter: Watercolor artist and rule breaker

By DEBORAH BROTZ

When *Monitor* co-publisher Calvin deRuyter first started painting with watercolors 10 years ago, he didn't enjoy it at all. Taking a workshop from Skip Lawrence, a nationally recognized artist, deRuyter was encouraged by Lawrence to stop making himself stick to the rules of watercolor and to paint the way he wanted to. After that, he started enjoying painting with watercolors and has received many awards and honors.

At the upcoming Northstar Watercolor Society Art on a Line sale, held at the State Fairgrounds in the Fine Arts Building, on May 19, 20, and 21, deRuyter, who is on the Society board and cochair of Art on a Line sale, will have 50-75 paintings for sale. He will also do a demonstration of his unique technique on Sat., May 20, at 3 p.m.

deRuyter first started dabbling in painting as a teen-ager. Having a neighbor woman who was an artist, he would go over and watch her paint.

"After that I started dabbling," he said. "I started buying some paints. Back then, it was

After graduating with a degree in Fine Arts from Hamline University in 1974, deRuyter left the art field to start and develop deRuyter-Nelson Publications in 1975.

Although deRuyter had only done oil painting up to this point, Lynn, a friend, who knew he had graduated in art from college, asked him to take a water-

'She convinced me it would be fun," he said. "So, I decided to give it a shot.'

After taking watercolor classes for a couple years, deRuyter and his friend started getting together every couple weeks to paint with each other.

'It was a big struggle," he said. "I was enjoying the interaction with her and her husband.

But, I found painting with watercolor very frustrating and irritating for a number of years."

Lawrence got deRuyter to question why he wasn't enjoying painting with watercolor.

"It was not in me to do the rules of watercolor," he said. They get in the way for me. He told me to do it the way I want to paint and to forget the other stuff. The whole thing changed. I started having fun.

deRuyter originally decided to take up painting because he was fascinated by the idea of being able to create something out of his mind.

'You give your own interpretation of the world around you," he said. "It's not like taking a photograph.'

At this point, painting is a part-time endeavor for deRuyter.



When Monitor co-publisher Calvin deRuyter first started painting with watercolors 10 years ago, he didn't enjoy it at all. Taking a workshop from Skip Lawrence, a nationally recognized artist, deRuyter was encouraged by Lawrence to stop making himself stick to the rules of watercolor and to paint the way he wanted to. At the upcoming Northstar Watercolor Society Art on a Line sale, held at the State Fairgrounds in the Fine Arts Building, on May 19, 20, and 21, deRuyter, who is on the Society board and co-chair of Art on a Line sale, will have 50-75 paintings for sale. (Photo by Terry Faust)

"It's kind of a release," he said. "When I'm painting, I'm not thinking about the business, problems or difficulties in life. I'm totally wrapped up in creating the painting. Right now, it's just a joy."

As a colorist with a bent toward impressionism and expressionism, deRuyter is not sure that people actually pick their style of

"As an artist, your style kind of picks you," he said. "I've always loved impressionists, so, obviously, it would be an influence to me. I think probably there are artists out there who say I want to be this kind of artist. That may be a mistake. They are not open to letting their own creativity be expressed."

Part of deRuyter's creativity is his untraditional approach to watercolor.

'I don't use a palette," he said. "I paint directly from the tube. I don't mix colors on a palette. I don't use traditional watercolor brushes. I use bristle

deRuyter also says he does a lot of scrubbing.

'There are many artists who tell you, you can't use paint directly from the tube," he said.

"It's too garish. I don't believe that. I do that all the time. It's part of the success of my being a colorist.'

Although almost all artists mix a whole bunch of colors together on a palette to create a different color, deRuyter doesn't do

"My color relationships are built on paper," he said. "If I want to create a color not in a tube, I create it on paper by scrubbing or glazing. I don't leave the white of the paper. I try to cover up the white as quickly as I can.'

deRuyter has received numerous awards for his unique style. For "Johnson Barn #1," he received Mathison's Award, in 2005, at the 12th Annual Red River Watercolor Society National Juried Exhibition and Best of Show, in 2004, at Extremely Minnesota, Robbins Gallery. For "Johnson Barn #2," he received Best of Show, at Northstar Watercolor Society, 2004 Fall Exhibition. For "Foggy Morn," he was awarded Honors, in 2004, at Extremely Minnesota, Robbins Gallery.

Last month, deRuyter had the Featured Artist Exhibit, at the Look Gallery, in Marshall Field's Southdale Home Store, in Edina. He may also have a show in Aug. '06, at the downtown Minneapolis Marshall Field's Home Store, which also has a Look Gallery.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14





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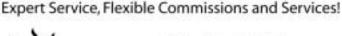
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Controversy over student housing complex continues to rage

By JANE MCCLURE

Months of city review for St. Paul's first off-campus, student housing complex are nearing an end. But the controversy over Jefferson Common which will be built north of KSTP-TV head-quarters, isn't over.

JPI and Hubbard Broadcasting, which owns the site eyed for the student housing, won two project approval April 19 from the St. Paul City Council. The council voted unanimously to rezone the 4.2 acre property at Territorial Road and Berry Street from industrial to traditional neighborhoods or TN zoning. The City Council also approved a preliminary project plat. The final plat was approved April 26. Those are some of the last steps needed at City Hall before the project can begin. No groundbreaking date has been announced but the developers do want to move forward as quickly

Although the JPI student housing has been touted for its proximity to the University of Minnesota's Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses, another school eyeing the potential for its students to move in is the University of St. Thomas. UST Vice President for University and Intergovernmental Relations Doug Hennes addressed the City Council on the benefits of the project April 19. "We believe this will be a very attractive alternative to our students," he said.

About half of St. Thomas' undergraduates live off-campus. UST regularly fields complaints about student behavior in the Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods. The growing number of owner-occupied homes becoming student rentals is a concern in the neighborhoods. The JPI project's proximity to bus lines and the future

Central Corridor light rail line or busway is an attraction for St. Thomas. Hennes said the university could also look at running its shuttle buses to the housing. The buses already travel between the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses.

Lance Hanna of JPI Development has gone so far as to bicycle from the housing site to other campuses. The University of Minnesota campuses are only a few minutes away. He can get to St. Thomas' St. Paul campus in 10 minutes and Hamline Uni-

and East River Road Improvement Association (PPERIA) neighborhood have opposed building housing on the property, saying it should be reserved for industrial or commercial development or even as a part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul bioscience corridor. SAPCC Executive Director Amy Sparks said the community wants to stick with plans for industrial redevelopment, which would bring more jobs. Those plans have been on the books for many years.

"A city without jobs is called

noted that Minneapolis rejected putting the project nearby on industrially zoned land in that city.

SAPCC Community Organizer Nina Axelson said the neighborhood residents feel like they are caught between a developer and the city. Although they have been able to ask for several project changes, there are still concerns about the student bousing

But Hubbard representatives point out that the property has been vacant for several years. Hubbard had considered putting its own satellite broadcasting headquarters on the site, but instead sold that company division to Direct TV, said Hubbard attorney David Jones. Despite thorough environmental cleanup and site work, a new industrial or commercial user could not be found. The site has sat vacant for nine years.

Ward Four Council Member Jay Benanav noted before the April 19 council votes, it would be one of the only times he has disagreed with a neighborhood district council on a project. "This has been a really difficult process," he said.

But Benanav said he sees the benefit of building the student housing, on a location near the proposed Central Corridor. He noted the site is convenient for students from several colleges. He and other council members said the district council's input has made Jefferson Common a better project.

The April votes end a long review process for JPI. Last fall JPI originally appealed a city

staff decision to the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). At issue was whether the housing is apartment-style or in the manner of a boarding house. JPI believes the housing is apartment-style. City staff, noting the individual leases with each resident rather than one lease for each apartment, considered the building a board housing.

The rooming house designation was applied because each bedroom in each two to fourbedroom unit would be leased separately. Each person leasing a bedroom would have his or her own key for that room. Each bedroom would also be equipped with a telephone with an exclusive phone number.

SHCC members debated the pros and cons of large-scale student housing projects before voting in February to support SAPCC. Although some people liked the idea of having off-campus students living in one large complex, others said they'd rather see student renters live in the community and not be isolated.

Last year the City Council turned down a developer's request to build townhouses in Merriam Park north of Interstate 94 and west of Prior Avenue. That developer wanted to market the townhouses to area students. The project was opposed by the Merriam Park Community Council. Some district council members felt that isolating students near an industrial-commercial area was a mistake and that the properties could deteriorate.

"We believe this will be a very attractive alternative to our students."

- St. Thomas Vice President Doug Hennes

versity in 12 minutes. The ride to Macalester College is 15 minutes.

Hanna said the new building, which will start construction later this year, will be high-quality student housing. "We understand that's a very desired type of housing in this city," he said.

The JPI project has been in the works for several months. The developers have had many meetings with the St. Anthony Park Community Council (SAPCC). The district council and Minneapolis' Prospect Park

12 minutes. The ride to a suburb," Sparks said.

Sparks and other community council representatives asked the City Council to maintain consistency with community plans calling for industrial development, saying the student housing could become an island in a sea of industry. They also

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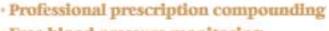






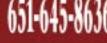








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In Our Community

Summer Bible Study at Jehovah Lutheran

Summer Bible Study "Pathways To Christian Maturity" to begin Sunday, June 4. The Bible Study will meet at your Lutheran Church on the corner, (Jehovah Lutheran Church at Snelling and Thomas) from 9:00 to 10:15 am. and runs through July 23.

The format is a unique word study designed to focus on the basics of the Christian life led by Steve and Eva Zorn.

For more information, please contact Dawn at the church office: 651-641-1421.

'Breastfed Baby" topic of La Leche event June 13

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, June 13, 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-tomother 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.

Midway holds 4th annual community yard sale

Midway Neighbors: Are you thinking of having a yard sale this summer? Please consider holding your sale during the 4th annual Midway Neighborhood Community Yard Sale.

Sale dates: Friday, June 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, June 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please register your sale by stopping by the Hamline Midway Coalition office 1564 Lafond Ave to fill out a registration form. The fee this year will be \$4 and will pay for bigger and better advertis-

Questions or offers of help: call Krista Finstad Hanson 651-646-0632 or by email her at finstad.hanson@worldnet.att.net. The deadline to sign up will be Friday, June 16th. Maps will be available the days of the sale at the HMC office and Ginkgo's Coffeehouse at 721 Snelling Ave N.

Stories and Shows at Hamline Midway Library

The Bedtime storytimes at Hamline Midway Branch of the St. Paul Public Library will continue on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., on May 16 and 23, and also on June 6 and 13. Bedtime storytimes are

for preschool and early elementary-aged children, and include stories, songs, fingerplays, and much more. All children are encouraged to wear their pajamas and bring a favorite bear or blanket to storytime.

Summer Reading Program performances begin on Tuesday, June 20, at 7 p.m. with champion Native American fancy dancer Larry Yazzie. He is followed by the Drumming Librarian, on June 27.

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.

Como Women's Golf Club has openings for season

Interested in joining a women's golf club? Here is a chance to establish a handicap, learn the rules and etiquette of golf, while gaining playing experience and confidence of the game. We have openings for new members for the 2005 golf season @ Como Parks 18 Hole Golf Course. Tee times are available on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings. Application forms are available @ Como Clubhouse or by call 651-488-9673.

Hamline University Dance Ensemble presents TILT

Artistic Director Kaori Kenmotsu & her ensemble of dancers presents an eclectic evening of flamenco, tap, hip hop & modern dance.

Tilt runs Thursday to Saturday May 11th to 13th, 2006 at the Anne Simley Theatre, Hamline University campus, 1530 Hewitt Avenue. Performances are at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens, and \$1 for any ACTC student. This production is presented by the Hamline University Theater and Dance Department.

Tilt will premiere a new work by Kenmotsu, in collaboration with local poets, exploring themes around death and dying. Beautifully haunting and moving poetic images will come to life on stage as dancers explore the emotional issues of overcoming adversity. Tilt will also includes a sensual quintet by Flamenco artist Sachiko Nishiuchi; a series of goodbyes choreographed by Jesse Walker of Wilderness Dance during a spring residency with Ensemble members; and STOMP meets Tap meets Hip Hop in several pieces choreographed by Ensemble members. Also joining the performance will be the students of Dance 1130. Tilt promises to be an eclectic evening of Dance.

The Hamline Dance Ensemble is a pre-professional contemporary dance company under the artistic directorship of Kaori Kenmotsu. The mission is to give performance opportunities to Hamline University students in the discipline of dance as well as develop the creative voice of students and forge connections with the larger Twin Cities dance community.

National Night Out Kick Off May 18

National Night Out will hold Kick Off Picnic and Citywide Celebration on Thursday, May 18, Midway Picnic Pavilion/Como Park (across from Como Park Pool) from 6-8:30 p.m.

Live music will be provided by The Eddies, and guests will include: Mayor Chris Coleman; Saint Paul Police Chief John Harrington, the Saint Paul Police Canine Unit, and the Saint Paul Fire Department.

Join the residents of Saint Paul to celebrate the City's 1st Place Award for participation in National Night Out 2005.

Mayor Coleman and Police Chief Harrington will speak about the importance of National Night Out!

Receive information on the August 1, 2006 National Night Out planning process: Permits to close streets off, registration forms, how to request Police Department special units, and Fire Department Personnel to attend National Night Out in your neighborhood will be available.

There will be FREE hot dogs, chips, cookies, and beverages (while supplies last!). You are welcome to bring a picnic dinner for yourself if you prefer (no alcohol allowed in city parks).

Register for door prizes. Registration for door prizes at picnic site only!

Join us for this exciting event and plan a National Night Out event in your neighborhood!

Spring Boutique and Bake Sale May 13

Spring Boutique and Bake Sale. Saturday, May 13 from 10-4 and Sunday, May 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. 2136 Carter Avenue. Hand-made items by the Hope Crafters. Gifts and cards suitable for Mother's and Father's Day. Pampering baskets. Pet items. Home-made baked goods. Quilts. All proceeds benefit The Blue House, an orphanage sponsored by Hope Multipurpose, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charity. For more info, call Katharine at 651-387-8264.

Arthritis Management Fair held June 13

An "Arthritis Management Fair" will be held on Tuesday, June

13 at 1514 Englewood Avenue from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to consult one-on-one with representatives from the MN Arthritis Foundation and observe or try out arthritis friendly exercises. A meal featuring foods that help promote joint health will be available. Free transportation is available by calling Monica at 651-209-6542.

Daytime drivers willing to transport seniors to medical appointments (mileage reimbursement available) and persons willing to provide 1-2 hours of daytime companionship (no personal care required) are needed. Anyone interested may call the Hamline Midway Elders office at 209-6542. Hamline Midway Elders provides volunteer & professional services to keep seniors in their own homes.

RosePointe offers event geared to home selling

The "How To's" of Home Selling, Reinvesting and Downsizing for seniors will be held Tuesday, May 23, 1-3 p.m. at Rose-Pointe, 2555 Hamline Ave. N. Roseville.

Featured topics and speakers will include: "Housing Choices for Seniors"; "Preparing Yourself for a Move with Lori LaBey", "Realtor and Founder of Classic Lifestyles." "Coordinating the Moving Process"; "Moving Do's and Don'ts" with Diane Bjorkman, Owner of Gentle Transition. "Moving Sales & Estate Sales"; "Finding Value in Your "Stuff." with Craig Birkeland, Birkeland & Associates. "What to Do With the Money"; "Investment Strategies & Tax Implications" with Mark C. Hegstrom, Financial Advisor with UBS.

"In Home Services That Keep You Comfortable," Janell Wampler, Coordinator, Roseville Area Senior Program.

Limited seating. Please call to reserve: 651-639-1000. Tours of RosePointe will follow.

MMSA holds Spring Band Concert May 24

The Spring Band Concert will be Wednesday, May 24, at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew Church. Beginner, intermediate and advanced band will perform. The public is invited.

Openings still available for fall 2006. Registration continues at MMSA. We have openings in all grades—preschool through eighth grade—as well as extended day, sports, band, piano lessons and much, much, more. For information or a tour, call the Principal at 651- 489-1459.

Feline Rescue to celebrate opening May 13

Feline Rescue will celebrate the grand opening of a new shelter facility Saturday, May 13th from noon-5 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The family-friendly festivities include performances by GIRLGERMS (www.girlgermsdance.com) and the Keane Sense of Rhythm Youth Tap Ensemble (www.tapcompany.org) as well as flutist Jane Garvin. Performances will begin around 3:30 p.m.

Pet owners can get free advice from Ask The Vet from 2-4 pm. Food, games for the kids, a silent auction and tours of the new shelter are available throughout the day.

The Feline Rescue shelter houses 63 homeless cats. Another 150 or so cats live in foster homes until they are adopted. Feline Rescue is an authentic nokill organization. Cats are not euthanized unless they are beyond medical treatment.

For more information, please visit www.felinerescue.org or call the shelter at 651-642-5900.

Dr. Meyer to lead anniversary celebration

Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and former speaker for the Lutheran Hour, will serve as the keynote speaker for Bethel Lutheran Church's 75th anniversary worship celebration at 4 p.m., Sunday, June 4. The worship service will take place at the church, located at 670 W. Wheelock Parkway.

A catered anniversary dinner will be held at Central Lutheran School, 775 N. Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, following the service. Tickets for the dinner are \$10 and are available through Bethel's church office, call 651-488-6681. Please make your reservations by May 30th.

Meyer was installed as president of Concordia Seminary, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's largest seminary, on Sept. 4, 2005. Prior to accepting this call, he had served as professor of practical theology and occupant of the Gregg H. Benidt Memorial Chair of homiletics and literature.

Bethel Lutheran Church is a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation of 175 families and 332 members located in St. Paul's Como Park neighborhood. Its mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ in its church, neighborhood and world.

Individuals interested in more information about Bethel Lutheran Church, its programs and ministries can visit www.bethelstpaul.com or call 651-488-6681.

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deRuyter

Continued from page 8

"It was a great experience," he said. "It was focusing on a different clientele than at other shows or exhibits, which are really focused primarily on the general public. This one had a big emphasis on interior designers. It was exciting."

For those who want to learn deRuyter's style, he is scheduled to teach two-part "Impressionistic Landscape" class from 7 p.m.-9 p.m., on May 30 and June 6, at Studio at Rush Creek, in Maple Grove. Pre-registration is required: 763-315-3001.

Selling over \$36,000 in art in 2005, the Art on a Line is important to artists like deRuyter for many reasons.

"It's one more place to be able to display and sell your work," he said. "It's also important as a social activity. The event is so different from having an exhibition because it's so massive. This year, we have about 100 artists with over 3,000 paintings there. As far as I know, it's the largest sale of water media we're aware of under a single group. Certainly, it's the largest one in Minnesota. Last year, the retail value of all the art on display was \$456,000. It's an exciting event."

deRuyter hopes the event keeps growing, but not in the number of paintings.

"We're filled to the gills," he said. "We need to get more people aware. We don't have large budgets for huge advertising blitzes. We can not make huge campaigns. We have to build year-by-year through publicity. We want to make people aware of this wonderful opportunity"

That opportunity is to pur-

chase original art.

"Here is a place where people can go buy, affordable, original art," continued deRuyter. "They don't have to buy prints everybody else has. There is a full gamut of what we as artists produce. We also encourage people to come in and just look. The building is jam-packed. There's art everywhere you look. It's a wonderful visual experience to see."

The sale will run May 19, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; May 20, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and May 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

For further information on deRuyter's painting, visit www.calsportfolio.net.

Other local artists participating in Art on a Line include Helen Bond, Robin Edgerton, Mary Houghton, Marjorie Moody, Wayne Sisel, and Marian Wolters

Art On A Line Sale at Fairgrounds May 19-21

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Northstar Watercolor Society will be holding its fourth annual 2006 Art On A Line sale, on Fri., May 19, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., May 20, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Sun., May 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; in the Fine Arts Building, at the State Fairgrounds.

As the largest sale of water media under a single group in Minnesota, the Art on a Line sale will have over 3,000 pieces of original art. These works are in a full range of styles and subjects from florals, landscapes, and seascapes to figure work. They come in a full range of prices from under \$10 for a small

card size work up to \$3,000.

Last year, the retail value of the art on display at the Art on a Line sale was \$456,000. Over \$36,000 in art was sold.

There will be a dozen artist demonstrations over the three-day period.

Admission to the Art on a Line sale is free, and people are invited to come and purchase art, talk to Society members, or just to partake in a wonderful visual experience.

For further information, visit www.NorthstarWatercolorSociety.com

Bike rodeo

Continued from page 3

Dadlez feels there is a need for the bike rodeo because so many children and their families do biking as a leisure activity.

"Biking is a fun activity," he said. "Often people forget it can be a dangerous activity if done incorrectly. We want to make sure kids learn helmet safety, understand rules of the road, and understand about maintaining their bicycle."

The bike rodeo is important because it's a community event.

"We want people to be aware bicycle safety is essential in making sure our kids are safe," said Dadlez. "We want as a community to be aware St. Paul is a kid-friendly environment."

Biking is a healthy activity.

"It's a great way for kids to get exercise," said Dadlez. "The community is involved in helping kids find safe and healthy recreation. It helps promote a family activity. Families can bike together."

It is significant that many organizations came together to sponsor the event.

"It shows that there are many organizations that care about kids

in the community," said Dadlez.
"All share a common goal of supporting children and child safety."

Dadlez hopes the bike rodeo will become an annual event.

"We hope we can build upon it," he said. "We would like it to be something that's not just a one-time event. We want to make this an annual event and hope there's interest in it to expand. City-wide we're looking for a good turn-out. The more kids who attend it, the more kids will benefit."

The bike rodeo costs: \$5 per person or \$12 maximum for a family. For further information, call 651-298-4393.

Alstead performs at Como Pavilion May 22

Local pianist/composer David Alstead will perform a free concert at the historic Como Lakeside Pavilion in Como Park in St. Paul on Monday, May 22, at 7 p.m. Alstead's unique style of original solo piano music, in perfect harmony with the scenic surroundings of Como Park, will make for a relaxing and enjoyable evening of music and beauty. Alstead invites concert-goers to bring a non-perishable food item to the concert, which will go to the Midway Foodshelf of Keystone Community Services.



Recently, a woman in my book club had a tragic experience. She and her husband were on vacation in the British Virgin Islands with a group of friends. They've vacationed in warmer climes with their group of friends for many years. She said good-bye to her husband, who went off to snorkel with two friends, and she went off with some of the other women.

Three men went out, only two came back. That evening, she had to face the horrendous truth that her husband had drowned while snorkeling.

I don't know Emma well, and was unable to attend the funeral because I had to work.

Another friend went, and filled me in on the meaningful funeral. Emma's husband had been married before. Emma was a stepmother to his four children, and a grandmother to the two grand babies. It seems there's always been a good relationship between Emma and the adult stepchildren. Emma will be grieving with plenty of support from her family, his kids, and her friends.

My friend and I talked about how caring her stepchildren were about their stepmother I commented how lucky she was to have such a good relationship with them. That started me thinking, how many genuine, loving relationships are there between stepparents and their stepchildren?

In the old days, in rare situations, people would remarry after the death of a spouse and have the second husband or wife help with the raising of the children. I think then, people looked for financial



Starting Over

My father, the stepson

support and the daily care of the children, and never really thought the stepparent had to love the stepchildren. The turn of the century or the depression years were tough times. Perhaps people asked less of marriage then. Many times it was more for practical reasons, less for love.

My only experience with the previous generation's remarriage issues was limited to my father's life. His father was Grady Moore. He was a handsome Texan cowboy, who worked in the stockyards and sold meat for a company called Eisenmeyer's or Eisenberg's or some name like that. He loved my grandmother, Anne, passionately, but never could overcome his problems with drinking. He'd disappear for several days, off on a binge, but was a good man when he was home. After many years, my grandmother couldn't take it and separated from Grady.

I think at that time she returned to her father's home with her children. I can imagine how hard that was, since I believe my great-grandfather was a strong man and probably was upset with a separation in his Irish-Catholic family. Anne got a job working at a department store and rented a duplex with her sister, Cecilia. She was a single working mother at a time when it was unheard of.

Sadly, a short time later, my grandfather died in the County hospital. A few years later she married a hard working, German man. Together they opened a grocery store and bar in St Paul, around 1925 and stayed in business until sometime in the early 40's. My grandfather raised Dad and his sister, as his own children. He and my grandmother had a daughter too. It was a complete family unit throughout their lives. Dad and his sister took Grandpa's name, so their name matched their half-sister's. They had been teased at school. They were never adopted because Grampa said there was no need, they were his children. Dad thought of Grampa as his father, not stepfather, right up to my grandfather's death.

I remember my grandfather's funeral. It was the first time I'd seen a dead body. I was 17. My grandfather's relatives reminded Dad that he was only a "step" by making remarks about how Irish he looked. My father was grieving the loss of his "father" and said nothing. I could feel the spite in their words, and said clear enough for all to hear, "I'm proud of my father and I'm proud to be Irish. I wouldn't want to be anything

Later. Dad received sympathy notes from friends and a few favorable remarks about his outspoken daughter. Dad was proud of me, but I didn't think of that when I spoke up. I thought of how mean those people were to remind my father, at such a sad time, that he didn't belong; he wasn't one of them. How disgusting they were! What mattered more? A man mourning the death of the father who raised him, or the fact that he wasn't a "blood is-

Later, my father was hurt more when he discovered that his half-sister had talked her father into cutting Dad and his sister out of the will. It wasn't the money, it was knowing that at the end of his life, his stepfather reminded him that he wasn't his child. Incidentally, my grandfather was lucid to the end. This hurt streaked through Dad's heart and soul, and he never got over it.

Dad never spoke to his half sister again, and several years later, we all changed our name to his "real" father's, Moore. There was no reason to carry another man's name through generations, when Dad's stepfather made it clear that Dad and his family were only "steps." I haven't written the name we used for 40 years because it's known in St. Paul and many of the descendents are kind, decent people. I wouldn't want to cause them any embarrassment.

Thirty years later, I had to ask Dad's half-sister to leave my father's funeral. I couldn't believe she had so little respect for my mother and us to try, for the last time, to act as if she cared.

Moving forward, 20 years later, I was considering re-marriage. Can you imagine how I agonized over bringing a step-father into my own son's life? My father's hurt had affected me and would influence my decision to remarry. Dad and I talked about it many nights before I moved to California and married Mr. M., my second husband. Dad asked me to trust my judgement and go ahead; not to think there would be the trouble he had experienced. He said to treat the kids the same. We did that throughout their childhood, and when we drew up our will.

In the end, I couldn't have chosen a better stepfather for my son, and we are a family, my husband, his daughter, my son and me. Our (step)kids aren't "bloodissued," but we don't care, we love them as our own.

(Sherri Moore is a freelance writer and former resident of the Como neighborhood. She welcomes your comments and can be reached at sherrimoore92@msn.com.)

In Our Community

Continued from page 12 Bethel Lutheran holds sale June 15-18

hold its 6th annual rummage ture, tools, household items,

sale benefiting the children's education scholarship fund on June 15 and 16 at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, June 17 at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A \$1 bag sale on Sunday, June 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. will conclude this event. Bethel is located in St. Paul's Como Park neighborhood at 670 W. Wheelock Parkway.

Bethel offer a wide range of Bethel Lutheran Church will items including books, furni-

dishes, glassware, various collectibles, arts & crafts, office supplies, toys & clothing for the whole family. The church will be open to receive almost new donations from individuals interested in supporting this fundraiser on the following Saturdays: May 20 & 27, June 3 & 10 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

For more information about

Bethel Lutheran Church, its programs and ministries visit www.bethelstpaul.com or call 651-488-6681.

Scout Pack holds final meeting June 5

Cub Scout Pack 243 is having

their final Pack meeting for the academic year. We will resume scouts meetings again this fall. Our final pack meeting is at the Como Park Fire rings on June 5th beginning at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in scouts and would like to join us, please call Sandy Kolar at 651-644-6858.

Local youth in local show



SteppingStone Theatre journeys to the American Southwest in its upcoming production of The Legend of Lento the Coyote. The show, written by Al Justiniano with music by Gary Rue, opened May 5 and runs through May 25 in the F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium in Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul. Above, Tyler Rhodes, a 5th grader at Crossroads Elementary, is pictured at left in this with his co-star, Annacita Gomez. (Photo by Ann Marsden)

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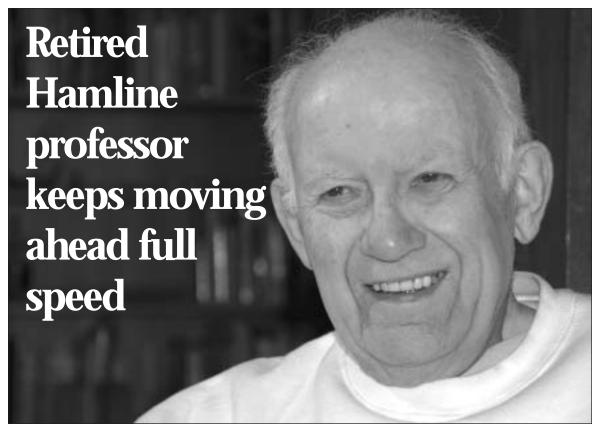
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Retired Hamline professor Don Irish is moving full speed ahead, and not pausing to look back. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Bv JAN WILLMS

At a time when most individuals would sit back and rest and contemplate the many achievements they had made in life, retired Hamline professor Don Irish is moving full speed ahead, and not pausing to look back.

"At 86, I have a sense of urgency, and I have so much I still want to do." he said recently during an interview in his modest home in south Minneapolis.

Every room in his house contains memorabilia from his many trips to Latin America.

There are pillows and a threelegged stool from Mexico; a table from Honduras; bags from Costa Rica and Guatemala; amethysts from Uruguay and a crocheted cross made by women in prison in El Salvador.

His bookshelves are filled with historical works, but also include the many treatises and articles he has written on sociology studies and reflections on the peace movement.

On a small coffee table in his front room, he has several books

written by feminist authors whose work he admires, including Ann Bancroft, Amy Goodman, Winona LaDuke and others.

Photos of family members are in one room, photos from his Latin American travels are in an-

His home reflects the manan understated beauty of the cultures he has studied, uncluttered pieces from his past and present life, each with a story behind it.

From his early beginnings in Oak Park, a suburb near Chicago, IL, to his supervision of a youth hostel in New Hampshire, to his 22 years as a sociology professor at Hamline and his countless trips to South America, Irish has first and foremost been an activist for

He grew up with an older sister and a twin brother and sister. His family had been farmers in Iowa, but his father's generation went to Colorado. His father earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Colorado, then moved the family to Illinois.

The family survived the depression, and Irish went to the University of Colorado, where he

majored in sociology. It was there

he met his first wife, Betty Os-

borne, a home ec major. Upon graduation, Irish started working in what were called the slums of Chicago. He said he remembered working with parents in a settlement house, and he referred to the area as a slum. He was quickly corrected by one of the mothers living there.

'Young man, these are not slums, these are our homes," she told him. Irish also played in dance bands at the time, calling upon his musical talents on the string bass, baritone horn, tuba and sousaphone. He and Betty married in October after his grad-

Early in their marriage, the two of them were co-directors of the American Youth Hostel Movement in Meredith County, New Hampshire. They lived on a 250acre farm with 30 head of Holsteins, pigs and chickens. They candled their own eggs, plowed with horses and had a couple of

"I liked farm life, and I can still milk a cow today," he said, but he did not find it that intellectually stimulating. He went back to school, earning an M.S. in group work from George Williams College in Chicago, an M.A. in sociology from the University of Colorado and later, a Ph.D. in sociology-anthropology from the University of Washing-

His participation in activism reads like a history of cultural events in the United States. He was involved with helping find employment for the Japanese who were interred in camps during World War II. He worked for voter's rights and civil rights in the South. He demonstrated against the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and he has been active in the current anti-war movement regarding Iraq.

Irish and his family not only spoke out against discrimination and intolerance, but they lived what they believed.

Irish became a conscientious objector in 1940 and a Quaker in 1951. When he got his master's from the University of Colorado, he did his thesis on Japanese-American evacuation.

As Irish continued with his education and his teaching, he also continued with his interest in the underprivileged. He taught at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, and he took students to visit mental hospitals every

"Students change the most when they get out and experience life," Irish said. He did research on parent-child relationships at Chapel Hill, NC.

Irish and his family picketed a segregated theater in North Carolina and were active in the civil rights movement. He said his daughters attended school with black children and sat with them in the cafeteria, swam with them in newly desegregated pools. One of his daughters refused to go with friends to a Howard Johnson's, because the chain did not serve blacks in the south.

'You can read about slavery and a sanitized war, but you don't get the reality of suffering," Irish

said. "You have to live it."

After Irish came to Hamline and began teaching in the combined sociology-anthropology departments, he received a threeyear grant to bring rural students from the south to Saint Paul to experience life in the city.

In 1967, he made his first academic trip with students to an isolated village in Mexico. He and his wife would take students there five times over the next 20 years.

"We helped start a medical program and build roads," Irish said. "We did what the people there wanted—you always do what is on their agenda.'

He said that he and his students would take a caravan of cars to the village, which had no electricity or running water. Mail was brought in on horseback. A bus came once a week, if it could get through.

By the 1980s, Irish said, the village had electricity, running water, a paved road and a telephone.

Irish also received two Fulbrights to Latin America, during which he taught social research

After serving as department chair of sociology at Hamline during his last 11 years there, Irish retired in 1985. During his tenure at Hamline and up to the present, Irish has made countless trips to Southern and Central America as a part of Witness for Peace and Peace Brigade programs.

From 1970 to 1996, Irish was chair of the Putnam Lectureship in Social Ethics committee at Hamline, which annually brought speakers to campus.

Irish said that in 1996, he asked Hamline to transfer the Putnam endowment into a program called Student Aid for Latin American Studies (SALAS.) Funding is provided every year for students going to Latin America to study.

As a professor emeritus since his retirement, Irish did have an office available at Hamline and kept a mailbox there for awhile, but finally gave that up.

"I would get over to Saint Paul a couple times a week, and most of the mail was already old by the time I picked it up," he said. He said he still stops by the campus to visit some of his old colleagues and old friends who are teaching.

He said he does not currently go back to Hamline to lecture.

"I'm over the hill, I guess," he said with a chuckle. "Many of the younger people on campus don't know me, so they don't ask me to come and talk."

Irish was instrumental in getting the college to divide the sociology-anthropology program into two departments, thereby saving the jobs of two women who taught anthropology.

"I have sometimes been disappointed with the timidity of faculty," Irish said. "They are concerned with their next pay raise and staying on the good side of the college president. But once they receive tenure, they shouldn't count on the young people to carry the burden. Tenure gives you freedom to speak the truth."

After 42 years of marriage, Irish lost his wife to leukemia. A few years later he married Marjorie Sibley, and the two were married 12 years until Marjorie died from Alzheimer's disease in January 2003.

"I was lucky," Irish said. "I have had two wonderful wives.'







City Council votes to remove or repair 1956 Feronia Avenue

By JANE MCCLURE

A remnant of the Merriam Park business district that was wiped out by Interstate 94 construction must be rehabilitated or demolished this spring. After years of work extensions, broken promises and delays, the St. Paul City Council voted unanimously April 26 to order 1956 Feronia Av. to be removed or repaired in

For more than a decade, Merriam Park Community Council members and many Iris Park neighborhood residents have called for the building at Feronia and Prior to be rehabilitated and saved. The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) agrees and singled out the building a few years ago as a potential locally designated historic site.

But a succession of owners and contractors have left the neighborhood with an empty, largely gutted building. In recent years city officials have had to issue more than two dozen summary abatement orders for the property, ordering the removal of trash, cutting of weeds and tall grass, and cleanup of graffiti vandalism. The council voted April 19 to assess the building owners and contractor \$1,750.72 for a city crew's removal of construc-

If the city winds up demolishing the building, that cost will be assessed to the property owner.

Now neighbors and city staff say it's time for the building to be leveled. Legislative Hearing Officer Marcia Moermond is recommending that the building be removed or repaired. "I do not think the legislative hearing process is bringing us to a timely resolution," she said.

Ward Four Council Member Jay Benanav said that although he would like to see the building saved, the lack of progress on building renovation indicates to him that it may not happen if the current owners don't sell the building. The owners have been before the council more than half a dozen times in three years, seeking extension after extension. They have forfeited a performance bond. Although the Crosby Block is "historic and beautiful," Benanav said, "I too have lost complete faith in this contractor."

Attorney Rebekah Brown, who represents building owner

Naomi Isaacson, and contractor Zech Sindt believe the work can get done. Brown will be given time to present the owners' case April 26. Brown said that more than half of a \$1 million line of credit for the renovation is still available to get the project done.

Sindt said there has been progress, but that unexpected problems have delayed the project, such as extensive repairs to window arch brick work. Winter put a halt to some of the work. He is waiting for warmer weather to resume the renovations, and believes the building can be completed this summer.

But City Council members were skeptical. A city inspector believes that if the work continues at the current pace, "they should be done in 15 years," said Moermond. She said city building officials are frustrated at a lack of specific plans and constant changes in plans.

Neighbors, too, have had enough. Three testified at the April 19 public hearing, asking that the building be demolished. "There's been very little progress," said Iris Park resident Elsie Fohrenkamm. "The neighborhood has lost confidence in these owners. We do not want to go on with this.

Bob Vanasek, another neighbor, said he was excited to see crews working at the building last summer. He said the historic building "anchors" his block and that he wanted to see it saved. But the lack of progress in recent months has changed his mind. "Maybe it should come down," he said.

Merriam Park Community Council has advocated saving the building for several years, said MPCC Community Organizer Theresa Heiland. "The last thing we want to see happen is for this building to come down." Yet the district council is fielding a steady number of complaints about the building and is concerned at the lack of progress.

'The building sends a negative message to the neighborhood and in fact invites vandalism, MPCC President Scott Banas said in a letter to city officials. "Furthermore, potential home buyers have called the council's office to ask if anything is being done about the building, so we know its neglect has an impact on how people view living in the neighborhood." Banas noted that ideally, the building should be sold to someone who can get the rehabilitation work done.

Benanav said he has heard from other parties who'd like to buy and rehabilitate the building. But if the current owners refuse to sell, there isn't a lot the city can

The Crosby Block is one of several St. Paul buildings suggested for local historic designation status. 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.)

After several years as an 18unit apartment building, city inspectors revoked the Crosby Block's certificate of occupancy in 1998. Owners have proposed various plans for the building, including commercial and residential uses. But financing and the ability to stick to a construction schedule have dogged the project.

1956 Feronia is just one of two problem properties Iris Park residents are battling. The council held a hearing April 19 on 1897 Feronia, a vacant rental house that is in disrepair. Its owner, Mahmood Hassan, has missed city-imposed deadlines for rehabilitation including a most recent January deadline. Hassan's attorney, John Hughes, has indicated to city officials that he wants to sell the house and more than a dozen other St. Paul residential properties he owns. But city staff wants the building removed or repaired quickly, citing the number of outstanding code violations and work that has been done without city permits. The City Council decided April 26 to give Hassan one more chance to rehabilitate and sell this building, provided he meet several condi-

"I think people have to risk for peace, not just for war," Irish said. He cited the risks of being kidnapped or driving along mined roads when he was a Witness for Peace, assigned to be with a woman in Central America who

"We desperately need passionate, eloquent peace people to get elected in this country," he said. "People are so acquiescent in going to war. We have a chance, maybe, at making this the last

And Irish will continue work-

ever been to participate," he said. "I am widowed, and I don't have a job, so they can't fire me."



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Irish

Continued from page 16

Today, Irish continues with his activist lifestyle. He has protested at the School of the Americas six times. He was recently charged with trespassing at Alliant Tech, a weapons manufacturer, and he and 40 others are awaiting trial. He has been a faithful member of the peace vigils on the Lake Street Bridge for three years, but has recently taken a sabbatical so that he can get some more writing done.

He is working on political campaigns and continues to publish articles related to the peace movement. He is a board member of the War Plays Project, a group

that presents a reading of letters written and received by soldiers throughout history. He has been the recipient of the Twin Cities International Citizen Award and the Vincent L. Hawkins Peace and Justice award.

Irish said he is and always has been an activist, but also considers himself a scholar, an academic and a philosopher. "I have been an activist, but I have been a mountain climber and a bicyclist and a performer in a dance band," he said.

Irish said that when he thinks of himself, he considers that he is a man of many parts. He is conservative in dress, reactionary in his spending habits, liberal in believing in freedom for all and a radical in his beliefs, leaning toward the agnostic end of the religious spec-

was facing death threats.

ing for the cause.

"I am freer now than I have



City delays approval of SuperTarget plans

By JANE MCCLURE

Don't get out your red shopping cart just yet. There's a been a delay in approval of plans for the proposed new Midway SuperTar-

Saying that the store plans need to be more reflective of community desires for transit-oriented development along University Avenue, the St. Paul City Council postponed action on the store's site plan and a parking variance May 3. Instead the proposal will return to the council for a vote May 17. It's possible the proposal could change by then.

More than two dozen people attended a May 3 City Council public hearing on Target's site plan and parking variance for 1300 University Av. W. The Lexington-Hamline Community Council, University UNITED and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union Local 789 appealed St. Paul Planning Commission decisions approving a site plan and parking variance for the new SuperTarget.

The appellants contend that the Target plans aren't consistent with community plans calling for transit-oriented, more dense development along University Avenue. The street is currently home to one of Metro Transit's busiest bus lines and is the planned site of the Central Corridor transit improvements. Although no Central Corridor stop is planned near Target, community groups are lobbying for a stop to be placed there.

Over the next several days council members Jay Benanav and Debbie Montgomery will work with the community groups and Target officials to see what plan changes can be made. "We want to make this Target the best we can for the area," Montgomery said. She said questions community members are raising about transit-oriented development are important and need to be addressed.

But Target cannot have the project delayed for too long, said Tom Carrico, manager of real estate development for new Target stores in Minnesota. The new SuperTarget is slated to open in July 2007, so construction needs to



Saying that the store plans need to be more reflective of community desires for transit-oriented development along University Avenue, the St. Paul City Council postponed action on the store's site plan and a parking variance May 3.

start soon.

"I don't think we're that far apart,' said Benanav. He said two weeks should be enough time for the groups to meet and review

Montgomery said she is hearing from senior citizens, who are worried about a longer walk from University Avenue transit to the planned new SuperTarget. The new store would be built on a St. Anthony Avenue site north of the current Midway Target. That site is currently occupied by the former Four Points Sheraton Hotel, which Target purchased and closed last year.

The long walk between transit stops and the store are a concern raised by the appellants. "This plan pushes Target back farther from the transit and pedestrian corridor," said LHCC Executive Director Jessica Treat. That's contrary to Lexington-Hamline's district plan, which calls for development that promotes walking, bicycling and transit use instead of more motor vehicle trips.

Hamline-Midway resident and UFCW representative Bernie Hesse noted that pedestrians "take their lives into their hands" when trying to walk to and from Midway commercial centers. He said the same mistakes shouldn't be made with the design of a new Su-

"I hope we can sit down and develop something that works for all of us that live in the Midway," said Hesse. One point he raised is that the appellants didn't even get a copy of Target's traffic study until just before the May 3 public hearing. The study contends that the new store won't significantly add motor vehicle traffic to the area, a point Hesse and other dis-

Target officials contend that they are meeting the community's transit-oriented development desires by splitting off part of the property along University and Syndicate Street for separate commercial or mixed commercial-residential development. But Montgomery and other council members said they have questions about how those sites would be

Carrico said Target officials are excited to be building the first SuperTarget in an urban location. He said Target is supportive of efforts to redevelop University Avenue and intends to be involved in a Planning Commission task force that is studying transit-oriented development.

Part of the site plan calls for an east-west street to bisect the property south of the new store. Target also wants to split off two

outlots at University and Syndicate for development closer to transit. Target would be involved with development of the lots but would not own them. Tom Beach, who oversees site plan reviews for the city, said city staff believe this feature makes the site plan consistent with the goals of transit-oriented development along University.

That is also Target's contention. "This is where we believe transit-oriented development could take place," Carrico said.

Carrico also noted that there are no two-story SuperTargets, which is something some community members had pushed for. But that request has been dropped, said University UNITED Executive Director Brian McMahon. The group is accepting the idea of a single-story SuperTarget store. They'd still like to see the 640space parking area developed as a 400-space parking ramp. More of the proposed parking lot space developed for retail or mixed use.

University UNITED has advocated for more transit-oriented development along University for more than a decade, McMahon said. He said community groups have met with Central Community Housing Trust, a Minneapolisbased community development group, to discuss ways the site could be redeveloped to accommodate more retail and even residential use. That would substantially increase the area's property tax base, he said.

But Carrico notes that Target isn't seeking any public subsidies for the project. Adding structured or ramp parking cost add several million dollars to the project costs.

Midway Chamber of Commerce is supporting Target's plans and asked the City Council to approve the site plan and parking variance as proposed. Chamber President Lori Fritts said the city has to consider who would pay for a redesigned SuperTarget. City officials do need to consider cost issues for Target and the economic benefits a new store would bring to the community.

"It's really boring to be economically feasible," Fritts said.

Target wants to build a new, 186,000 square-foot SuperTarget on the former Sheraton property. The new store will be one-third larger than the existing building.

The current 141,000 squarefoot store would remain open during most of the construction period, closing for two to three months before the new store opens in July 2007. The current store would be leveled to create parking for the new store. The current parking lot would be regraded and rebuilt.

One reason for pushing Target's new building back from University Avenue is so that it will be more visible from Interstate 94, said Carrico. He said the need to be visible to that traffic cannot be

The current store site and part provide the new SuperTarget with approximately 640 parking spaces. The zoning code requires there be 820 off-street parking spaces, so the Planning Commission OK'd a 180-space parking variance.

Beach also said city staff believe the Target plans do work for pedestrians, as the sidewalks around the store would be widened. A new sidewalk would be added for access along St. Anthony Avenue. Target would also design its building to have art and displays on the sides, rather than blank walls. There would be bike paths and more landscaping and green space than the city requires.

But the appellants said that isn't enough. "We all think this is clearly a suburban model and not an urban model," said Treat.

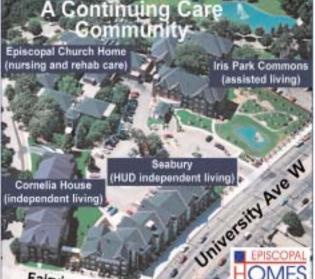


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Call Mark Larson

In May, the excited trills of chipping sparrows give way to the mellower songs of the Northern orioles, the tinkling calls of western chores frogs are joined by the whirring voices of the American toads, and when the lilacs burst into bloom, the delicate woodland flowers fade away.

Some folks are surprised to hear how many different kinds of early-season wild flowers can be found in the woods of Como Park. Before the trees fully leaf out, you can find corydalis, anemones, violets, bellworts (much prettier than its name implies), nodding trilliums, jack-in-the-pulpits, and trout lilies. These early bloomers stubbornly hold their own against the newly arrived invasive garlic mustard, which also comes up in April and May.

This was the first year I caught the trout lilies (Erythronium albidum) blooming. I usually only see their mottled leaves which are beautifully marked like the flashing sides of brown trout. Dainty white blooms threaded their way up through a pile of sticks that had been dumped over them in the park ravine where they grew. The seemingly benign practice of dumping yard waste into park woods could have unintended negative consequences.

Throwing last year's patio plants into the park could lead to introducing the next invasive species into an already stressed urban woodland. And those hedge-trimmings dumped over the hill into the woods might cover up a struggling stand of native white trout lilies. Yet, those delicate spring flowers apparently are tougher than they look.

Each trout lily plant has two tongue-shaped basal leaves with a



Neighborhood Naturalist

By DEB ROBINSON

Spring fades to summer

single purple-tinged white flower rising up on a long, slender stem. Each flower has six pedals that curve back to reveal the yellow pollen-covered anthers and white

Besides saying goodbye to the spring flowers for the summer, I'll also be saying goodbye permanently to another botanical asset of Como Park: Gathering of



stigma. It would be easy to overlook something so small and ephemeral, but it's worth getting down on your knees to take a closer look before these wild little beauties disappear for another season Artists and Illustrators of Nature (GAIN).

Back in the late 1990s, I took a botanical illustration class at the Como Conservatory. The instructor was Vera Ming Wong, a wellknown and talented natural science illustrator. Over the weeks that the class ran, students and teacher bonded over shared interests in nature and art. In 1999, Vera arranged for us and other former students to gather on a monthly basis in the old trailer on the Como Zoo grounds.

We brought snacks to share along with our most recent illustrations, and we would draw and talk. It was an opportunity to have our artwork critiqued by our peers. GAIN was an affirming group for representational artists who loved nature. And, though our levels of experience varied, the atmosphere was always supportive.

There were field trips to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, road trips up to Duluth's Tweed Museum, and tours of the Bell Museum after-hours. It was fun and informal, but the loose group of friends evolved into a more formal organization. An organization needs organizers to schedule events, write newsletters, and update the website—it takes time, lots of it. "The possibilities in art related to nature and to plants may be endless, but time, for each of us it limited," wrote Vera in a recent e-mail.

I lamented that I hadn't been to a GAIN gathering for several years - I had acquired more volunteer obligations and the GAIN meeting times seemed to conflict with other meetings. But even if I couldn't attend often, I still wanted GAIN to always be there.

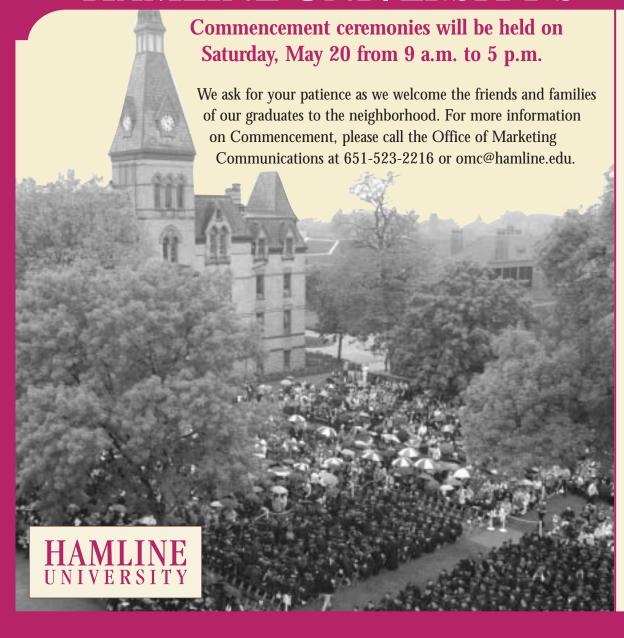
After six successful years of gathering together to encourage and support local botanical and nature artists, Vera and the volunteer Board of Advisors decided it was time that GAIN fade with the spring flowers. GAIN will hold its last juried art exhibition at the Bell Museum of Natural History May 13 through August 27. (They graciously accepted a drawing from this delinquent GAIN member.) The opening reception will be at 7 p.m. on May 11, and I'm looking forward to reminiscing with some old friends at the open-

ing... or is it a closing?

"We started with a vision, of an organization that would bring together artists and illustrators with a common focus, for mutual support and to share expertise," wrote Vera in her farewell letter to the members. However, I envision this group of artists reemerging in another season just like the trout lilies in the Como Park woods.

Endnotes: *For info about events at Bell Museum of Natural History, located on the U of M Minneapolis campus, call: 612-624-7083 or visit: www. Bellmuseum.org *Como Lake Waterfest - free family fun to be found just south of the Como Lakeside Pavilion on June 17, noon to 4 p.m. (volunteer for the shoreline clean-up at 11 a.m. to receive a free lunch and face-painting). To volunteer or info, call Debbie: 651-647-6816. *Friends of Horton Park need volunteers to tend those wonderful native plant gardens each 2nd Sundays at noon. For info: 645-4393. To contact this writer: dmrobinson@bitstream.net

HAMLINE UNIVERSITY'S



UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

Piper Golf Classic

Date: Tuesday, June 27

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: Oak Glen Country Club, Stillwater Contact: Dana Johnson, 651-523-2754 or djohnson@hamline.edu

Minnesota Private College Week 2006

Open house programs (morning and afternoon sessions) for prospective students ('07 and '08 high school graduates) and parents. Features an information session, faculty speaker, student panel, and campus tours.

Dates: June 26-30

Contact: 651-523-2207 or 1-800-753-9753

The 3rd International Piano-E-Competition

Twenty-four invited participants will compete for prizes including \$20,000, a Yamaha piano, and numerous appearances with orchestras and at festivals throughout the United States.

Dates: July 1-14

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Contact: www.piano-e-competition.com

Hamline at the Minnesota State Fair

Come for a corn dog and visit the Hamline Booth in the Education Building! Dates: August 24-September 4

Cost: Price of State Fair admission ticket Contact: Tracy Sparby, 651-523-2216 or

tsparby@hamline.edu