

monitor

Serving the Midway, Como, and North End Communities of St. Paul



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Merriam Park city soccer champs

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Storytelling is popular in the Hamline Midway neighborhood. Just ask Erin Sutton. Six years ago, she was traveling around in a U-Haul truck to schools telling stories that teach children about harassment and bullying. Now, as a stay-at-home mom with two young children, Finn, 3, and Aksel, 1, Sutton missed doing theater. So, she decided to start a storytelling group, called the Mighty Midway Storytellers, which holds a theme-based storytime and art activity at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of every month at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.

Sutton started the group as part of the Hamline Midway Leadership in Support of Neighborhoods (LISN) program, whose purpose is to develop emerging leaders in the neighborhood. As a LISN fellow from March 2009 to October 2009, she decided to have her project involve the library.

"Prior to applying for the program, I was thinking about hosting a casual storytime in my backyard," said Sutton. "I decided to take my idea and focus on the library. I can do something to strengthen the library and can reach out to more children."

Ever since she graduated with a degree from Augsburg College in Theater Arts in 2003, Sutton had been involved in theater. During the 2003-2004 school year, she was part of a theater troupe with Climb Theater, who performed 30-minute educational plays for children. As an actress through independent theater from 2004-2006, she performed with Theatre Unbound as Ferdinand in "The Tempest." With Theatre de la Jeune Lune, she played a servant in "The Miser" and was part of an ensemble cast in "Lettice and Lovage."

Raised in Moorhead, Minn., Sutton has fond memories of her mother reading books to her.

"I loved reading as a child," she said. "Most of my storytelling stemmed from my theater background. When I had my own children, I knew the importance of reading to them."

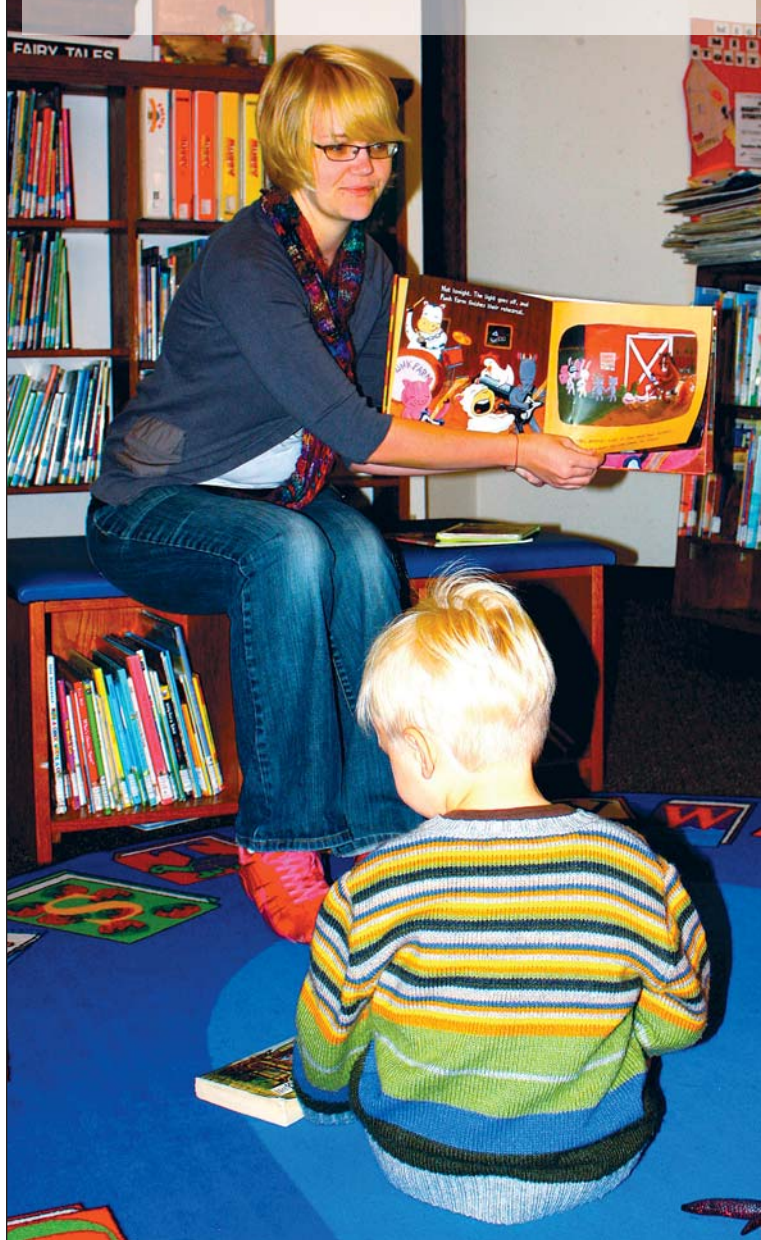
Living right around the corner from the Hamline Midway Library, Sutton takes her children there two to three times every week. She hopes storytelling will strengthen the library.

"I wanted to inspire more people to read to their kids and go to the library," she said. "I've been taking my 3-year-old to the library since we moved here two years ago."

Sutton feels storytelling is a great activity for children.

"They can play and learn at the same time and be creative,"

Mighty Midway Storytellers use tales to captivate kids



Six years ago Erin Sutton was traveling around in a U-Haul truck to schools telling stories that teach children about harassment and bullying. Now, as a stay-at-home mom with two young children Sutton missed doing theater. That desire led to the Mighty Midway Storytellers, which holds a theme-based storytime and art activity at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of every month at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

she said. "It introduces them to new ideas and things."

Although about 20 people have expressed an interest in storytelling with the group, Sutton has a core group consisting of herself with two other Hamline Midway community members who are moms, Jean Thilmany, who is in charge of outreach, and Jessica Kopp, who is going to start a blog this month.

"I see this as the type of group that can go on as long as the library wants it to go on,

whether we have a library or not," said Sutton. "If the library would ever close, this would be a source for kids to still have storytime."

Starting Mighty Midway Storytellers is important to Sutton for its creativity and community building.

"I'm doing something for the community and library," she said. "I'm helping to strengthen the community and to be creative with my children and other children."

Through funding from the

LISN program, Sutton has been able to hold two storytelling workshops with professional storytellers to train community members interested in learning and sharing storytelling skills.

"We wanted to give storytellers tools on how to do storytelling and to help build confidence and skills," she said. "They can meet other community members and have fun."

Katrina Taylor, Hamline Midway Library branch manager, thinks the library is definitely benefiting from having the Mighty Midway Storytellers at the library.

"They're bringing in some fresh ideas in storytelling," she said. "They're bringing in fresh activities and bringing in some different people who may not normally be coming to the library, which is good."

Taylor thinks storytime is a popular feature at the library because of what it offers. The library storytimes are Tuesday at 6 p.m. and Friday at 10:30 a.m.

"I think it's a good time for parents to learn about some new books they haven't known about before and to experience that with other kids and families," she said. "It's fun. A lot of people are looking for good, educational things to do with children."

Children can benefit from attending storytimes by getting early literacy skills.

"This is one of the things we really hope comes out of storytime," said Taylor. "Parents learn how to share some new books with kids or new ways to share books they've read over and over. They can build their skills and learn awareness so they're ready to learn to read when they start school."

The Mighty Midway Storytellers is important to the library because it brings new people to the library they haven't seen before.

"They're bringing that community into the library," said Taylor. "They're supporting things that we do and bringing in their own passions, creativity, and stories they love. They're really making it theirs. It gives them ownership and draws in more people."

Nov. 24, the theme of storytime will be Barnyard Jamboree, and there will be no storytime the last Tuesday of December.

Sutton's once-a-month storytime is helping to bring in more people to the library's regular Tuesday storytime.

"We're really doing something to strengthen the library," she said. "I would be really devastated if that library would close. It's a real lifesaver for me."

For information, call the Hamline Midway Library at 651-642-0293.

monitor

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St. Paul, MN 55104
651-645-7045

Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

Managing Editor:

Denis Woulfe

Advertising:

Denis Woulfe
Dennis Stern (651-452-5324)

Photographers:

Liberty Willms
Andrew Fossbinder

Production/Illustrations:

Bob Wasiluk

Contributing Writers:

Eric Nathanson, Deborah Brotz,
Jane McClure, Krista Finstad Hanson,
Jan Willms, Sherri Moore,



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District 6 sponsors sock and mitten drive

Burr!! It's Getting Cold Outside! District 6 is sponsoring a sock and mitten drive. Please donate cold weather gear; hats, mittens, socks and other items! We will be collecting them until the end of November. You can drop off your donations to our office, 213 Front Avenue or Mike's Complete Auto Care at 1174 Rice Street. Items collected will be distributed to area schools.

Meeting Date Change and Cancellations: The November Land Use Task Force meeting will be Tuesday, November 17th. There will be no December Board of Director's, Land Use Task Force or Community Building meeting. See you in 2010!

A Block Club Get Together for all Block Club Leaders and neighbors is scheduled for: Wednesday, December 9th, 6 to 8 p.m. at Abettos, 560 Como.

This will be a great way to get to know other Block Club Leaders and residents who live in other areas of the North End & South Como neighborhoods. Discuss your shared concerns and brainstorm possible solutions. Find out what is happening in your neighborhoods, how you can support projects and get involved.

Everyone is welcome, but please call the D-6 office (651-488-4485) and leave a message if you plan on attending. A light pizza snack will be served, but if you would like, bring a dessert to share (store bought only please!)

Thank-you to those of you who donated cash for the School Supply Drive at the Neighborhood Clean-up! We purchased quite a few backpacks and supplies. Your generosity is appreciated.



The 2009 Como Park Cougars Boys Soccer Team won the St. Paul City Championship after putting together an overall record of 18 wins and 2 losses.

Como Park Cougars - 2009 St. Paul City Champions

The 2009 Como Park Cougars Boys Soccer Team won the St. Paul City Championship after putting together an overall record of 18 wins and 2 losses. The Cougars were a talented and hard-working team that played with great skill and sportsmanship, representing Como Park with class in every game they played. The Cougars set school records for goals scored (82), goals allowed (8), and shut-outs (13). Como Park earned the respect of teams and coaches all around the state as they broke into the Top 10 rankings and climbed

to #2 in the Class A Polls by the end of the regular season.

Unfortunately, the Cougars' dreams of the State Tournament were upset in a penalty kick shoot-out loss in the Section 4A Semi-Finals. Despite that heart-breaking ending, the 2009 Cougars season will go down in history as a great success. While many individuals earned honors for their exceptional play, this team was special in that it always put the team first. That unselfish attitude led to accomplishments and memories that will last a lifetime.

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MIDWAY/COMO/NORTH END Monitor in a Minute

Marshall Avenue speed eyed by Council

Slowing the speed of motor vehicles on Marshall Avenue is the intent of a resolution approved Oct. 28 by the St. Paul City Council. The council unanimously approved a resolution asking Ramsey County to reduce the speed on Marshall between the west city limits and Snelling Avenue. The speed is currently 35 miles per hour. The City Council wants the speed reduced to 30 miles per hour.

Merriam Park residents have asked for the reduced speed for several years, saying that the 35 miles per hour speed poses a safety hazard. But the street is classified as a county road, so Ramsey County has the final say.

The county could conduct a study of vehicle speeds on the street before acting on the request.

The latest push for reduced speed is sponsored by Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark. It is a condition tied to recent pedestrian safety and bicycle lane improvements made over the past few years on Marshall Avenue. The improvement, which included pedestrian medians and restriping of the street, were made with a grant from Transit for Livable Communities (TLC). TLC is administering the federal grant program as part of a non-motorized transportation program.

Previous requests for reduced speeds have been rejected because of traffic volumes and the speed of existing traffic. What could make the case for reduced speed this time around are the bicycle lanes, which are striped from Fry Street to Missis-

sippi River Boulevard. A state statute allows local units of government to designate motor vehicle speed reductions on streets with established bicycle lanes. The statute allows speeds to be lowered to 25 miles per hour.

One argument city officials are making for the reduced speed is that the rest of Marshall Avenue has posted speeds of 30 miles per hour.

The City Council resolution now goes to Ramsey County Public Works and the Ramsey County Board.

Sales tax funds awarded by board

Only a few area projects won 2009 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) large grants and loans. The St. Paul City Council awarded the fund-

ing Oct. 7, following review by the Neighborhood STAR Board and Mayor Chris Coleman's administration.

The council approved 10 projects totaling \$1,311,700. That breaks down to \$713,350 in grants and \$598,350 in loans. The matches pledged total \$3,421,589.

Nineteen other projects didn't make the cut. The top-ranked project citywide is remodeling of a commercial building in St. Anthony Park, at Cleveland and Buford avenues. A \$25,000 grant and \$12,500 loan were awarded for new ventilation, flooring and patio area. Another area project approved for funding is Hamerick's Decorating Center on Rice Street, which is recommended for a \$150,000 grant and \$150,000 loan to replace an old building with a new showroom and storage facility. A \$1 million match is proposed.

Open Cities Health Center's request for a \$100,000 grant to purchase and renovate a building next to its current Rice Street location, to expand the clinic was also approved. This project has a \$125,000 match. Yet another area project approved is Frogtown Square. The redevelopment of University and Dale, where Episcopal Homes will build housing in a mixed-use development, was awarded a \$100,000 grant and \$100,000 loan are recommended, with a \$618,443 match.

Several area projects didn't make the cut as demand for funds easily overwhelmed supply. These include a University Avenue commercial improvement grant program (\$300,000 loan); Maternity of Mary-St. Andrew's School renovation and expansion (\$100,000 grant and \$140,000 loan); Star Oriental Market's request for building and parking lot improvements for its North End store (\$50,000 grant and \$100,000 loan); conversion of the old Victoria Theater near University and Victoria back into performance space (\$17,000

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City evaluates business impacts of Central Corridor build-out

By JANE MCCLURE

Mayor Chris Coleman has two ambitious goals for the Central Corridor light rail line: "No one has to lose their business and no one has to lose their home."

No business buildings or homes are directly in the 11-mile light rail line's path in St. Paul. But fears about construction disruption and the long-term impacts of lost on-street parking have many businesses wary. In the past few weeks, one group of businesses has filed a federal complaint against the Central Corridor project. Another longtime University Avenue business has announced it is moving out of the city.

A number of groups are organizing to help businesses, including one organization that is trying to raise \$20 million for from local and national foundations. One goal for the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative is to help businesses "not just survive, but thrive," said Jonathan Sage-Martinson, executive director of the collaborative. The funders group took Twin Cities media on a bus tour of Central Corridor Oct. 22, to explain how that organization and many others are trying to help businesses. More than 80 organizations are involved in the Funders Collaborative's efforts.

Businesses in the Twin Cities have never been through any project on the scale of the Central Corridor, said Jim Roth, executive director of the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers. His organization was involved in Minneapolis when Hiawatha Corridor light rail was built and when East Lake Street was reconstructed.

"But we've never experienced anything like Central Corridor," Roth said. He and others involved in the Funders Collaborative are already trying to organize the many business associations, neighborhood groups, Chambers of Commerce and other organizations along the light rail line before construction begins next year. The rail line, which has an estimated cost of \$941 million, is to start operations in 2014.

At this point a construction schedule for University Avenue hasn't been announced. Relocation of utility lines and some rail preparation work began in downtown St. Paul this summer, where businesses reported a drop of 40 to 50 percent in sales.

Robin Cauffman, who leads community outreach efforts for Metropolitan Council, said the council staff will hold regular meetings and construction updates for businesses along Univer-

sity, just as it has downtown. Metropolitan Council is also working with contractors to provide directional signage for businesses. But that frustrated downtown businesses. They had to wait months for signage and then were unhappy to learn that the signs. University Avenue business owners and community leaders don't want that to happen on their street.

"Small businesses will be the first to feel the impacts of construction," Sage-Martinson said. But the Funders Collaborative also hopes the businesses will be around to take advantages of the opportunities available to them once light rail is up and running.

Some Asian businesses are weighing their options, said community leader Lysa Bui. Asian-owned businesses have not only organized the Save Our Businesses and Jobs Campaign, they have also filed a federal complaint against the light rail project and its builder, Metropolitan Council. The Concerned Asian Business Owners group is about 30 members strong. Their 14-page complaint claims that the Metropolitan Council hasn't done enough to examine potential adverse impacts light rail will cause for minority communities and businesses. The complaint was filed with

the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Office of Civil Rights in mid-October. Projects like Central Corridor are required to do detailed environmental impact studies, including examination of social justice issues. How much impact the complaint will have isn't clear, as Metropolitan Council officials said that the environmental studies have already been completed and approved by the FTA.

The federal complaint is similar to one filed last spring by the Preserve and Benefit Historic Rondo Community group. The complaint, prepared with assistance from the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, states that the rail line would cause harm to racial minorities along Central Corridor's route is Asian, African-American or in other minority groups. The complaint indicates that many Asian-owned businesses would be among those losing their on-street parking.

Bui, one of the owners of Saigon restaurant, is a leader in both Save Our Business and Jobs and Concerned Asian Business Owners groups. Her restaurant already had to move from Univer-

ty and Dale to make way for a mixed-use development project and went through a five-month shutdown before reopening.

"We will not survive without business mitigation funds," said Bui. She recently met with University Avenue Business Association (UABA) to discuss what Asian businesses are doing to organize around light rail issues.

Right now there is no pot of money to help businesses keep their doors open during construction. Metropolitan Council staff has repeatedly indicated that the \$941 million Central Corridor budget is for construction of the rail line and stations only. The City of St. Paul is raising money to pay for shared parking improvements and streetscape improvements. The Funders Collaborative and its members are raising money for needs such as marketing and parking.

Mike Temali, director of the Neighborhood Development Center (NDC), said one way to help businesses survive light rail in the future is to help them attract new customers today. That effort is already underway. One way NDC is helping small businesses is through marketing, helping small businesses build Web pages and use social media to attract more customers. Some small businesses are already using that service.

Roth admits that not all small businesses may survive light rail construction, despite the best efforts of the Funders Collaborative. But the group hopes to get businesses and community groups organized around issues ranging from shared parking to construction communication. "We need to recognize that we're going to be stronger together," he said.

Another issue will be directional signage to businesses. Downtown business owners affected by Central Corridor-related street reconstruction this fall have some advice for their University Avenue counterparts: Make sure signs directing patrons to your business go up right away, not months after the project began. More than two dozen University Avenue business owners discussed preparation for light rail construction, at an Oct. 15 meeting of University Avenue Business Association (UABA).


Utility relocation work is already underway in downtown St. Paul. The rail line is to begin operations in 2014 but a growing number of business owners fear that if they do not survive construction, they won't be around to reap any of the benefits of light rail.

UABA members heard from Son Truong, co-owner of Senor Wong restaurant. The restaurant is in Kellogg Square downtown. At one time this summer three of four adjacent streets were under construction. Pedestrians have been unable to cross the street due to construction.

"Right now, we're just focused on survival," Truong said.

Relocation of utilities began in preparation for light rail line construction in July. That work is being handled by Xcel and District Energy. Central Corridor project crews began working on-site in August. But it was not until mid-October that signs directing patrons to downtown buildings were up.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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MGM Liquors at Larpenteur and Lexington has been ordered to replace a fence along the Larpenteur-California avenues alley.

MGM Liquors ordered to replace fence along alley

By JANE MCCLURE

MGM Liquors must follow its approved site plan and replace a fence along the Larpenteur-California avenues alley. The St. Paul Planning Commission has decided a proposed site plan with no alley and a lack of directional features to provide safe alley access isn't acceptable. The Oct. 30 commission vote is just the latest chapter in a saga that has dragged through City Hall and the courts.

MGM could appeal the Planning Commission decision to the City Council within 10 days. As the Monitor went to press, no appeal had been filed.

The commission voted to deny MGM's latest site plan, which was submitted to city officials this summer. That site plan shows no fence.

MGM has a retail store and offices at 1102 Larpenteur Av., the southwest corner of Larpenteur and Lexington Parkway. The site plan for the corner was approved by city staff in 1980 and included a fence, which was on the MGM side of the property.

Tom Beach, who oversees site plan review for the city, said the fence was erected years before a 1994 city requirement that restrict access from commercial properties on shared commercial-residential alleys. Alley access in such situations is prohibited unless the property owner can demonstrate that a site plan meets traffic safety conditions.

The fence was removed in late 2007 without city permission, and since then there has been unrestricted access to the alley. Neigh-

bors contend that creates an unsafe situation, as they are unable to get in and out of their garages safely. Vehicles entering and exiting the liquor store parking lot drive at high rates of speed. Some throw litter in the alley.

After the fence was taken down city officials ordered that the fence go back up, leading to a legal tussle that went through district court and the Court of Appeals. The district court ruling was that the fence could come down because there is screening of the property on the south or residential side of the alley that MGM has provided.

The district court also ruled that the city was trying to take MGM's property by denying alley access.

The city appealed to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. That court indicated that MGM should have followed city process to obtain alley access and that the city didn't interfere with MGM's property rights. That ruling also indicated that MGM hadn't satisfied the property screening requirements.

MGM did submit a new site plan to city officials, which shows no fence or barrier along the alley. City staff recommended denial of that site plan for a number of reasons, including safety and visual screening.

Attorney Chad Lemmons represented MGM before the Planning Commission Zoning Committee last month. He said the screening on the south side of the alley does meet city requirements. He also raised questions about a city traffic study of the alley and

said that in the time the fence has been gone, there hasn't been an increase in accidents in the alley.

"We believe the fence isn't needed," said Lemmons. But city officials, and Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen, want the fence replaced. Lemmons and Patrick Kelly, another attorney for MGM, said the company would be interested in finding other solutions.

But that comment met questions from some Planning Commission members, who noted that MGM had asked for a layover of the case earlier this fall. Commissioners questioned whether the layover was meant to seek a compromise. But Lemons indicated that the layover was sought because MGM was considering a change of use for its property and if that happened, there would be no need for alley access.

District 10 Planning Council and several neighbors sent letters in opposition to the new site plan. Four neighbors testified at two public hearings this fall. Neighbor Nick Clausen said delivery trucks "constantly" block the alley, creating an unsafe situation. Drivers refuse to move until neighbors threaten to call the police.

"I don't think even trying to restrict access would work," said Clausen. He and other neighbors want the fence back.

Trash and litter in the alley, unsafe driving by MGM patrons and cut-through traffic from the Lexington-Larpenteur intersection were other concerns cited by neighbors. "We pick up trash all of the time," said neighbor Vickie Schimke.

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Finn Sisu departs University Avenue before LRT arrival

By JANE MCCLURE

Longtime University Avenue business owner Ahvo Taipale isn't waiting for the Central Corridor light rail line to be built. Instead, he's marking his final winter season at 1841 University Av., selling cross-country skis, ski equipment and saunas.

Earlier this fall Taipale broke ground on a site in Lauderdale, near Highway 280 and Larpenteur Avenue. He plans to pack up his current shop, where he has been since 1978, and move next spring. He is timing the move to coincide with what is typically a slower time for his shop.

"I really don't want to move," said Taipale. "But I have no choice. The light rail will take all of my parking." His shop is located just west of Fairview Avenue, and will have a rail stop in front once the line begins operating in 2014.

Some have cited Finn Sisu as the first business to move because of light rail, which will take about 85 percent of University Avenue's on-street parking once it is built and operating. But the business attrition may actually be harder to track, given the number of University Avenue businesses that have closed or relocated in recent months. Businesses don't always say why they are moving or closing.

Taipale has been outspoken about the pending loss of on-street parking. He has questioned whether it would be as easy to

reach shared parking agreements as some staff in the project has said.

Taipale said he has talked to Metropolitan Council staff about the impacts of the light rail project itself, and to city staff about the possibilities of staying in St. Paul. Although he'd rather stay on University Avenue, he said city officials weren't able to find him a new location that met his needs, at a cost that was feasible. Instead, he worked with Park Midway Bank to build a new structure.

He doesn't fault the project and city staff members he has worked with. "I just think there's not a lot that can be offered to us," he said.

The new location in Lauderdale is twice as large as his University Avenue building and has ample parking, he said. The location is accessible for customers from around the region, including St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak. Both are cross-country skiers. It also is near a city recreation facility in Lauderdale.

"Most of our customers drive," he said. Transporting equipment by bus or rail could be done but he noted it would be difficult.

Taipale, a former University of Minnesota ski coach, is well-known in the skiing community. The Finland native also offers training and coaching services through his business.

Announcing the move now



Longtime University Avenue business owner Ahvo Taipale isn't waiting for the Central Corridor light rail line to be built. Instead, he's marking his final winter season at 1841 University Av., selling cross-country skis, ski equipment and saunas. (Photo by Liberty Willms)

gives Taipale and his staff time to let customers know this winter that they'll be visiting the new shop for their winter 2010-2011 needs. "This gives us time to get the word out and to prepare," he said.

Customers are already coming in and discussing the move with him. He has been told by customers that they will miss his longtime location. "So will we," he said.

But this is not the first time Finn Sisu has felt pressure to move. Taipale has owned the Lauderdale site since 1998. "I bought it then because we didn't know where we would go and I needed something quickly," he said.

In the summer of 1998 Taipale and other small businesses at the northwest corner of Fairview and University battled the city and developer Eldon Burows over a plan to knock down six businesses and put a new three-story office building on the block. The \$11 million structure was proposed.

At the time Burows was working with the city to buy 3.5 acres of property, from the corner to Iris Park Place. The plan was to build a new home for UCare Minnesota, a health maintenance organization. Burows asked the city to create a tax increment financing district, to assist with the development costs.

At that time Finn Sisu and other small businesses were told they would have only 90 days to move, prompting Taipale to buy the Lauderdale site. The business owners were irked to learn about the pending city project through newspaper articles, saying the city and developer failed to notify them properly.

When Burows' plans fell through, the businesses were allowed to stay put and Taipale put moving plans on hold. Now, he said, he is glad that he held onto the Lauderdale site.

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Kathy Bjerke, Sharon McNellis & Mike Derus

Business Impacts

Continued from page 4

That brought a strong reaction from business owners and from Fred Gates, aide to Congresswoman Betty McCollum. "This is just absolutely ridiculous," Gates said.

McCollum had been assured that signage for business would be posted during construction. "I do feel that the Metropolitan

Council and Central Corridor project staff need to learn from this, so it doesn't happen on University Avenue," said Gates. "Can the signs on University go up sooner, rather than when you're deep into the project?" said Temali. He and others said signs need to be put up right away or businesses will suffer.

Caufman said that directional signs should have gone up sooner downtown. Contractors who do work on the Central Corridor project get sign directives as part of their contracts on the project. Putting up signs is

part of the contract agreement.

The signs downtown name buildings - such as Kellogg Square - and not individual businesses. Truong said that isn't going to be effective. "A lot of my customers don't think to look for Kellogg Square. They look for Senor Wong." But Caufman said some buildings house numerous businesses and UABA members said they want business names listed when University Avenue is torn up for rail construction. Caufman said that can be looked into.

Caufman said the Central

Corridor project staff has taken many steps to meet with businesses downtown and let them know light rail is coming. Meetings with downtown businesses began in November 2008. Businesses have been contacted with updates on a regular basis.

Senor Wong would be in wrote shape if the restaurant didn't have a nearby parking ramp its patrons can use. "Parking access is a huge thing," said Truong.

A second restaurant in Kellogg Square, Parade's Café, opened in April. In a letter to

UABA members, owner Carlos Parade said that if he had known that neighboring streets would be torn up, he wouldn't have opened the restaurant there. After a strong start his business has dropped by 40 to 50 percent.

If he had to do it again, Truong said the Senor Wong owners would have socked away more money to help them ride out the business downturn. They have focused most of their energies on marketing and making sure patrons know they can find parking and get to the restaurant.

Merriam Park declared All-City Champs

Merriam Park went to the St. Paul City 12+ Boys Soccer League playoff tournament Saturday Oct. 23rd with a 9 win, 1 loss record. They fought their way to the championship game by beat-

ing North Dale then Hillcrest Saturday morning. The MP boys were declared All-City Champs Saturday afternoon after defeating Edgumbe by a score of 5 to 1.



Front: Joey Pojar, Jack Johnston, Daniel Casement. Diego Luke, Andrew Herrick, and George Mefleh. Back Row: Coach DJ Johnston, Torben Pearson, Conor Hetzel, Samuel Adams, Michael Syverud, Coach Dan Herrick. Not pictured: Slater Bernstein, Julian Fiore.

LETTERS

Clucking on the chicken ordinance change

It looks like our councilmember from the fourth ward cannot even round up four votes for a simple change in the city's chicken ownership ordinance (Council squawks over chicken regulations, Monitor 10/09). What is his plan for when he needs to actually do something worthwhile for our community.

Michael Samuelson
Newell Park

**Next deadline:
November 30**

In a minute

Continued from page 3

grant and \$21,000 loan); Wilder Foundation's child development center playground and drop-off area (\$90,871 grant); an addition to the Model Cities Brownstone building at University and Victoria \$150,000 grant) and Sparc's energy efficiency loan program (\$50,000 loan).

North Dale STAR improvements set

The North Dale Recreation Center will make improvements to its recording studio and make other improvements with neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) dollars. The St. Paul City Council unanimously approved a change to spending for STAR

dollars approved more than a year ago. The funds were an allocation from Ward Five funding. Each council ward gets a share of the funds for discretionary projects.

In August 2008 the council approved Neighborhood STAR grant financing for the purchase of a portable movie screen complete with sound system and projector, security cameras, volleyball sleeves and net systems, adjustable basketball hoops, a score board master controller, and a portable score board. But Parks and Recreation asked that the award be amended to include expenditures for a recording studio window and sound proofing; portable teen/youth space seating, basketball crash mats, a portable public address system, and pop up tents.

The change in spending was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Neighborhood STAR Board. The change also has the support of the North Dale Booster Club.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

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Chicken ordinance lays an egg

By JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul residents wanting to keep three or fewer chickens will pay less for their permits. But they still will need to ask neighbors to sign consent petitions. And soon, roosters may have to strut out of town.

A majority of St. Paul City Council members got their feath-

ers ruffled enough to vote down proposed petition requirement changes, 3-4, Oct. 14. The petition requirement still calls for 75 percent of neighbors within 150 feet of a chicken owner's residence to sign consent petition. But in keeping the petition requirement in place, the council also managed to defeat a change that would have specifically banned roosters. Roosters are discouraged now by city officials but not specifically prohibited.

Roosters can be noisy and aggressive, and in some cases are used in illegal cock-fighting. Having roosters with hens means fertilized eggs and the possibility of

more chickens than a typical yard can accommodate.

That prompted Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen to bring forward an ordinance change banning roosters, which the council was to hear Nov. 4. The ban could be approved as soon as Nov. 11 and take effect in mid-December.

City animal control officials have tried to keep roosters out of St. Paul for years. Not only can roosters crow and generate noise complaints, the birds can be aggressive and attack people and other birds and animals. Roosters are also used for illegal cock-fighting.

If roosters are banned, they would be added to a list of animals or species prohibited by federal or state law. The city also bans pet skunks, wolves, dingoes, coyotes, jackals, raccoons, red-eared turtles, sugar gliders and dogs that are crossed with coyotes or wolves.

As for the chicken regulation changes, the measure prompted a lot of ducking from those on both sides of the issue. Proponents want to make it easier to keep chickens in the city. But opponents say there are already neighborhoods where chickens go unchecked, soiling yards and attracting vermin.

Ward Four Council Member

Russ Stark, who brought forward the changes, was philosophical after the proposed petition change was voted down. He was pleased that the fee was cut from \$72 to \$27. That measure passed 7-0.

"It's half a loaf," he said. "We did get the fee reduced."

Stark and council members Melvin Carter III and Dave Thune voted for the changes; council members Dan Bostrom, Pat Harris, Helgen and Kathy Lantry voting against. The issue was the topic of a public hearing this summer. But Stark laid the issue over to see if he could get a fourth vote for passage.

Chicken owners do need city permits. They also need to follow administrative rules to provide coops that meet specific standards. Those rules have been in place for some time. But the growing popularity of urban chickens promoted Stark to bring forward the measure to make it easier to keep three or fewer chickens.

Stark said the question may be one of how much say neighbors should have over what another neighbor does. He noted the city doesn't impose similar regulations when a neighbor owns three large dogs that are disruptive, or when someone has a recreational fire that sends smoke into the adjoining yard.

Chickens are good pets and are quiet, said Thune. "And the eggs are very tasty."

"I came prepared with an amendment requirement that neighbors have to share the eggs," quipped Carter. He and Thune said the growing interest in urban chickens reflects a desire for people to know where their food is coming from.

But other council members said chicken controversies have erupted in their wards and that neighbors need to know when even a few chickens are being considered near their homes. Bostrom said prospective chicken owners should go through the petition process "or get five acres out in Grant Township."

Harris and Lantry questioned changing the ordinance, also saying people can seek permits and go through the petition process. "I don't think the (current) regulations are onerous," said Lantry. While the urban chicken movement gets attention for chicken owners who love their pets and keep them in heated, cute hand-painted house. "I can tell you my experience is not that," Lantry said that when there is a problem with chickens in a neighborhood it can take a long time to get the issues resolved.

Harris also said he didn't want to take away neighbors' voices on the issue. "I've got pending chicken issues in my ward now."

The opponents said they have fielded concerns about too many chickens in a yard, vermin attracted by chicken feed and waste, and the presence of roosters. Helgen said he has fielded complaints about people slaughtering chickens in their backyards, which is noisy and upsetting to neighbors. He said making it easier to have chickens could be a "huge enforcement nightmare" and that the city doesn't have the staff to deal with what could be a flock of complaints.

Bostrom said he is bothered by the idea that someone couldn't get a consent petition signed and asked the City Council to change the rules. But Stark said that isn't the case.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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In Our Community

Zion holds Fall Bazaar November 14

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave at Aldine St, will present a Fall Bazaar on Saturday, November 14, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Items for sale will include coffee and cookies, bakery goods, crafts, needle work, recycled Christmas cards and other décor items. A light lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Proceeds from the Bazaar will be used in support of Zion programs, with matching funds provided by Thrivent Financial. Call 651-645-0851 if you like to donate. Please visit our website at www.zlcmidway.org.

St. Columba holds Turkey Bingo Nov. 14

Save the date and your appetite for Turkey Bingo, Saturday, Nov. 14, at St. Columba Church, 1330 Blair Ave. Adult tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door and include a Turkey Buffet Dinner with Beverage plus 2 Bingo Cards for each game. Bingo play runs about 2 hours with chances to win turkeys as well as special prizes and drawings. Doors open after mass at 5:30 p.m. with Dinner and Bingo starting at 6:30 p.m. For more info or tickets call 651-646-4419 or Email us at madrash@comcast.net.

Thanksgiving Worship at Emmaus Nov. 25, 26

Emmaus Lutheran Church, 1074 Idaho Avenue W, St. Paul, will host two Thanksgiving Worship services — one Wednesday Evening, Nov 25 at 7 p.m. and one Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 26 at 10 a.m. The Central Lutheran School (CLS) community will be participating. On Wednesday evening there will be special music by a mass choir and the CLS choir. All are welcome. For more information call 651-489-9426.

La Leche Group meets December 8

The next meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche League Group will be held on Tuesday, December 8 at 7 p.m. The topic will be about nutrition and weaning. All expectant and nursing mothers are welcome, along with their babies and toddlers. Please contact Heidi at 651-659-9527 for further information.

GINKGO presents Holiday Art/Craft Fair!

Local and regional artists display

and sell their creations. It's a great opportunity to buy something for a teacher, friend, family member, or yourself!

The sale takes place Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, e-mail Kathy, kathy@ginkgocoffee.com.

Ecumenical service held at Zion Nov. 25 at 7 p.m.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at Zion Lutheran church, 1697 Lafond Ave. on Nov. 25th at 7 p.m. Area pastors will participate in this service. All are welcome to worship and fellowship following the service.

Annual Bazaar at Zion Lutheran church will be held on November 14th Saturday between 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. There will be a Bake sale, Christmas crafts and lunch. Come and shop and socialize with neighbors and friends. If you have more information please contact us at 651-645-0851.

Lyngblomsten Cookie and Craft Fair Friday, Dec. 4

Make your holidays stress-free by stocking up on homemade goodies and handcrafted gifts. Visit us in the Newman-Benson Chapel at Lyngblomsten, 1415 Almond Avenue, on Fri., Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 651-646-2941 for more information.

Urinetown: The Musical performs at HU

Hamline University Theatre is proud to present the first mainstage show in its 79th season: URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL, November 12th, 13th, 14th at 7:30 p.m. This satirical musical comedy paints a dystopian future where water has become a precious commodity and public urinals are controlled by the Urine Good Company, a nefarious organization that forces people to pay to pee. Led by the heroic Bobby Strong, who is aided in his quest by Hope Cladwell (daughter of Caldwell B. Cladwell, owner of the UGC), the oppressed citizens incite a revolution but at what cost? Directed by Hamline University Theatre Arts professor Jeff Turner, URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL is guaranteed to leave the audience laughing, crying, and recoiling from the title. Tickets are \$2 for Hamline students, \$3 for ACTC students and staff, \$10 for adults, and \$8 for outside students and seniors. Advance reservations are suggested and can be made through the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or via e-mail at tickets@hamline.edu.

Men's Club holds Sauerkraut Supper

The Men's Club of St. Stephanus

will be having their Annual Sauerkraut Supper on Saturday, November 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, 739 Lafond Avenue. Adults: \$9.; Children 5 to 12: \$4; and Family: \$22. Children under 5 are Free: Take out available. For tickets, call the church at 651-228-1486.

Moms Club Monday Tot Times at N. Dale Rec.

The Midway/Como-East chapter of MOMS Club invites neighborhood moms to meet them at the North Dale Rec for Parent and Tot Time Play at 9:30 a.m. on the following Mondays: 11/16, 11/23, 12/7 and 12/21. MOMS Club is an international nonprofit organization that offers daytime activities and support for mothers who are home during the day with their children. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Amber Tritabaugh at 651-270-0246.

Everyday Items a New Life

"Give Everyday Items a New Life!" will be the topic at a luncheon for seniors on December 8 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 1415 Englewood Avenue (lower level, Hamline Methodist Church). Crafter Rhonda DeBough will display and demonstrate how to make new, useful things out of existing household items. A free will donation is asked for the meal. Call the office of Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542 to make reservations, request free transportation for the event, grocery shopping or medical appointments, or if you would like to participate in a small craft group which will begin in January. November is Caregiver Month! If you or anyone you know cares for a senior who is at any stage in the aging process, call Monica at HM Elders for free consultation and resources 651-209-6542.

Fringe play performance November 13

Two Bowls of Cereal and Some Bacon, a popular play at the Fringe Festival last summer, has returned to the Midway area at Dreamland Arts Center (Nov. 12, 14, 15, 19-21). For one evening only the play will be staged at Jehovah Lutheran Church, corner of Thomas and Snelling, as a benefit performance for The Dwelling Place, a shelter for women and children. No tickets will be sold for this Nov. 13, Friday, 7 p.m. special performance, but donations will be received at the door. Refreshments and discussion of the play follow the performance. Please enter at the 1566 Thomas Avenue door. Recommended for ages 12 and up as Mahmoud Hakima, writer and

performer, tells his story of growing up in California and Alabama

Senior Driver Program begins November 19

A Plus 55 Driver Improvement Class will be offered Thursday, Nov 19 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the lounge of Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Avenue. A MN Highway Safety and Research instructor teaches this class. Pre-registration is suggested but not required. For more information, or to register, call toll free 1-888-234-1294. The fee for the four-hour course is \$20.

Como Area Hockey holds fundraiser Nov. 21

Como Area Hockey Association (CAHA) annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser and silent auction November 21, from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the B-Dale Club 2100 N Dale Street \$5/person. We are also looking for donation items (baskets, crafts, gift certificates, 2 for 1 discount). For more info, contact Nancy 651-295-9202.

Bethel to host money classes starting Nov. 6

Bethel Lutheran Church, 670 W. Wheelock Parkway, will host a series of weekly money management classes beginning Friday, Nov. 6. The classes will be held from 6-8 p.m., Nov. 6, 13, 20 and Dec. 4 and 11. They will be led by staff from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota Financial Counseling and the Center for Working Families.

The classes, which are free of charge to participants, cover issues

such as budgeting, debt reduction, asset building, credit ratings, consumer production, employment issues and individual development accounts.

Childcare for participants' children (infants through eighth grade) is available.

Pre-registration is encouraged. To register or for more information, call 651-488-6681 or visit www.bethelstpaul.com.

Sale for Maxfield planned Dec. 1-31 at Egg & I

Nettie and Friends Show and Sale with irresistible handcrafted goods will run December 1 - 31, at Egg and I East Restaurant, 2550 University Ave. (Open for breakfast and lunch.) This show and sale benefits students with special education needs at the Maxfield Learning Center, St. Paul. Opening reception: Saturday, December 5, 4-8 p.m.

Senior Chore Service makes connections

The St. Paul Senior Chore Service is an organization that understands the issues facing older adults and persons with disabilities who want to remain in their homes, but need some assistance to do so. We connect people to young people and/or volunteers to assist them with chores such as leaf raking, mowing, snow shoveling, minor repairs. We also have connections with groups that will do house painting, both inside and out, depending on the season. We can access other resources, if needed. We are always looking for people to assist and young people as paid workers. Please call 651-649-5984 and leave a message.

The Canvas teen center holds two free workshops for youth

By DEBORAH BROTZ

If making a mosaic sign or creating a Public Service Announcement (PSA) for The Canvas sounds like fun, you're in luck. The Canvas, an arts-based teen center at Hancock Rec Center, 1610 Hubbard Ave., is holding two free workshops for youth in grades 7-12.

A Mosaic Workshop to design and create an exterior mosaic sign for The Canvas will be held Wednesday, Nov. 11, 18, and Dec. 2, 9, and 16 from 6-8 p.m. A video production workshop with Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) will be held to create a PSA on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 17, 24, and on Dec. 1 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Mosaic is one of the things youth named they wanted to work on.

"We really want The Canvas inside and outside to be designed

by the group that uses it," said Catherine Penkert, project manager for Youth Initiatives. "It will be a nice public art piece."

The mosaic sign will mark the space.

"When people drive by, they'll know there is another thing available at the site," said Penkert. "We want something eye-catching."

Video production was another area youth identified they want to learn about.

"Youth are taking a leadership role in doing outreach," said Penkert. "They will take a hands-on role in promoting the site."

Penkert hopes the workshops will draw in many youth.

"I hope that we will fill them with kids—a mix of new faces and familiar ones," she said.

For information, call Hancock Rec Center at 651-298-4393.

Chicken ordinance

Continued from page 8

After the vote, Harris said he'd consider changes that would loosen the petition permit requirements in some circumstances, when a property owner is simply unable to contact adjacent property owners. That could be the case in neighborhoods where a number of homes are vacant and in foreclosure, or where rental properties have out-of-area owners.

For more information on submitting news announcements to the Monitor call Denis Woulfe at 651-645-7045.

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Continued from page 11

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Scaring up food for the foodshelves



On Halloween, 47 Admission Possible students from Arlington and Como High Schools took part in a huge service effort to gather food for the Emergency Foodshelf Network. Overall, 746 students participated, and the group gathered 10,263 pounds of food. The Como and Arlington students alone collected 690 items. Above, Gaolee Thao (left) and Preslus Porter (right), both juniors at Como Park Senior High School, are shown making the rounds going door to door for contributions.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Como Area Hockey spaghetti dinner. Nov. 21st, 4:30-8 p.m. \$5/person-2100 N. Dale Street. Looking for donations 651-295-9202. 11-09

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SEMINARS AND SPEAKERS

The 11th Annual 3M/Ronald A. Mitsch
Chemistry Lecture "The Aging Brain"

Friday, November 13
12:45 p.m.
Sundin Music Hall

Dr. Gregory Petsko, professor of biochemistry and molecular pharmacodynamics and chair of the Department of Biochemistry at Brandeis University, will discuss the "The Aging Brain and What We are Trying To Do About It." The event is free and open to all. For more information call 651-523-2707.

Symposium on the Humanities Lecture
"Sinister Spinsters and
Imaginary Widows"

Thursday, November 19
7:30 p.m.
Klas Center-Kay Fredericks Room

English scholar Ingrid Sharp will discuss the treatment of 'surplus women' after the First World War. Free and open to all. For more information call 651-523-2091.

All events take place on Hamline University's
Saint Paul Campus, 1536 Hewitt Ave

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tree Lighting Celebration

Tuesday, December 1
4:30-5:30 p.m.
Outside of Sundin Music Hall

Kick off the holiday season and light up Hewitt Avenue at the annual Hamline University Tree Lighting Celebration. We'll flip the switch and then warm up with carols, cookies, and cocoa!

Lunch with Chopin

December 7
Noon
Sundin Music Hall

The first Monday of each month members and alumni of the Hamline International Piano Institute will perform a 30-minute concert of the music of Frederic Chopin. Free and open to all. For more information call 651-523-2197.

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

A Cappella Choir

George Chu, director

Sunday, December 6
4 p.m.

Hamline United Methodist Church

Hamline Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Combo

Tuesday, December 8
7 p.m.
Anne Simley Theatre

Hamline Orchestra—Yali You, director
"Songs from Italy"

Saturday, December 12
2 p.m.
Sundin Music Hall

University Women's Chorale
and Hamline Winds—Kathy Thomsen,
Janet Greene, directors

Sunday, December 13
3 p.m.
Sundin Music Hall

(These concerts are free and open to the
public. For more information, call 651-523-2296.)



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