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Local musician touches lives in St. Paul hospice

By ELIZABETH MCLISTER

Many musicians will tell you their music is more than just a private hobby. But the songs of Saint Paul's certified therapeutic musician Marianne Dietzel reach far beyond pastime and personal gratification. Among Dietzel's multiple outreach efforts is her lyre-playing for terminally ill patients at Our Lady of Good Counsel Home. She marvels, "When I play, I just get transported . . . music is like a silver bridge to lift an individual out of physical limitations."

Dietzel's involvement with therapeutic music began after her daughter Nina died in a car accident in 1996. Already a seasoned piano player, Dietzel picked up the lyre in 1999; around that time she also learned about the Music for Healing and Transition Program, Inc. (MHTP). Forged 15 years ago in Houston, TX, MHTP instructs musicians nationwide how to play healing music at the bedsides of ailing and convalescing people. MHTP teams up with healthcare providers and community organizations to raise awareness about the burgeoning field of therapeutic music.

Soon after becoming certified in 2005, Dietzel began visiting a friend's mother at Our Lady Of Good Counsel. It didn't take long for the facility's activities director to notice her volunteer efforts and offer her a job. Now Dietzel attends to patients for a couple of hours twice a month.

MHTP practitioners take care to distinguish their work from the more familiar domain of music therapists. MHTP student and local liaison Marcia Sanoden points out one core difference between the two methods. "Music therapists are trained to engage the patient to achieve some goal. Therapists are in charge of the session. In MHTP we do not actively engage the patient; we are in service to them."

That service is consistent with the longstanding mission of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Located at 2076 Saint Anthony Avenue in St. Paul, Our Lady is a free hospice facility for terminally ill cancer patients with limited financial resources. The Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne opened the original Our Lady of Good Counsel Home on December 7, 1941.

In February 2009, the Dominican Sisters turned over the Home to the management of the Franciscan Health Community (FHC). FHC continues the sisters' vision of customized care with a low patient to staff ratio and 24 hour attention. Dietzel's music is a unique complement to the services provided by a regular staff of physicians, pharmacists, social workers, and chaplains. "I'm present for people," she says. "I really think that word, 'present', is so important."

Dietzel's hospice work isn't limited to her hours at Our Lady of Good Counsel. She divides her professional energies among



Among Marianne Dietzel's multiple outreach efforts is her lyre-playing for terminally ill patients at Our Lady of Good Counsel Home.

multiple pursuits that relate to the tender enterprise of life/death transition work.

Dietzel serves as a bereavement coordinator at Heartland Hospice, helping people cope after losing loved ones. She plays lyre through her freelance business, Silver Bridge Music for Healing and Transition. She and Linda Bergh, who lost a daughter in the same car crash that claimed Nina's life, run beholdinthethreshold.org to educate upper Midwestern families about caring for their own deceased. And in June Dietzel self-published *Laughing in a Waterfall: A Mother's Memoir*, a book she wrote about her late daughter's life, their relationship, and their continued connection. (*Laughing in a Waterfall* is available at Common Good Books and Cobber Books.)

When asked what impresses her most about Dietzel's commitment to transition work, her friend Marcia Sanoden doesn't hesitate. "I am just so moved by how open she is. We traveled to an east coast conference together

and at one point she brought out her lyre while we were waiting for our airplane. A family with a little baby was sitting next to us. When she put her lyre away, the mother came over to thank her for relaxing her baby. That is not an unusual occurrence. The reception for her soothing, calming music is great."

Dietzel says her jobs benefit her on a personal level. "What I love about my work is that playing music takes you into a different realm where you can be present in the moment. That is really the essence of being a certified music practitioner."

To contact Marianne Dietzel for an appointment or a book signing, write to her at mdietzel@visi.com or visit her website, www.mariannedietzel.com. For information about Our Lady of Good Counsel, call 651-646-2797. MHTP will begin classes at Walker Methodist Care Center in September. To learn more, contact liaison Marcia Sanoden at marcia.sanoden@gmail.com or visit www.mhtp.org.

"When I play, I just get transported... music is like a silver bridge to lift an individual out of physical limitations."

- Marianne Dietzel

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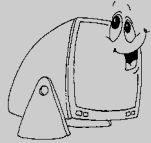
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Monitor in a Minute

Hookah study gets rolling

Anyone wishing to open a new tobacco shop in St. Paul, including a shop that would be considered a hookah bar, hookah lounge or hookah café, will have to wait until new regulations are adopted. The St. Paul City Council unanimously voted August 11 to adopt an interim zoning ordinance and moratorium on the businesses, pending completion of a zoning study by Planning and Economic Development (PED) staff and the St. Paul planning Commission. The commission and staff recommendations will be brought back to the City Council for a vote in the future.

The result of the study will be possible changes to zoning, which in turn will regulate where such hookah businesses can open. Current businesses will not be affected by the study if they stay at their current locations.

No one piped up at an August 4 public hearing to speak for or against the moratorium or the zoning study. Hookah establishments are places where customers can smoke tobacco through a water pipe known as a hookah, shisha, or narghile.

The call for a study and moratorium was brought forward by Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark. A few hookah lounges or cafes have opened in Ward Four, including Grand Hookah near Grand and Fairview. The Grand Avenue business hasn't generated complaints but another hookah lounge near University and Raymond has.

The businesses are currently regulated in the manner as tobacco shops, which are currently allowed in most neighborhood business, industrial and traditional neighborhood (TN) zoned

area. One intent of the upcoming zoning study is to look at how tobacco shops are regulated including regulations permitting the sampling of tobacco. Patrons of tobacco shops can currently go in and ask to sample tobacco. This will not change while the study is in process.

The concern is that by calling the smoking of tobacco in a hookah "sampling," businesses are creating a potential health hazard. According to the World Health Organization, using a water pipe or hookah to smoke tobacco is not a safe alternative to smoking cigarettes. There is also a risk of communicable diseases when hookah lounge patrons share a water pipe mouthpiece.

Grants eyed from Met Council funding

Area projects could benefit from Metropolitan Council Livable Communities funding. The St. Paul City Council voted August 4 to submit applications for pre-development grants for two projects and development grants for three more.

The City Council voted to approve a pre-development grant for the University and Prior area, in the amount of \$47,000. This money, if approved by Metropolitan Council, would be used for preliminary planning including stormwater management planning. For several years community groups have discussed planning for redevelopment in the University-Prior area. It's one of several areas where redevelopment is being spurred along by the planned Central Corridor light rail project.

University-Prior was the city's top-ranked pre-development grant application. The second is the East Side's Phalen Village commercial development, at \$90,000.

These are considered to be demonstration grants, for projects that could serve as models for other regional development or redevelopment efforts. The funds are also meant to cover costs that may not normally occur without some financial assistance. Three housing projects from Highland, the West Side and downtown were also submitted. The funds sought for the housing projects are in a category for projects that can serve as models for redevelopment or development in the Twin Cities region. It is considered to be a demonstration grant.

Stimulus funds are sought

St. Paul is seeking federal economic stimulus funds for a number of projects, as a result of City Council action August 18. The council is seeking federal Community Challenge and TIGER II grant funds for a number of projects.

The council also voted to support Ramsey County as county officials seek \$90 million in federal funds for the Union Depot renovation project. The Depot concourse is being converted into a multi-modal transit hub.

A total dollars figure for all of the St. Paul projects wasn't available. The city is seeking funding for a climate action plan, a streetcar feasibility study, and a study of accessory housing units along Central Corridor. The latter study would involve the study of where so-called "granny flats" or "mother-in-law" apartments or dwelling units could be added to housing planned as part of the redevelopment along the Central Corridor light rail line. Current city regulations make it very difficult to add such housing units anywhere in St. Paul.

Another request is for funds to implement the city's Complete Streets policy, which is meant to design streets that will serve pedestrians and bicyclists as well as motor vehicles.

The grants are through federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and federal Department of Transportation (DOT). Each requires the city to commit a match. For some the city is proposing a match of staff time. For the climate action plan study, the city would commit a minimum match of \$50,000 in staff time. For the streetcar feasibility study, the city would provide a \$50,000 match in funding.

The largest project submitted would be rebuilding the Dale Street Bridge and widening the new bridge and bridge approaches. The city has set aside \$2.55 million in matching funds for that project.

Billboard win for companies

It's not a good sign for billboard foes. St. Paul lost another round in federal court August 25 to Clear Channel Outdoor, as the court ruled that the city's ban on billboard extensions is illegal.

The ban was adopted in 2006. The extensions are parts of the sign, in the form of lettering or object that project from the sign face. Sign companies and advertisers have argued that the extensions, which are considered temporary, are needed to draw attention to the sign. Foes say the extensions merely add to sign clutter, spillover light pollution and driver distractions created by billboards.

The groups Scenic Minnesota and Scenic St. Paul, as well as several district councils, have supported the ban. At the time

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Blue Cat moves to Prior Avenue

By JANE MCCLURE

Blue Cat Motors, a specialty motorcycle repair and restoration shop, will be revving into the Iris Park neighborhood soon. The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) voted 6-0 August 9 to grant a major variance for 460 Prior Ave. N. That will allow the businesses, which is currently on Vandalia, to relocate and expand.

The variance is final unless it is appealed to the St. Paul City Council within 10 days. More than half a dozen shop supporters attended the BZA hearing. No one spoke in opposition and the city has received no correspondence opposing the variance.

The shop isn't your ordinary motor vehicle repair business. A vintage motorcycle that was recently featured on The History Channel show "Junkyard Journeys" is being restored at Blue Cat Motors. The restored bike and the shop will be featured in a future episode of the program.

The required variance is for minimum lot size. A specialty repair and restoration business like Blue Cat Motors needs a minimum lot size of 15,000 square feet. The city classifies the business as an auto repair shop for lot size purposes.

But the Prior Avenue lot is 11,745 square feet in size, requiring a variance of 3,255 square feet. Blue Cat Motors owner Ryan Scott argued that the variance is justified because even though city regulations don't differentiate between auto and motorcycle repair shops, it should be recognized that a motorcycle repair shop requires less space. Also, motorcycles would be stored inside, not outside.

The business is moving into the former G & W Repair building. G & W Repair was a long-time auto electric and alternator repair and reconstruction shop. The business was located at 460 Prior for many years before closing

more than a year ago. It did what is called "bench work," with parts shipped in from other shops.

Before that the building housed Don's Skelly Service for several years.

Blue Cat Motors owner Scott would like to restore the one-story building's original appearance as a 1950s gas station, minus the gas pumps. "Anything old I get my hands on, I will restore," he said.

Scott opened Blue Cat Motors in 2006. The business is a specialty repair and restoration shop for vintage and classic motorcycles and scooters. The business is currently in leased space at 550 Vandalia St. Scott has looked for a building of his own for eight years.

City staff recommended approval of the variance, citing changes in the automobile industry, and the desire to reuse the building. "This building was designed and built for automotive uses," said John Hardwick of the BZA staff, "and the proposed use is consistent with the historical use of the building." Without a variance, staff concluded the building couldn't easily be reused.

The building still has three large garage bays, two in front and one to the side. Hardwick noted it isn't readily reusable and would need extensive remodeling before it could be used for other purposes.

The building's location in a pocket of mainly industrial use was another factor in recommending approval of the variance. Hardwick said that because it is in an area that is industrial and commercial along Prior, so retail or office use would be unlikely.

There is an apartment building across the alley from the building but an obscuring fence and removing and fence open-

ings, such as a gate, should provide a buffer. That way vehicle access from the business to the alley would be prohibited.

City staff recommended that the obscuring fence be one condition of approval of the variance. The fence will also prevent alley access to and from the business, which already has street access on Prior. A second condition is that repairs be limited to motorcycles and scooters. The BZA added a condition that motorcycles and scooters be stored indoors; Scott said that is already planned.

The business would be open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. It would be closed Sundays. Scott said its winter hours would be shorter.

Blue Cat Motor does Internet sales and services but plans no retail sales on-site. The business



Blue Cat Motors, a specialty motorcycle repair and restoration shop, will be revving into the Iris Park neighborhood soon at 460 Prior Av. N.

uses off-site warehouse space currently and that would continue after a move to Prior Avenue.

The property at 460 N. Prior did consist of two buildings until

last year, until a new owner filed to split off the north part of the lot. Much of that property is occupied by a one-story metal building.

In A Minute

Continued from page 2

the ban was passed one of the billboard extension situations often cited was just south of Midway Center, where Chevrolet added the word "Chevrolet" to the top of its billboard. There were almost 20 extensions in the city when the ban was enacted; it's not clear how many there are now.

Clear Channel Outdoor and other sign companies have long contended that the extensions should be allowed, that they are not a distraction and that the band is part of a city pattern of trying to overly regulate billboards.

The billboard extension ban has never been enacted as sign company Clear Channel Outdoor took the city to court. Clear Channel won the first round and the city appealed.

The option now for the St. Paul City Council would be to rewrite its ordinance banning billboard extensions. It's not clear if that process would have to involve the Planning Commission, as it did several years ago, of it the City Council can proceed on its own. Because the ruling was just made the council hasn't had time to meet as a group and decide what steps to take. Council members said they

don't know when the ordinance would be brought back for a vote.

New stoplight for Arlington-Jackson

North End area motorists could see improved safety with approval of an agreement to put a traffic signal at the intersection of Arlington and Jackson. The St. Paul City Council voted August 18 to approve the stop light, through an agreement with Ramsey County. Agreement with the county is needed because Arlington is also County State Aid Highway 55.

The intersection currently has a four-way stop sign. It is in an area that is a mix of multi-family residential, including McDonough Homes and Jackson Village, and industrial and commercial uses. The Arlington-Jackson Business Park is nearby, as are several other older industries.

Putting a traffic signal at the busy intersection has been a goal for many years. The need for it has been described in past plans for the neighborhood. However, there was always the issue of having adequate traffic counts to justify installing a traffic signal.

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St. Paul property owners won't see an increase in city's levy

By JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul property owners won't see a percentage increase in the city's levy under Mayor Chris Coleman's proposed city budget. The mayor unveiled the budget August 11 in the truck bays of the new Fire State Number One at West Seventh and Randolph.

Coleman described his 2011 budget as "status quo," with few initiatives. No city recreation centers will close and library hours will remain as they are now. Most city fees will not increase. But there will be few new programs and initiatives in return.

How the zero percent levy increase actually plays on individual property tax bills out depends on various factors, including whether or not a property has increased in value. Also, county and school district levies also come into play when a total bill is considered. Ramsey County has a 2.7 percent levy increase proposed for 2011.

Still, it was Coleman's first budget since taking office to not have a percentage increase in the property tax levy amount. All of his other budgets have relied on a combination of cuts as well as property tax increases.

One of the mayor's goals has been to remove structural imbalances in the city budget process. He has criticized his predecessors, Norm Coleman and Randy Kelly, for using one-time funding sources and budget shifts to balance past city budgets while creating long-term financial problems for St. Paul.

The bottom-line figure for the city and library budgets is proposed at \$531.56 million for 2010. That is slightly lower than the adopted 2010 city budget of \$532.4 million.

One huge unknown for the city and its finances is the fate of

Local Government Aid (LGA). The budget is based on the assumption that the city will receive \$62.5 million in LGA, \$10 million more than was received in 2010. That amount has been OK'd by state lawmakers.

But the city lost \$27.7 million in unallotments and funding cuts by state lawmakers between 2008-2010, and some council members are leery of future cuts. Part of the LGAS funding could be lost in an unallot-

ment has also put the city in a difficult position in recent years.

"It truly is a challenging situation and it has put local governments in a difficult place," said Budget Analyst Scott Cordes.

During the mayor's budget speech, Coleman spoke of the need to "protect" LGA from further cuts.

During a council review of the budget highlights Aug 11, council members Lee Helgen

we're not going to get all of that money," said Carter.

The city is counting on a 410 million increase in LGA from 2010 to 2011. If it has to be cut, Council President Kathy Lantry said that would be "the worst of all possible scenarios."

"I would guess that would include a significant number of layoffs," she added.

But on the other hand, said Lantry, if the levy isn't at zero percent, "what number is it?" She and Harris defended the zero percent increase. Harris noted that if there is a December unallotment, the city can reexamine the levy in January.

"I think we need to keep the discussion within the context of the LGSA we're getting," Harris said.

Council members said that in general, they support Coleman's budget. "It's a great start," said Harris. He said the mayor showed fiscal responsibility.

At a time when Ward Three neighborhoods have borne the brunt of property value and levy increases, Harris said the budget is good news for his ward. "Our area has carried a large property tax burden and in these economic times it's important that we try to hold the line and provide some relief to property taxpayers."

"I generally liked what I heard," said Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark. He said the budget, at first review, does appear to keep city spending within its means while meeting some unmet needs.

Ward Two Council Member Dave Thune agreed, saying he was especially pleased to see no more recreation centers, libraries or library hours on the chopping block.

The 2011 budget calls for an

overall city and library levy of \$92.497 million, the same as last year. Add in the \$2.1 million levy for the Port Authority and the levy is at \$94.6 million – also the same amount as 2010.

But the budget does assume a zero percent increase in cost of living for the city's employees, most of whom are represented by unions or bargaining groups. How that will play out remains to be seen as most contract negotiations start in the fall. But when overall personnel costs are considered, health care costs are supposed to increase by almost 10 percent.

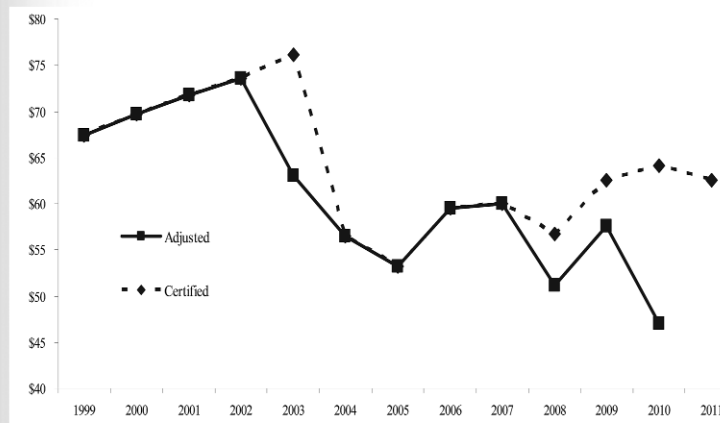
The number of city employees is expected to remain about the same in 2011, with 2,934.4 full-time equivalent positions next year. There are 2,930.7 positions in 2010.

Key dates for the budget are coming up. The City Council will meet weekly until September 15 to review department budgets. September 15 is the day the maximum levy can be set. After that date the city can lower but not raise its levy. However, a recent state law change does provide a brief window of time in January for local units of government to raise levies to make up for state funding reductions.

The council will hold two public hearings this fall on the street right-of-way maintenance assessments. The 2010 fees will be ratified following an October 6 public hearing. The 2011 right-of-way rates and other fee changes will be the topic of public hearings November 3.

The city's truth-in-taxation hearing will be December 1. The city, county and school district are no longer required to hold a joint levy hearing. The budget and levy must be adopted by year's end.

2011 certified LGA is \$10 million greater than 2010 budget



One huge unknown for the city and its finances is the fate of Local Government Aid (LGA).

ment if legislators and the next governor need the funds to address state budget deficits. The state currently has a projected \$6 billion shortfall for 2011.

City Council members have mixed feelings about relying on the promised LGA dollars to balance the budget. Council members agree that in a difficult economy for many St. Paul residents, any level of property tax increase would be difficult to bear. But making cuts after LGA

and Melvin Carter III expressed reluctance to not build in even a small levy increase in the event LGA is cut later this year.

Helgen called the 2011 LGA amount a "fantasy number." "Why would you set it up so that if there's a problem, you have to come back without the benefit of a budget process and correct for it?"

"It makes me nervous, to approve a maximum levy in September knowing chances are

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Former Victoria Theater could be designated as St. Paul Heritage Preservation site

By JANE MCCLURE

The former Victoria Theater could be designated as a St. Paul Heritage Preservation site, the first individual historic site the city has designated since 1999. The St. Paul Planning Commission voted Aug. 13 to support the designation request. The commission also determined that the site is in conformance with the city's comprehensive plan.

The designation request now goes to the St. Paul City council for final approval. Frogtown District Council Executive Director Tait Danielson-Castillo said that supporters of preserving the theater will turn out for the City Council public hearing on designation. No date has been set.

"There's a lot of community support for preserving and reusing the theater," said Danielson-Castillo.

The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HOC) received the request for local designation last fall from the Frogtown District Council. The HOC voted in December 2009 to accept a designation study done by community volunteers and start the designation process.

City Historic Preservation Specialist Amy Spong said that designation of individual properties and districts as historic sites is one of the expectations of the heritage preservation chapter of the city's comprehensive plan. The last historic district was designated in 2004, in the University-Raymond area. The last individual designation in 1999 was the Coney Island restaurant on St. Peter Street.

That designation, meant to help protect the historic restaurant from demolition to make way for St. Paul Companies expansion, resulted in then-Mayor Norm Coleman ousting several members of the HPC. Coleman opposed preserving the structure.

Since then no city administration has supported a historic designation request for an individual structure, although several buildings have been nominated.

Spong said the Victoria Theater is a good project to jumpstart local designation status with, given the amount of grassroots effort and support its preservation has generated. Last year a group of people interested in the building's history banded together to stave off a proposal to level the theater and turn its site into a parking lot.

In May the JPC and American Institute of Architects (AIA) Minnesota gave the preservation effort a vote of confidence.

Planning Commission members support the designation request, although there was some debate about the theater's status. It has no current developer and has been for sale for some time.

Planning Commissioner David Wickiser said he believes identifying a developer prior to designation would be a good step. But Spong said that she didn't necessarily agree. "Designation can protect a building from being lost completely," she said. "And sometimes designation can be used to entice a developer."

In the city's most recently designated historic district, Uni-

versity-Raymond, the developers of the Carleton Lofts pushed for historic status so that they could seek historic tax credits to aid in covering development costs.

The Victoria Theater building is at 825 University Av. It is a two-story building sheathed with brick and terra cotta, designed in the Beaux Arts style by St. Paul architect Franklin Ellerbe of Ellerbe Architects. It was built in 1915 as a silent movie theater. Its original owner was Henry Breilein, who owned two other silent movie theaters along Uni-

versity. It was later owned by Twin Cities Amusement Company, then Muska Lighting and now Bee Vue. Vue has been trying to sell the property. The building has some of its original details, including second floor murals and part of the balcony.

The Victoria Theater didn't last long as a movie house. It was remodeled in 1924 and reopened as the Victoria Café, a dance hall featuring cabaret-style floor shows and Chinese food. Research by volunteers has shown that the business advertised predominantly in the American Jewish World newspaper. The owner at the time, Twin Cities Amusement Corporation, was at least partially owned by the theater firm Finkelstein and Rubin.

In 1927, as part of the first commercial label recording sessions held in the Upper Midwest, the Victoria Café's house orchestra did a recording at the theater. The recording, Moonshiner's Dance for Gennett Records, was re-issued in 1952 as part of The

Anthology of Folk Music. This recording is considered very influential. The Moonshiner's Dance track is the only one on the record not cut in the American South. The anthology has been credited as an influence on the careers of many artists including Bob Dylan and the Grateful Dead.

The historic designation application calls the Moonshiner's Ball track "a rare and vivid window on the offerings of a St. Paul nightclub stage during Prohibition."

Prohibition, when the sale of alcohol, was banned in the United States, was a key part of Victoria Café's history and notoriety, according to the designation study. The club was raided twice by federal officials. The historic designation application states, "Roughly 120 weeks after the recording of Moonshiner's Dance, a padlock injunction was filed in December 1927 against the Victoria and three other Twin Cities venues." The Padlock injunction, made possible by a U.S. Supreme Court decision, allowed federal officials to shut down clubs that sold non-alco-

holic set-up beverages. This move was ridiculed in the local newspapers as "banning the chaser."

The Victoria Café closed in the 1930s and building was later used as a lighting store by Edison Lighting, Muska Lighting and other owners. It has been vacant for several years. Recently a group called The New Victoria Theater Project unsuccessfully sought a Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grant toward a proposed purchase and redevelopment of the property.

What makes the Victoria Theater request stronger is its proximity to another St. Paul historic landmark, the longtime home of the Raths, Mill & Bell Company at 823 University. That company, later known as Ray-Bell Films, is considered influential in the history of the movie-making industry in St. Paul. The studio made many industrial, commercial, institutional and sports films and was based in Frogtown until moving to 2269 Ford Parkway in the 1940s. The Highland building was demolished many years ago.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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'Recollections of Frogtown' tells story of author's early days

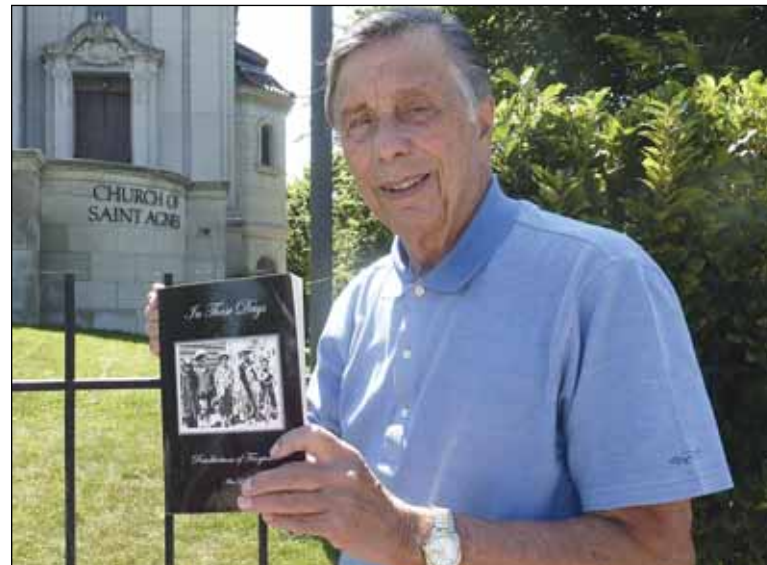
By JANE MCCLURE

Long-ago childhood days in Frogtown come alive on the pages of in *Those Days: Recollections of Frogtown*. The memoir by Highland Park resident Alex Leibel was initially written for family and friends, but is finding a wider audience.

Leibel grew up in Frogtown during the Great Depression and World War II eras. His parents were German immigrants and the family lived on Blair Avenue just a block away from St. Agnes Catholic Church and kitty-corner from the Nickel Joint tavern. His stories are of a boy who loved cowboys, sports and playing outdoors; a boy who eagerly awaited Christmas and the St. Paul Winter Carnival. But it is also a story about family, faith and friendships that endure today.

The late Pioneer Press columnist Don Boxmeyer called Leibel "... a very talented writer with a gifted vocabulary." Boxmeyer enjoyed Leibel's stories of growing up in a working-class family and the stories of coal bins, rag vendors, binder guns, tar trucks, playing ditch, the iceman and the 4:30 p.m. whistle that sent the working men home at day's end. Boxmeyer's encouragement and the urging of friends and family pushed the book project along.

"I'm very gratified by the response the book has received," Leibel said. He enjoys telling the stories and knowing that others



Author Alex Leibel's parents were German immigrants and the family lived on Blair Avenue just a block away from St. Agnes Catholic Church (above) and kitty-corner from the Nickel Joint tavern.

enjoy them.

Leibel attended St. Agnes School and graduated from Washington High School, the College of St. Thomas and William Mitchell School of law. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He practiced law for many years, starting in 1957. The family lived in area neighborhoods before settling in Mendota Heights for many years, where they raised their son and daughter. They now have four grandchildren.

Alex and his wife Diane have lived in Highland Park since 1991 but often go back to Frog-

town to attend Mass and visit childhood haunts and attend Mass at St. Agnes. The church's Mozart Mass is a favorite.

Much of Frogtown has changed since the time of *In Those Days*. The Leibel family home is gone, as are friends' homes and many of the businesses his family patronized.

Leibel is a skilled storyteller and writer, describing vividly a time when he and kids didn't have much but shared what they had. Children played outside until dark, when their mothers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Frogtown author

Continued from page 6

would call them in. His stories will bring back memories for anyone who ever paged through a mail-order catalog, circling toys and making a Christmas wish list, or played forgotten childhood games.

Leibel and his young friends had a propensity for mischief. One time he and other little friends sampled the goods in another family's wine cellar, with disastrous results.

Leibel's law practice limited much of his written work to legal briefs and documents. But he has always enjoyed writing for fun, with two unpublished novels and several short stories penned under the name Alex Benedict. His undergraduate degree is in English literature and he continues to enjoy reading and taking college classes.

For many years his wife, Diane, son James, daughter Laurie and other family members and friends urged him to write his life stories. He questioned whether there would be much interest. "We have a friend who said, 'This is what you have to do. You have to write a book about growing up in Frogtown,'" Diane Leibel said.

Leibel finally wrote the memoir for friends and family, in longhand. A friend typed it up and the family made copies at Kinko's. As more people read the manuscript, they urged Leibel to have it published as a book.

The Leibel family has found that *In Those Days* is enjoyed by others who grew up at the same time, in any place. James Leibel said the book also resonates with people whose parents grew up at the same time his father did. "A lot of us grew up hearing and enjoying those stories," he said.

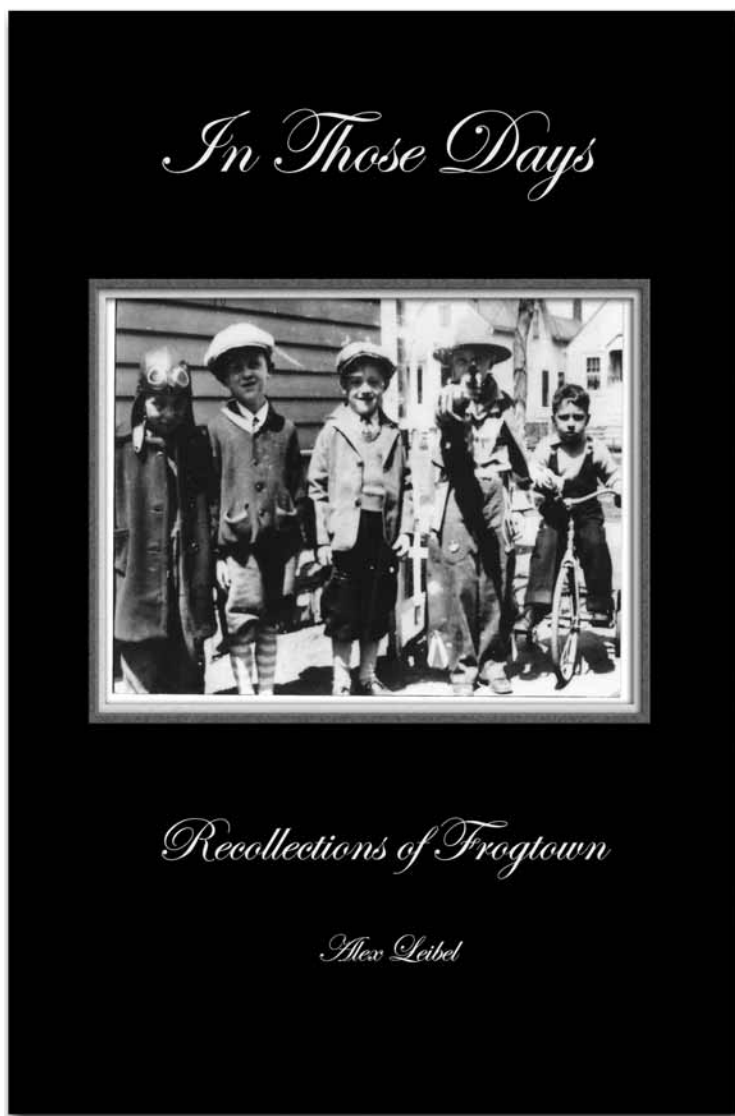
The book cover features a picture of a group of boys, who look as if they are answering a casting call for an *Our Gang* movie. Leibel is wearing a long, oversized coat and an aviator's cap with goggles. Another friend, dressed as a cowboy, points a toy gun at the camera.

It was a time when families didn't have much but shared what they had. "Nobody knows today how hard people had it then," said Leibel. Although he and his siblings and friends were aware that money was tight, it wasn't something they dwelt on. "Everyone we knew was poor."

For Leibel, it was a childhood of seeking a balance between wanting to be "American" yet respecting and understanding the traditions and heritage of his parents Appolonia and Alexander Senior. They would speak German when they didn't want the five Leibel children to know what they were saying. They also didn't understand their sons' love of sports. "They thought sports were a waste of time," Leibel said.

But for a child, having immigrant parents could be difficult. He considered his first name to be old-fashioned and was usually called Junior. "I never went by Alexander," Leibel said.

But as he grew up, Leibel appreciated his parents' heritage and wanted to learn more about it. In one part of the book, Leibel



describes singing "Silent Night" in German with his mother, when she was in a nursing home.

His parents, especially his mother, had a strong faith. Growing up Catholic is a recurring theme in the book. Leibel grew up in a community where the Catholic faith was all-encom-

passing.

Frogtown still has three Catholic churches. In Leibel's childhood St. Agnes was largely German. Poles attended St. Adalbert and St. Vincent still reflected its Irish roots. People lived near their parishes.

One of Leibel's favorite

chapters is *The Sign of the Cross*, in which he describes a child's questioning of faith and the use of prayer. "When I was a kid, I think I took religion too seriously," Leibel wrote. "It got to be I took everything the nuns told me as gospel and I'm not trying to use a pun here or whatever you call it, but a lot of my worries were about church and religion and that sort of thing. What really bothered me and that I couldn't understand was everyone was praying and asking God

Henry bar triggered too much guilt for the young boy. *The Faust*, which was an X-rated theater in its final days, was the neighborhood theater during Leibel's childhood.

One day at St. Agnes Grade School, a nun asked him to sing a few scales as a choir tryout. He wound up as an altar boy and describes the rituals that task entailed, as well as his own childhood theory of where Ash Wednesday ashes came from. He imagined angels bravely ventur-

"It got to be I took everything the nuns told me as gospel and I'm not trying to use a pun here..."

- Author Alex Leibel

for special favors and some other people were asking God for the same thing and only one could get it."

He vividly recalls a St. Agnes nun telling the grade school students to pray for a high school basketball victory over Cretin. "Now I don't know for sure but I'd bet the Cretin kids were asking God for them to win and Cretin was a Catholic school and all those holy Christian Brothers taught there and they might have had more influence than our nuns but I'm not sure about that."

He also writes about the Lenten season and his mother's admonition to give up things he loved. Giving up movies and candy proved to be too much, but sneaking to the Faust Theater for a Geronimo film and an Oh

ing to Hell to retrieve the all-important ashes.

But there are also stories of childhood and adolescent fun. One chapter describes how he and his friends would connive to sneak into sporting events. "Hey, we were Frogtown kids," he said. "We didn't have any money."

Leibel's surviving siblings and friends have enjoyed the book, although some have differing memories of what happened when. Leibel noted there are stories that didn't make the book, such as his annual trips to the Minnesota State Fair. That may be materials for a sequel.

The Leibel family's hope is to distribute the book more widely. It's currently for sale at Micawber's, Common Good Books and online, at alexleibel.com

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Change summer screens to cool weather storm windows and doors. Inspect and repair any loose or damaged window or door frames. Install weather stripping or caulking around windows and doors. Clean and lubricate garage door hinges, rollers, and tracks and be sure screens are tight. Remove window air-conditioners or put weatherproof covers on them.

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By DEBORAH BROTZ

While you're still enjoying the warm, sunny days of summer, fall is right around the corner. It's not too early to be thinking about what you need to do to get your home and garden ready for winter.

LAWN & GARDEN

Lawn Care

Fertilize cool season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescue, and perennial ryegrass. Eliminate broadleaf weeds such as dandelions, broadleaf plantain, and ground ivy with weed killer. Continue mowing every week or so until grass has stopped growing. Lay seed so that your lawn gets a head start in the spring. Cover the seeds lightly with straw or mulch to protect from feeding birds. Dethatch or aerate, or do both to reduce thatch, a layer of dead grass stems and roots that build up faster than they can decompose, accumulating on top of the soil layer and reducing water penetration to the roots. Run all gas-powered lawn equipment until the fuel tank is empty.

Trees & Shrubs

For cooler regions, plant trees, shrubs, and vines now through the end of October. This gives most plants a head start in the spring, since roots will grow in still-warm soil long after air temperatures drop. Protect plants from rodents by keeping mice, voles, and other rodents from feeding on the bark of young trees in winter by wrapping a cylinder

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Chimney and Fireplace

Have a certified chimney sweep inspect and clean the flues and check your fireplace damper. Test your fireplace flue for a tight seal when closed. Install a carbon monoxide alarm near the fireplace and furnace.

Attic Ventilation

Be sure attic insulation doesn't cover ventilation vents in the eaves to prevent winter ice dams on the roof. Be sure ridge vents and vents at eaves are free of plants and debris. Check bird and rodent screens for attic vents to prevent any unwanted guests.

Roof

Check roof and around vents, skylights and chimneys for leaks.

Energy Improvement Tips

The Home Energy Squad, a skilled crew employed by the nonprofit Neighborhood Energy Connection, can make your home more comfortable and reduce your energy bills in one easy visit. In less than two hours, they can bring immediate energy savings at a low price with the following energy improvements.

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der of 1/2-inch-mesh hardware cloth around the trunk. Protect tender evergreens from cold by surrounding these plants with a shelter of burlap or old sheets. Provide additional protection by using an anti-transpirant spray on the foliage after the first hard frost.

Soak soil around trees and shrubs if rainfall has been light to ensure that plants enter winter fully hydrated. Prune your trees and shrubs after the leaves turn to encourage healthy growth in the spring. Remove leaves from lawn and planting areas. Trim any tree limbs that are dangerously close to power lines or the roof of your house.

Flowers & Gardens

Plant bulbs such as crocus, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and other spring-flowering bulbs.

In cold-winter areas, mulch after a hard freeze. Spread 2 to 3 inches of compost, composted cedar, pine, or fir bark, weed-free straw, or similar material. In northern areas, dig and store tender bulbs such as tuberous begonias, dahlias, and gladiolus.



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The Saint Paul Public Library Homework Centers need volunteers to tutor students of all ages during after-school hours and weekends. Homework Centers offer a comfortable place for students to do homework or study with one-on-one assistance from volunteer tutors. Students come from diverse backgrounds and many are English Language Learners. This volunteer opportunity directly impacts the lives of students in our communities. Previous experience is helpful; training is provided.

Volunteers can mentor at one of six library branches: Arlington, Dayton's Bluff, Rice Street, Riverview, Rondo, or Sun Ray. Prefer 2 hours per week time commitment. Homework Center hours vary from site to site. For more information contact Davis at 651-266-7433 or davis.gooch@ci.stpaul.mn.us or visit www.sppl.org/homework.

'Breastfed Baby' discussed Oct. 12

The Baby Arrives: The Family and the Breastfed Baby is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tuesday, October 12. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Bethel German Dinner planned September 24

Come for fellowship and enjoy sauerkraut, German potato salad & pork chops at Bethel's Annual German Dinner. All proceeds from this fund raiser, led by Bethel Women's Fellowship, will go to local charities and groups. Cost is \$10 for adults (includes Pork Chops, German Potato Salad, Sauer Kraut, Green Beans, Applesauce, Bread, Beverage & Dessert) and \$5 for those under 12. A children's menu is available (Hot Dog, Tater Tots, Corn, Beverage & Dessert). The evening dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on September 24th at Bethel Lutheran Church 670 W. Wheelock Pkwy.

Annual Zion Church Cornfeed September 10

The Annual Cornfeed at Zion will be held on Friday, September 10th from 5 to 7 p.m. One ear of corn and one hot dog will be \$1 each. Beverages are free.

Rally day celebration with children is on Sept. 12th at 9 a.m. and worship follows at 10 a.m.

There will be a free breakfast on Fourth Sunday of every month to the community. September 26th on Sunday between 9 to 10 a.m. breakfast will be served. All are welcome!

There is food items distribution every Wednesday between 1 to 3 p.m.

Zion Lutheran is located on the corner of Lafond and Aldine, 1697 Lafond Ave.) Please feel free to call us for more information at 651-645-0851.

FREE Community Breakfast Sept. 26

Join us on September 26th for breakfast, which will be served 8-9 a.m. FREE to the community of the North End. Come one come all to our fellowship hall at North Emanuel Lutheran Church, 301 Hatch Ave. at Matilda Street. 'Bringing hope and help to the North End.' Emanuel means 'God is with Us'. May He be with you also as we share this FREE Community Breakfast with your North End neighbors.

Directions to North Emanuel are easy when you know where the Rice Street Library is located. Then go west 5 blocks on Hatch Ave. and stop at Matilda Street.

Pastor Kisten Thompson, and the members of North Emanuel welcome all to this event. Church ph. 651-489-5611

For more information e-mail nemanuel@juno.com

Questions? Larry at 651-373-5797 or Sandy at 651-283-1681.

Winter Biking Workshop, Used Bike Drive

Join us for a Winter Biking Workshop and Community Used Bike Drive on Saturday, October 9, 12:30-4 p.m. at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue West.

Who says the joy of biking has to end just because the snow is flying? At this free, all ages workshop, Sibley Bike Depot, Twin Cities Bike/Walk Ambassadors, and Smart Trips will offer a winter commuting workshop and show you how to fix a flat tire. Kids' activities and treats also available.

As part of the event, from 12:30-2 p.m. on October 9, you can donate your used, unwanted bikes to Sibley Bike Depot. Suggested donation \$10 to cover bike repairs and parts. Used bikes power Sibley Bike Depot's great community programs. No bike turned away!

Event Schedule:
12:30-2 p.m. - Ongoing drop-off for used bikes at the library

1-1:30 p.m. - Chat with Smart Trips and Bike/Walk Ambassadors for year-round bike resources

1:30-3 p.m. - Winter commuting workshop; bike-themed activities for kids and youth

3-4 p.m. - How to fix a flat tire workshop

To pre-register or for information, please call Carrie at 651-645-1196 or email at carriepomeroy@tcq.net. You're welcome to attend even if you don't sign up ahead of time, but pre-registering would be helpful.

This event is one of 1200+ locally organized work days in 110+ countries, inspired by the international group 350.org, aimed at lowering carbon emissions and facing climate change's impacts. The event is co-sponsored by Sibley Bike Depot, Hamline Midway Environmental Group, Hamline Midway Library Association, 350, the Twin Cities Bike/Walk Ambassadors, and St. Paul Smart Trips.

2nd Annual Celebration of Community and Used Book September 25

The 2nd Annual Celebration of Community and Used Book Sale will be held at Hamline Midway Library, Saturday, September 25 11am to 3 p.m. (1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.).

The Hamline Midway Library Association (HMLA) invites you to join us for great food and activities, including: a used book sale, crafts for kids with The Saturday Club, and information tables from neighborhood organizations. Family entertainment featuring: 11:30 a.m. storytime with The Mighty Midway Storytellers and 2 pm stories and songs with Librarian Sam Ryan.

PLUS: silkscreening with local artist Jun-Li Wang! Bring a pre-washed, flat fabric item (t-shirts, tote bags, etc) that red ink will show up on, and Jun-Li will silkscreen an original "Library Love" design on your item. \$5 suggested donation to HMLA for silkscreening. Tote bags will be available for purchase at the event. For more information, call the library at 651-642-0293.

Como Park hosts pet adoption event Sept. 18

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory and MnPAW (Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare) will host the Twin Cities' inaugural super adoption event, "Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo", presented by PEDIGREE® on Saturday, September 18. Hundreds of dogs, cats, puppies and kittens will be available for adoption at the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adoptable pets from more than 25 animal welfare and rescue organizations will be onsite on this special date and ready for their

forever home. There is no charge for admission to the event or for parking.

This is the first pet adoption event of this magnitude in Minnesota, bringing together organizations and animals from across the state and surrounding areas. PEDIGREE® has sponsored the "Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo" event for more than 18 years in 20 cities helping place more than 16,000 animals in new, loving families. PEDIGREE® approached Como Park Zoo & Conservatory and MnPAW to sponsor this event. These two organizations broadened the event to include animal welfare organizations throughout Minnesota who are dedicated to helping animals.

Adoption fees and policies are set by each participating group and not by event sponsors. All dogs and cats will have received a medical check-up and age-appropriate vaccinations. For health and safety reasons, please leave your current pet at home. MnPAW is a coalition of animal welfare organizations throughout Minnesota who are committed to working together to aid animals. For more information on the event, visit www.mnpaw.org or call 763-489-2250.

Fall Celebration at HM Library September 25

The summer is winding down and the days are getting shorter. Time to get out of the house and relax in the library while enjoying some excellent programming!

The second annual Fall Celebration of Community will be held on September 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year we will celebrate the Hamline Midway Community with story telling by the Mighty Midway Storytellers, a book sale benefitting the Hamline Midway Library Association, and silk screening with local artist Jun-Li Wang! Bring the whole family to this fun event.

Enjoy an evening of poetry with local writers J.P. White (All Good Water) and Sharon Chmielarz (Calling) as they read from their new collections on Wednesday, September 29 at 7 p.m. Presented by The Friends.

Does your child love dogs? Paw Pals will be in the library on Saturday, September 11 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call 651-642-0293 to register your child for a reading session with our favorite licensed therapy dog, Toby. This literacy-building opportunity is open to kids ages 6-12.

The Saints & Sinners Mystery Book Club will meet Saturday, September 11. Email gerib13@q.com for more details.

Toddler and Preschool story-times continue to be offered Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Bring your child to share the joys of books and reading.

Call 651-642-0293 or stop by the library at 1558 W Minnehaha Ave, near the intersection of Snelling and Minnehaha, to sign up for events that require registration. All events are free.

Fall Reading Series begins October 13

Starting Wednesday, October 13, at 7 p.m., the Hamline Midway Library Association will begin presenting the second annual Neighborhood Voices Fall Readings Series at the Hamline Midway Public Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue West. The readings, featuring writers and musicians with a Midway connection, will happen on second Wednesdays in October, November, and December from 7 p.m. to about 7:45 p.m. All events are free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, October 13, 7 p.m., David Weiss, author of "To the Tune of a Welcoming God," and composer and improvisational clarinetist Sean Egan of Semiconductor Orchestra.

Wednesday, November 10, 7 p.m., Carol Connolly, St. Paul Poet Laureate and author of "All This and More" and "Payments Due," and Americana musician Erik Brandt of Urban Hillbilly Quartet.

Wednesday, December 8, 7 p.m., Eleanor Schanilec, author of "Hope's Root," and traditional fiddle player Clayton Schanilec of Poor Benny.

For further information, contact the library at 651-642-0293.

Sept. 12 Fall Kickoff Breakfast at Jehovah

A tasty free breakfast will be served by the Board of Education of Jehovah Lutheran Church (JLC) to all comers at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, September 12, to kick off the fall Sunday School season. Teachers and parents/students can meet one another. The event will be held in the fellowship hall of the church at 1566 Thomas Avenue in the Midway immediately after the 9:30 a.m. morning worship.

At the breakfast, under the theme, "Celebrate, Learn and Share your Spiritual Gifts," each attendee will have a chance to take a Spiritual Gifts assessment to help get a handle on his/her God-given talents. JLC's committees, missions and groups that seek volunteers to complete their annual goals will have displays and a person available to answer questions. All are welcome; call 651-644-1421 for more information.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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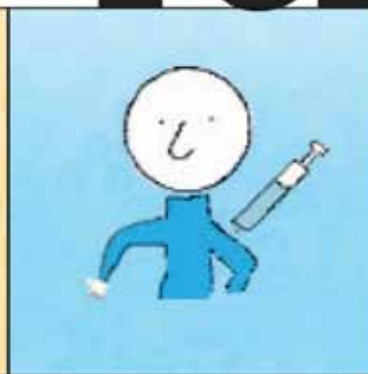
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Central Corridor zoning changes generate mixed reaction from property owners

By JANE MCCLURE

Proposed changes to zoning along Central Corridor are generating a mixed reaction from area property owners, tenants and advocacy groups. Dozens of people attended two community meetings August 24 and 26 to review the proposed changes and weigh in.

The light rail line is already under construction downtown and near the capitol, and is to be running by 2014. City officials say there is a need to plan for changing land uses that will be influenced by the new transit service.

Making long-term changes in many cases requires changing a property's underlying zoning. The city's existing zoning doesn't facilitate the type of pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use, denser development envisioned along Central Corridor. Over the last few years studies have been conducted along the planned light rail line and an interim zoning overlay and additional restrictions are in place.

The proposed zoning changes wouldn't affect existing land uses. Some expansion of a permitted use could be allowed, without fully meeting the new zoning regulations. But changes would force some businesses to go through the conditional use permit process in the future.

Much of the zoning along University Avenue is for business or commercial uses. The current study will focus on traditional neighborhoods or TN zoning as a way to promote redevelopment that better fits with Central Corridor, Drummond said. City staff would like to replace much of the business zoning with TN zoning.

City staff has decided, however, that some of the current TN zoning regulations isn't a good fit for University. Changing the TN zoning regulations would have ramifications on a citywide basis. (See related story.)

Plans for properties north and south of University Avenue call for a long-term move to pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development in most areas. Business and in some cases, industrial zoning would be changed to traditional neighborhood or TN zoning, which would allow for more dense, mixed-use development.

The reactions were anticipated by Planning and Economic Development (PED) staff. "I think we're hearing from many people who are excited about the possibility of taller buildings and more density, and others who have concerns about what could happen near their properties," said Planning Administrator Donna Drummond.

At the same time the city is studying zoning changes for Central Corridor, there is also a study underway of TN zoning, to change the regulations and add a TN4 classification that would allow buildings of up to 12 stories in height.

Proposed changes send up some red flags for property owners including the St. Paul Port Authority, which owns industrial land in the West Midway. One 5.2-acre site near Pelham and Wabash, is proposed for a change from industrial to TN4 zoning. TN4 is a proposed zoning category that would allow for buildings of up to 12 feet in height.

Currently the Port, other area industries and community members are doing an industrial land use study in the West Midway. Lorrie Louder of the Port Authority questions whether the Central Corridor zoning is in contradiction to the intent of keeping industrial land and creating more jobs.

change to more TN zoning could make that possible. Episcopal Homes offers a range of housing options for seniors, from apartments to nursing home care, with a main campus at Fairview and University, housing near Lexington and University at Dale. The Dale-University building will have retail on the ground floor, which is what TN zoning encouraged.

Some reactions were tied to pending developments, which have stalled. For St. Paul Federal Credit Union, a shift from commercial zoning to TN could impact their plans to renovate a restaurant at University and Fry Street, and turn it into a new facility. The credit union got variances for the conversion more than a year ago but those have expired. Staff from there must now see if they can reapply for variances.

Many people said they are taking a wait and see attitude, or want to learn more about the rezoning before taking a position on any changes. "I think a lot of people just want to soak it in," said Va-Meng Lor, who works with the Asian Economic Development Association. He has heard from a few property owners who question how rezoning could affect their long-term redevelopment plans.

Some property owners questioned whether the zoning change would increase their property values and taxes. That's especially been a concern for the

handful of single-family and duplex home owners at the east end of university, including homeowner Metric Giles. "That and the assessments for the project are our big concern," Giles said.

Property value increases usually aren't triggered by zoning changes and don't happen unless a property undergoes improvements or is redeveloped, Drummond said.

Not surprisingly, city staff heard many questions about the property assessments University Avenue land owners will have to pay to help cover new street lighting, sidewalks and other improvements.

There was some good news on the assessment front as the bids for University Avenue light rail construction came in \$12.3 million below budget. The winning bid was from Ames Construction and C.S. McCrossan, at \$113.8 million. This bid covers three miles of Minneapolis work including four stations, the connection to Hiawatha light rail and improvements to the Washington Avenue Bridge. Savings on the bids could shift some of the improvements costs from assessments back to the project although Metropolitan Council and city officials haven't announced that yet.


The work on zoning continues this fall when revisions to TN zoning will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and City Council. The specific property-by-property rezoning will then get underway and will continue through April 2011. The zoning changes would be adopted in summer 2011 by the City Council.



"I'd hope we'd want to put industry next to Rock-Tenn, so there would be compatible uses side-by-side," said Louder. The Port and other property owners want to make sure that the industrial land base is preserved.

Louder said she understands the desire for redevelopment "but there has to be a balance."

Others liked what they saw. Marv Plakut, CEO of Episcopal Homes, said his organization is interested in building more senior housing along University. A



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German Dinner will be held at Bethel Lutheran on September 24

Come for fellowship and enjoy sauerkraut, German potato salad and pork chops at Bethel's Annual German Dinner. All proceeds from this fund raiser, led by Bethel Women's Fellowship, will go to local charities groups. Cost is \$10 for adults (includes Pork Chops, German Potato Salad, Sauer Kraut, Green Beans, Applesauce, Bread, Beverage & Dessert) and \$5 for those under 12. A children's menu is available (Hot Dog, Tater Tots, Corn, Beverage and Dessert). The evening dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7 pm on September 24th at Bethel Lutheran Church 670 W. Wheelock Pkwy.

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Library budget dictates changes in library service for 2011

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul Public Library's proposed 2011 budget calls for few changes in staffing and hours. But changes in the way services are delivered are already underway. Mayor Chris Coleman announced the library budget August 18. City Council members, acting as the Library Board, began reviewing the numbers that same day.

Mayor Chris Coleman described the library budget as one that sticks to basic services, while adding some new features. He said libraries are increasingly important in difficult economic times as more people rely on them to help with job searches and information for their daily lives. "Libraries are about more than hours and books," he said.

The library budget as proposed shows a 4.4 percent operating increase, from \$18.59 million this year to \$19.41 million in 2011. The library will have a 3.7 percent increase in the property taxes levied for its operation. The levy for 2011 totaled \$16.9 million; the 2011 proposed levy is \$17.5 million, an increase of almost \$624,000. The City Council has shifted library operations off of Local Government Aid and totally onto property taxes in recent years to protect libraries from increasing unstable state funding.

However, the library levy increase doesn't mean an increase in the total dollars St. Paul



Hamline-Midway Library is to remain open in 2011. For several months city officials and community members have discussed ways to keep the library open, possibly in partnership with an outside group.

property taxpayers will pay for all city services in 2011. Cuts in other areas of the city budget that are levy-supported mean the city can hold its total property tax levy flat next year, at \$94.6 million.

The library materials budget, which usually draws scrutiny from City Council members and library advocates, would increase slightly in 2011, from \$1.366 million in 2010 to \$1.461 million in 2011.

New services that are part of the 2011 budget include the launch this month of LinkUp-SaintPaul.org, a web site that connects young people and their families with activities offered by the city, St. Paul Public Schools and more than 125 community organizations. More tutoring in partnership with St. Paul Public Schools, more bilingual services and story times, more workforce development programs, and computer literacy services in English, Hmong, Somali, Spanish and Karen will be offered. For teens there will be more services for those looking into college and careers.

The number of library hours will remain unchanged, although there will be accommodations for evening programs. With some libraries now closing at 8 p.m. instead of 9 p.m., "it

kind of kills programming," said Library director Kit Hadley. Shifts in staffing will allow libraries to stay open and complete programs.

Most significantly, no libraries are proposed for closure next year. In recent years Coleman's administration has drawn fire for proposing to shutter the library branch in Hamline-Midway neighborhood. Hamline-Midway is to remain open in 2011. For several months city officials and community members have discussed ways to keep the library open, possibly in partnership with an outside group.

The number of library employees will increase slightly to 169.4 from 168.8, thanks to an allocation from the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library. In January the library system cut 19 vacant positions and part-time

clerical and custodial position. A management position was cut recently to provide cost savings.

The Friends turned out in force for the August 18 library budget address. The Friends serve as advocates for the library and do outside fundraising for programming, materials and some staff needs.

Friends Executive Director Peter Pearson said the group is eager to go over the budget details. "But to get the message today that library hours will stay the same and that buildings won't closed is very encouraging," he said. "That's incredibly good news in these economic times. There aren't a lot of cities that are able to say that."

The Friends will review the budget and weigh in next month, said Pearson.

The Friends' contribution to the library budget every year is greatly appreciated, said Ward three Council Member and Library Board Chairman Pat Harris. "We could not run the libraries without the Friends," he said.

Some 2011 work won't be visible to the public. Hadley said one plan is a complete physical assessment of the library system, which has one central library, 12 branches and a bookmobile. Hadley said that will look at building condition as well as the "universe of costs" needed to maintain each structure and bring all buildings up to 21st century standards.

What will also continue is more of a focus on two larger libraries, Highland and Sunray. Library and staff and consultants have done planning in recent years to expand services at those libraries. At Highland work would be done in conjunction with Hillcrest recreation center.

Victoria Theater

Continued from page 5

The Victoria Theater has been the subject of other historic studies, including the 1983 Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County. At that time the building was listed as having "major significance." The property was studied again in 1995 as part of a study of historic and cultural resources along the Central Corridor light rail line. That study determined

that while the theater wasn't eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Ray-Bell Studios building would be.

But according to a city staff report, the background about Moonshiner's Ball and the Prohibition controversies weren't known at the time of the 1995 study, so Victoria Theater's status could change. Another factor could be how much the theater was altered. What city staff and neighborhood supporters would like to find is if there are any pictures of the theater building with a visible marquee and when that was taken down.

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In Our Community

Continued from page 10

Inner Technology: Moving from Analogue to Digital to Access Spirit

In this four part weekly series (October 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th) participants will use technological

developments as a metaphor for self-discovery, clearing a mental path towards improved reception and transmission of Spirit. Classes will be held in the evening, from 6:00-9:30 pm, in the Carondelet Center at 1890 Randolph Avenue. The cost of the classes is \$95 for all four sessions.

For more information: www.wisdomwayscenter.org

Mingling of Worlds: A Celebration Oct. 31

On October 31st, poetic teachers

Sam King and Julie Neraas are holding an afternoon-long session of art, music and ritual. The class runs from 2-5 p.m., and will invite participants to touch the mingling of the worlds that becomes more apparent in the days surrounding October 31st and November 1st. The cost of the event is \$30, and it will be held in the Carondelet Center at 1890 Randolph Avenue, in St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood. For more information: www.wisdomwayscenter.org

District 6 Planning Council will be moving!

In September District 6 will be moving to our new location; 171 Front Avenue. Our phone and fax numbers will stay the same but beginning around September 22 emails will change. The District 6 email will be changed to district6ed@dist6pc.org and our Community Coordinator will be districtcc@dist6pc.org. We expect some down time with our emails but hopefully it won't be too long. Look for information about our Open House in October. Also if you are interested visit us on Facebook and our website at www.district6stpaul.org!

Contemporary Worship at No. Emanuel Church

The contemporary worship band, Testify, will be providing worship music at North Emanuel Lutheran Church on September 26, at 9:30 a.m. The group has been playing together for many years and leads worship at North Emanuel every other month on the fourth Sunday. They are filled with joy and energy as they share the Gospel good news. We will also be giving children's Bibles to children who do not yet have Bibles on September 26. North Emanuel is located at 301 Hatch Avenue. (651.489.5611) Kisten Thompson is the pastor.

The Awakened Heart: Open Page Writing Series

In this monthly series of guided writing sessions, participants will engage writing as a spiritual practice, awakening and listening to the inner voice of the soul. Karen Hering, consulting literary minister at Unity Church Unitarian will lead this series of four classes. The four session set begins September 28th and continues through

December 7th and the classes will be held in the evening, from 6-9:30 p.m., in the Carondelet Center at 1890 Randolph Avenue in St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood. The cost of the classes is \$95 for 4 sessions and \$30 for one session. For more information: www.wisdomwayscenter.org

Journeying into Aging begins October 6

In this seven part monthly series, beginning Wednesday, October 6th, participants will learn to re-frame their idea of the aging process, seeing it as a pilgrimage instead of an inevitability. Led by presenters Joyce Eckes and Lucia Leck we will create travel logs, journals, photo albums and post-cards as we record and reflect on the journey. Classes will be held in the evening, from 6 -9:30 p.m., in the Carondelet Center at 1890 Randolph Avenue. The cost of the classes is \$100 for all seven sessions, and \$25 for a single session. For more information: www.wisdomwayscenter.org

Fall Soul Conference October 22/23

This conference, led by CSJ and student of the Universe Toni Nash, and singer-songwriter Sara Thomsen will encourage participants to use imagination, reflection and discussion to understand the principles the Universe offers us as tools for meeting the radical polarities of our times. The conference will be held over the course of two days: Friday Oct. 22nd from 7-9 p.m. and Saturday Oct. 23rd from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The cost varies, and is \$45 for full event, \$25 for Friday only, \$35 for Saturday only. All sessions will be held at the Carondelet Center at 1890 Randolph Ave., Saint Paul.

For more information: www.wisdomwayscenter.org



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Piano lessons being offered at Zion Lutheran Church on Fridays starting at 5:30 p.m. at reasonable price. Piano teacher has 20 years of experience in teaching. If you are interested in taking piano classes please contact Shirley Breckner at 651-766-9205. Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave. St. Paul, MN, 55104.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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"We Stop Leaky Chimneys"

10th annual Oktoberfest set for October 9 at the Klub Haus

Come and taste a bit of German culture on Saturday, October 9, at the 10th annual Saint Paul Oktoberfest! Please note that the Saint Paul Oktoberfest has a new location on Rice Street this year—the Klub Haus—or what many know as the renovated North End Improvement Club located near the intersection of Rice Street and West Magnolia Avenue. See www.klubhaus.net for details.

New to the event this year is the Glockenspiel Restaurant, who will be providing the authentic German food and desserts. Make sure to make it down to the lower level not only to admire the tasty food selection, but also the finely detailed ceiling and custom oak bar.

The festivities run from noon until 11 p.m. and will include five live bands in two different event spaces. There will be a \$3 admission for all attendees 21 and older; younger participants may attend for free. For additional details, please check the website at www.saintpauloktoberfest.org.

The five bands performing are Bavarian Musikmeisters, Chuck Thiel and the Jolly Ramblers, Die Alpensterne, Joey Johnson Band and Liechtenstein Nein. Events will be held inside the Klub Haus and in an outside tent. The outdoor patio will also be available for celebrating.

The ever popular events, the

Dachshund Races and the Bed Races, return again this year.

– Dachshund Races at 3 p.m. – A popular event common at Oktoberfests around the world. The races will be held in a side parking lot on Magnolia Street. Advance registration of your dachshund is required, so please contact Tyrone Schenk at 612-275-7260.

– Bed Races at 4 p.m. – Our version of the original Oktoberfest horse races. Win and receive a cash prize for your favorite area organization. Registration will begin at 3:30 p.m. To sign up a four to six-person

team, please contact Deb Grosskopf at 651-253-5261.

The first Oktoberfest was celebrated in Germany in 1810 with the wedding feast of Princess Therese and the Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig. Oktoberfest is celebrated in Munich and around the United States each autumn.

The Saint Paul Oktoberfest is supported by a collaboration of the German American Heritage Foundation, North End and Saint Paul community organizations, and German heritage and cultural groups throughout Minnesota.



Visiting royalty from a German mardi gras club visit last year's Oktoberfest to liven up the festivities.

Puppets on Parade



The garden at the corner of Hamline and Thomas Avenues was part of the Parade of Community Gardens on Saturday, August 21. Leslye Orr of Dreamland Arts stopped by to perform a puppet show for neighborhood children. Zip the Chipmunk waters the flowers while an appreciative butterfly looks on.

Classifieds

Continued from page 15

Need a handyman?? Any job, big or small plumbing? Remodeling? Decks? Etc. Call Dave 612-701-2272. Competitive prices! 12-10

Save 20% furniture cleaning. Also, carpet cleaning. Two rooms \$59.00 Dave 612-721-5105. 612-636-3073. 12-10

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SHOES

Boots/shoes ready for winter?! www.HartlandShoes.us or 651-646-4326. 9-10

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Home Snow Removal, gutter cleaning. Fall cleanups. Best price guaranteed. 651-699-2832.

VACUUM CLEANER

Vacuum Cleaners: Sales, service and supplies. Experts since 1952. 666 University @ Dale. 651-222-6316. www.a-1vacuum.com BB-10

WANTED TO BUY

Paying the most cash for your furniture, dishes, glassware, knickknacks, costume jewelry, antiques, pictures, lamps, household items etc. I make housecalls. Call Mary Anne 612-729-3110. 9-10

Wanted to buy: Top cash paid, older furniture, beer items, miscellaneous antiques. 651-227-2469. 12-10

I buy scrap metals, computer scrap, circuit boards, gold rings, jewelry, and sterling silver tableware. Top dollar paid. 651-500-0969. 9-10

WINDOWS/SCREENS

Custom making/repairs. Thermal windows; fix frames, glazing. Kendall's—651-489-3210, 651-776-6996. BB-10

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY'S

2010 Commitment to Community event

features internationally-known peace activist **Arun Gandhi**

Tuesday, September 28 – 7 p.m.

Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Avenue

Free and open to the public, but attendees must pick up a ticket in advance, as seats are limited.

Tickets for the general public will be available September 21 at front desk of Bush Student Center, 1551 Hewitt Avenue. For more info: 651-523-2423.

Internationally-acclaimed peace activist Arun Gandhi will deliver the speech

"Lessons Learned from My Grandfather: Non-violence in a Violent World"

at the university's annual Commitment to Community event.

Born in 1934 in Durban, South Africa, Arun Gandhi is the fifth grandson of India's legendary leader, Mohandas K. "Mahatma" Gandhi. Arun Gandhi is the founder of M. K. Gandhi Institute for Non-violence. He will share riveting and unique reflections on the personal and historical legacy of his grandfather and set forth a message of integrity, social harmony, nonviolence, inclusion, and peace in the wake of terrorism, international conflicts, immigration debates, and religious, political, and ideological differences.

Past Commitment to Community speakers have included

Keith Boykin (political commentator, BET-TV host, author); Winona LaDuke (activist); Kweisi Mfume (NAACP); Ray Suarez (writer/ television correspondent); Helen Zia (writer); Rebecca Walker (activist, author); J. Herman Blake (educator); Ronald Takaki (scholar, educator, author)



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