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

Council Member pushes for additional restrictions...

St. Paul bars both boon and bane to Ward 5 Council Member Helgen

By JAN WILLMS

For City Council Member Lee Helgen, the bars along Rice Street and in the North End have proven to be both a boon and a

"It's good to have a vibrant night life in Saint Paul," Helgen said in a recent interview. "It's good for the city."

At the same time, he said Saint Paul is a family town, with a neighborhood feeling that is part of the character of the city.

'We're not set up to be 24-7 nightlife," he said. "That's part of why Saint Paul is such a livable city. We have the amenity of urban life, but also a cohesive neighborhood. And when the neighborhood bars along Rice turn into destination clubs, it can cause problems."

With that in mind, Helgen has been pushing for additional restrictions on the 2 a.m. license that has been issued to approximately 90 of the city's 257 places that sell liquor, wine and beer. Currently, a fee is paid to the state and the city has issued the license. Helgen initiated a plan that would require bar owners to pay a fee to the city for a 2.a.m. license and have two workers on duty during the extra hour before closing.

We could create a license and put conditions on it," Helgen said. "We could use leverage with it," he said, stating the license could be removed if certain rules were not upheld.

Mayor Chris Coleman, rather than accepting Helgen's initiative, has responded with a "strategic enforcement campaign," alerting police to crack down on problem bars.

Helgen said the nuisance behavior that he hears about from his constituents usually occurs between 12:30 and 2:45 a.m.

"There are parking lot problems, and the staff is usually too busy shutting down for the night to deal with everything," Helgen

said. "The Police Department is bars and the impact they have on busier at that time of night, and the community. often the party has moved out-He cited an e-mail he re-

not a very controlled situation." Helgen said a staffing requirement of two people would help, since one person could be

side the bar. People are relieving

themselves in bushes, and it is

people are not making good decisions," he said. Helgen said he is willing to give the mayor's enforcement strategy a try until the issue is revisited in mid-July, but he is concerned over what he calls neighborhood nuisance

noise and related problems. A constituent thanked him for his assistance in getting the bar closed, and praised the peaceful nights, so quiet crickets can be heard.

As far as the 4 a.m. closings during the Republican National Convention in September, Helgen found himself the lone council member voting against these li-

"I think the 4 a.m. closing is just unnecessary," he said. He said that if he is attending a convention in another city, he may stop by for a couple of drinks at the end of the day, but if he has to get up the next day for a series of meetings, he would not be in a bar until early morning.

"The Republicans never really asked for this, and it was not part of our pitch," he said. He stated that originally, all the bars could be open with no extra fees. "There was no way to manage it, and that was a recipe for disaster," Helgen

Those requesting the 4 a.m. license must have at least 291 seats and be in the downtown or commercial development districts. They also must pay an additional \$2500 fee.

Closing hours for Saint Paul bars are looked at from a different perspective by Brad Schmitt, who with his wife, Gail, has owned Schroeder's Bar and Grill at 640 Como for the past five years.

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Wild West Frontier held July 25-27



Central LRT designs take heat



Jackson building may see new path



Rice Street Parade awaits



Ward 5 Council Member Lee Helgen has been pushing for additional restrictions on the 2 a.m. license that has been issued to approximately 90 of the city's 257 places that sell liquor, wine and beer. (Photo by Denis Jeong Plaster)

easny overcome. "This is late at night, when

"We're not set up to be 24-7 nightlife."

- Ward 5 Council Member Lee Helgen

Rice Street Festival coming July 23-27

ceived when Club Cancun was

shut down temporarily because of



The Rice Street Parade will be occurring Wednesday, July 23, starting at 6:30 p.m. The parade will be starting at Atwater and running to Arlington. Turn to page 9 for a special section with information and advertising on the Festival.



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Wild West Frontier Fest on the Mississippi, a brand-new festival taking place on Harriet Island from July 25 – 27. Founded and produced by veteran local actor and personality Jim Cunningham, the Wild West Frontier Fest features 3 days of entertainment including performances by Grammy-Award winning western artists Riders in the Sky, WCCO's Don Shelby as Mark Twain and the First John Philips Sousa Memorial Band, as well as silent movies, riverboat rides and fireworks along the river. Midway resident Pop Wagner is hosting a Poetry Stage and performing at the Wild West Frontier Fest July 25-27 at Harriet

Celebrate the Cowboy Way at the Island in St. Paul. The Wild West Frontier Fest is an official Minnesota Sesquicentennial Event.

Daily admission is \$12, with a portion going to Second Harvest food shelf. Kids 12 and under

Friends of the Frontier tickets can be purchased for \$70 and includes admission to Friday's exclusive VIP Jubilee as well as Saturday and Sunday admission. Weekend passes for Saturday and Sunday can be purchased for \$20. Dinner with Mark Twain tickets are \$69.50. Tickets can be purchased venue www.wildwestfrontierfest.com. Call 651-644-3600 for more information.



Midway resident Pop Wagner is hosting a Poetry Stage and performing at the Wild West Frontier Fest July 25-27 at Harriet Island in St. Paul.

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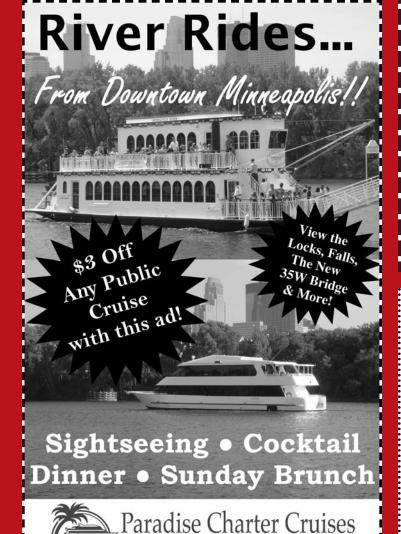
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Monitor in a Minute H

Como Park property dispute goes to court

A Como Park resident has taken a property dispute to Ramsey County District Court. Ryan Grubba, who owns 1383 N. Hamline Av., filed the case against the City of St. Paul in June. In May the St. Paul City Council upheld a staff ruling that the property is a vacant building. That designation brings with it additional fees and mandatory regulation.

Grubba has owned the home on Hamline Avenue since 2003. In court documents he alleges that the harassment by the city began in November 2007. He is asking the court to remove the categorization of his home as a vacant property.

Grubba is disputing the vacant building designation, saying he does live there and has lived there with the same roommate since December 2007. He believes that the dispute with the city is the result of a complaint from a disgruntled former tenant and that he is also being unfairly targeted for renting to college students.

The former tenant complained to the city about a "For Rent" sign at the property, triggering the series of inspections and city hearings. The former tenant recently lost a separate court case to get his deposit back.

Grubba is claiming that property code enforcement staff has been harassing him for several months. He contends that at the May City Council hearing, the council wouldn't allow him to present evidence that he lives at the home. That evidence includes driver's license, utility bills

and homestead status papers. The council found that the building has been vacant and ordered sanctions against Grubba.

Auto repair business OKed for University

An auto repair business can open at University and Albert if certain conditions are met, the St. Paul Planning Commission decided June 27. The commission unanimously approved a conditional use permit for Jeremias Riveras at 1401 University Av. That decision is final unless it is appealed to the St. Paul City Council.

The property was occupied for many years by Midway Chevrolet. It is currently vacant. Riveras wants to open an auto repair shop with three bays. The business would operate 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. He had to seek a permit after city staff was told that an auto repair business was operating there without permits. Riveras was storing vehicles on the site at that time and was told to remove them.

City staff recommended approval of the business with 12 conditions, with include confining repair work to the building, limiting hours of operation, not allowing salvage of auto parts, and not parking unassembled vehicles outdoors. The business needs a city certificate of occupancy before it can open. Exterior storage of items is prohibited. Customer vehicles must park onsite with no parking in the alley or on a public street. Vehicles cannot be sold on-premise and any vehicles still there that are for sale must be removed. Customer vehicles cannot remain on-site for more than 10 days.

The Planning Commission is also limiting the number of vehi-

cles on the site at any one time to

Hamline-Midway Coalition recommended approval with conditions. The district council did ask that a condition be added to ban test driving of vehicles on adjacent residential streets but that condition wasn't added. Test driving of vehicles from other University Avenue auto repair businesses has caused problems in the neighborhood.

Council adopts new building regs

As St. Paul's registered vacant building list tops the 2,000 structure mark, the City Council has adopted new regulations meant to encourage owners to rehabilitate and resell the structures. The regulations are part of a series of measures adopted over the past several months and were considered controversial.

Weeks of discussions with neighborhood groups, the real

estate industry and contractors resulted in a compromise, said Ward Six Council Member Dan Bostrom. He wanted strict conditions on home rehabilitation before properties are sold, saying that allowing properties to be sold before they were repaired had negative consequences for neighborhoods.

The city is dealing with homes that have been foreclosed upon and are held by financial institutions that don't keep the properties up. There are also homes that were bought by investors who then could not or would not properly rehabilitate the homes. Bostrom refers to these properties as being "half worked-on."

But the real estate industry and contractors objected, saying the original set of city guidelines for rehabilitation could have had unintended consequences. If it is too difficult to rehabilitate vacant properties and bring them up to current building codes, the concern is that vacant buildings could sit vacant that much longer.

Patrick Ruble, government affairs director for the St. Paul Area Association of Realtors, praised the compromise. He said Realtors agree that homes should be brought up to code but that the city shouldn't put barriers in the way of doing that.

The city classifies vacant properties in three categories, ranging from those that can be sold on a turn-key basis to those in needed of major rehabilitation. More than half of the vacant properties are in the middle category, Tier 2. These houses have problems that can be fixed by do-it-yourselfers or contractors. Parties wanting to fix up one of these homes still have to go through a city inspection and show they have adequate financing to make the improvements.

There are more than 350 homes in the Tier 3 or worst category. Those cannot be sold until they are brought into compliance with building codes, under the ordinance adopted June 25. Bostrom had wanted all vacant homes to meet that standard but couldn't net the required number of council votes. Council members were split as to whether his original proposal would hinder or promote more housing rehabilitation.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

St. Paul bars

Continued from page 1

"I have a 2 a.m. license and use it about five times a month," Schmitt said. "We're open late every other Friday and Saturday, at the bar owner's discretion. If there is enough business, we stay open."

Schmitt said he liked the option of having the 2 a.m. license, using it for a late wedding reception or for a group who comes in late after a hospital shift.

"There are a couple of bars that have problems," Schmitt said. "The City Council should deal with them and not make legislation for all of us. To pass laws and make restrictions when just a few bars cause problems is not fair."

Schmitt said he and his staff closely watch customers, not serving anyone who is inebriated or anyone who comes in intoxicated.

"I don't want my bartenders babysitting a bunch of drunks," he said.

Schroeder's, which offers a full menu as well as liquor, was first built in 1901 as a shoe store. In the 1920s it became a bar, and has operated under several names since then but always as a neighborhood establishment.

"The neighborhood bars have been here hundreds of years," Schmitt said, "so they must be doing something right." He does not qualify for a 4 a.m. license because of his location, nor did he plan to apply for one. He said the extra staff and license fee would not make it worthwhile.

"I think if a bar wants to pay the fee, there should be no restrictions on the 4 a.m. license," he said. "If they want to stay open, why not let them?"

Schmitt said his main request for the 2 a.m. closings and any additional restrictions is that the City Council should go out and talk to the bar owners.

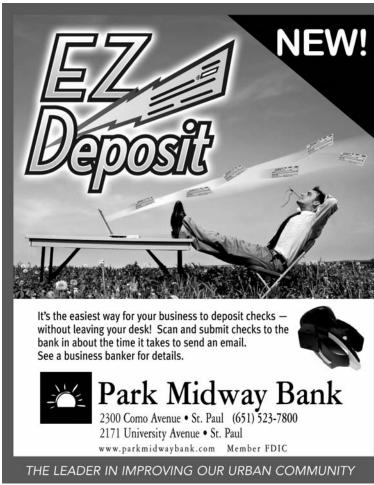
"They should find out the bar owners' feelings," he said, "and also explain the reason for the restrictions. And they should go after the bars that have problems, put them on a list, and get stricter that way."





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Burning garbage makes no sense

Burning garbage, whether in St. Paul or anywhere in our state or world, is not only dangerously toxic and a financial blackhole, it strikes against the common sense policies of recycling. We have been told by proponents of burning garbage that the best fuel in the garbage is paper and plastic! It makes no sense to power the recycling process by burning recyclable materials!

John and Susie Schatz Desnoyer Park

Rock-Tenn and safe fuel

Many citizens of St. Paul have put a lot of hours into studying the fuel sources that will keep Rock-Tenn Recycling Plant going and preserve the 500 jobs. Finally the RCAP committee has presented a solution that would be a win-win. Anaerobic Digestion is a system that would produce biogas from agricultural waste with few emissions. This may be the answer not only for Rock-Tenn, but for many of the waste problems we confront. This approach looks to the future and not backward to old 19th century, unsafe technologies such as the incineration of garbage. Let your District Council know you want more information on this approach and why it should be the recommendation of the committee.

> Beverly Ferguson Merriam Park

Rock-Tenn issue alive and well

The issue of the Rock-Tenn Paper Recycling plant burning garbage for the source of steam for their paper making process is alive and well. The Port Authority and District Energy have kept a continuous stream of propaganda going on how nice it will be and how safe it will be and what a good way to solve our garbage landfill problems—by burning garbage at Rock-Tenn.

Neighbors Against the Burner and other citizens have spent the better part of the past two years researching what a bad idea incinerating garbage is. In fact, when another incinerator was proposed to be built near Hiawatha and Lake in Minneapolis, NAB alerted Minneapolis residents to the serious health problems that we would all be facing. Two weeks ago, that Minneapolis incinerator proposal was officially declared dead by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This occurred as a result of citizen participation in government. A serious campaign was mounted to oppose incineration in their neighborhoods.

In the process of working with the Minneapolis residents to stop that incinerator, we uncovered scientific studies that expose the serious health effects of burning any solid fuel including "biomass" which includes not only garbage, but wood and agricultural products such as corn stover, oat hulls, prairie grasses, etc. Burning "biomass" releases tiny particulates that cause asthma, heart disease, and strokes

and more, not to mention dioxin and other toxic chemicals no matter how state of the art the equipment is.

NAB has stated repeatedly that we can and must save the 500 union jobs with clean energy and has tirelessly worked with our public officials to do so. Please speak out as citizens to stop this madness of building this any incinerator in the middle of the metropolitan areamuch less in the state.

Nancy Hone Merriam Park coordinator Neighbors Against the Burner

The truth about Rock-Tenn

People say to me, "No one wants to burn garbage at Rock-Tenn.You Nab folks are just being emotional. Where do you get that?"

I have attended the Rock-Tenn Citizens Advisory Committee meetings every 2 weeks since they began last September. During these 10 months and even way before, it has remained very evident that there are lots of people that want to burn garbage at Rock-Tenn as a source of steam to make their paper. Every time the Port Authority or any one on the project team is asked if they have taken or will take RDF (ground up garbage) off the table, they say no or just shrug.

In the past month the Chamber of Commerce stated support for continuing to look at burning RDF as an option. A couple of weeks ago, once again,

BUTTERMILK SPECIAL

RDF was listed as one of the options for a source of steam by the Port Authority. Since I started learning about burning things, I have learned that the health effects of any kind of incineration is really bad for our health.

There are good clean options available that are much cheaper. One such option the Port Authority is researching is off site anaerobic digestion where little microbes decompose all kinds of materials which ends up producing methane. This methane is cleaned up can be put right into the already existing gas line virtually as natural gas. Let's save the 500 jobs--our neighbor's and friend's livelihoods and save our lives as well. Win win situation. Write your city council people, your mayor and your legislators and tell them to solve this problem cheaper and healthier.

> Greg Schmidt Merriam Park

We must halt St. Paul incinerator

The Phillips Neighborhood gained a major victory in halting the placement of the Kandiyohi Partners proposed wood-burning incinerator amidst their people — both a victory for the health of their citizens and a victory for their body politic. But there is talk of building such an incinerator somewhere else . . . we must not let this happen!

We have learned in the St. Paul community, from our research of the proposal to build an incinerator at the Rock-Tenn

paper recyling plant, that "incineration creates many more PM2.5 and smaller particles than PM10 particles. This is true for both primary and secondary particulates (secondary particulates are formed beyond pollution controls in the incinerator stack and are 'emitted unabated')". And we have also discovered that these smallest particulates are the most dangerous of all because nano-particulates (less than 1 micron) can pass through the blood-brain barrier of the human body, causing increased risk of stroke, blood clots in the legs, heart and asthma attacks.

For scientific documentation of all of these ill health effects which stem from the currently proposed "waste to energy" schemes, please see:

In our democracy, we have the privilege — but also the heavy responsibility — to keep our government transparent, honest and protective of the health of the citizens of Minnesota and of the many generations coming after ours. In a time of tightened budgets and appealing schemes to "get rid" of garbage or urban tree waste, these forces can partner up and attempt to seduce government officials into supporting incineration to create energy. Decisionmakers are too easily tempted to refuse to acknowledge the damaging health effects of such incineration. It is our obligation to protect the public health and support truly viable, sustainable energy production through such means as anaerobic digestion, wind and solar power and above all, by promoting Zero Waste. For practical ways to achieve Zero Waste, please talk to the folks at Eureka Recyling; they will assure you that it can be done and for our health and safety, must be done!

> Jan Greenfield Highland Park

Kudos to 'Nature' column

As a reader of the Monitor, "Nature in the City" is the article I always turn to first, eager to take in Deb Robinson's well written and wonderfully illustrated observations of the natural world that surrounds us right here in our urban setting. Her engaging columns always provide educational insights into the plants, animals, birds, insects and other aspects of our environment that most of us too often take for granted. I - and I am sure many other readers - will greatly miss this special feature that has made your local paper especially notable and unique.

> Susan Jane Cheney Como Park









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Cares and Cures

By JANE KILIAN, M.D.

Clinic report cards can be deceiving

Lately there has been press coverage rating clinics and/or doctors for how well they manage certain disease conditions. The articles I read make it sound like simply by picking a certain clinic, your diabetes will be better controlled. It's not that simple.

I want to give you information about how the data is gathered for some of these reviews.

In order to keep this brief, I am going to write specifically about the recent ranking of clinics and their "diabetic outcomes." While I am not certain which specific criteria were used to rank the clinics, I know the community standards that are usually applied when making these rankings.

Frequently, when looking at diabetic care, 5 criteria are reviewed. Is the patient's blood pressure less than 130/80? Is the patient's blood sugar well controlled? Is the patient's LDL (the "bad cholesterol") less than 100? Does the patient smoke? Does the patient take aspirin?

Let's look at these criteria and evaluate factors that influence good results or bad results.

Blood Pressure Control.

Doctors prescribe medications to lower blood pressure. Most people with high blood pressure need more than one medication to control their blood pressure. Changes in meds require more frequent office visits to monitor medication side effects, lab tests, and - of course - the patient's blood pressure. So what can the doctor control? Proper selection and dosing of medications. Adjustments in meds when appropriate. Conducting appropriate lab testing. Providing information to patients about life-style choices that can also affect blood pressure. Reminding patients when they need follow-up appointments.

What is out of the control of the doctor? Whether or not patients take their medications. This is tricky because there are many reasons people don't take their meds. They may not be able to afford them. They may not be able to easily get to a pharmacy. They may not understand the importance of taking the meds (the doc should explain this). And they may not like the side effects of the meds.

Doctors also don't control what people do with their lives — such as what they eat or how often they exercise. And we cannot make people come to the clinic for follow-up visits if they choose not to come in.

Control of Sugars and Cholesterol. We usually monitor these outcomes with blood tests. What can doctors control? Doing the testing when indicated, reporting and discussing results with patients, scheduling followup visits to insure timely monitoring of labs. Doctors can also prescribe meds and provide life style education to help patients reach their goals.

But again, much is out of the control of the doctor and in the hands of the patient ... taking meds, making life style changes, keeping appointments, etc.

Smoking. I have never talked with a smoker who didn't know that smoking was unhealthy. Quitting smoking is really hard and I admire everyone who tries, whether or not they succeed. But I can talk until I am out of breath and still not be able to make people quit smoking. I can offer pharmacological support and emotional support. But I cannot make someone quit smoking.

Aspirin Use. Clearly the doctor role here is education and encouragement. If people with diabetes don't know they should be taking aspirin daily, why would they do it? So we can teach, and remind - over and over. But again, try as I might I haven't figured out how to force someone do what they don't want to do.

Back to the subject of report cards. When clinics/doctors are evaluated, patient charts are audited. Usually not every chart is chosen (too time consuming) but a sample of charts is reviewed. So the reviewer could get all "good" charts or all "bad" charts. It's the luck of the draw.

If all of the above 5 criteria are used to evaluate the quality of patient care, a doctor could "fail" because their patient smokes. Or doesn't take their meds. Or doesn't keep appointments for lab testing. A doctor could also fail because the doc is not remembering to check labs when indicated. Or is not adjusting medications when

needed

The picture is not as black and white as it might seem when the grades are reported. I urge you to read reports with a critical mind. Consider how complicated it is to judge the quality of care someone receives. Evaluating numbers alone may not give you the full picture.

Medicine is an art as well as a science. Patients are unique individuals, not cars on an assembly line. Physicians are caring for people whose lives are complicated by stress, financial and emotional concerns, transportation and scheduling conflicts. We care for people who have mental illnesses that make it difficult for them to be "perfect patients". We care for people who lose their jobs, their insurance, and sometimes even their ability to care about taking care of their health.

Doctors cannot control their patients' lives. No matter what we do, people are in charge of their lives. And they may not want or be able to follow our suggestions. That's okay. I always tell my patients that it is my job to help them have the life they want to have. It is not my job to tell them what to do because they will do what they decide anyway. Health care is a partnership - doctors and patients share in that responsibility.

So remember, as you read report cards about clinics, that doctors are only part of the picture. Hopefully we enhance the quality of our patients' lives. But none of are powerful enough to control their lives.

If I saw robots, each one identical to the previous one, my day might be easier and my report card might be better. But I would lose the greatest joy of my work: the opportunity to be part of the lives of people with diverse needs, feelings, attitudes and abilities. I would lose the challenge of trying to help good health care fit into their lives in a manner respectful of their individuality.

(Dr. Kilian is a family practice physician who lives and works in the Midway/Como/North End community. She believes that good medicine means caring for people as well as curing diseases.)

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North End Elementary holds carnival to celebrate transformation





St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman was on hand at North End Elementary last month to congratulate Principal Hamilton Bell and throngs of students and parents on the transformation of the school and the emergence of the University Academies for Boys and Girls at North End Elementary. This fall the schools' University Academies will be a gender-specific program for K-3rd grades which emphasize college bound preparatory programs for boys and girls.

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City Council promotes flurry of new bar regulations

By JANE MCCLURE

Over the past several weeks the St. Paul City Council has gone through a round of bar and liquor sales regulation. The approaching Republican National Convention, a short outdoor dining season and problems at some establishments have prompted a flurry of new regulations

All of these regulatory changes affect neighborhoods around bars, for better or for worse. Elected officials and city staff have found themselves pushed and pulled by the competing demands of supporting businesses in a tough economy and pleas to not further disrupt neigh-

The latest proposal, the 4 a.m. RNC closing, passed on 6-1 votes June 25. Certain businesses with on-sale liquor and wine and beer licenses can offer the extended hours August 31-September 5.

The RNC will be held September 1-4 at Xcel Energy Center.

A new state law allowing 4 a.m. closings lets cities in the seven-county metropolitan area limit which establishments can and cannot have extended hours. Adoption of the ordinance allows St. Paul establishments to apply for the 4 a.m. closing licenses. The ordinance will be published and become official in late July.

Cost of the 4 a. m. license is \$2,500, the maximum allowed by state statute. The penalty for a violation is \$2,000.

Limiting the extended hours geographically and limit to larger establishments were keys to gaining the four City Council votes needed to pass the measure. Last spring the council rejected the notion of a 4 a.m. closing time on a 4-3 vote, when the Minnesota Legislature was just starting to discuss the extension. On June 25 Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen cast the only dissenting votes.

How many businesses could apply for the 4 a.m. closing isn't clear but any applications will add to a crunch at city offices. City licensing staff and some district councils are already seeing a flurry of applications for new extension of liquor service license, for service on patios, decks and sidewalks. Rules on those licenses were relaxed recently, making it easier for bars and restaurants to apply.

A third liquor license-related action adopted by the Council in June, that of additional penalties tied to the 2 a.m. closing license, was vetoed by Mayor Chris Coleman. Coleman believes the penalties are too punitive and that there are other ways to deal with problem bars. There has been no attempt yet to override the veto.

Having an existing 2 a.m. closing license is one criterion for businesses wanting a 4 a.m. license. Only a handful of Midway area businesses qualify for the 4 a.m. closing. Gabe's by the Park, the Como Conservatory (used for special events) and O'Gara's Bar and Grill are among the few places that do qualify. Three others, Club Cancun on Rice Street, America Sports Café/Playground on Como Avenue and Minnehaha Lanes in Minnehaha Mall, are closed. Minnehaha Lanes' site is being redeveloped and Club Cancun is for American Sports Café/Playground was recently closed due to license violations.

Bars and restaurants must

meet several conditions before they can apply for the licenses, including:

*Already have a 2 a.m. closing license from the state.

*Have at least 291 seats. City licensing staff have to verify the number of seats.

*Be in one of the city's 12 commercial development districts, areas specifically designated by the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council. Commercial development districts are areas the city set up to create hospitality zones, where several bars and restaurants can be clustered to-

About half of St. Paul's proposed commercial development districts are single establishments. The cap on on-sale liquor licenses per ward has forced some businesses to use commercial development district designation as a way to get around the cap and obtain a liquor license.

Of St. Paul's 257 bars and restaurants that serve beer, wine and liquor, only about 32 are believed to meet the requirements for the 4 a.m. closing license.

One worry city officials and some council members have is that bars will stay open despite the restrictions on the 4 a.m. license. Any business found to be violating the 4 a.m. closing ordinance would face a \$2,000 fine.

During a June 18 public hearing on the ordinance, Helgen sought to reduce the \$2,500 fee if a bar/restaurant could submit a detailed security management plan. Council members debated at length the notion of what police and licensing staff enforcement will cost if bars are open later.

Helgen moved to reduce the license fee to \$1,000. Although he has worries about security and neighborhood impacts tied to the 4 a.m. closing. Helgen said he is also trying to balance that with questions about the fee amount. He said a higher fee may mean that only bars and restaurants that have booked private parties can stay open until 4 a.m.

His measure to cut the fee passed 4-2, with council members Helgen, Pat Harris, Dan Bostrom and Melvin Carter III for and Russ Stark and Kathy Lantry against. Stark and Lantry questioned whether \$1,000 would be enough to cover enforcement costs. But after the vote Carter asked to reconsider the motion and Helgen withdrew it, seeing the possibility of a 3-3 tie. Ward Two Council Member Dave Thune wasn't present for the June 18 vote.

Although some other council members liked the idea of a reduced fee, city licensing staff and the City Attorney's Office indicated there just wasn't time to make a change if the ordinance is to be in place before the RNC. Changing the ordinance would force it to be laid over and would delay its adoption.

Council members also had questions about the penalty itself. "It strikes me that the \$2,000 (penalty) is actually cheaper than the \$2,500 (license fee)," said

"Now that's the mind of a criminal," joked Lantry.

The penalty maximum is also set by state law, Tierney said.



Ward 5 Council Member Lee Helgen has been in favor of making it difficult for St. Paul bars to extend their closing times and points to how residents near Club Cancun, now closed down, say they can sleep at night now that the Club is no longer in operation. (Photo by Denis Jeong Plaster)

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Lack of opportunities for public art and uses of a standardized design for Central Corridor light rail stations are the latest criticisms aimed at the Central Corridor.

By JANE MCCLURE

Lack of opportunities for public art and uses of a standardized design for Central Corridor light rail stations are the latest criticisms aimed at the Central Corridor. That in turn raises questions about costs, space constraints and the requirement to accommodate persons with disabilities.

The Central Corridor Corridor Management Committee, made up of local elected officials and representatives of the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and Metropolitan Council, viewed station and public art proposals in June. The stations, many of which will be built in the middle of University Avenue, are long and narrow. Sheltered areas are included in each station, to protect rail passengers from wind, noise and road spray generated by passing vehicles. Metropolitan Council staff described the design as "simple and transparent."

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and other committee members criticized the glass and metal design for the stations. Rybak called the design "remarkably underwhelming." He said the idea of "simple and transparent" stations isn't consistent with the month of corridor land use and station area planning the City of St. Paul has out in, and said that stations should be more reflective of the communities they are in.

"We can't go forward with something that is this bland," Rybak said.

The stations each will include public art in railings, glass panels, columns and other features. It will be almost a year before the plans for art are brought forward for approval by the Metropolitan Council.

Rybak also criticized the \$3.7 million station art budget, which comes out to about \$200,000 per station. "That will get used up pretty quickly," he said.

Metropolitan Council Chairperson Peter Bell said he'd take the committee concerns under advisement, but cautioned that at this point he's not prepared to change the staff recommendations. Bell noted that there is a push nationwide for more standardization of transit stations.

Central Corridor Project Director Mark Fuhrmann and Kyle Williams, an architect working on station design and the public art process, outlined the station design and public art process. Along Hiawatha Avenue, each of the 17 stations was designed by a committee that included architects, artists and community members.

Although some of those stations have been praised for attractive design, Fuhrmann pointed out that there are long-term issues associated with the stations. Replacing or repairing station furnishings and public art can be expensive if piece have to be specially fabricated. Maintenance is more challenging for

stations that aren't the same.

Then there is the issue of accessibility for the disabled and the need for a standardized design. Stations have to be accessible and comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A Metropolitan Council advisory committee is pushing hard for standardized design on the basis of accessibility.

At one hearing on the design plan, disabilities community advocate Darrel Paulson pointed out that station design can play a role in how usable stations are for the disabled. Paulson uses a wheelchair

"We want people with disabilities to feel safe and comfortable in stations," Paulson. When stations are laid out in different manners and fixtures are designed differently from station to station, it can be very difficult for persons with disabilities to use them. That's especially true for people who are visually impaired.

The committee also debated how public art should be integrated into station design. Williams said art could be included in station panels as well as railings, posts and other building features. He said the art can be incorporated in ways that reflect the different

station sites and that the project won't involve so-called "plop art." That phrase is used to describe art that is simply added to a project and not incorporated into its design.

"We don't want plop art, but we don't want plop stations either," said Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughin.

Some committee members questioned the plans for public art at the stations are adequate. St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman said there has to be a happy medium between the need to hold down project costs and having stations that are "generic with a good coat of paint." Coleman said he is hearing from artists and arts groups with concerns about the station public art process.

Ramsey County Commission Toni Carter asked how much of the station design is set and how can be influenced by each artist. She said the earlier the artists are brought in, the better.

Carter said she understands the need for standardized stations. But she said Central Corridor project staff may have to pull back and look at more ways for artists and the community to be involved. She also said the desire for public art should get the same "care and attention' that the recent debate over the rail route through the University of Minnesota's East Bank campus did. The U of M and committee wrangled for months over which route should be followed, before choosing Washington Avenue last month. But that comment drew objections from University Vice president Kathleen O'Brien, who questioned how the U's issues would have affected the public art process.

Artists interested in working on station designs have until July 8 to apply. The request for proposals criteria includes whether the art is appropriate for outdoor placement, and whether it is durable and can withstand Minnesota's climate.

Maintenance issues and an artist's previous public art experience have to be considered. Ten artists will be selected in July and asked to develop concepts. Then in August three to five artists will be selected, through a process involving representatives picked by the Corridor Management Committee, Artists and the Central Corridor project staff will work on public involvement plans for each station in September. The intent is to have the Metropolitan Council approve the public art in May 2009.





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One of the North End's most historic structures at 780 Jackson Street has joined the ranks of St. Paul's 1,800-plus vacant properties.

Jackson building may meet a different fate than wrecking ball

By JANE MCCLURE

One of the North End's most historic structures has joined the ranks of St. Paul's 1,800-plus vacant properties. But 780 Jackson, which stands just south of Oakland Cemetery, may meet a different fate than the structures that fall to the wrecking ball.

That's because the building, erected in 1886 as the Ackermann Block, is included in statewide and Ramsey County/St. Paul inventories of historic buildings. A 1980s city/county survey of historic properties indicated that the building is eligible for the National register of Historic Places. The Minnesota Historical Society and St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission staff have weighed in on the need to save the structure.

The St. Paul City Council agreed June 4 that the building should be saved. But it's likely that would happen under a new owner. The current owner of the property has not attended recent public hearings to discuss city orders to remove or repair the structure. The building is in the hands of a

mortgage company.

Ward Five Council Member
Lee Helgen said the building is an
important piece of North End history. "I think there's a strong sentiment toward seeing it rehabilitated and saved," he said. But how
that can happen isn't clear.

The building originally housed the Ackermann Brothers Saloon and Grocery Store. It is one of many ornate commercial buildings designed by architects George Bergmann and John F. Fischer

The building's features include floral stone carvings over windows and a very ornate metal cornice. Its name is still prominently displayed on its cornice. Many of these beautiful cornices did not survive years of remodeling and building reuse, which is one reason the Ackermann Block

is so unique. Its design is considered a mix of architectural styles, Italianate and Queen Anne. One reason the building is so noteworthy is that is has been altered very little since it was built.

The city/county historic sites survey indicates the building cost an estimated \$3,200 to construct. When it was built at the corner of Jackson and Sycamore streets, a barn was built behind it. The barn was later converted into a house.

The original Ackermann Block design featured a main floor business space and living quarters on the second floor. Rudolph and Edward Ackermann operated a saloon there between 1886 and 1889. Historians believe the Ackermanns were brothers but the relationship is hard to trace as there were other Edward Ackermanns in the city at that time.

The building was in the middle of a working-class neighborhood where many residents were employed by railroads. The Jackson Street Shops were just a short distance south of the Ackermann Block; other neighborhood residents worked at the time at the Dale Street Shops and Como Shops

Many of the area residents at that time were immigrants from a number of European countries. A study of the building by historian and preservationist Rosemary Palmer states that "one can imagine that in the late 1800s this section of Jackson Street was a bustling community of great ethnic diversity."

Between 1889 and 1892 Rudolph Ackermann operated a confectionery, grocery store and cigar store in the building. He opened another saloon nearby in 1891 at Jackson and Acker but continued to live in the Ackermann Block. The family later lived in a house at what is now 772 Jackson St.

He sold the building in 1894

to an Anna Patke. Census and city directory records show that over the years Rudolph Ackermann married and had three children before moving to Blue Earth County, Minnesota in 1899.

whether the first floor of the building was used continuously as a business before it was sold to Patke.

City records are unclear as to

The building was converted into four apartments in 1914.

The Ackermann Block has been vacant since December 2007. Its property taxes are delinquent. It has a long history as a nuisance property, but the mortgage company that owns it wants to clean up and sell the property. But that could take time.

Helgen said he doesn't want to save the structure if it is simply going to continue to be a poorly maintained apartment building. "Then we just have it deteriorating and becoming vacant all over again," he said.

Ideally he'd like to a see a nonprofit group or community development corporation take over the structure. One possibility is for it to be converted to livework space.

The city has a few options in trying to save 780 Jackson St. One is to see if the building can be purchased and rehabilitated through the Invest St. Paul program. Part of the North End has been designated as a target area in Invest St. Paul, a program which takes a multi-faceted approach to improving neighborhoods.

Another idea is to seek action through a Tenant Remedies Act sanction, which would give the city more control over the structure. The third is for a summary abatement of the property conditions, another way to give the city control.

But the key question mark is funding, which Helgen said needs to be explored in the days ahead.

Rice Street Festival returns to traditional Wednesday parade

By JANE MCCLURE

A change back to the traditional Wednesday parade and new Saturday activities are highlights of the 2008 Rice Street Festival. This year's festival is July 23-27.

Events start on Wednesday, July 26 with the Rice Street Mile. The women's race is at 6 p.m. and the men's race starts at 6:30 p.m. at Rice and Front. The milelong race is USATF-certified and is also an MDRA Grand Prim event.

Entry fee for the Rice Street Mile is \$12 if mailed prior to July 15 or \$15 the day of the event. Entry fee includes a T-shirt and a chip for timing. Race forms are available in area running shops or on the Rice Street Festival web site. Call Corey Swan at 612-920-2606 for more information.

The races are followed by the Rice Street Parade, which starts at 6:30 p.m. at Rice and Atwater. The parade is being back to its traditional Wednesday night start time after a switch to Saturday. The parade is one of St. Paul's largest neighborhood parades, with spectators lining the streets from Atwater to Arlington. Parade entry forms are on the festival web site.

Another tradition returns at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 24 at Rice/Lawson Fields as the Old Timers play their annual game. Area bars have sponsored teams for decades, with Born's Bar hosting this year's event. Schally's and



The races are followed by the Rice Street Parade, which starts at 6:30 p.m. at Rice and Atwater.

Knights Promotions are sponsoring the teams.

The game is free and everyone is invited to bring along a lawn chair to sit and enjoy the fun. This year's game is dedicated to Frank Marchio, who played professional baseball for Toronto, hitting over .300 for eight years running.

Movies in the Park, hosted by St. Paul Parks and Recreation and sponsored by Comcast, is at dusk Friday, July 25 at Rice Recreation Center, 1021 Marion. The movie is free and all area welcome

A new event this year is on Saturday, July 26 at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 501 Lawson Av. The church, which recently moved to new quarters in the North End, is hosting a day-long Fun Fest. From 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. come and enjoy a three on three basketball tournament, free

petting zoo, free face painting, free games and hot dogs, cotton candy, popcorn and snow cones. Contact 651-487-4092 for more details.

The Rice Street Festival's annual softball tournament also gets underway on Saturday, with men's, women's and co-rec teams. Games are played at Rice/Arlington and other St. Paul fields. Entry fee is \$135 and softballs are provided. Teams are

guaranteed three games, July 26-27. The double elimination tournament has a consolation bracket and awards for first, second and third place teams. Since up at the batting cages at 1500 Rice Street or call 651-558-2255 for information.

Also on Rice Street July 26 are two fun events. The seventh annual Talent Show is noon-5 p.m. at Capital Bank, 1020 Rice St. Entries are due July 15. Entry forms are available at the bank or on the festival web site.

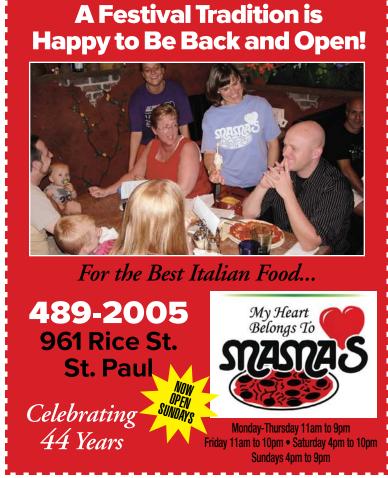
Also visit the inaugural Car Show, noon-5 p.m. at Dar's Double Scoop and Mike's Complete Auto Care. This event is also being held at Capital Bank.

Saturday's events are topped by the Rice Street Royalty Coronation at 6 p.m. at Abetto's, 560 Como Av. A new Miss Rice Street and two princesses will be crowned. These women will represent the neighborhood at parades and events throughout the year. They will also perform community service projects and will be awarded scholarships at the end of their year of service. Miss Rice Street also has the option of competing for the St. Paul Winter Carnival Queen of the Snows title.

For information on most events, contact Festival Chairman Fred Huerta at 651-285-4101. Or visit the web site for schedules and entry forms for the talent show and parade. The festival is also seeking vendors. The web site is www.Ricestreetfestival.org



For an updated schedule of activities for the Rice Street Festival, check on the web at www.RiceStreetFestival.org







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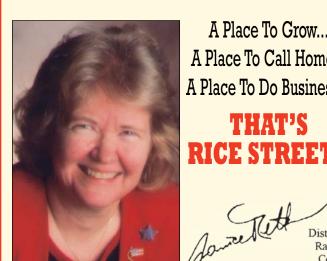
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Wakanheza Project aims to bring peace to St. Paul's neighborhoods



Mary Margaret Sullivan, branch manager of the Rice Street Library, said the teen program of the Wakanheza project has been very helpful. (Photo by Denis Jeong Plaster)

By JAN WILLMS

Summertime, and the livin' is easy.

But it can also be a time of shortened tempers, tired children, and frazzled parents. Teens are out of school and out on the streets. And sometimes the mixture of teens, children and adults does not make for easy living.

In response, the St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Department has been training people through a unique project called Wakanheza to make things a little easier for parents in a stressful situation. More recently, the project has expanded to encourage adults to be welcoming and respectful to teenagers, thereby encouraging respectful behavior from them.

Don Gault, coordinator of the program for Ramsey County and manager of the Healthy Communities Section of the Health Department, said the county board started out with a program responding to family violence back in 1989, through an Initiative for Violence Free Families and Communities in Ramsey County. It is now called the Initiative for Peaceful Families and Communities in Ramsey County.

"When you look at what we tried to do as a community in responding to family violence, it was built around a criminal justice response," he said. "We had to wait for something to happen in order to respond to it." Gault said the Public Health Department created a mission of primary prevention, trying to stop violence before it occurred.

"When we started, we asked ourselves two really important questions," Gault said. "Why do people do this stuff and act out violently? Is it preventable, and how would we do that?"

Gault said these questions are still being grappled with, especially the why.

"We've taken ourselves a long journey to try and understand," he said.

Gault cited a prominent 20th century psychologist, Rollo May, who believed people who feel a sense of powerlessness in their lives largely perform acts of violence. A more recent psychologist, Dr. James Gilligan, states that people will act out violently when overwhelmed by a sense of shame and humiliation. He said that applies to both individuals and communities.

Gilligan, who worked in the Massachusetts State Prison Psychiatry system for 25 years, said that even the most violent criminal he worked with might have only spent a couple minutes of his life acting out in brutal violence

Gilligan suggested thinking of poor judgment as happening in the moment of stress.

"His philosophy is to not the Da think of people as awful, but stressed in the moment," Gault being. said.

At the beginning of the program, the county considered focusing on the whole issue of corporal punishment.

"We decided it would not take us too far. Instead, we wanted to carve out something doable," Gault said. "We decided to do something to change the experience parents have with their children in public."

He cited examples of parents in line with children waiting for an event, or on a shopping trip or in a clinic waiting room. He said that if a child acts out, the parent often feels fairly isolated and powerless.

He said if a child is acting

unruly, and others give the parent and child "The Look," glaring at them, it only adds to the likelihood that something could happen at the scene, or in the car ride home or later, at the home.

He said the program initially involved working with local hospitals and clinics, areas that can be stressful with crowded waiting rooms, children who may not be feeling well or anticipating getting a shot. Three simple changes were introduced. A play environment was added, people were welcomed and cared for, and if a situation seemed about to escalate, someone stepped in.

"Detract, redirect and help," Gault said. "Doing these things worked, and we could observe changes, sustained over time."

The term Wakanheza was adopted for the project from a 2002 conference on child abuse given by Gabrielle Strong, from the Grotto Foundation's Native Languages Initiative.

The word means "child" in the Dakota language, and translated to English means "sacred being"

"It was like a light went off," Gault said. "We decided to go into organizations and places in the community and take them through this process."

As a result, numerous organizations and their staff have been trained in de-escalating stressful situations.

Gault cited examples of two locations, very different in nature, but both experiencing periods of children acting out. One is the Children's Museum, a place for a family outing that is meant to be fun. But while parents are in line to buy tickets, children want to run ahead or dash to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

In Our Community

Wisdom on Aging presented at lunch

"Wisdom: A gift of Aging," will be presented at a luncheon for Hamline Midway seniors on August 12 beginning at 11:30 at 1514 Englewood Avenue. The speakers will be Connie Hickle, retired counselor with the SPPS and Larry Hickle, retired minister. They will address how seniors can enhance their wisdom potential and use wisdom to help create a better world. Call the office of Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542 to make reservations for the luncheon and request free transportation. If you are a senior, caregiver or neighbor and would like information about our services, visit www.blocknurse.org

Summer happenings at Hamline Midway Library

Join the fun with our Summer Reading Program performers on Monday afternoons at 2 p.m.

On July 14 dance with Wendy's Wiggle, Jiggle, and Jam. July 21 brings Dazzling Dave, Yo-Yo Master. Everyone's favorite, Bill the Juggler, will be at Hamline Midway on July 28.

Every Friday afternoon crafts will be available. Drop in between 3 and 5 p.m. and make something fun. July 11 will be place mats, July 18 a hanging jelly fish, July 25 lunch bag books, August 1 hats, and August 8 will be paper plate critters.

Dance, Dance Revolution and Teen Gaming will be held Saturday, July 19, at 2 p.m.

The Saturday matinee will be Bee Movie, shown at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 26.

Bedtime storytimes are held every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. Toddler and preschool storytimes are held every Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. On Saturday, July 12, a special Play & Learn Storytime will be held from 10:30 - noon. Share age appropriate books and toys with your child from birth to 5 years old. Drop in! No registration required. Provided by Resources for Child Caring.

Hamline Midway Library will be closed August 11-16 for re-carpeting.

Nutrition discussed at La Leche August 12

Nutrition and Weaning is the topic of the next meeting of Como-Midway La Leche League, to be held on Tuesday, August 12, at 7 p.m.

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

A lending library on a wide

Como Zoo launches recycling



Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, along with Eureka Recycling, Mayor Chris Coleman and Sparky the Sea Lion unveiled a new pilot project for public recycling. Visitors to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory will now be able to recycle their aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles, and milk cartons and juice boxes! Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is partnering with Eureka Recycling to launch a pilot public space recycling project for the city of Saint Paul. Lessons learned at Como and at the second pilot location, Mears Park in Lowertown, will inform the expansion of public space recycling throughout the city.

variety of related topics is also available. For meeting location or more information, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

Washington High Alumni 1929-1958 banquet

The Washington High School 50-Plus Club (all students who attended between 1929 and 1958) will hold its annual banquet at 11 a.m. Sept. 6 at the Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave. in Oakdale. For more information, call Nancy Chamberlin Slater, Class of 1957, 763-689-1539.

Frogtown Community Health Fair Aug. 23

Want to know if you have high blood pressure? How about if you are prone to diabetes? Do you know how to eat healthy for cheap? Are you looking for a place to work-out close to your home? You can find answers to all these questions and more at the health fair on August 23rd where health professionals will be answering your questions from 10am-2pm and giving you free merchandizes or discounted memberships. Want more? How about live music, free entertainment for kids, and hourly door prizes? Oh, we forgot to mention: The finals of the annual Frogtown football tournament, featuring teams of local kids, will be going on concurrently! So come out to West Minnehaha Recreation Center on August 23rd to have fun, meet your neighbors, and to learn ways of making your health better. This is a free event and it will take place rain or shine. If you have any question, call Donna Roost at 651-641-1565. See you there!

Zion Lutheran holds corn feed August 5

Corn, hotdogs, watermelon and beverages will be served on August 5th from 6-8 PM at Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave. St Paul. The St Paul Fire Department will have a fire truck on site for all to see and explore. All are welcome! A free will offering will be taken, the proceeds of which will support the local foodshelf - Keystone

We hope the residents of the Lafond neighborhood will join us for this evening of food and fun.

VBS July 28th - 30th at Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 1697 Lafond Ave., will hold a free vacation bible school - Avalanche Ranch – on July 28-30 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for all children who have completed one year of pre-school through 6th grade. Parents may register their children by calling the church office at 651-698-0851. The three nights will be filled with fun, crafts, Bible story time, and a snack. All are welcome to Avalanche Ranch!

Vacation Bible School at Bethel August 4-8

Bethel Lutheran Church, 670 W. Wheelock Parkway is having Vacation Bible School (VBS) August 4 - 8 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Children ages 5 - 10 are invited to join us for an amazing hike through the Bible to meet Jesus, our Forever Friend. Kids will find fun, faith and friends on this Friendship Trek. A nutritious dinner is also served at 5:30 p.m. in the church

fellowship hall prior to VBS each evening. Register online at www.bethelstpaul.com by clicking the VBS Registration link.

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

Rice Street Library offers July events

The Rice Street Branch Library has many cool activities planned for July.

St. Paul E-Democracy will offer the workshop You Tube and Online Video from 10:15 am-12 noon on Friday July 11. Video can be a powerful medium, and today it is easier than ever to produce and publish your own video clips. Find out what people have done with online video and learn some basics of recording, editing and uploading videos to the internet. Teens and adults welcome. Please register at the library or by calling 651-558-2223

Learn to Draw Manga from 2-3 pm on Saturday July 12 with Matt Wendt and Becky Grutzik. All 12-18 year olds are welcome! Please register at the library or by calling 651-558-2223.

Bill the Juggler will perform on Tuesday July 15 at 10:30 am as part of the Saint Paul Public Library's Summer Reading Program. Please join us for a fun and exciting show!

The Anime Club will meet from 2-4 pm every Wednesday in July and August. All 12-18 year olds are welcome. No registration is necessary. Just stop in!

Stepping Stone Theatre classes for 6-12 year olds will be held from 2-4 pm Monday- Friday July 14-25. "S.H.A.B.A.M." or "Super Heroes Against Big Angry Meanies" will provide students with the opportunity to create exciting and zany characters and bring them to life while they discover how to be

a "super hero" in their own schools and communities. Register at the library or by calling 651-558-2223.

The library will offer early-literacy-based preschool story times on Tuesday, July 22 and 29 from 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Experience six hands-on chemistry activities designed for children and their parents when Chemists in the Library visit at 1:30 pm on Saturday July 26. Chemistry volunteers will be on hand to help children and parents with each activity. Stop in and join the fun!

"Mission Possible," a Stepping Stone Theatre class for 13-16 year olds, will be held Monday-Friday July 28-August 8 from 2-4 pm. In this create-a-play class, students draw from their own real life experiences to create stories and characters through improvisation, music and movement. The group will perform their creation for a public audience on the last day of class. Register at the library or by calling 651-558-2223.

The North End Book Club will discuss A Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion from 12:30-2:30 on Monday July 28. For more information or to register, please call Sandy at 651-293-8811. This group is offered in partnership with North end Community Education.

Free Job Search Assistance will be offered by a consultant from Goodwill-Easter Seals on Friday July 11 and 25 from 10:30 am-12:30 pm. No appointment is nec-

The Rice Street Library is located at 1011 Rice Street between Lawson and Hatch. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 12:30-9 p.m.; Tuesday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

For more event information, please call 651-558-2223 or visit www.sppl.org.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Rosetown Playhouse holds summer camps



Rosetown Playhouse still has openings available for three summer theatre and music camps for youth ages 7-14. Margot Olsen, RAMS drama and music teacher, will be Camp Director. Musical Theatre camp is a 4 day camp that creates, rehearses and performs a short theatre piece using the skills and talents of students ages 7-14. For more information call Roseville Parks and Recreation at 651-792-7006. Above, students perform in a scene from one of the summer camps from 2007.

Newell Park celebrates 100th anniversary

Newell Park is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. This historic park is set amidst a rolling landscape, a wealth of ancient oaks, and a preserved 1929 park pavilion. In the Hamline Midway neighborhood, the iconic mural on the Mirror of Korea building reminds neighbors of this historic landscape. Minneapolis artist Chris Baird chose the image from a circa-1900 photograph of a family in Newell Park from the Minnesota Historical Society archives.

H. S. Fairchild proposed the sale of the land to the Park Board in 1907, and official resolution for the creation of the park (Res. No. 1313) came on February 3, 1908. Fairchild suggested the name in

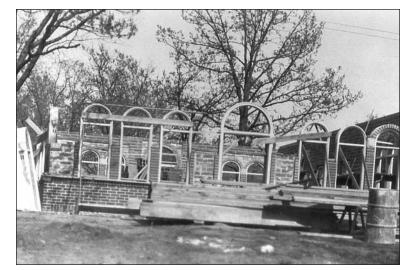
misspelling of "Newell" with two Ls made it into the park board minutes and it has stayed with the park these 100 years. Stanford Newel was born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1839 and moved to St. Anthony in 1855. Newel graduated from Yale in 1861 and in 1864 from Harvard Law School. He returned to Minnesota and set up a law practice in St. Paul. Newel served a two-year appointment on the first St. Paul Parks Board and founded the Minnesota Club in St. Paul. He was appointed by President William McKinley and served as the United States Minister to the Netherlands and Luxembourg from 1897 to 1905. Stanford Newel died on April 6,

By KRISTA FINSTAD HANSON honor of Stanford Newel. The 1907 and is buried with wife Helen in St. Paul's Oakland Ceme-Early maps show that this

area was part of a large wetlands. From oral and written histories found in Hamline University's yearbook The Liner, mention is made of a Frog Pond in Newell Park. However what happened to the pond and where exactly it was located is unknown. Additionally Hamline University students promoted the existence of a Proposal Rock located in the park area.

A vibrant part of the history of Newell Park comes with the story of the neighborhood banding together to make the park a center of the community. As early as 1912, a group of neighbors formed the Newell Park Improvement Association. Their motto was "Improve and Prosper, Know Your Neighbors." President Charles E. Parish led the group that sent off communications to Park Board Commissioner Herman C. Wenzel with their suggestions for park improvement such as getting portable toilets, benches, a baseball diamond, a sand pit, water service, a portable band stand, a place for a big bonfire in the park.

Fundraising began to create a pavilion for gatherings. A July 15, 1927 St. Paul Dispatch article details the "Newell Park widows" who had been "left to pine alone in the family homes while their husbands toiled in Newell Park to prepare the recreational spot for its formal public opening." These men graded the land with horses, and laid the concrete foundation for the pavilion. The article details



This is a photo of the construction of the Newell Park building in May, 1929. (Photo courtesy of the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department)

the formal public opening of the park in a three-day celebration including a parade, dancing, movies, athletic competitions, a boxing bout, and fireworks.

St. Paul City Architect Frank X. Tewes designed the Spanish Mission-Revival style building that we see today, which was completed in 1929. Commissioner Wenzel proposed a bond issue to include \$8000 for the pavilion with toilets, and \$4000 for park improvements. In the 1930-40s Newell Park's pavilion was used for Social Dance Instruction, club room games, and Arts and Crafts instructions. Public programs included an annual summer Festival in July, the City Wide Safe & Sane Hallowe'en Night, a Patriotic Thanksgiving, and Community Christmas program.

In the 1950s the windows of the recreation center were bricked in and the interior of the building was used as a recreation center until 1992. At this time remodeling was done to remove an "insensitive building addition" that was added in 1963. Community efforts and a partnership with the

Parks and Recreation Department allowed for a historically sensitive restoration to open up the bricked in windows, restore the building's architectural character, and add modernized toilets and kitchen facilities. A Grand Opening was held on Saturday February 27, 1993.

Today the park pavilion is used for the Hamline Midway Coalition's annual meeting, and can be rented for parties. The two covered picnic shelters can be reserved. The ball field remains, as well as a basketball court, but the ice skating rink is no longer created in the winter. Two areas of modern playground equipment for older and younger kids is a popular draw for the park. A "vintage" set of swings and a relaxing bench swing can be found in the lower-lying area of the park.

The historic fire ring remains a charming feature of the park, along with the restored historic pavilion, period-appropriate lamp posts, and the scenic landscape. The stately oaks make this park, now 100 years old, truly a historic landscape worthy of celebration and preservation.



This photo, taken in 1938, is of Lavaun Beerbower after being proposed by then-Hamline University student Marshall Hankerson on Proposal Rock in Newell Park. (Photograph courtesy of Steph Hankerson)

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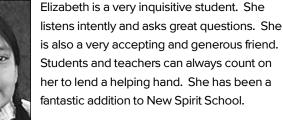
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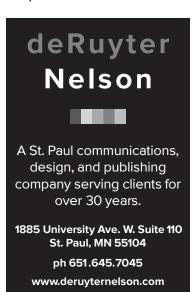
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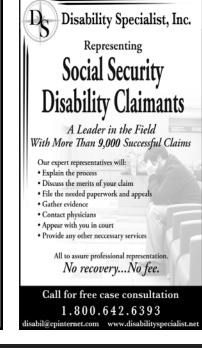


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(SIN HOUSE HENDER





Wakanheza Project

Continued from page 12

museum store. The staff was trained to pay attention to problems and step in and lend parents a hand. They are called funstigators and playologists, and they intervene and distract the children during a long wait. The Museum was so successful in changing the situation, it won an award and has promoted the program in other museums throughout the country.

Another location that was the scene of families in stress was the Women's Advocate Shelter.

"It's the same as any other shelter in the country," Gault said. "The intake process was the hardest time. The family was sent to a cubicle to fill out forms, and the children are very agitated and the mom is at her worst moment."

The intake process was changed. The family is welcomed and assured they are safe. They get settled in a room, and are shown around the shelter and a play area. While the children are there, the mom is taken back to her room to complete the intake.

"They have seen huge changes," Gault said.

Two to three years ago, Wakanheza was expanded to creating welcoming environments for youth. Rice Street and the North End has benefited from the project.

Ward 5 Council Member Lee Helgen said the North End had a series of issues with youth in the area being rowdy and disruptive. Part of this evolved because the Rice Street Recreation Center had been temporarily closed down, and youngsters had no place to go.

"We were looking at a broad range of strategies, and Marty Wells from the Mayor's Office got us together with the Wakanheza project," Helgen said. "We wanted to be proactive in dealing with our youth."

According to Grit Youngquist, adolescent health coordinator with the St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Department, the first conversation about Wakanheza being used on the North End was held last fall.

A public training meeting in November scheduled for about 20 people resulted in over 50 in attendance. "People were really interested," she said.

Helgen said the North End is doing a lot of things revolving around youth issues, involving the God Squad, Circle of Peace, the library and Parks and Recreation.

"We have put together a good group to come up with a broad range of activities and programming for youth," he said. "We keep the kids engaged with a focus on having a better neighborhood. They get more ownership of their neighborhood."

Mary Margaret Sullivan, branch manager of the Rice Street Library, said the teen program has been very helpful.

"It helps us remember we have to enlighten our work with teens," she said. "We need to respect where they are coming from. In general, things are looking up and it's been a good summer so far."

She said easing tensions

with parents and children in public places has been in the whole Saint Paul Public Library system for years.

"We have an area for kids

"We have an area for kids that includes a dollhouse, stuffed animals, puzzles and crayons," she said. "If a parent is trying to get something done with a small child along, we can help. We have all had training. We can take puzzles to the computer so kids can sit by their parent. We also bring books over to them."

For Paul Iovino, commander of the Juvenile Unit, St. Paul Police Department, Wakanheza is one major part of an even bigger program designed to bring a "Summer of Peace."

"We do a good job of telling kids about what they are doing that is not right. We need to ac-

"We do a good job of telling kids about what they are doing that is not right. We need to acknowledge their good behavior."

- Paul Iovino Commander of the Juvenile Unit St. Paul Police Department

knowledge their good behavior," he said. "We need to catch them doing something right."

He supports rewarding youth for good behavior.

"We could give them more time on a specific computer at the library, or they could get a free slice of pizza from Mama's Pizza or a free ice cream cone from Dar's Ice Cream. Or something bigger—maybe Parks and Recreation could give them a free trip to Valley Fair."

He said the police, as well as other adults, have participated in Wakanheza training.

He said it is important to

not judge teens by their initial appearance, but take the time to extend a hand in greeting or say hello.

"Years later a child will remember the police office or librarian who greeted them by name," he said.

Although enforcement is a short-term solution to a problem, Iovino said it does not resolve long-term difficulties.

"We can't arrest our way out of a problem," he said.

Iovino said that, anecdotally, he is hearing of a lot less problems than last year at the library and recreation centers.

"There are a lot of really qualified people working with youth, using some great ideas," he said. "Even if it doesn't work, we can say we got together and we tried."

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WHERE: Jewish Community Center

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Associate Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health, University of Minnesota

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*RDF stands for refused-derived fuel (garbage)

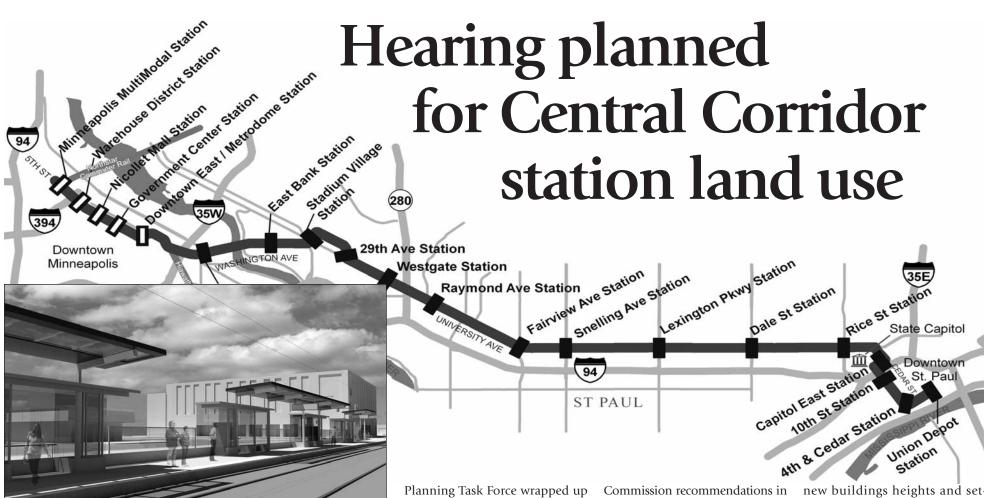


Dr. Ian Greaves

Dr. Greaves is a pulmonary medicine specialist who focuses on environmental and occupational hazards as they affect the lungs and other systems. Dr Greaves has over 100 articles and related publications on the health effects of hazardous agents, and has been active nationally and internationally in education and research efforts in environmental and occupational health. He was one of several co-authors of the NAS publication *Health Effects of Waste Incineration* and is a member of the Chemical Substances Threshold Limit Value Committee of the American Conference of Governmental and Industrial Hygienists.

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By JANE MCCLURE

Months of planning for future land uses around Central Corridor stations are reaching a key point. Plans for land use changes around the Snelling, Fairview, Raymond and Westgate stations will be the subject of a public hearing at 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 11. The public hearing on plans for land use changes around the Rice, Dale and Lexington stations is 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 25. Both public hearings will be at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Av.

The Planning Commission set the public hearing dates June 13. How to accommodate business parking and not generate spillover business or commuter parking in the surrounding neighborhoods is one topic likely to be brought up at the public hearings. Another is the extent to which commercial property owners should be regulated by the plans. Both topics were debated at length before the Central Corridor Station Area

its work in May.

The plans will influence how areas around the 11-mile, \$892 million light rail line will be redeveloped in the future. There has been strong community interest in the plans as an open house in March drew more than 200 people.

Each station area plan and the public comments received on the plans in July will be sent to the commission's Neighborhood and Current Planning Committee in August, with a recommendation back to the full Planning Commission in late August or early September.

The St. Paul City Council will receive the plans and the Planning the fall, and then will hold another public hearing or hearings before the plans are adopted. The plans then become city land use policy and will be used to guide future redevelopment of the areas. The plans will also be used to guide specific zoning recommendations in the future.

Each station area has a plan that is about a dozen pages long. The plans contain information about current and future proposed land uses, as well as some history about each area. Existing businesses could continue to operate unchanged. What would be affected by the plans' adoption is new development, with restrictions on new buildings heights and setbacks, floor area rations, placement of parking, number of offstreet parking spaces provided and building design. The intent is to promote more dense redevelopment of areas around stations. The plans also indicate future green space and park locations, as well as bike, pedestrian and transit connections to the station areas.

The plans would block some land uses, including new auto sales and rental, auto repair and auto service stations. Existing businesses of this type could remain.

The plans before the Planning Commission don't include the socalled infill stations at Western, Victoria and Hamline. The Metropolitan Council agreed in February to add those stations as future sites in the Central Corridor plans. Land use plans for those areas will be developed at a future date, according to City Planner Donna Drummond.

The task force that developed the station plans has worked on the documents since last year. The group's final meeting in May was dominated by discussion of parking. News this spring that University Avenue would lose much of its on-street parking due to light rail construction meant the plans had to be rewritten to reflect that change, said Drummond.

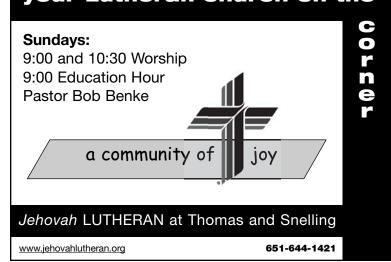
One challenge for the community task force volunteers and city staff is trying to plan for longrange land uses when the physical plans for light rail itself are still taking shape. The Metropolitan Council oversees planning for the rail line itself; the city is in charge of land use planning along the Central Corridor route.

"We don't have to imagine every contingency," said Planning Commissioner George Johnson, who chaired the task force. "We just have to get the plans done."

City officials consider station area planning to play a key role in how St. Paul supports the 11-mile Central Corridor light rail project. If the project obtains needed state and federal funding, construction would start in 2010 with trains running in 2014. Two years ago, the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) indicated that zoning and land use planning for transit are issues the City of St. Paul needed to address.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17







SUNDAYS AT CENTRAL

Summer Schedule

9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

10:00 a.m. Worship Service Mix of Traditional and Contemporary

11:00 a.m. Discussion Time

4:00 p.m. Ekklesia Ministry Ministry to Young Adults

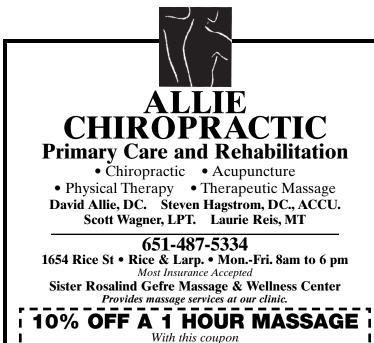
Youth & Children See website for Summer Activities Schedule

Daily Child Care 6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Care for children ages 6 weeks - pre-kindergarten Summer care for Kindergarten through age 12

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Japanese culture and history celebrated at the Como Park Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival

Taiko drums, martial arts, Ikebana, sushi and other aspects of Japanese culture, will be featured at the annual Como Park Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival, a family-friendly event, reminiscent of Japan's annual Obon holiday, on Sunday, August 17, on the grounds of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in Como Park.

Obon is an important Japanese cultural and family holiday, at which ancestral spirits are said to revisit their families for three days. Families pay their respects at gravesites and put out offerings of food and drink on a tray before household alters. They also light lanterns or small fires outside the house to symbolically guide the souls to the home. On the last evening of Obon, lanterns again guide the spirits back to their resting places.

The theme of this year's event is 'The Element of Tea." Tea is a customary drink worldwide. In Asian countries, drinking tea is an ancient tradition accompanied by a highly developed tea-based cul-

ture which is tied to art and local customs. Japanese tea ceremony is one of the representative arts of Japan. This elaborate and philosophical art form is highly ritualized and is characterized by simplicity of movement. In this respect, the art of tea brings calm to the spirit and it is intended to prepare the server and the recipient for conversation and peaceful communication. The tea ceremony may be practiced anywhere, at home, in a public place, or in

The Lantern Lighting Festival encompasses Japanese tradition—through music, dance, crafts, martial arts and lanterns. The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory grounds will open at 3 p.m., and live entertainment in the Como Ordway Memorial Japanese Garden and on the main stage will begin at 3:30p.m. Entertainment will include several taiko drumming groups, koto (Japanese sitar), shakuhachis (bamboo flutes), traditional and contemporary dance and singing. Martial arts, Ikebana

(Japanese flower arranging), origami demonstrations, kites and a host of other cultural exhibits and demonstrations will line several paths through the grounds. Japanese food and dozens of culturally-related items will be for sale. A traditional kimona will also be raffled off.

The day will culminate at dusk with the main event—the lantern lighting. Six stone lanterns and floating paper lanterns throughout the Japanese garden pond and the Frog Pond will create a vision of peacefulness and harmony to commemorate the dead.

The Como Park Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival, produced by Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, Japan America Society of Minnesota, and Saint Paul Nagasaki Sister City Committee will be held on Sunday, August 17, 2008 from 3:00 pm-9:00 pm. Admission is \$5.00 per adult (13+), \$3.00 per child (3-12) and free for under 3 years of age. Free shuttle bus service from Midway Stadium.



Taiko drums, martial arts, Ikebana, sushi and other aspects of Japanese culture, will be featured at the annual Como Park Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival, a family-friendly event, reminiscent of Japan's annual Obon holiday, on Sunday, August 17, on the grounds of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in Como Park.

Land use

Continued from page 16

Parking was one concern task force members debated in April and May. One point of debate is how much new surface parking to allow in redevelopment around the stations. The group concluded that while new surface parking should be discouraged, it shouldn't be banned.

"Parking is a necessary evil,' said Judd Fenlon of Wellington Management. The company has developed housing in the University-Highway 280 areas. He said developers do understand the opposition to creating large amount of surface parking. But there is a

huge cost issue in developing parking ramps or underground parking. "The day the market can support development that can be built without surface parking, it will be built," he said.

Neighborhood groups along University may oppose the idea of expanding surface parking, "but that may be what is needed to keep businesses here," said Anne White of the District Councils Collaborative. She said any new surface parking has to be considered carefully and other options, such as sharing existing parking, explored.

Not only is the task force looking at ways to accommodate lost business parking, there is also a focus on trying to reduce the impact of spillover parking into the surrounding neighborhoods. One issue city planners have raised is that it is cumbersome for home owners to set up residential permit parking districts. This is currently done through a petition process, said Drummond. City officials may need to look at ways to make obtaining permits easier.

The task forced also debated how much say property owners and business groups should have in the plans, as compared to other organizations and individuals. Jewish Community Action representative Andrea Lubov and a group of other task force members gave the group at letter at its last meeting, expressing concern about comments submitted by Paula Maccabee. The former Ward Four City Council member represents

the owners of Midway Center and has raised objections to a number of aspects of land use planning that would affect her clients.

Maccabee said that some of ideas for more density and transitoriented development appear to hold areas to a higher standard for redevelopment. "In some cases the plans are more aggressive than what property owners want to see," she said. While it may be appropriate to call for taller, more dense redevelopment in 15 years, "some of the ideas seem premature at this time."

"We just think some of the ideas for the various sites are too specific," said David Stokes of Colliers Turley Martinson Tucker. The veteran commercial real estate agent is chair of the Midway

Chamber of Commerce. He said the station area plans are meant as a guide, not to be a zoning ordinance themselves. Changing zoning for specific parcels is a step for the future."

Lubov said some of the comments are divisive. But property owner representatives on the task force said the comments represent their interests as well. During the months of station area planning, "there has not been an overwhelming response from property owners," said Jack McCann, whose family owns Update Companies. Update owns and manages properties at the west end of University.

"It would be great to have had more property owners involved, but there seems to be a disconnect," McCann added.

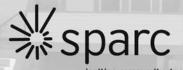
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In Our **Community**

Continued from page 13

'Teddy & Alice' performed at Como Lakeside

Politics 100 years ago was interesting and outrageous and the youngest President in the history of the United States was in office at age 42. With an eye to this election year, Rosetown Playhouse is mounting one of America's best political stories for its 2008 summer musical. "Teddy & Alice" is the tale of President Theodore Roosevelt and his stubborn, independent daughter Alice, who was the talk of Washington, DC.

Alice always did what she pleased and was a leading political wit for more than seven decades. The show opens July 10 and runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:00 pm through July 19 at the covered outdoor Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 North Lexington Parkway in Saint Paul.

Teddy Roosevelt himself said, "I can either be President of the United States or can control Alice. I cannot possibly do both!" The battle of wills between the colorful American President and his free-spirited daughter provides a great family

Much of the music in the show was composed by John Philip Sousa, with additional original music by Richard. Kapp. "We all know the 'Stars and Stripes Forever' is by Sousa," Mr. Kapp said, "but my goal was to write music as if he and I had been partners for years. I defy anyone to tell which is which."

The musical comedy overflows with rousing marches and patter songs and features a cast of larger-than-life characters which includes the five younger Roosevelt children, J.P. Morgan, William Howard Taft, and a young Franklin and Eleanor. It's a giant guffaw at the expense of politics and politicians—something we will need as the year winds out to the November elections.

Philip Bologna plays Theodore Roosevelt and Alice is portrayed by Chelsea Bertsch. Bologna performed with the New

York City Opera and the Summer Opera companies. He has directed or performed in over 100 productions and co-founded and served as the Artistic Director of Lyric Arts Company in Anoka for 11 years.

Bertsch, of Saint Paul, has sung publicly for four years and has a particular interest in musical theater. She has been seen recently in "Cats" at Heritage Theater Company, the Young Artist's Initiative production of "Annie," and Rosetown Playhouse's "Babes in Toyland."

Teddy & Alice is directed by Joe Hendren, local playwright, director and actor whose directing credits also include shows at Masquers Theatre Company, Lyric Arts Main Street Stage and

Lakeshore Players.

Other Como-Midway area actors are Rachel Evans, Katie Haugen, Rachel Hausman and Carly Hayes, with Jim Belich as labor leader Samuel Gompers.

Tickets are \$9 or \$7 for children 12 and under and can be purchased online at or by calling 651-792-7414 extension 2. can also be purchased weekdays at Roseville Parks & Recreation in Roseville City Hall or at the Como Pavilion gate on show nights.

Next deadline: July 28







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Snelling Avenue businesses, community SERVICES • SERVIC discuss 'Green Street Initiative'

Snelling Ave business owners and the public are invited to join SABI in learning about the Snelling Green Streets Initiative on July 15th, 12 noon-1 p.m., Hamline Park Building (SE corner of Snelling and Lafond). Light lunch provided

"Snelling Green Streets" is an initiative to transform North Snelling Avenue into a more ecologically sound and pedestrian friendly street.

Design concepts will be shown and participants will be asked to prioritize the design concepts for preliminary engineering by the City of Saint

Designs that we will consider include: Creating a more attractive entryway at Pierce Butler Route; Flower-filled medians and more trees along Snelling; Improving Hamline University's physical connection to the business district; Parking solutions for businesses near Snelling and University; and Hamline Park improvements.

For more information, contact Allison Sharkey, Program Manager, Sparc, 651-488-1039.

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Rosetown Playhouse holds summer camps

Rosetown Playhouse still has es and performs a short theatre openings available for three summer theatre and music camps for youth ages 7-14. Margot Olsen, RAMS drama and music teacher, will be Camp Director for this, the fourth summer that the community theatre group has offered day camps in cooperation with Roseville Department of Parks and Recreation. Musical Theatre camp is a 4 day camp that creates, rehears-

piece using the skills and talents of students ages 7-14.

These fun, high-activity camps will be held at the Roseville Area Middle School Theatre. Each camp runs 9 a.m. - 12:50 p.m., Monday - Thursday, with a final performance free to family and friends on Thursdays at 11:45 a.m. July 14 - 17 camp theme is "Androcles and the Lion; July 21 - 24, "Wiley and the Hairy Man" and the theme for August 4 - 7 is 'Earth Dances and Stories.' The camps are co-educational and campers bring a lunch and a beverage. The cost for the four-day camp is \$81 for Roseville residents or \$89 for non-Roseville residents. Register online at www.rosetownplayhouse.org or by calling Roseville Parks & Recreation at 651-792-7006.

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When the heat of summer arrives, I want to eat as little as possible, create a light and fresh meal without actually cooking, and dine outside until the mosquitoes and bees come around. Maybe that's why I spend more time thinking about ice cream these days, than about actual food.

Every neighborhood should have an ice cream parlor within walking distance. In the Midway-Como-North End area, we're lucky to have two fine independent ice cream establishments.

Conny's Creamy Cone (1197 N. Dale Street), a walk-up, road-side ice cream stand, has been owned for 13 years by Conny McCullough. According to McCullough, back in the 1950s the shop was an independent ice cream shop with car hops, although other businesses used the building in the intermittent years before the first incarnation of the Creamy Cone was started 18 years ago.

Where else but Conny's can you get peanut butter, or almond, or peach, or other unbelievable flavors of soft serve ice cream? Local foods enthusiasts can be happy to know that Mc-Cullough gets her dairy mix from a farm in North Dakota. McCullough purchased a specialty machine from a Canadian company, which allows for flavors to be mixed in with the vanilla ice milk. Every order of flavored ice cream is mixed on the spot. Mc-Cullough states that making the flavored ice cream is "a little labor intensive, but it's a different market of people that want the flavors, and we sell a lot of flavored cones." A single cone is \$1.19, flavors and dips are 30

Local Bites

By KRISTA FINSTAD HANSON

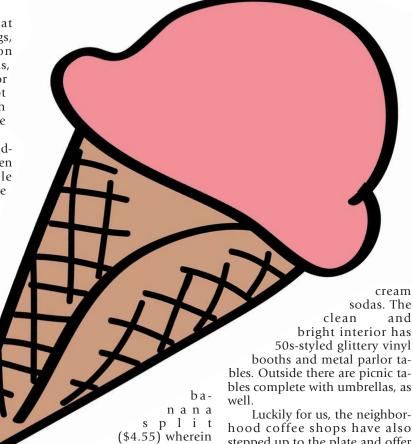
Screaming for ice cream

cents extra. Baby-sized kids' cones are 79 cents.

Food is also available at Conny's including chilli dogs, burgers, beer-battered onion rings, Wisconsin cheese curds, and French fries. "Believe it or not," says McCullough, "a lot of people like to dip French fries in their chocolate ice cream."

If you're looking for an oldfashioned ice cream parlor, then head on over to Dar's Double Scoop (1046 Rice Street) where there are more than 30 flavors of ice cream available, including 3 sugar-free varieties. Dar's serves Brown's Ice Cream manufactured in Northeast Minneapolis, and Cedar Crest Ice Cream from Manitowoc, Wisconsin. A single scoop will set you back \$1.65, but why just get a simple cone? Why not go for a sundae (\$3.75 for two scoops) with one of 9 toppings, as well as whipped cream, candy toppings, or sprinkles?

For special occasions you can't beat the make-your-own



Luckily for us, the neighborhood coffee shops have also stepped up to the plate and offer ice cream for their summer visitors in addition to their usual coffee drinks, teas, soups, sandwiches, pastries and other treats.

Java Train (1341 Pascal Street) serves 12 flavors of St.

Paul's own Izzy's Ice Cream. Little ones can get an Izzy Cone (75 cents), the rest of us can get a single (\$3.00) or a double (\$4.00). A special Sampler Sundae is created from your choice of 5 flavors of Izzy-size scoops for \$4.00. The Coffee Grounds (1579 Hamline) offers 8 flavors of either Land O' Lakes, Blue Bunny, or Kemps ice cream. Their specialty is an Espresso Sundae for those who want their caffeine and sugar fix (\$2.94). And after a healthy walk around Como Lake, reward yourself with a stop in the pavilion to the Black Bear Crossings (1360 N. Lexington) for a cone or dish of Glenview Farms ice cream (\$2.25 single).

Whether it's customer demand or sheer love of variety, Ginkgo Coffeehouse (721 Snelling Avenue N), which is celebrating 15 years in business this year, may as well add "& Soda Fountain" to its name. Owner Kathy Sundberg and staff have come up with creative ways to dress up their 6-8 varieties of Brown's Ice Cream flavors that they sell. Sundaes can be topped with fresh-frozen fruit or a chopped-up cookie of your choice (\$2.25). Kids can gulp down a Purple Cow (\$2.20) made from grape flavoring, vanilla ice cream and milk, or their grownups can have a Mastodon made from mocha and ice cream and whipped cream (\$2.71 small). Iced coffees, smoothies, and old fashioned, fountain-style drinks made from carbonated soda water, flavorings, and ice cream are all available in addition to the coffee drinks, tea, and food offerings.

HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

Famous children's authors to speak at Hamline

Hamline is kicking off this summer's classes for its master of fine arts in writing for children and young adult program by inviting the public to book readings by nationally known children's and young adult authors.

All of the readings are free and open to the public, and take place in Giddens Learning Center, Room 100E, 1556 Hewitt Avenue. For more information, contact the Graduate School of Liberal Studies at 651-523-2047.

Here are just a few of the readings open to the public:

Liza Ketchum, Jackie Briggs-Martin, and Claire Rudolph Murphy

Tuesday, July 9

7-8 p.m.

Ketchum is the author of fourteen books for young readers, including the recent historical novel, Where the Great Hawk Flies, which won several honors and is on the New York Public Library's List of Best Books. Briggs-Martin is the author of sixteen picture books, including Snowflake Bentley, which received a Caldecott medal. Murphy is an award-winning author of seventeen books, including Children of Alcatraz: Growing Up on the Rock and Daughters of the Desert: Remarkable Women of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim Traditions.



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Jane Resh Thomas and Marsha Chall

Wednesday, July 9

7-8 p.m

Thomas is a recipient of the Kerlan Award and the author of fifteen books, including *The Comeback Dog; Saying Good-Bye to Grandma; Courage at Indian Deep*; and *Behind the Mask: The Life of Queen Elizabeth I.* Chall is the author of a chapter book for children and six picture books, including *Up North at the Cabin*, an American Booksellers Pick.

Nikki Grimes

Friday, July 11

7-8 p.m.

Grimes is the author of several books, including the novel *Bronx Masquerade*, winner of the 2003 Coretta Scott King Author Award and the popular poetry collection *Meet Danitra Brown*.

Gary Schmidt, Phyllis Root, and Marsha Qualey

Sunday, July 13

7-8:15 p.m.

Schmidt is the author of more than fifteen books, including *The Wednesday Wars*, a 2008 Newbery Honor Award winner, and *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, which won a Newbery Honor Award. Root is the author of more than thirty books, almost all of them picture books. *Aunt Nancy and Old Man Trouble* won the Minnesota Book Award. Qualey is the author of several young adult novels, including *Just Like That*, *Too Big a Storm*, *One Night*, and *Close to a Killer*. Her books have appeared on numerous best-of-the-year lists.

THE MFA PROGRAM

The readings and lectures are part of Hamline University Graduate School of Liberal Studies' master of fine arts in writing for children and young adults. With a faculty-to-student ratio of just five to one, the master's program provides an in-depth education in the field of children's literature and a high degree of individual attention.

