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Midway  
Como  
North End

# Monitor



Your community newspaper since 1975

April 2013 • Vol. 38 No. 12

www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

30,000 Circulation

## 'Illusionist' show may raise spirits and more at Merriam Park's Masonic Lodge

By JAN WILLMS

Built in 1910, the Masonic Triune Temple at 1898 Iglehart is the last remaining historic temple within the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. It serves as the meeting place for several Masonic Lodges and over the years has also hosted historical groups and societies.

Designed in a neo-classical style, the building has a rich history—and with that history comes the possibility of the Temple being haunted. So, what better way for Masonic Lodge St. Paul No. 3 to raise funds for maintenance and renovation than by offering a show featuring spiritualism and illusion?

Intrigue Theater, founded by

St. Paul Native Sean-Paul and his wife, Juliane, will offer performances at 8 pm April 19 and 20 at the Temple. Intrigue Theater had its debut performance at the Temple on Friday the 13th in the month of May in 2011, also a show designed to raise funds for the Temple's maintenance.

"Films like the DaVinci Code and National Treasure have given a rebirth to Masonic culture, with some of their references," Sean-Paul said. "Meetings are conducted in the Temple in the most traditional sense."

"People who work there say the place is haunted," Sean-Paul said. "They will tell you so, matter-of-factly and with a straight face." He said there is supposedly

someone up in the attic. "During our last performance here, people said they experienced something that was not a part of the act."

Sean-Paul grew up in St. Paul, in the Macalester and Groveland area. His grandfather was a caretaker of the Masonic Temple since he was a small child. Like the "Incredible Burt Wonderstone," a current film about an illusionist, Sean-Paul knew at age eight what he would aspire to be. "I have been interested in illusion my whole life," he said.

Sean-Paul and his wife have performed around the country and currently live in Branson, MO. They offer Intrigue Theater at Eureka Springs, AR. "It's like Stillwater, but bigger," Sean-Paul said. "And the town is very Victorian and very haunted."

The Illusionist and the Medium is the title of the show that will be presented at the Triune Temple.

"Every segment we do starts with some type of real-world premise," Sean-Paul explained. "There is the perception of what a voodoo doll does, for example. The person on stage thinks I am tapping them with a stick, but the audience is laughing nervously as it sees what is really going on. But everything has a relevant, historical premise."

He said that for his performance as an illusionist, he channels the spirits of Harry Houdini and a lesser-known Houdini Thurston, who at one time was as famous as Houdini himself.

One of the performances Intrigue Theater has done is hold a séance on Halloween at the famously haunted Crescent Hotel in Arkansas, trying to connect with Houdini, who died on Oct. 31, 1926.

"Our performances are a throwback to turn-of-the-century type of entertainment," Sean-Paul continued. "And the Masonic Temple has a venue that has an old-world feel to it."

He added that although the show may have a Victorian atmosphere, the effects are definitely not old-school. "We have



*Illusionist Sean-Paul of Intrigue Theater demonstrates mind over matter as he bends the spoon with the power of the mind. This trick will be performed at the Masonic Triune Temple at 1898 Iglehart at shows April 19 and 20.*

magicians coming to see us, and we fool them all the time," Sean-Paul said.

He said another performer with Intrigue Theater is the couple's Capuchin monkey, Frankie. The monkey is dressed in a King Tut headdress, representing the honor in which monkeys were held in Egypt.

"They have found mummified monkeys," Sean-Paul related. "The early Egyptians believed monkeys were vessels used by the gods to roam the earth."

He said the first part of the

show scheduled for St. Paul will feature illusion, with him channeling the spirit of Thurston. "We never use the word magic in our shows, but rather talk about the mysteries of mankind," Sean-Paul said.

In the second half of the show, his wife channels the spirit of Annie Fay, who was an early medium around the time of Houdini and had some connections with him.

"Our show is very interactive, and we engage people from the audience," Sean-Paul said.



*Juliana Fay, playing the part of a Victorian Medium, will call upon the spirits in the crowd and the Haunted Mason Building when she performs with Sean-Paul on April 19 and 20. Last time they performed in the same building some very surprising things happened.*

### ON FACEBOOK IN MARCH

If you are not a Monitor Facebook fan, then during the last month you probably missed:



- local businesses in a competition to gather food for "Minnesota FoodShare" month;
- local help needed for the first "Breeding Bird Atlas" in Minnesota;
- Lula Vintage Ware opens its doors after major renovation;
- new business Globul Designs opens on Snelling Ave.;
- picture from the turnout at the Midway Chamber Lunch at the Tea House;
- reminder that Paw Pals meets at the Hamline Library;
- reminder of the Elders Luncheon;
- Jehovah Lutheran's 90th Anniversary reservation deadline;
- reminder of the Caregivers Support Group meeting in the Midway;
- notice of Family Square Dance night at Hamline Church;
- music Under Glass at Como Conservatory notices;
- reminder of Kids Book Club meeting at Hamline Library;
- new starter kits for urban growers at Egg Plant Farm Supply;
- co-ed Drum Circle meeting;
- notice about meeting in the series, "All About Old-Time Trolleys" at Como Park;
- Charlie Chaplin Film Fest at local library;
- notice and link to the official activities listing of the St. Paul Parks;
- opening of the Spring Flower Show at the Conservatory;
- notice of the District 6 annual meeting date and info;
- Hamline Midway Elders put out call for spring clean-up help for area elders;
- breaking News of Hamline Midway Coalition hiring of new Community Organizer;
- notice of Roseville Area High School current play schedule;
- opening day of Northwest Como Rec Center for summer registration;
- Dist 66 reps to hold town hall meeting;
- annual spaghetti dinner at St. Stephanus reminder;
- free family concert at Ginkgo Coffeehouse;
- breaking news when District 10 announces new Administer hire;
- notice of community meeting for "Green Line Walkability Survey" summary



# Monitor

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The Monitor is a monthly community publication in the Midway, Como and North End areas of St. Paul, owned and operated by deRuyter-Nelson Publications, Inc. All correspondence should be sent to the Monitor, 1885 University Ave., #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Editorial and advertising offices can be reached at 651-917-4183. Our fax number is 651-645-4780.

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## HEART Work Camp volunteers available

HEART Work Camp volunteers available June 10-13, 2013 for large projects at seniors' homes. Deadline is April 30. Senior homeowners in need of organizing, painting, window washing, gutter cleaning, landscape projects, cement work, please contact Monica at HM Elders at (651) 209-6542 or [monica@hmelers.org](mailto:monica@hmelers.org).

## Cafesjian's Carousel opens May 1

Cafesjian's Carousel opens for its 14th season in Como Park May 1.

These are the hours: May 1-Sept. 3: Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sept. 4-Oct. 31: Saturday-Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Infants under age 1 ride free; tickets for all other riders are \$2.

The historic carousel that graced the Minnesota State Fair for 75 years (and was in downtown St. Paul for a few years) has operated since 2000 in a \$1.1 million pavilion just next to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park and the new Visitor Center.

For information, call 651-489-4628 or see [www.ourfair-carousel.org](http://www.ourfair-carousel.org).

# Monitor In A Minute

## HRA approves reuse of St. Andrew's

The former St. Andrew's Church and School will get new life with the transformation into the new home for the Twin Cities German Immersion Charter School. The St. Paul City Council acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) gave the project preliminary approval March 27. Final approval will be in April.

The HRA gave preliminary approval to issue up to \$10 million in conduit lease revenue bonds for the school building owner, Educational Properties TCGIS, LLC. The school was founded in 2005 and has expanded from kindergarten and first grade to its first eighth grade graduating class this June. Enrollment is expected to top 500 by 2017-2018. The school is currently at 1745 University Ave., in leased space. The bonds will be used to finance acquisition, renovation, construction and equip-

ment of the new facility at 1028-1030 Van Slyke Avenue (the former church school) and the former church building at 1031 Como Avenue.

A building addition of 20,180 square feet to connect the buildings is planned, as is the demolition of the former church rectory. The school building will be used for classroom space. The former 11,000 square foot church sanctuary will be renovated into cafeteria, gym, auditorium, and

ancillary classroom space. Renovation and new construction will begin as soon as possible in May. The existing school building and church will be ready for occupancy this fall, and the new addition will be completed by late November, 2013.

District 6 Planning Council has been involved in meetings with the school and supports the project. It has been in the works since before the district council

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# Episcopal Homes moves ahead with groundbreaking at University and Fairview

Old Porky's site latest location for two new projects, HRA approves the issuance and sale up of to \$30 million in revenue bonds

By JANE MCCLURE

The expansion of Episcopal Homes of Minnesota's University and Fairview campus can move ahead toward a May 1 groundbreaking. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, took key steps on the \$45 million project March 27.

The HRA approved the issuance and sale of up to \$30 million in senior housing and health care revenue bonds for Episcopal Homes of Minnesota in order to finance two new projects located on Episcopal Homes' main campus. This will be a conduit bond issue and won't affect the city's credit rating or lending ability. The HRA also approved and authorized a \$500,000 HOME loan to help finance a new HUD 202 senior housing, which is part of the new project. The project has a total cost of about \$45 million.

The project will be a 174-unit, seven-story building on the former Porky's restaurant site and University and Lynnhurst avenues. It will contain three separate senior living options. These will be Midway Pointe, a 50-unit federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 202 residence offering subsidized independent living for seniors 62 and older; 64 units of catered living called The Terrace at Iris Park; and 60 units of long-term care and memory care units called Episcopal Homes on University Avenue. Construction will start later this year, with opening in September 2014 eyed. With strong demand for senior housing and long waiting lists for Episcopal Homes' other facilities, the complex will likely be full the day it opens.

"This is going to create a five-star campus of senior housing and care," said Episcopal Homes of Minnesota CEO Marvin Plakut. It is also the first major new housing

project to break ground along the Central Corridor light rail line. The line should be in full operation by the time the new housing complex opens its doors.

Plakut said the project would not have been possible without the cooperation of the city and the community. "We've had great support."

The project has been through numerous community meetings and city reviews. Part of its site was rezoned last year by the St. Paul Planning Commission. The City Council finalized the zoning change earlier this year. The project has the support of Union Park District Council. It is seen as providing affordable rental housing for seniors and more transit-oriented, high density housing immediately adjacent to transportation and retail shops.

"We think this is a really exciting project," said Planning and Economic Development (PED) Director Cecile Bedor. "It ties in well to the (Central Corridor) light rail line."

Episcopal Homes, long known as Episcopal Church Home, has provided housing and care for senior citizens for more than 100 years. The campus at University and Fairview has four housing options on the property, the Episcopal Church Homes skilled nursing facility, Iris Park Commons assisted living units, the 47-unit independent living facility Cornelia Home and Seabury, a 50-unit affordable, independent living facility. Cornelia Home has no income restrictions for residents, while Seabury is restricted to households earning 50% area median income or less. Each of the four buildings is owned, managed and operated by affiliates of Episcopal Homes of Minnesota.

The project has been before the HRA Board before. In May

2011 the HRA approved \$500,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) loan funds to Episcopal Homes to help acquire the site located at 1890 University Avenue for a new HUD 202 project. But as the project changed and grew, the loan was never finalized or funded. Bedor said city staff later determined that the project isn't eligible for CDBG funding and instead proposed a HOME loan fund.

Since the 2011 vote, the project has expanded to include additional housing units. The seven-story building will include shared community space including a therapy pool and fitness center, a pub/café and market, and a hair salon. These will be open to residents of all of Episcopal Homes' facilities. Also planned is a neighborhood coffee shop, open to the public, at the University and Lynnhurst Avenue corner of the

building. The corner is adjacent to the Fairview station for the light rail line.

Another unique feature of the project is a day care center. Plakut said the intent is for campus residents to be able to interact with children. "We think that will be very popular with our residents and with families seeking day care."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Letters to the Editor

### Como Men's Golf Club opposes re-use of Como Golf Course

This communication is intended for the City Council of St. Paul, District Councils and anyone involved with the future of Como Golf Course and its future. The following views are those of the Como Men's Golf Club Board of Directors and its membership.

First of all, we oppose the request of the St. Paul Parks & Recreation Department's request for funding of a study concerning the re-use of Como Golf Course. We further oppose the implicit decision having been made to close the course. This study is unneeded as the topic has already been addressed in an earlier Transportation Implementation Plan for the entire Regional Park. We suggest that if the \$100,000 asked for to implement this study is available at a later date that these funds be used in an effort to promote and improve golf participation both at Como and the other City courses.

It was in 1929 that Como Golf Course was founded. During its 84 years this course has been, and we hope will have opportunity to continue as an attractive amenity which complements other activities within the park as well as promoting active life styles as encouraged by the department. We commend Parks and Recreation for developing various marketing tools, such as passes, customer loyalty cards, a birthday club and other options available to golfers.

Yes, golf is on the decline, not only here, but in most parts of the country. We also believe that this could be cyclical and the trend will switch to better times. During these days we do dispute Como's implied lack of viability and disappointed by lack of effort on the part of Parks & Recreation to make concerted efforts to market and distinguish Como's advantages from other courses in the metropolitan area. Such advantages include, most particularly in the age of \$4 per gallon gas, the proximity of this course to local residents and other park attractions, affordability,

challenge without intimidation and super physical conditioning. Assurances were made in Spring 2012 to representatives of both this club, and those from Highland and Phalen, for implementation of innovative promotional efforts toward generating increased course use. From inquiry and observation, such actions did not occur in any notable way. We wish to see genuine efforts made in this regard before any firm decision is made on Como's fate. Time can solve big problems.

We believe Como Golf Course continues to be an important component of both the City's park system and regional park. We further believe increased course use and financial health can be achieved with some imaginative efforts. The Como Men's Golf Club would welcome the opportunity for its representatives to have further conversations with St. Paul representatives about the above issues, and others that might arise in the course of such talks.

Como Men's Golf Club

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Bus rapid transit planning for Snelling Avenue gets underway this spring. Area district councils are among the groups that will have representatives on the Snelling Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Community Advisory Committee.

## Snelling Avenue bus rapid transit planning gets underway for 2015

By JANE MCCLURE

Bus rapid transit planning for Snelling Avenue gets underway this spring. Area district councils are among the groups that will have representatives on the Snelling Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Community Advisory Committee. If all goes as planned construction would start next year, with the service starting in 2015.

The committee will have its first meeting May 15 and will meet quarterly during 2013. Members will work with a technical team and the Metropolitan Council, weighing in on ideas for the project. Most area groups made their appointments to the advisory committee last month.

In 2012 Snelling Avenue emerged as the Metropolitan Council's top choice for a bus rapid transit line, after a number of bus lines were studied. The line eyed is 9.7 miles long, from Rosedale Center in Roseville to the 46th Street Station and a connection to Hiawatha Line light rail transit. It would travel along Snelling Avenue and Ford Parkway in St. Paul and would intersect with Central Corridor light rail and more than a dozen other bus lines.

Katie Roth of Metro Transit has been meeting with area district councils and other groups to keep them updated on the bus rapid transit plans and recruit community advisory committee members. "There is very strong interest in rapid bus and in participation in the committee," she said.

The community advisory council will include representatives of area district councils, City Council appointees, at-large community representatives and representatives of Macalester College and Hamline University. The 23-member committee will work with Metropolitan Council, city, county and state transportation officials to plan the project.

"There's a lot of excitement and interest in this project," said

Union Park District Council Land Use Committee Chairperson Anne White.

But one wrinkle in the Snelling study is that it is also being considered as a possible route for a streetcar, in a City of St. Paul. Snelling is one of 18 routes under consideration, said City Planner Michelle Beaulieu. She said Snelling should remain on the table as a possible streetcar route but that it's likely the funds to build rapid bus would be found first. The city's streetcar study is several months away from winnowing down its routes to a few preferred streets.

Bus rapid transit is meant to provide faster service than traditional bus service. Streets eyed for rapid buses are streets with high transit demand, where light rail transit wouldn't be feasible due to issues including a lack of right-of-way.

Currently Snelling Avenue's Route 84 runs every 15 minutes during weekday rush hour periods and every half-hour during non-rush hour periods. Rapid bus would run every 10 minutes, but with stops every half mile.

Rapid bus would not mean the end of Route 84 but would most likely mean less frequent service on that route.

Bus rapid transit would have stops every half mile. It would include service amenities similar to those of light rail, including in-stop fare boxes and payment of fares at stations rather than while boarding, heated shelters and security cameras in shelters. Buses would be lower for easier boarding. Wheelchairs and strollers would not have to wait for a platform to be raised and lowered, but could simply roll right onto the bus.

The exact designs of buses and features such as bicycle boarding have yet to be determined, Roth said.

Bus rapid transit is seen by its proponents as creating a faster,

higher quality service. That in turn would attract more riders. That means fewer bus stops. Buses would also be able to "hold" a traffic signal for a few extra seconds along Snelling, so that buses could get through the intersections more quickly.

But rapid bus transit would mean the end of Route 144 and the loss of the I-94 express bus stop at Snelling Avenue. Those changes are already recommended in a bus plan tied to Central Corridor, which Metropolitan Council approved last year. Those and other service changes will be made in 2014 when Central Corridor begins operations.

Roth said the goal of this year's study process is to gather community input and get ready for a construction start in 2014. Initially Metro Transit had hoped to have rapid bus up and running by the time the light rail line starts. But a number of factors have pushed the project back. The goal now is to have the rapid bus line ready for operations in time for the 2015 Minnesota State Fair. Metropolitan Council members had initially hoped to have service up and running by the time Central Corridor light rail starts operations in 2014, but more time is needed to plan the project.

Snelling is one of the area's busier bus routes. It is served by the Route 84 bus, which carries an average of 3,600 riders each weekday. Service is 15 minutes during rush hours and every half hour the rest of the day. Initial estimates indicate that a switch to bus rapid transit would decrease trip time by 27 percent.

The staff team is currently working on preliminary traffic studies, Roth said.

A meeting location hasn't been chosen yet but it will be on the Route 84 line, Roth said. The meetings will be open to the public, with hearings during the process. One hearing is expected in late spring or summer.



# City Council approves zoning changes for tap rooms following passage of the 'Surly Bill'

By JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul craft brewers will have an easier time opening tap rooms in more neighborhoods as the St. Paul City Council has approved zoning changes. The council approved the changes March 27, following a March 20 public hearing.

The changes will allow small brewers of malt liquor to open tap rooms and sell their wares, in properties zoned for some commercial and traditional neighborhood uses. Previously tap rooms were only allowed in industrially zoned areas. The change could also allow brewers to open restaurants and in wards where on-sale liquor licenses are available, become a full bar.

The proposed changes are in response to the growing popularity of craft beers. Currently the only places where a tap room can be located with a brewery are in an industrial district. That's the case for Summit Brewing Company. Bang Brewing Company is building a brewery and tap room on industrial land on Capp Road in St. Anthony Park neighborhood.

Under the proposed change, a malt liquor producer is a land use defined by production of up to 5,000 barrels of liquor per year.

Several brewery owners and prospective owners attended the City Council public hearing to speak for the change. "This really makes sense for small businesses," said Deb Loch. She would like to open a craft brewery and tap room in St. Anthony Park neighborhood, called Urban

Growler Brewing Co. A tap room and the chance to sell a brewer's wares on-site would provide needed capital and "instant cash flow" for the business.

But without the needed zoning changes, locations Locke looked at along the Central Corridor light rail line weren't zoned properly for a brewery and tap room. She and other craft brewers have looked at properties they believed to be industrial in zoning, only to find that they were rezoned during land use studied related to the light rail line.

Dane Breimhorst and Thomas Foss want to open a gluten-free brewery on Thomas Avenue in Hamline-Midway neighborhood, near the Fairview light rail station. Breimhorst told the council he and his partner are ready to start developing their business, as soon as the zoning change allows it.

Fair State Brewing Cooperative is still searching for its location, said founder Matt Hauk. He said a St. Paul zoning change could create districts like those in Minneapolis' Northeast neighborhood, where tap rooms are popular. "Tap rooms are becoming really important places in the community for people to gather," he said.

Other areas where small craft brewers are eying possible brewery and tap room locations include the West End and Lower-town neighborhoods.

The St. Paul Planning Commission recommended the zoning change last month, at the request of City Council members Russ Stark and Amy Brendmoen.



The zoning change recommendation had a 60-day timeline.

"This is a chance to create lively places in our commercial districts," said Stark.

When breweries were large industrial uses, Stark said it made sense to restrict them to industrial districts. But the advent of small craft brewers has changed that. St. Paul has one tap room, at Summit Brewing Company. But that is in an industrial park. Other small brewers can sell beer they make, but only in large jugs known as growlers.

Ward Two Council Member Dave Thune said he is supportive of creating new businesses, but wanted to make sure the businesses are regulated properly and don't disrupt neighborhoods. Stark said the tap rooms would have to follow all regulations that bars and restaurants that serve beer and wine do. Those regulations range from licensing issues to providing enough on-street parking. Parking restrictions will be much less restrictive in traditional neighborhood zones than in commercial zones. Parking will be based on factors including the size of the business and number of seats.

For decades breweries of any size were only allowed in industrial areas. The code was amended a few years ago to expand the use so that malt liquor could be produced in traditional neighborhood and commercial districts. If the use has more than 15,000 square feet of floor area, a conditional use permit is required. But the prohibition on on-site sales remained.

The push to make changes began a few years ago at the state level. In 2011 the Minnesota Legislature approved the so-called "Surly Bill." Surly Brewing Com-

pany sought the change in law so it could serve pints of its beer on-premises. Minneapolis already allows tap rooms and some Twin Cities suburbs either allow tap rooms or are studying possible zoning changes.

St. Paul's proposed change adopted March 27 won't affect other regulations on malt liquor production. The city currently regulates malt liquor production in a number of areas, including brew on premises stores, micro and regional breweries, national breweries and brew pubs that are accessory uses to bars or restaurant. The city had several brew pubs when those became popular more than a decade ago. Now there is just one, at Great Waters restaurant downtown.

The Planning Commission is doing a longer-term look at zoning and brewery regulations in general. While there is support on the Planning Commission for small craft breweries and tap rooms, some commissioners want to make sure that the city doesn't set itself up for other problems. More than a decade ago, the ill-fated Gopher State Ethanol plant was allowed to open at the former Schmidt Brewery in the West End. Neighborhood residents endured years of odors and health issues before the plant shut down.

Commissioners said they don't want zoning changes meant to benefit craft brewers to be used to allow production of ethanol and other fuels in non-industrial areas. No timeline for the Planning Commission study has been set.



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# Prevention chore list as spring arrives can be important advance work for home, garage and limited budget

By DEBORAH BROTZ

## HOME & GARAGE

### Gutters and Downspouts

- Remove debris from gutters and downspouts and patch any holes. Make sure the downspouts direct water at least 5 feet away from your foundation walls.
- Reattach gutters that have pulled away from the house.
- Run a hose on the roof and check for proper drainage. If leaks exist, dry the area and use caulking or epoxy to seal the leak.

### Windows and Doors

- Inspect/replace caulk on windows, doors, and other penetrations, such as dryer vents and cable wire holes.
- Clean screening and check for holes. If holes are bigger than a quarter, that is plenty of room for bugs to climb in.
- Patch holes or replace the screen. Save bad screen to patch holes next year.
- Tighten or repair any loose or damaged frames and repaint.

- Replace broken, worn, or missing hardware.
- Wind can ruin screens and frames if they are allowed to flap and move so make sure they are securely fastened.
- Tighten and lubricate door hinges and closers.

### Furnace

- Replace or clean your furnace filter. It should be checked once a month and replaced or cleaned as needed.
- Have a professional air conditioning contractor inspect and maintain your system as recommended by the manufacturer.

### Hot Water Heater

- Check your water heater. If you have a gas-fired water heater, make sure it is venting properly.
- Check around the base of your water heater for evidence of leaks. If water leakage or rust is found, the water heater should be replaced.

### Plumbing

- Check the shutoff valve at each plumbing fixture to make sure they function.
- Know the location of all valves and what equipment and water lines they serve.



### Siding, Fascia and Trim

- Clean siding with a pressure washer to keep mold from growing. Check all wood surfaces for weathering and paint failure.
- Examine fascia or soffit boards. Replace if they are soft or rotting because they may allow rain in your attic.

### Foundation

- Check foundation walls, floors, concrete, and masonry for cracking, heaving or deterioration.

### Roof

- Inspect roof surface flashing, eaves, and soffits. Check flashings around all surface projections and sidewalls.
- Inspect the roof for damaged, loose or blistered shingles.

## LAWN & GARDEN

### Lawn Care

- It is important that you wait until the soil temperatures rise and you get some growth before attempting any renovation program on your lawn.

- Rake to remove leaves and to control thatch.

- If you have a moss problem, apply a product called lawn sand to your lawn.

- Aerate your lawn in the spring to help encourage root growth, relieve compaction, and dry out any wet areas on the lawn.

- If your lawn is riddled with bare patches due to dog spots, heavy traffic or neglect, apply grass seed to fill in those bare patches. The solution is called "over seeding."

- Lawns can be fertilized organically by using compost and mulching mowers or with chemical fertilizers.

### Trees & Shrubs

- Cut back and trim all vegetation and overgrown bushes from structures.

- Clean up fallen limbs, branches and other debris around the home to discourage the proliferation of wood-eating insects such as termites.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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# Crossroads Elementary makes Como 'Outdoor Classroom'

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Even snow-covered ground couldn't dampen Micah Lesch's excitement about visiting their school forest. At the end of February, students and teachers at Crossroads Elementary began using the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom (CWOC) as their school forest under a program offered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Lesch, 8, a third-grader in Susan Johnson's class who attends Crossroads Science part of the school, couldn't wait to go to the outdoor classroom. "I thought it would be fun," he said. "I wanted to see some cottontail rabbits in the ground and the place where they make their homes."

During the first visit, the students snowshoed. "It was really fun," Lesch said. "We didn't have to sink into the snow."

In addition to playing some nature games, the students took some time to look around and observe. "We found holes in some broken tree trunks," said Lesch. "These are holes a woodpecker would make. We had a contest to see who could measure the largest tree around. We had a tape measure and a notebook, and all of us went and measured trees."

The students learned how to tell what kind of animal it is on that outing. "We learned about

where their habitat would be, whether it was on the ground or in trees," said Lesch. "We also learned about nature survival, like what you need to know if you go on ice. The ice needs to be 4 inches deep for a person and 39 inches deep for a truck."

"It was really fun because we got to look around for animal

more trips to the outdoor classroom."

"I hope we get to explore more of the outdoor classroom," he said. "I want to see if I can find more animal tracks. I'd like to see a raccoon and some birds. I loved being there."

benefits, which include: skill-based teacher training on how to teach outside; access to engaging, outdoor activities that meet academic standards; assistance from DNR natural resource pro-

Britt Forsberg, inquiry zone coordinator at Crossroads in partnership with Bell Museum of Natural History. "Como Woodland is a great site for biome or habitats."

Forsberg feels the program will greatly benefit her students.

"Most of them have little to no access to natural spaces because they live in an urban area," she said.

Because the school forest is located only 1.7 miles from the school building, Crossroads students will be able to take field trips all year long, without breaking the bank with long-distance bussing costs.

"Hopefully, every student will get a chance to go once this year," said Forsberg. "Our agreement with the DNR is to go to it five times during the school year."

Students visiting CWOC will learn about the natural world and outdoor habitats.

"In second grade, students are taught quite a bit about habitats," said Forsberg. "They learn how plants and animals adapt to where they live. But, they also gain an understanding and appreciation for the natural world."

Schools who want to enroll in the DNR School Forest program should visit the website: [www.MN.DNR.gov/schoolforest](http://www.MN.DNR.gov/schoolforest) to make sure they meet some criteria.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



A teacher helps Casey Gregor put on snowshoes. Students at Crossroads Elementary went snowshoeing after a 6 inch snowfall to look for signs of animals and found squirrel nests, some rabbit tracks, and dog tracks, but it seemed most animals were still lying low after the snow. At right, the student pictured is Wyatt Anderson. He was using a special tape measure to measure the diameter of the tree. Each student measured what they thought were the five largest trees in Como Woodlands and then found the mean, median, mode, and range.

tracks," he said. "If we were in a normal class, we would look up something on Google, but we actually got to see it."

Lesch looks forward to many

The 17-acre CWOC site is owned and managed by the City of St. Paul. Schools such as Crossroads that enroll in the School Forest program get DNR

professionals; and access to free tree seedlings from the DNR nursery.

"With our science focus, we're always looking for hands-on experience for students," said

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# Summer programs offered at Northwest Como Rec Center

Summer Camps/Classes began registration Monday, March 25. Activities Include:

Tae Kwon Do, Artist Workshop, Storytelling/Writing, Soccer Review, Funtastic Fridays, Babysitters Training, Yoga, Ultimate Frisbee, Clay Making, Game On, Robotics Star Wars Droid Builder, Extreme Robotics Robo-Sports, Intro to Acting, Twinkle Toes, Jump Start Into Kindergarten, Cheerleading,

Archery, Basketball, Soccer, Snag-Golf, Volleyball, Flag Football and Mini Hawk.

Mark your Calendar and register now for: Overnight Camp Out/Movie Night on Friday, July 19.

Summer Sports Registration for Northwest Como Recreation Center is now! Register for:

Pre-Tball (ages 3-4), T-ball (ages 5-6), Nearball (coach pitch

ages 7-8), Machine Pitch Baseball (ages 7-8), Machine Pitch Fast Pitch Softball (ages 7-8), Baseball (ages 9-15), Fast Pitch Softball (ages 9-14), Slow Pitch Softball (ages 9-14).

Register at [www.stpaul.gov/park](http://www.stpaul.gov/park) (Call 651-298-5813 with a credit card) or come into Northwest Como Recreation Center Mon-Thur 3-8 p.m. or Fri 3-6 p.m.



Summer Sports Registration for Northwest Como Recreation Center is now! Register for: Pre-Tball (ages 3-4), T-ball (ages 5-6), Nearball (coach pitch ages 7-8), Machine Pitch Baseball (ages 7-8), Machine Pitch Fast Pitch Softball (ages 7-8), Baseball (ages 9-15), Fast Pitch Softball (ages 9-14), Slow Pitch Softball (ages 9-14).

## In A Minute

Continued from page 2

boundary change. An application has been made for vacation of the alley between the two parcels. The construction of the proposed addition and new parking lot would be required to go through city site plan review, and may re-

quire application for variances.

### Police station proposal heard

North End residents and business owners made their case April 1 for a new Central District Police station. The proposal went before the Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB)

Committee's Community Facilities Committee.

Supporters showed up to show the community sentiment for the proposal. They brought a petition with more than 1,300 signatures. District 6 Planning Council, North End Business Association, Ward Five Council Member Amy Brendmoen, area block clubs, immigrant groups and other groups are supporting

the proposal.

Central District has had its headquarters in various places over the years. But in 2003 when the new city-county law enforcement center was built, the district facility at Rice and Arlington was closed. Headquarters were moved downtown, making Central the only one of the three district teams without a facility in its coverage area. Police had space

for a time in a storefront near St. Bernard's, with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. But that closed several years ago.

Since then CIB requests have been made but to no avail. The original replacement proposal called for the police district headquarters to be built in conjunction with the Rice Street Branch Library. Other locations along Rice Street have been eyed. The current proposal would take up the current Sylvan Park property. That would, under the city's charter for park land replacement, call for the creation of a new park.

The request is for \$15 million. CIB task forces are to wrap up their work this month, with the CIB Committee making its recommendations to the mayor and City Council later this spring. The police station is competing against more than 100 other request.

The Central District — which serves the North End, downtown and the West Side neighborhoods — is the only district without its own police.

### Crosby Block gets OK for new life

The long-awaited reuse of Merriam Park's historic Crosby Block is complete, with Ramsey County Board approval March 5 of the needed board and lodging license. Approval meant residents of Transitions Homes were able to start moving in that evening.

The license allows Transition Homes to provide living space for adult males with chemical dependency, or co-occurring chemical dependency and mental illness. Up to 24 men can live in the three-story facility at a time. Transition Homes, which has its headquarters in Medina, has operated other outpatient and residential programs in St. Paul.

The move means a new use for a building that has stood at 1956 Feronia Ave. since the 1880s. The building had many commercial and later residential uses, but had deteriorated over the years. Most recently it was a rooming house. It has been unoccupied for many years, while various development plans were studied. Those included mixed commercial-retail use, office use and artists' loft use. None came to fruition and the building has long been a magnet for vandalism and theft. Last year Transition Homes won neighborhood and city approval for transitional housing use.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

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# In Our Community

## Monitor

Send us your news! When you submit your press release it will be considered for both the newspaper as well as the Monitor Facebook page (facebook.com/monitorsaintpaul). You can also go to our website, MonitorSaintPaul.com and enter the information in the online Event Calendar.

### Keystone Krafters Show April 22-26

Artist/crafters of the Keystone Active Seniors Program at Merriam Park will display their work from noon April 22 through noon April 26. Featured artists from the Midway area include: Bonnie Reeder - watercolor artist, and Nancy Bruno - pastels and mixed media. Work by other "artists" includes stained glass, woodworking, cross stitch, and other needlework and crafts. This exhibit is free and open to the public. Sweets and coffee will be served during the exhibit in the Senior Lounge at 2000 St. Anthony Avenue (651-645-7424).

### Women's Golf Club has openings

Como Women's Golf Club has openings for new members for the 2013 golf season at Como Park Golf Course. 18 hole tee times are available Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. Here is a great chance to play with other women, get a handicap, improve your game while learning the rules and etiquette of golf as well as having lots of fun. The season begins the beginning of May through the end of September. For an application, go to [www.golfstpaul.org](http://www.golfstpaul.org) or call Kathy Ziemann at 651-488-1916.

### CCA Alumni Game April 20 at Central

CCA 22nd Alumni Game: Mechanic Arts vs. Central on Saturday, April 20th, at St. Paul Central Gym, 275 Lexington Pkwy, 12 noon, 9th grade Select Game, followed by the Women's Central/Mechanic Arts at 1:30 p.m. and the Main Event at 2:30 p.m. For more information contact Henry Combs 651-263-1136. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments and half-time entertainment will be available.

### Looking forward to blooms?

Members of Jehovah Lutheran Church will leave free seed packets on doorknobs of homes in and near the church's neighborhood during late April and May. The giveaway is to celebrate the church's 90th anniversary. Depending on the type of plant, seeds may be suitable for planting indoors or outside. The church is at 1566 Thomas Avenue.

### Hamline Women's Spring Craft Fair May 4

Find a unique Mother's Day or graduation gift, buy baked

goods, collectibles and handmade items at the Hamline Women's Spring Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 4 at the church at 1514 Englewood Av. Enter off of Minnehaha Avenue and use the alley door.

The sale is sponsored by Hamline Church Women. Proceeds go to charitable projects and the scholarship fund. Crafters and vendors are still needed. Call 651-646-3473.

### MMSA Casino Night & Auction

Join us for fun night out at the "All in 4 Kids" - Maternity of Mary/St. Andrew Casino Night & Auction on Saturday, April 27, at Sirba Hall - Maternity of Mary Church - 1414 N. Dale Street North. The evening will feature 20 different tables of games including Blackjack, Texas Hold 'Em, Red Dog, and Pai Gow Poker while enjoying appetizers and desserts. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. with games starting at 7 p.m. and a live auction at 9:45 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Maternity of Mary/St. Andrew School in Como Park. Call the school office to reserve tickets at 651-489-1459 or visit our website [www.mmsaschool.org](http://www.mmsaschool.org). Guests must be 21 years or older. Ticket prices are \$40 each + \$5-\$10 drink wristbands. Tickets also sold at the door.

### Senior housing options discussed

"Senior Housing Options; Oh So Many Choices!," will be the topic at a luncheon for seniors on Tuesday, May 14 beginning 11:30 at 1514 Englewood Avenue. Bonnie Clark will present information on the spectrum from remaining in your home (including reverse mortgages) to downsizing to moving into a residence for those 55+. A free will donation is requested for the meal. There is no charge for the presentation which begins at 12:15. Call Hamline Midway Elders, 651-209-6542 to make reservations and/or request free transportation.

### Free exercise classes offered at Church

Free Exercise Classes sponsored by HM Elders and held at 1514 Englewood Ave, St. Paul (Hamline Church, lower level). Chair Yoga will begin Tuesday, April 16 and run each Tuesday through May 21 from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Call HM Elders for more information: (651) 209-6542. All classes are taught by trained instructors.

### Reduce your diabetes risk and gain tools for healthy living

The YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program can help you adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles that will help you reduce your chances of developing diabetes. In a classroom setting, a trained YMCA lifestyle coach will facilitate a small group of participants learn about healthier eating, physical activity and other behavior changes over a 12-month period, beginning with 16 weekly one-hour sessions followed by monthly maintenance.

Research by the National Institutes of Health has proven that programs like the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program can reduce the number of cases of type 2 diabetes by 58%, if over the age of 60 risk is reduced by over 71%. A new program is starting at the Midway YMCA, 1761 University Avenue, on April 16, Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-12 noon weekly. Pre-registration is required.

PROGRAM GOALS: Reduce body weight by 7%. Increase physical activity to 150 minutes per week.

In order to qualify for the program, you must be at least 18 years old, overweight (BMI > 25)\* and at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes indicated by a confirmatory blood value or a diagnosis of prediabetes or borderline diabetes. Qualifying Medicare beneficiaries may be able to participate in the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program at no cost. This program is also available for self-pay and some Medica Health Plans.

Call today for more information, to confirm eligibility or enroll in the program. Sara Vine, 612-465-0545, [sara.vine@ymcatwincities.org](mailto:sara.vine@ymcatwincities.org)

### Advantages of Breastfeeding

The Advantages of Breastfeeding is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tuesday, May 14. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

### Keystone home-delivered meals offers options

St. Anthony Park neighbors who are no longer able to prepare meals for themselves — or who just want the convenience of a healthy, ready-to-eat meals delivered to their door — can find expanded options in the Meals on Wheels program of Keystone Community Services.

Tasty, nutritious and affordable midday meals are delivered

right to the door by a caring community volunteer recruited by St. Anthony Park Area Seniors. This daily contact provides a valuable wellness check for those who live alone or are homebound.

Menus are created from scratch by a talented local caterer to appeal to the taste buds and the eye, using organic ingredients whenever possible. Meals can be tailored for individual needs and preferences.

Deliveries are scheduled Monday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Options include:

- Daily hot meal, delivered ready to eat
- Daily fresh meal, for reheating at the individual's convenience
- Daily or weekly frozen meals

To learn more, call Jeanne Leifeld at the Keystone Senior Program at 651-645-7424 or go to [keystoneservices.org](http://keystoneservices.org) and click on Meals on Wheels.

### The Bach Society of Minnesota presents 'Sacred and Secular' concert April 13

The choral music of the Baroque has the ability to evoke emotions in a way few other musical forms can. On Saturday, April 13, at 8 p.m. in Sundin Hall on the Hamline University Campus, the Bach Society of Minnesota will present "Sacred and Secular," a concert featuring the artistry of the 12 voice professional choir of the Bach Society of Minnesota. Under the direction of artistic director Paul Boehnke the choir will take you on a musically emotional roller coaster ride ranging from JS Bach's hypnotic funeral motet Komm, Jesu, Komm, to his joyous Lobet den Herren to his light-hearted, but rarely performed Quodlibet, BWV 524. Sacred and secular Music of Salamone Rossi, Heinrich Schutz and an excerpt from Handel's opera Alceste complete this varied program.

Tickets, available online and at the door are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors (65+) and \$5 for students. contact us at [www.bach-societymn.org](http://www.bach-societymn.org).

### Spring is in full bloom at Como Conservatory

Step inside the beautiful glass confines of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's Sunken Garden for the Spring Flower Show beginning March 23. Purples, blues, reds, and magentas will fill the Sunken Garden this spring with the blooms of tulips, hyacinth, asiatic lilies, calla, bearded iris, allium, crocus, and grape hyacinth. The Spring

Flower Show will highlight the Hydrangea Arizona which blooms either red or magenta depending on how it is grown and runs through April 28.

### Co-ed Drum Circle explored April 26

Announcing a Co-ed Drum Circle on Friday, April 26, 6:30 p.m. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored. All levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W. \$10 at the door. Drums provided. Info and registration at [www.womensdrumcenter.org](http://www.womensdrumcenter.org).

### Spring Rummage Sale April 27

Bethlehem Lutheran In the Midway Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Bake Sale and Lunch also. Come and shop and have something to eat.

The church is at 436 N. Roy St. For more information call 651-646-6549.

### 1st Annual MMSA Flea Market!

Maternity of Mary/St. Andrew Catholic school is hosting a sale so big, that it will be held in our school gym located at 592 Arlington Ave. W. (Arlington & Dale), St. Paul, on Friday May 17, 3pm-8pm; Saturday May 18, 8am-6pm; Sunday May 19, 9:30-1pm. Visit the MMSA website at [www.mmsaschool.org](http://www.mmsaschool.org) for more details. There will be something for everyone!

### Caregivers Support Group meets

Caregivers Support Group, each second Thursday from 6:30-8:00 p.m., 1514 Englewood Avenue, St Paul, MN. Sponsored by HM Elders. This group is open to anyone caring for older adults or persons any age with special needs and will be facilitated by HME staff and trained volunteers. Free, refreshments provided.

For more info or to RSVP: [monica@hmelers.org](mailto:monica@hmelers.org) or 651-209-6542.

### Volunteer pairs, groups needed

Volunteer pairs, groups and families needed for spring raking at the homes of grateful Hamline Midway seniors. Schedule an afternoon or morning at your convenience by contacting Monica at (651) 209-6542 or [monica@hmelers.org](mailto:monica@hmelers.org).



# City Council approves Central Corridor sidewalk project

By JANE MCCLURE

Getting pedestrians to and from the Central Corridor or Green line light rail project is the goal of a sidewalks project approved March 27 by the St. Paul City Council. Work will start on the project this construction season. But some West Midway property owners question why sidewalks are needed in area where few people walk now.

The project has an estimated cost of \$285,000, with about \$110,000 assessed to property owners and the rest paid by the city through its Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB). Final costs and assessments won't be known until the work is done. But some property owners are not only concerned about a one-time assessment; they also worry about the ongoing costs of keeping sidewalks cleared of snow and ice. Some question whether the sidewalks will be used enough to make the project worthwhile.

Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark said he is aware of the property owners' concerns. He and staff from the city's Department of Public Works and Planning and Economic Development (PED) have met with

property owners. "At the end of the day, there's a desire to create pathways where people need to walk," Stark said.

Having sidewalks on only one side of the street in some areas doesn't work because of the heavy truck traffic and the dangers for pedestrians, Stark said. In other areas people are walking in the street, which is also dangerous. As the West Midway continues to develop and more people need to get to the light rail and other destinations, sidewalks are needed.

It's likely the debate over sidewalks will continue all along the light rail line. Last year the District Councils Collaborative drafted dozens of volunteers to look at sidewalks all along the light rail line, to determine where improvements are needed. Volunteers not only looked at areas where sidewalks are needed, they also studied existing sidewalks to determine condition, lighting, accessibility and other issues. The survey will be released and discussed by a panel at 5:30-7 p.m. Monday, April 8 at Wilder Foundation, 415 Lexington Parkway. A reception will start at 5 p.m. RSVP by calling 651-528-5175 or going to [www.dcc-stpaul-mpls.org/spe-](http://www.dcc-stpaul-mpls.org/spe-)

cial=projects/sidewalks

The sidewalks chosen for the West Midway project are in areas where construction would be fairly easy, said City Planner Hilary Holmes. The recommendations are consistent with a bike-walk plan for Central Corridor, which the City Council adopted a few years ago.

Stark did drop two parts of the project, but it's possible sidewalks will be built in one if not both areas in the future. The north side of Ellis Street between Vandalia Street and Transfer Road was dropped because Ellis is likely to be rebuilt in the next few years. The west side of Carleton Street between University Avenue and Charles Avenue was dropped because a sidewalk would cause the loss of off-street parking for an area business. Stark said more time is needed to find alternative parking.

Sidewalks will be built on the west side of Bradford Street between Hampden Avenue and Wycliff Street; the south side of Charles Avenue between Raymond Avenue and Carleton; the west side of Transfer between University and Ellis; both sides of Vandalia Street between Ellis and Capp Road; the west side of Hampden between Territorial

Road and Hersey Street; the east side of Hersey between Hampden and Capp; both sides of Glendale Street between Wabash Avenue and Myrtle Avenue; the west side of Raymond Avenue between Wabash and Myrtle; the north side of Wabash between Pelham Boulevard and Raymond; and the east side of Pillsbury Street between University and Charles.

About 30 property owners are affected by the project. In some places sidewalks are incomplete or in poor conditions. In other places there are no sidewalks at all. Many streets have gravel or asphalt boulevards, instead of grass.

Some property owners told the council the sidewalks aren't needed, saying they don't see people walking in the area. They also objected to the project, saying much of the planning had been done before property owners were asked to weigh in.

Roseville Properties owns three buildings on Transfer Road. Company spokesperson Mark Rancone noted he lives in the Summit Hill neighborhood, where residents can walk to Grand Avenue shopping and other attractions. "Transfer Road offers no such allure."

"Why is this being proposed?" said Wayne Abdo. He owns a building in Vandalia. By his estimates only a few people and one lone bicyclist would use the sidewalk each day.

Commercial leasing agent Chad Commers also spoke against the project, saying that while sidewalks may be needed in the long term, there just isn't a need now. He asked for more discussion of the sidewalks before the project went forward.

But others spoke for the sidewalks. "This is a complicated issue with a lot of competing needs," said Amy Sparks, executive director of the St. Anthony Park Community Council. "But as time goes by there will be more people walking to and from the light rail line," She said additional sidewalks in the area may require more discussion, but that the current slate of projects should move ahead.

"There is a public safety hazard there now," said Steve Bayliss, who owns property on Raymond Avenue. In some areas businesses are using what is public right-of-way for parking or loading areas. "As more people walk to the light rail stations, we need to be cognizant of public safety."

## Chore list

Continued from page 6

### Flowers & Garden

Resist the urge to start digging in your flower beds too early. When it's dry enough, you can start to dig beds and add compost or manure in preparation for planting.

One thing people can do in the house all year long is a fairy garden. This is a garden with miniature size plants in miniature terra-cotta pots. People can create their own scenic village using little bridges, houses, figurines, and fairies.

"This has been taking off the last couple of years," said Scalze.

"It can be done inside or out. There are some nice price points. It's fun, inexpensive, and you can do it with the kids."

With snow still on the ground, there's not a whole lot people can do to get ready for the planting season. If you could get to the soil, you could loosen it up and put in nutrients.

"People could get seed starting kits and peat pots," said Shannon Scalze, a horticulturist and supervisor at Bachman's in Maplewood. "They can get vegetables and flowers started in the house and bulbs, such as dahlias, lilies, begonias, gladiolas, elephant ears, canna lilies, and calla lilies. We're starting to get plenty of sunshine."

Before the last day of frost on about May 15, people can

plant potatoes, spinach, radishes, peas, some lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, and brussels sprouts.

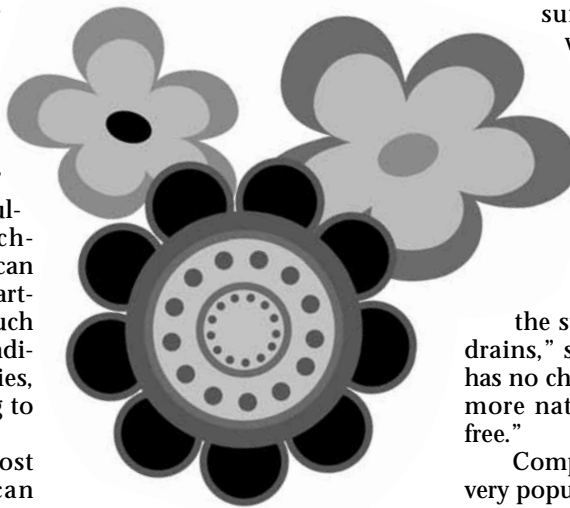
"People can start these earlier because they can

handle a cool night or a light frost," said Scalze. "As the snow melts off, people can throw spinach seeds into the ground. These cool weather plants do better in spring and fall. In summer, they should be where there's not full blazing sun, a cooler spot."

There are advantages to getting a rain barrel, which is attached to a gutter and collects rain water.

"Less rain goes into the storm sewers and storm drains," said Scalze. "Rainwater has no chemicals and no salt. It's more natural and pure and it's free."

Compost bins are becoming very popular.



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# Classifieds

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Want ads must be in the Monitor before April 29 for the May 9 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

Monitor Want Ads are now \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to [denisw@aplacetoremember.com](mailto:denisw@aplacetoremember.com). Want ads must be in the Monitor before April 29 for the May 9 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com) 9-12

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### LAWN CARE

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## Episcopal Homes

Continued from page 3

In October 2012, the HRA Board approved a bond refinancing to refund existing debt from two of the buildings. A portion of the bond proceeds from the refinancing will be used as equity to help pay for costs associated with the building.

Bedor said the project has community benefits beyond the building itself. Episcopal Homes is also working with the city and neighborhood residents on improvements to nearby Iris Park, as

well as improvements to Lynnhurst Avenue. Area sidewalk connections will also be improved. Union Park District Council, city staff and neighbors recently met to discuss Lynnhurst improvements, to see if the street could be improved to become a "complete street" for all forms of transportation. Some funding will come from a Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Demonstration Account Transit Oriented Development grant, of about \$200,000.

Other project funding will come from Episcopal Homes, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, HUD, Metropolitan Council, a bridge loan from Wells Fargo and about \$1 million already raised in a capital campaign.

## Crossroads Elementary

Continued from page 7

"We do a site visit to see if it's a good fit for the program," said Laura Duffey, DNR school forest specialist. "The program came in existence in 1949 through a Minnesota State Statute."

While longer distance field trips to nature areas are beneficial to students, shorter trips are even more so.

"There are studies out there especially with urban students that show frequent nearby nature has a much more long-term lasting affect which helps students connect with their surroundings better than a once-a-year big trip," said Duffey. "Frequent trips can be 10 or 15 minutes a week. Just being able to go outside on a consistent basis is much more beneficial."

Duffey believes it's important for schools to participate in the DNR School Forest program.

"People in our profession be-

lieve students learn better in the outdoors than indoors," she said. "They get deeper learning and more long-term memory with outdoor experience. I hope that project continues and that any school that wants a school forest should be able to have one."

Forsberg looks forward to many fun visits to CWOC.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to work with DNR educators to further train our staff to work outdoors and to be able to use object-based education with natural items."

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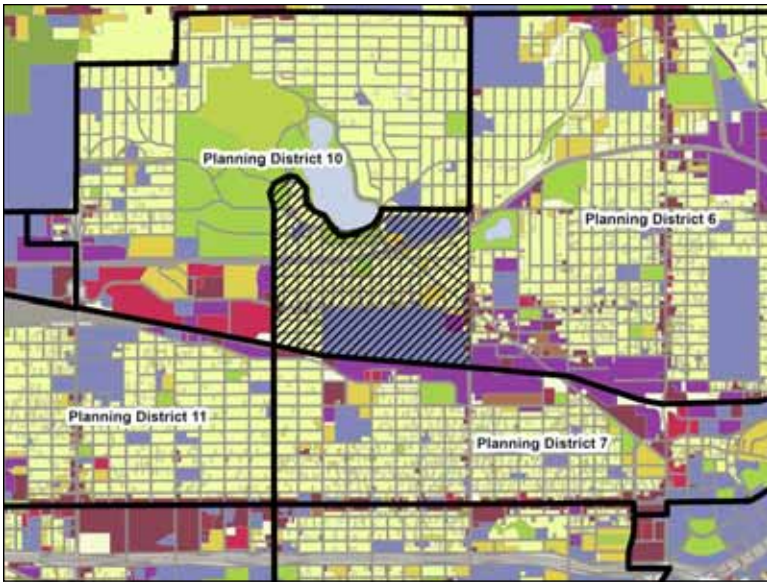
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# City Council supports boundary change for Districts 6 and 10



The District Councils were established in 1975 as a citywide citizen participation process, according to the City of Saint Paul. There are currently 17 of them, based on neighborhoods and not on population.

By JAN WILLMS

At its March 20th meeting, the City Council passed a resolution to change the boundaries of Districts 6 and 10. The South Como neighborhood was allowed to secede from District 6 and move into District 10.

This decision followed public input given to Ward 5 councilmember Amy Brendmoen and a public meeting called to gather input from local residents. With an overwhelming number favoring the boundary change, and with the Districts eventually supporting the plan, the Department of Planning and Economic Development offered a recommendation in favor of the move to the City Council on Jan. 24.

"District 10 will be approving an ad hoc committee to develop the process for us to implement the change, including studying and recommending bylaw, budget and other necessary changes," said Ted Blank, a member of the Executive Committee and new administrator of the District 10 Council.

"We plan to approve the committee's charter at our April board meeting, and they will begin work after that," he said. The boundary changes are scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1, 2014, allowing both councils time to make necessary changes.

## Johnson Como Devils Girls 12UB hockey team captures 2013 State Crown

The Johnson Como Devils Girls 12UB Hockey Team defeated Hermantown-Proctor 3-1 to win the State Championship in Roseau, MN on Sunday, March 17, 2013. This is the first time a hockey team from Como has ever won a state title and the first time a Johnson team has won a state title at any level since an early 90's boys bantam team.



Members of the Johnson Como Hockey Association 12UB Girls State Champion Hockey Team. First row left to right: Anna Weyandt, Anna Klein, Riley Tuft, Kaelie Smith, Marissa Hawkins, Maria Meggitt, Brianna Willier and Gianna Gabrieli. Second row: Melissa Teal, Madalyn Thill, Katie Garhofer, Samantha Carlson, Madison Sagdalen, Caitlyn Behr and Olivia Schultz. Third Row: Coach Bob Smith, Coach Tom Tuft and Coach Paul Klein

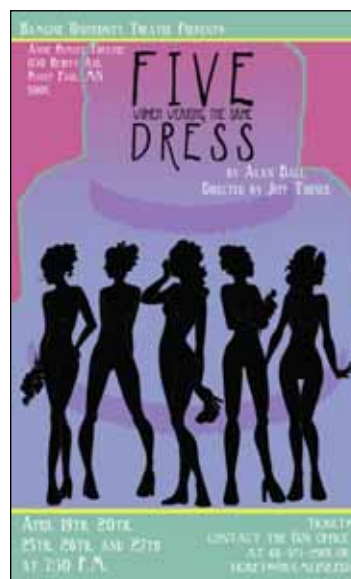
## 'Five Women' performed at Hamline U

Hamline University Theatre continues its 82nd season with Alan Ball's *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. Set in 1990's Knoxville, Tennessee, the play takes place inside the bedroom of Meredith Marlowe, sister of a blushing bride-to-be. As the wedding reception carries on downstairs, Meredith and the other bridesmaids find refuge in the room. As they talk, smoke, drink, and complain, they examine their differences, similarities, and the institution of the Great American Marriage.

Academy Award winner Alan Ball (*American Beauty*, *True Blood*) crafts an ensemble of believable characters out of sharp-witted and incisive dialogue, which Hamline Theatre will then bring to life with the humor, passion, and exasperation that only a wedding can

spark. In the vein of recent hit comedies such as *Bridesmaids* and *Steel Magnolias*, "*Five Women*" celebrates our differences as well as the things that unite us - even if it is just a dress.

*Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* opens on Friday, April 19th at 7:30 p.m. and runs April 20th, 25th, 26th, and 27th at 7:30 p.m. in Hamline University's Anne Simley Theatre. Due to mature content, this production is not recommended for children. Tickets are \$2 for Hamline students, \$3 for ACTC students and staff, \$8 for adults and \$5 for outside students and seniors. Advance reservations are recommended and can be made through the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or via e-mail at tickets@hamline.edu.



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