

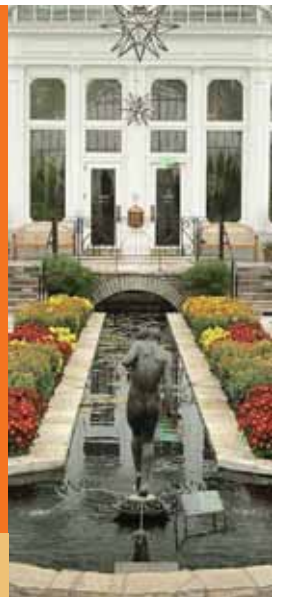


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# monitor

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



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## Excavating the past: Dig tells the story of Hamline Church's past

By SEAN BAILEY

On December 26th leftover Christmas decorations from a Hamline United Methodist Church party erupted into flames, eventually engulfing the church, slowly burning the mostly wooden structure to the ground. According to eyewitness accounts, throughout the night flames lit the building from within, creating a beautiful but eerie scene. The light of the following morning revealed gobs of ice hanging from what little structure was left. The ice had formed overnight as a result of firefighters' attempts to contain the fire.

But as any member of the Hamline Midway neighborhood will tell you, the Hamline United Methodist Church is standing today, in much the same way it has since it was built in 1930. The church described above was the original Hamline Church which was finished in 1900.

The church was demolished and cleaned up in May 1926, but



Hamline student Rayna Olson measures the depth of the dig at the Hamline Church site. (Photo by Terry Faust)

Brian Hoffman, Professor of Anthropology at Hamline University, hopes that for the sake of his students and inquiring community members that some of the structure remains.

Hoffman's class, "Excavating Hamline's Past," began earlier this fall meticulously removing layers of sod, and then soil hoping to find artifacts from the church. The digging site is at the northwest end

of the current Hamline Church, near the corner of Englewood and Asbury St.

Hoffman said the class' initial goal is to find the building's stone foundation. Through the first few weeks the class found various small artifacts—small pieces of ceramics, and coal from stoves, items that Hoffman explained could just as well be from the other side of Snelling Avenue. Hoffman said that majority of the demolition of the church had to be done by hand, thanks in part to early 20th century technology. Because it was done by hand, much of it was probably buried on site. The clean up was slow and the site may have become a sort of "dumping site" for the surrounding community—meaning debris could be from all ends of the community.

Whether the debris is from the church or not doesn't matter so much to the project's success, in fact, finding anything helps teach

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Hamline Church's original building was closer to the street than the present one. Hamline University students spent a number of weekend hours toiling at the site, looking for clues to Hamline Church's past. (Photo by Terry Faust)

## New baby giraffe at Como



Como Zoo welcomes a new baby giraffe calf to its herd. The 5-foot-6 inch, 140 pound baby girl was born on September 21 and was introduced to the public on Tuesday, October 2.

# monitor

1885 University Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651-645-7045

#### Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

#### Managing Editor:

Denis Woulfe

#### Advertising:

Denis Woulfe  
Dennis Stern (651-452-5324)

#### Photographer:

Terry Faust

#### Production/Illustrations:

Bob Wasiluk

#### Contributing Writers:

Eric Nathanson, Deborah Brotz,  
Jane McClure, Nancy Giguere,  
Jessica Flannigan, Tom Conlon,  
Jan Willms, Sherri Moore,  
Nate Hamilton, Deb Robinson,  
Benita Warns, The Cheapskate,  
The Food Snob, and The Bachelor



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## Monitor in a Minute

### Former Club Cancun future moves to hearing

Can the new operators of a long-trouble Rice Street nightclub turn things around? City officials had suggested allowing nightclub operations to continue provided that 19 conditions on security, staff training, club management and patron behavior are met. But now the owners will have to make their case before an administrative law judge. Instead of approving business license with conditions September 12, the St. Paul City Council sent the matter back for another hearing.

Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen asked that the issue be referred to the judge. That hearing will provide a recommendation to the City Council, which will be discussed at a public hearing in the future.

Helgen said there are still unresolved issues that could be better handled through an administrative law judge process. He also asked for an analysis of building changes that could be made to mitigate nightclub noise and a more detailed report on police response to issues raised by residents of the surrounding neighborhoods.

The business in question used to operate as Club Cancun. Longtime area residents will recall a number of other businesses there, including Sports Garden and North End Depot. There is a long history of complaints about noise, patron behavior, litter, parking and traffic, property damage, theft and suspected illegal activities such as drug dealing. Club Cancun and the surrounding community were at odds for years before that business closed and Club Mesian came in. During the Club Cancun days the nightclub would have to close Rice Street at closing time, so that patrons could get across the street to their vehicles.

Sean Lee, a longtime St. Paul resident and Como Park High School graduate, took over the business earlier this year and is transforming it into an Asian nightclub. He is president of Club Mesian. Paul Yang is the building owner. The nightclub is operating under licenses held by Club Cancun. Lee wants to appeal to a different clientele than Club Cancun attracted.

But District 6 (North End-South Como) Planning Council, area business owners, neighborhood residents and owners of area apartment buildings are opposed to granting permanent licenses to Lee and want the business shut down. At a city legislative hearing in June, six people testified against the licenses. The city has also received letters in opposition to transferring the licenses.

At a hearing in June, city staff recommended approval of the licenses with 19 conditions.

### Crosby Block wins another reprieve

The much-debated Crosby Block has won yet another reprieve. The St. Paul City Council voted unanimously September 5 to continue to postpone demolition of the historic Iris Park building, so that rehabilitation work can be completed.

The building is at 1956 Feronia, the corner of Feronia and Prior avenues. The three-story building is one of the remnants of a commercial district that was largely obliterated by the construction of Interstate 94. The building, which dates from the 1880s, is considered historically significant and has been nominated by the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) for local historic designation.

But it has a troubled past, including use as a crime-ridden rooming house. For the past several years it has sat vacant as various owners have struggled with the costs of renovation.

Current owners Naomi Isaacson and Laureen Ballinger have wrangled with city officials, neighbors and the Merriam Park (now District 13) Planning Council over the building's fate. Renovation got underway in earnest last year but a work slowdown this summer worried neighbors. Neighbors met again September 4 to press for the work to be completed.

But the building is facing foreclosure from its lender, which has made obtaining funding to complete renovation much more difficult. The lender, Eagle Valley Bank, is concerned that the building still lacks a certificate of occupancy – which cannot be granted until renovations are complete.

The owners were also dealt a blow this summer when the Minnesota Court of Appeals rejected their legal case against the City of St. Paul, and upheld past city orders to remove or repair the building.

The repairs are supposed to be completed by September 30 but that date could be extended by the city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). Ward Four Council Member Jay Benanav said the city will try to work with the owners' lender to get the work done. DSI will inspect the building to determine how much work needs to be done and how long it should take.

The repairs are supposed to be completed by September 30 but that date could be extended by the city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). Ward Four Council Member Jay Benanav said the city will try to work with the owners' lender to get the work done. DSI will inspect the building to determine how much work needs to be done and how long it should take.

### Como Park acquires visitor signs

Visitors of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory will have an easier time finding the place. The St. Paul City council, working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), will

post signs along Interstate 94 and Highway 36 to better guide visitors to the park and its facilities.

The signs will be similar to those installed several years ago for area colleges and the Minnesota State Fair.

Como attracts more than 1.7 million visitors a year to the zoo and conservatory alone. More than 80 percent of those visitors come from outside of St. Paul.

The signs have a cost of \$16,000. They will be paid for by the Como Zoo and Conservatory Society, through donations raised by that group of volunteers.

MnDOT will make and install the signs, which will direct motorists to Lexington Parkway and to the Como facilities.

### Kidder honored by St. Paul City Council

Longtime Frogtown resident and community leader Kristen Scott Hearn Kidder has been honored by the St. Paul City Council. The council declared September 27 to be Kristen Scott Hearn Kidder day in the City of St. Paul.

Kidder recently stepped down as director of the District 7 (Thomas-Dale) Community Council, which she had headed for seven years. Before that she worked at the Frogtown Family Center. She has also served on the boards of directors of the Thomas Dale Block Clubs, Greater Frogtown community Development Corporation and District 7. She continues to be involved in her own block club and other neighborhood activities.

Kidder and her family will remain in the Frogtown neighborhood, where they have lived for more than 16 years. She told the City Council that she is 'not going anywhere' and loves the city and her neighborhood.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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# Megard, Hunt leverage 50 years of experience in crafting district council report card

By JAN WILLMS

What some might call the Grande Dames of St. Paul politics, Bobbi Megard and Ruby Hunt, have between them more than 50 years of experience in the government process. Their latest accomplishment has been a report on the District Councils in Saint Paul, co-chaired by the two women and prepared by the League of Women Voters of Saint Paul.

Both Megard and Hunt have been past presidents of the League, and both have been City Council members. Megard has attempted a run as mayor, and Hunt has also served on the Ramsey County Commission.

"Ruby was on the City Council when the Districts were created in 1975," Megard said. "There has been a strong neighborhood system for the past 30 years, but some of the Districts are in trouble."

Hunt added that as the city has continued to cut costs because of budget decreases, the position of some mayors has been to not fully fund the District Councils. As a result, changes have occurred since the inception of the Districts.



At its Annual Meeting on May 14th, the League of Women Voters of St. Paul approved a project to review the effectiveness of the St. Paul District Council system and to help provide support for updating District Council plans, information sharing, funding adjustments and training. The project was co-chaired by League members Bobbi Megard and Ruby Hunt. (Photo by Terry Faust)

The office of Citizen Position Coordinator (CPC) has been eliminated, training has been negligible, and communication between the City and Dis-

trict Councils has deteriorated.

"The CPC made sure the District Councils had contacts with the City," Megard said. "We had an understanding of how to

account for the money we received from the City."

Megard said the Districts met monthly, were told by the CPC what was going on. Mem-

bers were trained in managing nonprofits.

"The CPC made sure we were involved," Megard, who served as a community organizer for District 12 from 1985 until 1993, stated.

She said the District Councils have, over the years, developed block nurse programs. One started in District 12 and grew slowly to be a part of other districts. Recycling projects, neighborhood beautification and integrating new immigrants into the community have all been an essential part of District Councils.

And, according to Megard, the City kept the Districts informed of ongoing projects, as well.

"There is a 20-year program for street repair in Saint Paul," she said. "The City would tell us the details, how long the work would last, where and when it would happen. We could tell our people what was happening."

"The City Council has fallen down on its responsibilities as far as what the city's role should be," Hunt said. "They've backed away a little at a time."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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Coleman administration indicates  
library's days are numbered...

# Neighborhood works to try to save Hamline- Midway Library

By JANE MCCLURE

Don't close the book on the Hamline-Midway Branch Library just yet. Neighborhood residents are working with Ward Four Council Member Jay Benanav and the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library to keep the community's library open. Hamline-Midway Coalition is getting neighborhood residents together to discuss ways to save the library, forming a strategic planning group to work on library issues.

Mayor Chris Coleman's administration has indicated that the library could close in the next few years, given tight city budgets. For 2008 hours would have been cut and technology increased under the proposed library agency budget. But thus far cuts to hours in 2008 have been staved off, with a last-minute addition of \$300,000 to the library budget. That will save hours threatened with cuts at Hamline-Midway as well as at Hayden Heights.

Benanav worked with Council Member Dan Bostrom to obtain the additional library operating funds. He also managed to get \$50,000 in planning funds for the library September 26. Benanav said that funding can be used to plan any capital improvements that would make the library more user-friendly.

The added money to restore hours and the funds for planning give neighborhood residents more time to plan, said HMC Community Organizer Jun-Li Wang. "We need to be aware that the possibility of closing the library remains

very real. We have to strategize about what we can do to make the library viable and keep it open."

"We've heard from many people that we should not allow this library to close," Benanav said. He is frustrated that Hamline-Midway Branch has been targeted repeatedly with closing.

The council member said he'd like to find some type of solutions, be it an operating partnership or dedicated donor endowments, to keep the library operating. But because Benanav is leaving his post at year's end it will be up to the next Ward Four council member to take up the library cause.

Benanav and Wang said if neighborhood residents want to save their library, they need to step up. The district council is planning a community meeting later this fall to discuss ideas for the library. As of early October no date had been set. Call 651-646-1986 if you would like to get involved.

HMC is asking for help from Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, a library advocacy organization. The Friends have indicated that they, too, want to see Hamline-Midway Branch remain open.

City officials had suggested Hamline University take over the Hamline-Midway Branch Library. But university officials have said that while they will help community members in efforts to keep the library open, the university isn't interested in taking over the facility and making it part of the university itself.

Even with all of the cuts to libraries and recreation centers pro-



Mayor Chris Coleman's administration has indicated that the Hamline Library could close in the next few years, given tight city budgets.

posed in the 2008 budget, the highest property tax levy increase in many years is proposed in St. Paul. Whether the City Council can reduce the 14.6 percent levy adopted September 12 by year's end remains to be seen. But council members say it won't be easy, given tight budgets, a lack of funding sources, a bevy of proposed city service cuts and disagreements with Coleman's administration about ways to reduce the levy. The inability of the Minnesota Legislature to adopt any kind of property tax relief and Local Government Aid (LGA) increase earlier this month are adding to the city's budget woes.

If the maximum levy is unchanged St. Paul will levy \$82.6 million for all city operations next year, including libraries and the HRA.

The 4-3 vote to adopt the levy puts in place what had been known as budget Plan B. When the mayor presented his budget in August, he took the unusual step of presenting two budgets and levy hikes — one if state lawmakers approved property tax relief in a special session and another if they did not. But most council members assumed they couldn't count on more state aid and set aside the smaller increase. That assumption proved to be true September 11 when state lawmakers limited their special session to flood relief for

southeast Minnesota, after governor Tim Pawlenty refused to entertain legislation on other issues.

Had the city had tried to keep services at existing 2008 levels, there would have been a \$17 million budget gap. Had St. Paul been able to obtain a hoped-for \$10.2 million in LGA in a special session, with levy increase would have been 7 percent or \$4.9 million. But no additional state money forced the 14.6 percent or \$10.2 million hike.

The vote on the overall 2008 levy increase was council members Benanav, Dan Bostrom, Lee Helgen and Dave Thune for, and Pat Harris, Lantry and Debbie Montgomery against. Opponents contend the levy increase is simply too much to impose on property taxpayers. Lantry called the 14.6 percent amount "extraordinary." Montgomery questioned how the working poor and seniors in her ward could afford such a tax hike.

Much of the debate leading up to the September 12 vote was technical in nature, centering on how the city is using money from a sewer fund to balance the budget, and how interest earnings on that fund should be calculated. Coleman's budget assumes tapping into that money as a long-term budget funding source, a move council members agree with. Harris and Lantry wanted to change how the sewer fund is used in the 2008 budget, saying that changing interest rate calculations and shifting an additional \$1.4 million in

interest earnings into the general operating budget could have reduced the levy by as much as 2 percent. But the administration disagreed with those assumptions and urged the council to stick with the budget as proposed.


Harris, who works in public finance, said he is disappointed that what he calls a change in the interest rate could not have resulted in a lowering of the levy. He said he'll look for additional ways to cut the budget in the weeks ahead.

"I don't know if this is going to get any easier," said Lantry.

What was adopted September 12 is a maximum levy. Under state truth-in-taxation law, cities and counties must set maximum levies by September 15. Between that date and year's end levies can be decreased but not increased.

The levy does support a budget that calls for hiring 13 additional police officers, replacing aging squad cars and merging two of the area's oldest fire stations into a new facility at West Seventh and Randolph. But it also calls for either closing or transferring management of 10 recreation centers, closing ice rinks, raising numerous fees and charges, and making cuts to virtually every city departmental budget.

Council members who voted for the increase said they didn't take their vote lightly. "To go to taxpayers and say 'we're going to increase your taxes while we're cutting your services is hard for me to do,'" said Benanav.



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# General election may see light turnout if primary is indicator

If turnout for St. Paul's November 6 general election is as light as it was for the September 11 primary, it will be a quiet day at area polling places. The four wards having City Council primary elections saw low voter turnouts, with one of the wards having fewer than 1,000 voters.

The general election will feature all seven council seats and eight candidates vying for St. Paul School Board.

Here are how the ward races are shaping up:

**\*Ward One.** First-term incumbent Debbie Montgomery is facing challenger Melvin Carter. Carter wrestled the DFL endorsement away from Montgomery this spring. Thus far no debates between the two candidates have been announced. The ward includes all or part of the Frogtown, Summit-University, Lexington-Hamline, Snelling-Hamline, North End and Hamline-Midway neighborhoods.

**\*Ward Four.** DFL endorsee Russ Stark racked up 1,052 primary votes, with Terrance Bushard netting 204. That put them on the November ballot. Greg Groettum finished third with 91 votes and dropped off the ballot.

Longtime ward Four Council

Member Jay Benanav chose not to seek re-election. The ward includes all or part of the St. Anthony Park, Como Park, Hamline-Midway, Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods.

The only Ward Four debate announced thus far is at 7 p.m. Sunday, October 21 at the University of St. Thomas' 3M Auditorium in Owens Science Hall. The building is at the northwest corner of Cretin and Grand avenues, with free parking in campus lots nearby. Growth and Justice President Dane Smith, a former Star Tribune and Pioneer Press political writer, will be forum moderator.

This forum is sponsored by the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Council, a campus-community group, and the Undergraduate Student Government at UST. Questions may be directed to Doug Hennes, 651-962-6402. The public is welcome to attend.

**\*Ward Five.** First-term incumbent Lee Helgen won 917 primary votes to face off against challenger David Haas November 6. Haas won 487 primary votes. The primary eliminated challenger Warren Anderson, who garnered 197 votes.

Ward Five includes all or part of Como Park, North End, South Como and Payne-Phalen neighborhoods.

In other council races, incumbent Dave Thune faces challenger Bill Hosko in Ward Two; incumbent Pat Harris is unopposed in Ward Three; incumbent Dan Bostrom faces challenger Pakou Hang in Ward Six and incumbent Kathy Lantry is challenged by Jannine Kelly in Ward Seven.

Eight candidates are running for four school board seats. The incumbents are Anne Carroll, Tom Conlon and Kazoua Kong-Thao. They are joined on the ballot by challengers Jennette Gudel, Keith Hardy, Kevin Riach, David Peterson and Bernard Ruppert. The board is assured of at least one new member as long-time board member Al Oertwig resigned earlier this year.

Seeking information on candidates? St. Paul Neighborhood Network is hosting candidate debates. Watch the channel schedule for dates and times. St. Paul E-Democracy also posts candidate information.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

## Ward 4 voters forum planned Oct. 21

The two candidates for the Ward 4 seat on the St. Paul City Council will participate in a voters forum on Sunday, Oct. 21, at the University of St. Thomas.

Russ Stark and Terrance Bushard received the most votes in the Sept. 11 primary and advanced to the Nov. 6 general election to succeed Jay Benanav, who has represented Ward 4 since 1998 and chose not to seek re-election.

The forum will be at 7:30 p.m. in 3M Auditorium in Owens Science Hall on the university's south campus. People can park in any of the lots near Owens, which is on the northwest corner of Grand and Cretin avenues. A reception will follow.

The hour-long forum is co-sponsored by the Undergraduate Student Government at St. Thomas and the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from St. Thomas and four neighborhood organizations.

Stark works for University United, a nonprofit coalition of residents and businesses that promotes transit-oriented development along University Avenue. He is a political science graduate of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and lives in the Hamline-Midway area.

Bushard has worked in the printing business since 1983 and is a printing services broker. He is a business graduate of the University of Minnesota and lives in Merriam Park.

Dane Smith, president of Growth and Justice, a progressive issues think tank based in St. Paul, will moderate the debate. Smith was a government and political reporter for the Minneapolis Star Tribune and St. Paul Pioneer Press for nearly three decades before leaving the Star Tribune earlier this year.

If you have questions about the forum, please call Doug Hennes, 651-962-6402, at St. Thomas.



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# Central Corridor station area planning could transform city's neighborhoods

By JANE MCCLURE

Construction of the Central Corridor light rail line not only will not only mean physical changes to University Avenue and other streets, it is also expected to transform adjacent neighborhoods with more dense, transit-oriented development projects. That's seen as especially true around the proposed transit station sites, where more housing density and compact commercial development are sought over the long term. The next phase of Central Corridor-related land use planning gets underway in October with a series of station area planning meetings and the St. Paul Planning Commission announcement of a station area plan steering committee.

The Planning Commission is appointing a steering committee to lead station area planning. The committee's initial public meetings are 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, October 16 and November 13 at the former Lexington Outreach Library, 1080 University Av. That building has been transformed into a resource center for Central Corridor.

Central Corridor is an 11-mile transit line that would connect downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. Most of its route is along University Avenue. Preliminary engineering work for the rail line itself got underway this fall. Under a best-case scenario, construction would start in 2010 with the line opening for passengers in 2014.

Those involved in land use decisions at the neighborhood lev-

el are interested in station-area planning and hope it is an opportunity to bring forward new ideas for long-term redevelopment. But there are also concerns. District 13 and Hamline-Midway Coalition representatives met recently to discuss station area planning issues, said District 13 Land Use Chairman Scott Banas.

"I think there is a lot of interest in how the areas around each station could develop, but there are also question as to whether anything we recommend will be adopted," Banas said. He noted that even though the City Council has taken steps this summer to restrict development in station areas, exemptions have already been approved for Midway Center Walgreens and Big Top Liquors, a Pelham Boulevard used vehicle lot and a parking lot at Court International.

In the Summit-University and Frogtown areas, questions center on whether stations can be added at Victoria or Western. Several months ago an advocacy group calling itself Stops for Us formed, calling for more stations at locations including Hamline, Western and Victoria. But the Metropolitan Council will not make decisions on including Victoria and Western

until early 2008.

Summit-University Planning Council (SUPC) President Steve Wilson said that adding stations is a priority for his council. But he cautions that may not be likely,

given that light rail line costs are already ballooning toward the \$1 billion mark.

"I think we need to continue to advocate for additional stations for our neighborhoods, but

when you get big-ticket cost items like a tunnel at the University of Minnesota and the need to rebuild the Washington Avenue Bridge, our needs will probably get put on the back burner," Wilson said.

A series of public meetings and design charettes will be held this fall to start hammering out station area land use plans. The project is on a fast track, said city planner Donna Drummond. The city will be working with planners from Toronto-based Urban Strategies, as well as Metropolitan Council and Ramsey County. The Metropolitan Council is planning the light rail line itself and the stations, most of which would be lo-

cated in the street right-of-way.

The city's role is in land use planning around Central Corridor. Station area planning is the next step in a process tied to the larger Central Corridor Development Strategy. That plan, which outlines potential land use changes all along the light rail route, was finalized earlier this year by a St. Paul Planning Commission task force. The Planning Commission recommended approval this summer and sent the document on to the City Council for final approval. No date for council action has been set.

Each station area will have its own plan. Station area plans will draw on the recommendations from the development strategy, while honing in and providing more detail for the blocks around each station. "We're very anxious to get started on station area planning," said city planner Lucy Thompson.

This fall the planning focus will be on stations at Westgate Business Park and the intersections of University and Raymond, Fairview, Snelling, Lexington, Dale and Rice.

In early 2008 planning will start for stations at Robert, 10th, Cedar and 4th streets, and the Union Depot. The second phase would also include plans for future stations at Western and Victoria. Those intersections aren't included in the Central Corridor plans, despite vigorous lobbying

by district councils and numerous businesses, institutions and community groups. One idea is that when Central Corridor is built, the infrastructure for additional stations could be added to the project, with stations themselves added at a future date.

Public roundtables to discuss the fall set of station areas will be held October 23-25, with two to three station areas discussed at each session. Ideas from those workshops will be reviewed by the steering committee when it meets in November. More workshops will be held in November and December. One focus of those workshops is to bring in key property owners, businesses and institutions that are in each station area.

In January 2008 more workshops will be held to continue work on draft station area plans.

The station area plans will include recommendations on future land uses, possible density in each area, redevelopment ideas, suggestions to improve area pedestrian and bicycle connections, and plans for public space. One huge issue that also has to be addressed in each area is that of parking. The possibility that neighborhoods around each station could become de facto "park and ride" lots is a concern that has been raised, especially in Summit-University, Frogtown and Hamline-Midway neighborhoods.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



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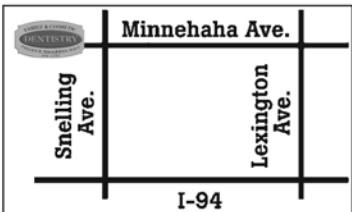
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By JAN WILLMS

A royal wedding with entertainment was held in 1810 in Bavaria, joining in marriage Crown Prince Ludwig and the Saxony princess, Theresa. People enjoyed the event so much, it heralded the beginning of the tradition of Oktoberfest, according to Bruce Larson, president of the Germanic Heritage Foundation and founder of the Saint Paul Oktoberfest. The festival is set for Saturday, Oct. 13, noon to 11 pm, at the north end of Rice Street.

This will be the seventh year for the Oktoberfest, which is primarily held in the St. Bernard school gymnasiums.

Larson, who is a great aficionado of festivals, said he realized several years ago that something very special would be lost unless somebody did something to commemorate the tradition of Oktoberfest.

"I looked into the mirror and said to myself, 'I guess it's going to be you,'" he said.

He said the basic elements of the original celebration in Bavaria were preserved for the first event in 2001, which was at that time called the North End Oktoberfest. An actual wedding was held, and bed races were substituted for horse races. Music and food were part of the celebration.

"At the first one, we only had 500 people attend, but the weather was cold and wet," Larson said.

It was decided to put the event primarily indoors, and St. Bernard's two gyms were used.

"Also this way we avoided the trend toward heavy drinking," Larson said. "Most Oktoberfests have

*A bit of Bavaria comes to North End...*

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turned into drunken brawls."

As the event progressed each year, it was found that many participants came from outside the neighborhood, so in 2004 the name was changed to the Saint Paul Oktoberfest. In 2006, over 50 per cent of the patrons were from outside the North End. The event has grown, and 2000 attended the 2006 daylong celebration.

"We're the largest family-friendly Germanic event within the city limits of Saint Paul," Larson said.

Larson said the bed has changed, also. The bed race is one of the few outdoor events, with different groups racing with the same bed around a course on Rice Avenue, trying for the best time out of three trials.

"Our first bed was an old iron antique," Larson said. "We found if we got more than two Klondike Kates on the bed, the casters would break. I had my general contractor create a bed out of in-

dustrial scaffolding with huge casters. This bed can carry all the Klondike Kates without any problem."

Larson said originally the racing participants were groups from the Saint Paul Police, the Sheriff's Department and the City Attorney's office, and various politicians. The general trend now is toward athletic associations, football teams or track teams. There is \$600 given in prizes.

Eclectic music is also a big part of the event. There are polkas and waltzes and other forms of ethnic dancing. The largest band is a 30-piece German band called the Bavarian Musikmeisters. The smallest is a group of three musicians called Alpensterne. Cajun music is also featured.

There is a Teddy Bear band for children, with movies and games a part of the entertainment.

Over 150 Hmong youth from the Arlington Jr. Naval ROTC actively volunteer and serve in the festival.

And usually, at least 20 couples decide to renew their wedding vows.

"The women get garlands, and the men boutonnières," said Larson. "Of course, the wedding renewal vows scare a confirmed bachelor like me," he added with a smile.

Larson also is president of the Saint Paul Festival Association, a group of about 10 community festivals exclusive to Saint Paul.

"We organized to provide technical assistance, funding and mentoring for the festivals, old and new," he said. "It's necessary to create a forum for exchanging ideas and sharing resources between neighborhoods."

Larson, who has a degree in European history, said many of his hobbies are generated by his love of history. One of his hobbies is collecting civil war cannons.

Not surprisingly, a highlight of Saturday's festival will occur when Larson shoots off one of his cannons.

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Wing Young Huie has history on University...

# Local photographer's new University Avenue project offers glimpse to his past

By JAN WILLMS

Artist Wing Young Huie's new project along University Avenue will offer him a glimpse back into his past.

It has been 12 years since Huie photographed the people of Frogtown, culminating with their images displayed at an outdoor exhibit at University and Dale. A book, "Frogtown: Conversations and Photographs in an Urban Neighborhood," was published in fall 1996.

Huie said he has already started work on his new project, photographing in the Midway area.

"I am working with Public

Art Saint Paul," he said. He will photograph for two years and display the pictures along University Avenue for nearly six miles, from the State Capitol to the beginning of Highway 280.

"It will be a combination of large photos in business windows and projected images on 12 to 15 store venues," Huie said. He said the projecting images will be shown at twilight, and people will be able to see a show.

"Each venue will feature a different theme," Huie explained. "For example, one might cover rituals."

Huie said this project will allow him to revisit Frogtown, and

note the changes and similarities in the area since he began his first major project there in the mid-90s. There are notable changes in Huie's life, also.

Huie grew up in Duluth, the youngest child and only one not born in China. He was studying journalism at the University of Minnesota, and when he was 20, he bought a camera.

"I just decided to be a photographer," he said. He took one intro to photography class as a college sophomore, but for the most part has been self-taught in his field. "I combined the journal-



Wing Young Huie in his East Franklin Ave. studio. (Photo by Terry Faust)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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# League of Women Voters study scrutinizes St. Paul's district council oversight

By JANE MCCLURE

Ways to help St. Paul's district council system are being debated at City Hall and in the greater community, as a result of a recent St. Paul League of Women Voters (LWV) study. Efforts are underway to find more operating funds for the councils, along with more resources for staff and volunteer training and review of bylaws and articles of incorporation.

More controversial is whether the councils need more city oversight and attention to finances, one of the League's key suggestions. There's debate as to whether the city also needs to stop being neglectful and strengthen its ties to and communications with the councils, to bridge a growing gap between the citizen participation organizations and city government.

League members also said that district council volunteers and their staff members also be more mindful of the federal tax regulations governing 501 c 3 non-profits, which is how all 17 of the city's citizen participation groups are structured.

The League report was presented at a September meeting at Hamline-Midway Branch Library September 19 and then to the St. Paul City Council September 26. Its recommendations will go to a council budget committee later this fall. The League is offering to assist the city with fund-raising to such needs as board and staff training. Ward Four Council Member Jay Benanav is trying to find an additional \$75,000 in the city budget to assist with district council operations next year.

Benanav's pledge is good news to the League. LWV Member Bobbi Megard is a former member of the St. Paul City Council and eight-year community organizer in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood. She and former City Council and County Board member Ruby Hunt co-chaired the study, which is an update of a 1996 report on district councils.

Current and former district council staff and board members, as well as those who've had their differences with the city's 32-year-old citizen participation system, were among the almost 50 people attended the League's first public presentation of the report. One of the most debated points September 19 centered on district councils' status as non-profit entities and whether members and staff could engage in partisan political activities. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules prohibit political partisan activities by non-profit groups.

The League used last spring's Republican takeover of Highland District Council (HDC) as an example of recent district council problems, a point HDC Community Organizer and former board member Georgia Dietz called "kind of sad." When Megard mentioned it, HDC President Bill Poulos began coughing loudly.

Dietz told audience members September 19 that a takeover to one person "may be empowerment to another." She said the HDC board change, in which almost all of the incumbent members were swept out of office, was a case of "democracy"

and "getting people involved."

Poulos questioned why the LWV didn't include recommendations on the political partisanship issues. He noted that in St. Paul, candidates for city, county and school board run with party affiliation. He drew laughter when noting that the district council system has served as a "farm club" for local government.

The political partisanship issue should have been addressed by the LWV recommendations, Megard said. But she also pointed out that those conducting the district council study were surprised to see so much politically partisan activity by council staff members and boards in recent years. One concern raised September 19 was about district council staff members actively involved in campaigns and holding fund-raisers for candidates, or board members running for office without resigning council board seats.

Audience members from Hamline-Midway and Como Park raised those concerns about their councils. Former HMC Board Member Benita Warns said staff and volunteers at District 11 have engaged in political activities, including hosting candidate fund-raisers. Former members of a District 10 Como Community Council committee said their staff and board members have also engaged in campaigns.

Most boards have rules against political activities, said Hamline-Midway resident and Macalester-Groveland Community Council Executive Director Melissa Martinez Sones. She presented a response on behalf of

several councils at the September Hamline-Midway meeting.

At both District 10 and 11, policy is that the councils remain politically neutral. Board members and staff are not to be involved in campaigns on staff or board time, but are free to do what they want on their own time. Nor are they to use their district council affiliations when working on a campaign. HMC Executive Director Michael Jon Olson said, "There is nothing in federal or state law, nor in HMC's bylaws, personnel policies, or code of conduct, that preclude board members, committee members or staff from involvement in political campaigns." But all are reminded to participate on their own time and separate their activities from those of the council.

Megard said that should be a standard practice for all councils. "In order to not taint the reputation of your district council, you have to be careful," she said. That is where more city oversight may be needed.

Megard and other League members believe the city is not doing enough to help the system it created. League member Marion Watson said that when the council system was created, there was an understanding that the city would support the citizen participation system. "The city has abdicated that responsibility and that is one of our concerns," Watson said.

Some district council presidents and directors say their organizations are already following the practices recommended in the LWV report. They point out that small budgets and limited

staff make it impractical to make suggested changes such as annual audits or separating staff duties.

Generally, district councils believe the League report is a "great starting point," said Martinez Sones. There is some hope that the report could leverage more city and private resources for the councils in the future. But like so many other studies on district councils, there is concern that the current report may just sit on a shelf with the others.

She and others also said there is concern that all district councils not be painted with the same broad brush, when a few have problems. "We'd rather see those (situations) as anomalies," Martinez Sones said.

There was disagreement over oversight. Several district council representatives said councils should be autonomous and not have city oversight. That's a contention that troubles Megard. During meetings with district council representatives to prepare the study, Megard heard the sentiment that many councils don't want a close relationship with the city and don't want the city telling them what to do.

"My response to that is, you are creatures of the city," Megard said. The city provides \$1.2 million citywide for citizen participation programs. Megard said district councils that don't want city oversight shouldn't take city funding.

But in interviews with the League, some council staff indicated they are unclear as to what the city expects of them or what they expect from the city.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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## Report card

Continued from page 3

A study by the League of District Councils in 1996 expressed concern that the close cooperation between the City and the Districts would decline, and both Hunt and Megard are concerned that has been the case.

District Councils have experienced a variety of difficulties, ranging from non-residents attending an annual meeting and reversing policy decisions to not filing required documents in a timely manner to being in financial straits.

Hoping that these issues could be addressed and improved upon, the League completed its recent study in August, and Hunt and Megard have attended City Council meetings and raised their concerns.

Although the two women initiated their interest in local and city politics many years ago, their pursuit of effective government remains as strong today as it ever was.

Megard said that when she joined the League in 1970, she had stayed at home for 15 years and raised three children.

"I joined when my son was three because I was losing my mind," she said. She had been a teacher, and she said she found women running for school board and active in other ways, and they became her mentors.

She served on the integration review committee for her district, as well, a few years earlier. She said no white children were being bused, and the magnet school system was created.

Perhaps the strongest impetus for her in beginning her lifelong work with community policies was when she found that her local neighborhood association did not allow women to belong.

"This was in 1972," she said. "I always tell this story, because it is within everyone's memory. We really had to fight."

Megard said she remembered men in the association, which later was supplanted by a District Council, saying that "Women would just kill the organization."

She smiled as she recalled that a lot of the men were good friends



A study by the League of District Councils in 1996 expressed concern that the close cooperation between the City and the Districts would decline, and both Ruby Hunt and Bobbi Megard are concerned that has been the case. (Photo by Terry Faust)

of hers.

She and others were invited by Rosalie Butler, then a City Council member, to come downtown and file a complaint with a human rights organization.

"When they heard about it, the guys caved," Megard said. "We never had to file."

Hunt said that when she was president of the League, the organization completed a study of city government and found it was outmoded. She took this information to the Charter Commission, and a woman on the Commission resigned so that Hunt could sit on the Commission. She became the chair person, and the changes were brought to a vote, and at first defeated. A second vote brought passage.

"Saint Paul is the only city that completely reformed its government without financial disaster or scandal," Hunt said. "It went from a weak mayor form of government to the mayor administering all departments."

She said that once the changes were passed, she was encouraged to run for City Council.

"Friends said it would be like having a baby and giving it up for adoption if I didn't follow through on this," she recalled.

Both women also recalled Butler and the impression she made while on City Council.

"She would wear a white mink to the City Council meetings and tell the press, 'Fasten your seat belts, boys,'" Megard said.

Megard noted that today, it is difficult to involve young women in government.

"We have a few young women who are members of the League,"

she said. "But one of the things I find happening is that people like Ruby and I have been around so long they become intimidated."

"And so many are working," Hunt added.

"Women are working very hard today," Megard said. "They have families. They are expected to be educated, to be mothers, to be in the work force and to be beautiful."

She added that the key for young people to become involved in their local community is for parents to be instilling in their children an interest in their neighborhoods, their city and their country.

Megard reflected on the interest in community as well as national politics that she and Hunt have fostered for many years and continue to work on today.

"We know how to get things done in the city," she said. "And we both left city government with our reputations intact. I never took a vote I was ashamed of."

She said that because of the respect they have earned, they are listened to.

"When we call the mayor and say we want to come and see him, he sees us," she said.

Hunt, as she considered the recent study of District Councils, said "This is the kind of thing the League excels in. We have no axe to grind, we love Saint Paul and we want to see it prosper and excel."

Megard said they participate in national elections, also.

"I know our representatives personally, and when I contact them I get a call back. It's that sort of access citizens don't realize they can have, if they keep themselves informed."

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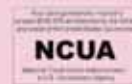
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# IN OUR COMMUNITY

## In Our Community

### Rice St. Club holds spaghetti dinner

The Rice Street Athletic Club will hold its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, October 28, from noon to 5 p.m. at the St. Bernard's Parish Center, corner of Rice Street and Geranium. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for those aged 12 and under. The public is welcome. For additional information, contact Jack Tschida at 651-489-0568.

### Zion Halloween Party October 27

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave. at Aldine St., will be hosting their 2nd annual Halloween Costume Party on Saturday, October 27, from 5 to 7 p.m. All ages are welcome to come for fun and fellowship. There will be games, food and prizes for all. Cost to get in is a non-perishable food item for the Keystone Community Food Shelf.

### Interested in Solar Energy?

If you are interested in the possibility of installing a solar system on your home or in the neighborhood, you are invited to attend an information session about potential community solar projects at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 11 at the Hamline Park Building (SE corner of Snelling & Lafond). This information session will be hosted by the Hamline Midway Environmental Group (HMEG).

If you are interested in more information, visit [www.MNRenewables.org/events/solartour](http://www.MNRenewables.org/events/solartour) or contact the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) at (612)308-4757 or [info@MNRenewables.org](mailto:info@MNRenewables.org).

### History Corps meets October 14

There will be an organizational meeting of the Hamline Midway History Corps on Sunday, Oct. 14 @ 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Historic Hamline Playground Bldg. (Hamline Midway Coalition), 1564 Lafond Ave. As the History Corps enters its third year, join us as we select officers, develop an organizational and fundraising strategy, and become a more formal, sustainable organization.

Join us if you're interested in impacting the future of our dynamic group! New members are always welcome!

### Conservatory's show runs thru November 25

As the season begins to change from summer to fall outdoors, so does the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's Sunken Garden. The Fall Flower Show opened Saturday, October 6 will run through November 25. Gardeners begin the task of removing the Summer Flower Show on Monday and on Tuesday begin planting and arranging more than 500 new plants.

The October edition of the Fall Flower Show features chrysanthemums in a pallet of pink, coral, lavender, purple, white and yellow hues. More than 500 plants will be featured, many new to the market and accented with black pearl peppers and some ornamental grasses. The October edition runs October 6-October 28.

The second edition runs November 3 through November 25 and features an additional 500 plants in harvest yellow, maroon and orange tones, ideal for a Thanksgiving retreat. To complement the golden array, Chilly Chili pepper, ornamental grasses and Swiss chard will be highlighted.

The Fall Flower Show and annual exhibition of chrysanthemums began when the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory first opened in November 1915. The Holiday Flower Show and Spring Flower Show tradition began in 1925. The Sunken Garden, the south wing of the Conservatory, was built in 1927 and continues to host five annual flower shows each year.



### The Rice Street Art Scoop October 11

The Rice Street Art Scoop will be held Thursday, Oct. 11, 5-8 p.m. at Dar's Double Scoop, 1046 Rice St. Neighborhood artists and performers will appear. At 7:30 p.m. an art raffle for a 1930's Bernie Lund watercolor will be held with proceeds going to District 6. Call District 6 at 651-488-4485 for more information. NEBA is a co-sponsor.

### Men's Club holds Sauerkraut Supper

The St. Stephanus Men's Club will be holding their Annual Sauerkraut Supper on Saturday, November 10, from 5-7 p.m. at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, (Lafond and Grotto). Dinner includes pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, dessert and beverage served family style. Adults: \$9, Children 5-12: \$4, Children under 5: Free, Family Household: \$22. Craft and Bake Sale for the Youth Ministry will be held in the church lobby during the supper. For tickets, call Arnie at the church: 651-228-1486.

### "Islam and the Reformation" October 28

Dr. Rich Carter of Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP), will sharpen insights into the teachings of Islam and those of the Reformation on October 28, Reformation Sunday, at the 9 a.m. adult forum at Jehovah Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church on the Corner of Snelling and Thomas. The title, "Islam and the Reformation: Two Views of the Love of God," sets the tone for the session. On the previous Sunday, October 21, the group will learn from a Mosaic video entitled: "A Glimpse of the Spirit of Islam" and prepare questions

for the next Sunday with Dr. Carter.

Dr. Carter has been a professor at CSP since 1991 where he teaches Lutheran doctrine and history, world religions and vocation. He has taught in seminaries in Nigeria, Russia and India and had contact with Islam in each of these countries. He earned his STM from Yale Union Divinity School and his doctorate at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

The community is invited to these two Sunday forums. Please enter through the Thomas Avenue door. Call Dawn at 651-644-1421 for further information.

### Zion Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale November 10

Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond at Aldine St. will host a Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bake sale, craft, recycled Christmas items, coffee and cookies are available for purchase. A light lunch can be purchased between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Please bring your neighbors and friends. For more information call the church office at 651-645-0851.

### Rice Street logos under review

The Rice Street Marketing Team, with the help of Katie and Molly Thompson, graduates of the University of Wisconsin; River Falls has created four logos and need your input! Visit the Rice Street Library, 1011 Rice Street, to see the designs and give your opinion. The public comment period begins October 10th and ends October 26th. The group will meet Monday, 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday, 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to

5:30 p.m.

The designs will also be on display at the District 6 Planning Council located at 213 Front Avenue.

### North End Community Ed Senior Program

Basic Estate Planning: Wills power of Attorney, Health Care Directive, and Eligibility for Medical Assistance Benefits. This class will answer the who, what, when, and why of these various topics. The instructors for this program are three lawyers who specialize in Elder Law. Tuesday, October 23, 10:30 a.m.-12:30a.m., at West Minnehaha Recreation Center, for \$8.

The following Driver Improvement Refresher Classes are available this fall: Wednesday, October 24, from 9-1 at North Dale Recreation Center for \$18. Thursday, November 8, 9-1 at North Dale Recreation Center for \$18. There is also an 8 hour Driver Improvement Course for those who want to receive a 10% discount on their car insurance for the next three years. You must be 55 to be eligible for this program. The 8-hour class is Monday & Wednesday, from 5-9:00 p.m. at Como Sr. High School for \$20.

Our Annual Harvest Turkey Dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 14th, from 1-3 p.m. at Crossroads Elementary for \$12. Dinner will be provided by Aesop's Table and entertainment will be the Silver Stars.

Greeting Cards: Make It, Take It: Take this opportunity to make several fall and holidays cards using a variety of special papers, stamps, and more. Thursday, November 8th, 10 a.m.- noon, at West Minnehaha Recreation Center, for \$8. There will be a \$5 supply fee payable to the instructor day of class.

Registration for these programs and many others are being taken at the North End Senior Office 651-293-8811 Call today for more information or to register.

### Como teacher to receive award

Roy Magnuson, Social Studies teacher at Como Park H.S., will be receiving the Heroes for Children Award from the Children's Law Center of Minnesota. This award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to Minnesota children either through their career or through volunteer activities. Magnuson was nominated by State Senator Mee Moua for his 25 years of teaching, coaching and mentoring students in St. Paul. The award will be presented at the MCLC Annual Benefit to be held Thursday, October 18, at the Millennium Hotel in Minneapolis. The event runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., with the program at 6:45 pm. For information contact CLCM at 651-644-4438.

### Rice St. Library plans activities

The Rice Street Branch Library has a wide variety of activities planned for October. Please join us!!

The Library will offer early-literacy-based preschool story times on Tuesdays (10:30-11:00 a.m.) on October 16, 23, and 30.

The Teen Book Club will meet Wednesdays Oct 17 and Oct 31 from 7:00- 8:00 pm. They will be reading and discussing The First Part Last by Angela Johnson. Please sign-up at the library or call 651-558-2223 for more information.

The North End Book Club will meet Monday, October 22, at 12:30. All are welcome to attend. For more information please call Sandy at 651-293-8811. This group is sponsored by North End Community Education of Saint Paul Public Schools.

Free Job Search Assistance will be offered by a consultant from Goodwill-Easter Seals on Fridays (10:30 am to 12:30 pm), Oct 19 and November 2, 16, and 30. No appointment is necessary.

The STARS Homework Help Center is a comfortable place for students of all ages to work on schoolwork. STARS also provides homework helpers to help students with their questions. Open Mondays through Thursdays from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The Rice Street Library is located at 1011 Rice Street between Lawson and Hatch. Our phone number is 651-558-2223. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 12:30-9; Tuesday 10-9; and Friday and Saturday, 10-5:30.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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10:45 AM	Youth Group
8:30 PM	Compline (Service of Evening Prayer)

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# League study

Continued from page 9

Watson said the lack of oversight could be a contributing factor to the bylaws and articles of incorporation irregularities the League found in its review. Several councils have outdated or legally incorrect bylaws or articles of incorporation. One huge issue is that of board membership. Council boards are supposed to reflect residential and business composition of their communities, a requirement the City Council adopted 32 years ago. But some councils have no business seats or allow persons who work in a district to join, when the intent was for residents and business owners to serve. Many councils in neighborhoods with high concentrations of rental properties struggle to attract renters.

One example of a board that ran into problems because of its bylaws was West Side Citizens Organization (WSCO), which allows workers and neighborhood volunteers to join the board, regardless of where they live. Last year the WSCO Board was taken over by supporters of the Bridges of St. Paul development. Developer Jerry Trooien and his JLT Group were accused of busing in supporters and board members to elect a pro-Bridges slate to the district council, to reverse its previous position of opposition to the project.

## Here are key recommendations from the League report:

\*Fiduciary responsibilities of staff and boards. Highland District Council's situation, in which federal and state financial reports were not filed for years, is one where the board as well as staff share responsibility, Bobbi Megard said. District council board members hire the staff and need to assume they have fiscal responsibilities when staff make decisions.

\*Annual financial reviews. When the City Council created district councils, having an annual audit was required. Macalester-Groveland does budget for an audit every year, that council's director Melissa Martinez Sones said. "But I think for some of the district councils, that's a bit of a luxury right now."

The LWV is suggesting city financial staff assist in annual reviews of council finances.

\*The city should perform its proper oversight functions. With no citizen participation coordinator there is no city staff person versed in non-profit regulations who has time to work with the councils. Much of the oversight remaining is financial.

In 1994 then-Mayor Norm Coleman cut the citizen participation coordinator post, a move attributed to city budget cuts. Megard, however, said she suspects the mayor didn't want to deal with "pesky" neighborhood groups.

Megard said city officials have been "neglectful" of the councils, noting there has been much less oversight and training since 1994. That coincided with the elimination of the citizen participation coordinator and

the end of planners being assigned to work one-on-one with each district council as a resource and liaison to City hall.

\*Training. The League believes training is "vital," Megard said. She said community organizers and boards had regular access to training when there was a citizen participation coordinator. There were also annual training days. Years ago the city would also contribute so that district council members and staff could go to national community-organizing conferences, such as Neighborhoods USA.

For several years the councils organized their own training day, but that was shelved due to lack of funding and staff time.

\*Councils should separate administrative and program function. The LWV states this would make management of the organization a priority. But Martinez Sones noted that some councils have only one staff member, so such a separation may not be practical. At virtually every council the executive director also handles some programs.

\*Communications to residents should be improved. Years ago the City Council gave each district council \$5,000 for the purpose of communications. The League found councils do many different things for communications, ranging from newsletters to web sites. But Megard said there is no substitute for face-to-face meetings and door-knocking, which few councils do any more.

"We have a lot of new residents in St. Paul and they have no clue to what the district council system is about," Megard said.

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# Local photographer

Continued from page 8

ism with my self-taught photo skills, but just kept on with the photography," he said.

He took a couple of workshops from renowned photographers Frank Gohlke and Garry Winogrand after completing his university education.

He was making his living as a commercial photographer, spending 90 per cent of his time trying to make a living, when he decided to do a project in a diverse neighborhood.

"The one I grew up in was not diverse," he noted, "so I selected Frogtown. I walked around, asked people if I could photograph them for a community photography exhibit. Some said yes, some said no, and some called the police."

"I had this vision of putting photos up, and also how people would react to it," Huie said. "In a way, nothing surprised me about their reactions. At the same time, I didn't have any expectations. But I thought the outdoor exhibit

would change my life—it was a bold idea."

He said the reactions were varied. Some people who lived in the neighborhood said "This is it." Some viewers said "I don't see how people could live here," and others said "This is a wonderful place to live."

With his litany of photos of people in their homes in their backyards, sitting on their steps, Huie said he is not trying to tell the viewer what to think.

"The work is ambiguous enough so you can fill in what is going on," he said. "The photo captures an interesting moment."

With the book that resulted from the Frogtown exhibit, every five photos would have text. The interviews Huie did with his subjects were meant to give context to the photos and encourage the viewer to ask more questions.

"The merging of words and photographs was not journalistic," he said. Huie said he wanted to challenge those looking at the book with what their expectations, presumptions and assumptions were after looking at the photographs.

His work in Frogtown gave him an idea for a project on Lake Street in Minneapolis. He started photographing people there in the fall of 1997. That summer, his black and white photos were displayed in business windows along Lake. In 2001, he published a

"I had this vision of putting photos up, and also how people would react to it."

- Wing Young Huie



book called "Lake Street USA," a compilation of his photos.

As Huie begins working on the University Avenue project, he sees some things that have not changed so much.

"There are still Mom and Pop stores," he said. "And there were quite a few Asian businesses, even back when I first photographed in Frogtown."

However, that was the first wave of Southeast Asians. He said that today the second and third generations are making homes and building businesses. He also noted the growth in the Latino and African populations.

Huie said he always senses a feeling of community when he photographs and collects stories of what people say.

Although issues such as immigration, socio-economic issues and America's changing cultural landscape are addressed by his photos, Huie said he does not pay attention to demographics.

He and his wife, Tara, embarked on a photographic odyssey when they were newly married, starting a month before the events of 9/11/01. They spent nine months traveling across the United States and a book of Huie's photographs is ready to be published. It is called "9 Months in America: An Ethnocentric Tour." He and his wife also collaborated on a video of their travels, and she wrote a travelogue.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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## In Our Community

Continued from page 12

### Holy Childhood holds dinner November 4

Holy Childhood Church will hold a Turkey Dinner and Boutique on Sunday, November 4th 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 1435 Midway Parkway, in St. Paul. Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m.

### Housing Fair held at Pavilion November 3

The Greater Minnesota American Housing Fair will be held November 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Como Park Pavillon, 1360 North Lexington Parkway. For more information call 651-488-4920.

Visitors can expect to see many vendors, plenty of food, and adequate parking available.

Learn about homebuyers education, including financial education, credit issues, real estate, foreclosures and much more information available to everyone."

### La Leche League meeting November 13

The Art of Breastfeeding and Avoiding Difficulties is the topic of the next meeting of Como-Midway La Leche League, to be held on Tuesday, November 13 at 7 p.m.

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

A lending library on a wide variety of related topics is also available. For meeting location or more information, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

### Lyngblomsten holds rummage sale October 18

Where can you help others just by shopping? Where can you find inexpensive treasures for your home and family, fresh coffee, and homemade delicacies? It's all at the Lyngblomsten Auxiliary's Fall Rummage Sale! Enter at the 5-5-1 Club off of Pascal Ave. in St. Paul (between Almond Ave. and Midway Parkway), on Wednesday, October 17 (9 a.m.—4 p.m.); Thursday, October 18 (9 a.m.—2 p.m.); and Friday, October 19 (9 a.m.—noon: \$3 bag day!). All proceeds go towards enhancing the lives of older adults and their families. (Matching funds applied for with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.) Donations of your new and gently used items (no electronics, please) are accepted at the front desk of the Lyngblomsten Care Center (1415 Almond Ave., St. Paul) from 8 a.m.—8 p.m. on October 8-13. (Questions? Call 651-646-2941 or visit [www.lyngblomsten.org](http://www.lyngblomsten.org).)

### Barbershop Chorus holds concert

Are you ever looking for something to do on Sunday afternoons? You, along with your family and friends, are invited to join us for a free concert featuring the award-winning Great Northern Union Barbershop Chorus on Sunday, October 7, at 3 p.m. at the Newman-Benson Chapel at Lyngblomsten (1415 Almond Ave.). You'll be glad you came! (Questions? Call 651-646-2941 or visit [www.lyngblomsten.org](http://www.lyngblomsten.org).)

### Knox Church holds Fall Festival October 20

The Knox Fall Festival and Book Fair will be held Saturday, Oct 20th, 9a.m-3 p.m., 1536 W. Minnehaha Ave., on the corner of Minnehaha and Asbury next to the Library. Homemade baked goods, crafts, used household items and books for sale. Sloppy

joe lunch served starting at 11 a.m. with a cost of \$3.50.

### District 6 sponsors Mitten/Sock Drive

District 6 Planning Council is sponsoring a Mitten/Sock Drive and hope you will participate. Drop off elementary size mittens, socks, hats or scarves to our office at 213 Front Avenue or to Mike's Complete Auto Care, 1174 N. Rice Street, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays!

### District 6 Open House

Have you ever wondered what a District Council is or does? Here is your chance to find out. Visit us Saturday, October 27th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at our office, 213 Front Avenue. Visit with the Board and Land Use Task Force members, take a look and give your opinion on the Neighborhood Gems project, pick up valuable information on a wide variety of subjects or just stop by to say hi! There will be treats for the kids and refreshments for the adults. This will be a great time to drop off your donation of elementary size cold weather gear.

### Don't forget the meeting dates

The Central District Police Community Meeting is held the second Tuesday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Rice Street Library.

The Western Police Community Meeting is held at the Western Police Station, the corner of University and Dale on the third Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.


District 6 Planning Council's Board of Directors meet the first Monday of the month and the Land Use Task Force meets the fourth Tuesday of the month, except for December. Both meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held at 1414 North St. Albans.

### MOMS Club holds meeting November 13

The MOMS Club of Midway/Como East is inviting all interested mothers to attend an informational meeting on Tuesday, November 13th. MOMS Club is an international nonprofit organization that offers activities and support for mothers who are home with their children. For further details, please contact Erika at 651-487-1149.

### Hamline Hi-Rise holds annual bazaar


The Hamline Sr. Citizen Hi-Rise at 777 Hamline Av. S., will hold their annual bazaar Nov. 3, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The bazaar will feature several tables; white elephant, jewelry, craft and baked goods. Lunch will also be served. A silent auction will be held featuring porcelain dolls, 42" handcrafted Santa, computer armoire, Swedish weaving Christmas pillow, hand crocheted afghan and other items. The closing bids will be at 1 p.m. The public is welcome.




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It was a glorious morning. Reflections of the clear blue sky and the golden leaves of the surrounding trees played across the shimmering surface of Como Lake. A mature bald eagle glided low over the lake just above the treetops. Bees hummed while they visited the purple asters and goldenrod near Duck Point. Yes, it was a perfect early autumn day.

I was with Joan McKearnan, Environmental Science Professor from Anoka Ramsey Community College, and Meghan Manhattan, from St. Paul Park and Recreation Department Environmental Services. Joan and Meghan were standing in their hip waders just offshore among the cattails. They were sweeping dip nets through the placid water. The contents of the dip nets would be the final samples being gathered for the Como Lake Macroinvertebrate Study - a study funded by the Capitol Regions Watershed District.

Over the past five months Dr. McKearnan, EcoPartners staff and interns, and volunteers have been collecting monthly water samples from five locations along Como Lake's shore. The subjects of the study has been the aquatic insects, worms, leeches, mollusks, and other invertebrates that live at least part of their life



# Nature in the City

By DEB ROBINSON

Getting a chance to view weird and wonderful fauna

cycle in the waters of Como Lake.

Macroinvertebrates occupy the middle of the lake's food chain, and they are an important source of food for the fish. The abundance or absence of certain species of macroinvertebrates can be an indicator of water quality. But simply curiosity was my reason for volunteering that morning. It was my chance to view the weird and seldom-seen fauna found just below the water's surface.

Meghan and Joan emptied the contents of their dip nets into a tray for sorting. We sifted through the waterweeds to dislodge the invertebrates. Most of these tiny creatures will need months of closer examination with a dissecting microscope by Joan (and other experts) to identify them by species. However, even I could identify at least the broad families of which some of the macroinvertebrates belonged.

The fascinating members of the order Odonata, dragonflies and damselflies, were in every sample I saw.

It's hard to believe that the immature stage of dragonflies and damselflies are totally aquatic. Dragonfly nymphs have rectal tracheal gills to absorb oxygen from the water - they breathe through their rear-ends. The dragonfly nymphs can expel water out quickly, which propels them forward with great velocity. Combine that speed with their labium (a lower lip that functions like a hinged claw) and you have a fearsome predator. So wired for aggression, they even continue to hunt while in the specimen tray.

I saw water boatmen, backswimmers, and diving beetles carrying air bubbles with them so they could breathe underwater. Caddis fly larvae that build protective tubes of pebbles were also found. Tiny chironomids and snails by the thousands - more creatures than I can list, all turned up in the dip net samples taken from Como Lake.

One of the largest and most interesting invertebrates was encountered in two sampling locations on the last morning of data collection.

Water scorpions (Ranatra sp.) are nearly an inch and a half long, and they resemble walking stick insects. They get their name from the rear appendage that looks like a stinger but is re-

ally a breathing snorkel. Water scorpions are predatory insects. They hang motionless with their breathing tubes above the surface of the water. With front legs held out like a preying mantis they wait for their victims or they stalk their prey. Yet, these predators looked helpless out of the water. However, I later learned that water scorpions are capable of inflicting a painful stabbing bite when handled roughly. I'm glad I treated them with respect.

Joan, Meghan, and I did our collecting and sorting near the lakeside walking path, and many passers-by asked us what we were doing. I told one lady, "We're catching interesting bugs!" She replied with a hint of disdain, "Oh, my 10-year-old son

would enjoy that." If getting excited over the wild diversity of aquatic macroinvertebrates found in Como Lake makes me a little immature, then I hope I never grow up.

**Endnotes:** \*Volunteers for the Como Woodland Buckthorn Bust on Oct. 27, 9 a.m. to noon. We will meet at the Como Pool Parking lot located on Horton Avenue just west of Lexington Avenue. Bring your own gloves and handsaws if you like, we'll provide heavy tools and some gloves as well as refreshments. To sign-up email: Meghan.Manhattan@ci.stpaul.mn.us or just show up. \*Citizen scientists! Discover the wonderful diversity of aquatic insects; check out the Aquatic Inset Interactive Verification Program: [www.entomology.umn.edu/midge/VSMIVP.htm](http://www.entomology.umn.edu/midge/VSMIVP.htm) \*Trees Saint Paul is a new program that is taking donations to help the City of St. Paul replace the trees lost during the summer storms. To donate: [www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks/forestry/Trees.htm](http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks/forestry/Trees.htm) \*To contact this writer: [dmrobinson@bitstream.net](mailto:dmrobinson@bitstream.net)



On one of the last days of September, Meghan Manhattan and Dr. Joan McKearnan collected the last samples for the Como Lake Macroinvertebrate Study. It will take many months to analysis the data, and the study results will be used for education and lake management.

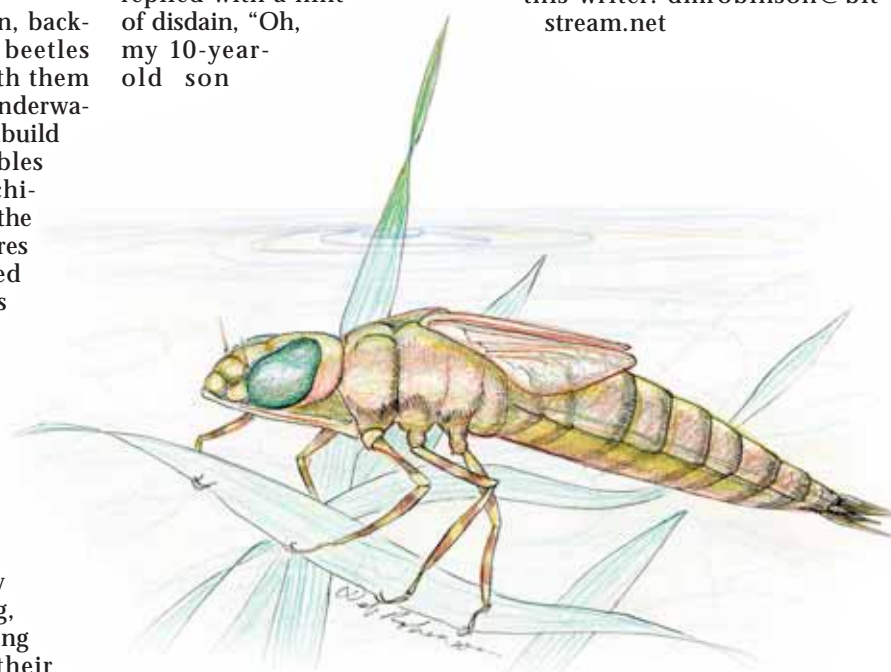


Illustration by Deb Robinson

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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 October 31 for the November 8 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)

## ART INSTRUCTION

Watercolor painting classes and workshops offered by local artist, Helen Bond @ Como Park studio. Beginning & intermediate. For complete list of classes, see website: [www.helenbond.com](http://www.helenbond.com), call 651-231-5535 or email: [bonidinidesigns@comcast.net](mailto:bonidinidesigns@comcast.net). 1-07

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## BAZAAR

Faith Lutheran Church, 499 Charles Ave., will hold their annual bazaar on Nov. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a bazaar and something for everyone. Lunch is ala carte. There will be baked goods and many other things. For more information call 651-227-5299. 10-07

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Business Partner Wanted. Inc 500 Co. expanding business looking for someone who has owned or operated a business or has experience in marketing, teaching or public speaking. Send resume to [lifespurebalance@gmail.com](mailto:lifespurebalance@gmail.com). 12-07

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## EMPLOYMENT

Outreach and Neighborhood Safety Coordinator: District 6 Planning Council is searching for a candidate to perform community outreach for the Invest St. Paul area as well the District 6 area. For a detailed job description please visit [www.district6stpaul.org](http://www.district6stpaul.org) or call 651-488-4485. Please send your resume to District 6 Planning Council, 213 Front Avenue, St Paul, MN 55117 or email to [district6@qwestoffice.net](mailto:district6@qwestoffice.net) by November 1, 2007 and include at least three references. 10-07

Coris Kidz Childcare looking for qualified preschool teacher. Hours 9-5:45. Please call Cori or Kenyatta at 651-489-9300. 10-07

Looking for delivery carriers to deliver the Monitor approximately 3 to 4 hours per month. Pay by route. Also looking for contract carriers for work two or three times a week. Great for supplemental income! Call 651-458-8053, ask for Lloyd. 12-03

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## Election

Continued from page 5

The Ramsey County Elections page on the county's web site includes candidate phone numbers, email addresses and web site addresses in one convenient location, at <http://ramsey.county.mn.us>

Click on the elections page.

Call County Elections at 651-266-2177 if you have questions about where to vote. Minnesota does offer same-day registration if voters bring proper identification to the polls or have someone vouch for them. Information on voting is also on the county's web site.

## MMSA students return to school

Maternity of Mary/St. Andrew (MMSA) students returned to school on September 4 to some big changes. First, a new principal, Melissa Dan, along with three new middle school teachers, Ryan Kramer (religion); Diane Baker (media); and Kari Zobel (math), were there to welcome students and parents. Parents, students, and staff are

enthusiased with the changes and looking forward to a successful, academic year ahead.

The marathon for non-public education is just about to wrap up. There is still time to contribute. Please contact MMSA at 651-489-1459 if you would like to make a donation and thanks for your support.

Any prospective parent wishing to visit the school should contact MMSA at 651-489-1459.

Next deadline: October 29

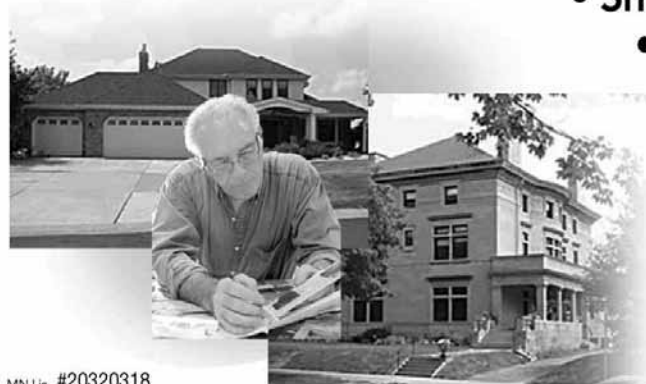
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# Classifieds

## Midway in a minute

Continued from page 2

At District 7 Kidder worked on issues ranging from organization of block clubs to working on major neighborhood redevelopment projects. She worked with countless area residents, business owners and community groups.

A celebration in her honor was held September 27 at the former Dale Street Greenhouse, which is being turned into offices for neighborhood groups including District 7.

## New Abetto's owners granted licenses

The new owners of Abetto's Deli and Catering and Abetto's Liquors,

560 Como Av., were granted their licenses September 12 by the St. Paul City Council. Several licenses were granted for the business, which includes a restaurant and rental hall, catering, patio and liquor store. The business had been operated under the licenses of the previous owners until the new owners could get permanent license of their own.

Abetto's began in 1973 as a liquor store and expanded over time to include the rental hall, catering business, restaurant and deli. The Bozich family is taking over the longtime North End business. The sale of the business in June prompted the transfer of the licenses to the new owners.

The licenses were unanimously recommended for approval by the District 6 (North End-South Como) Planning Council. But because the city received one letter of objection to the licenses, a legislative hearing was held in August. By

the time of that hearing the new owners and business neighbors had met to discuss their concerns. The new owners are making a number of changes in operations and will install an obscuring fence and signs to address neighborhood concerns about late-night noise.

The City Council approved the licenses with conditions. One condition is that an obscuring fence be built. Signs will be posted to remind patrons and staff that doors should remain closed at all times and not propped open. Signs will also be posted to remind patrons that when they leave the premises, they are in a residential neighborhood and need to be respectful of the residents. Another condition is that sales of wine and beer must be with food.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

## Central corridor

Continued from page 6

The first set of station area plans then goes to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval in spring 2008, with the rest going forward later in the year.

What can get confusing is that there are two other Central Corridor-related processes also underway at City Hall. The Central Corridor Development Strategy won Planning Commission approval

this summer and goes to the City Council for a public hearing and final approval this fall.

Tied to the development strategy and station area planning, University Avenue is currently under a development moratorium that restricts the types of redevelopment that can go on. This was adopted by the City Council this summer, with the goal of having permanent zoning recommendations in place soon. Plans call for community meetings on proposed zoning recommendations to be held later this fall, with recommended changes to the Planning Commission and City Council in spring 2008.

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# Hamline Church dig

Continued from page 1

students about the community at the archaeological process. Hoffman explained that by slowly peeling layers of soil gives the students a better sense of the landscape created by the community—and also an introduction to the science/process of an archaeological dig. If the goal was to simply find the church, “we could just use a backhoe to dig deep enough to find the foundation,” Hoffman said. Instead the class is taking a more multi-disciplinary course to piecing together the neighborhood’s past.

Hoffman said that his class is made up of mostly seniors and upperclassman from varied majors. Rather than prerequisites that follow upper level classes, students had to apply to the class, allowing students from outside the anthropology major to join. Hoffman hopes that by bringing students from different divisions of the school together they will be able to get a fuller perspective on the community.

“We, as students and professors, are all trained in a particular way, and that is sometimes hard to break out of, and so by collaborating we end up seeing things differently,” Hoffman said.

Hoffman pointed out that in past he had a class dig where a science building once stood on Hamline’s campus. One student happened to be a chemistry major, and for her contribution to the class, she performed various chemical analysis on artifacts that were



Hamline students Rayna Olson and Natalie Self examine a bit of history during the Hamline Church dig. Nails and bits of ceramic and glass are the most common finds. (Photo by Terry Faust)

found during the dig.

Linda Sjostrom, a junior Communication Studies major, said that she joined the class because, “as a little girl I dreamed of being an archaeologist.” As Sjostrom grew older she realized that the life of an archaeologist might not be right for her, but when she saw the class it was the opportunity that she had been looking for since she was young. Sjostrom hopes to connect the project to her Communications major and Certificate in International Journalism, by possibly doing an Oral History project.

Hamline students are not the only community members involved in the dig. The Hamline Midway History Corps helped Hoffman pick the dig site.

The Hamline Midway History Corps was founded in 2005 by Phil Reinhardt and Kristi Mathers, as part of the LISN (Leadership in

Support of Neighborhoods) program, sponsored by Hamline University and the Hamline Midway Coalition. The History Corps’ mission is to collect and share neighborhood history and advocate for local architectural preservation and

restoration. According to History Corps member, Krista Finstad Hanson, the project came about during a History Corps meeting with Prof. Hoffman.

“What we are currently working on (the church) came out of a joint meeting between some History Corps members, Brian Hoffman, Candy Hart (Hamline University archivist) and Mary Bakeman. Brian revealed that foundations for previously existing buildings are good sites for archaeological digs,” Hanson said. said via email.

Bakeman knew something about Hamline Church’s history, as she edited and contributed to a book, *Casting Long Shadows*, which celebrated the church’s 125th anniversary.

According to member Anne Levine, “As much as [the Excavating Hamline’s Past Project] explores and explains the past, it continues the strong community that made this neighborhood and supported the neighbors and created valued institutions.”

One way the community at large is getting involved is through

open digs. The open digs allow community members a chance to get their hands dirty and participate in the dig. One open dig was held on September 22nd. On his blog Hoffman reported that the community turnout was very nice on a beautiful day for digging, but not much was uncovered. Another dig is coming up on October 13th, from 9-3 p.m. It is suggested that if you want to participate that you wear gardening clothes, and asked that children be accompanied by an adult.

As this story was being prepared Prof. Hoffman was pleased to announce on his blog that the class may have found the church. He wrote, “It’s not as substantial a construction as we expected - so we have a lot of questions to answer and more digging to do. Archaeology almost always works this way. You may or may not find what you are looking for, but you always end up with more questions than when you started.”

You can check out Prof. Hoffman’s blog at <http://bhoffman.edublogs.org/>.

## Local photographer

Continued from page 15

“This book on the Asian experience in America is a more personal work,” Huie said. “It’s an opportunity for me to see this country from my personal viewpoint.”

He said that although he is Asian, he grew up in the land of Lake Wobegone and Mary Tyler Moore.

“My real ethnic tendency is white,” he said. “I always wonder what my life would be like if I grew up in Chinatown or the rural South.”

As well as this recent book, Huie is working on a project of photographic wall panels for

Saint Paul’s Dickerman Park. He is also photographing Lutheran congregations that are looking at diversity, both ethnic and gender-related, and doing a project on homeless teens.

“There are issues of difference and otherness and ethnicity that every culture has faced and will always face,” Huie said. “We live in a pretty polarized time, but when hasn’t it been? I don’t think about those things when I’m photographing. I don’t think about what I have seen. I’m not looking at specific meanings—I’m just really looking.”

# HAMLIN UNIVERSITY

## “COMING HOME,” A CHORAL COLLABORATION

### “Coming Home”

Date: Sunday, October 14

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Hamline United Methodist Church  
1514 Englewood Ave., Saint Paul

Cost: The event is free and open to the public.

Hamline University invites the public to the premier of “Coming Home,” performed by the A Cappella Choir under the direction of George Chu. “Coming Home” is an experimental piece

in which spoken words from Hamline students, alumni, faculty, and staff are put to choral music. A grassroots collaborative effort within the Hamline University community and in cooperation with the Hamline United Methodist Church, “Coming Home” was created by composer Jan Gilbert and lyricist Jean Greenwood.

Written in the vein of a contemporary psalm or song of the soul, the piece explores the multiple meanings of coming home, reflecting the human search for wholeness and peace, meaning, and transcendence. The piece begins with spoken

word highlighting images and ideas of home, culminating in this question:

“What does it mean to come home, ... home to ourselves, to our calling, to our people, our world, ...home to our hearts, to what matters most, ...home to God, our Higher Power, to what is sacred and holy? What does it mean to come home?”

For more information, please contact Jean Greenwood at 612-825-4927.

