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Midway Como

Monitor



Your community newspaper since 1975

August 2015 • Vol. 41 No. 4

www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

21,000 Circulation

Como By The Lake seniors fighting to keep Section 8 Housing

By CONNOR KLAUSING

At the Como By The Lake senior housing complex, located on the south shore of Lake

Como, residents are fighting to protect a Section 8 housing contract that subsidizes rent for 57 of the building's

low-income seniors.

The owners of the building, local attorney Jim Schwebel and businessman Gary Sauer, are selling the property, and have decided to let their Section 8 contract expire. If it does, previously subsidized apartments would be raised to market rate, making the units unaffordable for many of the current residents.

The move by the owners is made possible by the temporary nature of project-based housing. Under Section 8, the federal government provides financial assistance to either individuals or property owners to help reduce the cost of living for low-income people of all ages. When property own-

ers receive money, the arrangement is referred to as project-based Section 8 housing.

In the case of Como By The Lake, the federal government provided subsidies to help pay for construction. In exchange, the owners signed a 30-year contract to provide a percentage of Section 8 housing in their building. But once a project-based contract is up, the owners have no obligation to continue the program. Residents who stay are eligible for enhanced vouchers, which would work as long as the new owners keep building a rental property. However, if the building was converted to condos, for example, the voucher would lose its power. As a result, many tenants are left with the choice of either paying up or moving out.

For the seniors at Como By The Lake, there's more than

just housing at stake. Currently, seniors in the Como complex receive a broad array of services including nursing and health counseling provided by the North End-South Como Block Nurse Program. Executive Director of the program Chris Langer explains, "The idea of our program is to keep seniors in their homes rather than nursing homes." Seniors also get a daily community meal, health and exercise classes, and volunteer support. However, if units become market rate, seniors who can't afford to stay will lose these services along with the apartment.

Another asset at stake for residents is the strong community that's developed within Como By The Lake. "Most people that moved in here moved in with the intention of stay-

Continued on page 15



Como By The Lake is located near the south shore of Lake Como, at 901 Como Ave. (Photo by Connor Klausing)

Midway Murals Project to debut Aug. 29

How spray paint and broken glass can beautify a neighborhood

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

It's been a long, hot summer of road construction, detours and delays along Snelling Ave. But when the dust clears on Aug. 22, there will be a new street, new lighting, new sidewalks and the beginning of a new era for Snelling—once considered the Main Street of Minnesota.

On Sat., Aug. 29 from 12-6pm, folks will have a chance to gather at Hamline Park (Snelling and Thomas avenues) to celebrate the changing face of the neighborhood at the Midway Arts Festival. There will be live art such as the Poetry Mobile, where you can talk to real, live poets; and Jon Reynold's Street-Corner Letter Press, where you can experience printing done the old-fashioned way. Enjoy the food and culture of African, Vietnamese and Korean businesses in the neighborhood, and leave plenty of time to take a self-guided walking tour of the four new public art works brought to you by Midway Murals—one of the winners of this year's Knight Arts Challenge Grant.

According to Jonathan Oppenheimer, project lead for Midway Murals, "Snelling Ave. is due for its renaissance."

"The intersection of Snelling and University," Oppenheimer

said, "is one of the busiest in the state, and that busy-ness has been a big part of its identity problem. A lot of people have a negative perception of Snelling and University. Our hope with Midway Murals is that people will be intrigued by what they see here. We hope the murals will enliven the neighborhood, inspire people to get out of their cars, and start experiencing all the great things we have to offer."

Oppenheimer ought to know the strength and weaknesses of this neighborhood; he lives only a block away from Snelling and University. As a resident, he couldn't help noticing how many times local businesses were "tagged" by graffiti and had to be repainted. As a public policy student at the Humphrey Institute and an intern at the Council on Crime and Justice, he started to wonder what kind of project could be a catalyst for change—especially during this time of reconstruction.

A series of murals seemed like the most impactful choice. The project set out with three goals in mind:

- to create an artist-led initiative that would engage the local community;
- to build a bridge across cultural divisions; and

—to bring new opportunities for economic growth.

Midway Murals was made possible with a \$25,000 Knight Arts Challenge Grant. Oppenheimer and his creative team were able to raise matching funds through an enthusiastic Indiegogo campaign.

Once the money was in place, Oppenheimer invited four local artists to design and create the project murals. Along with the addresses where their murals can be seen, they are:

- Lori Greene, mosaic artist (555 Snelling);
- Greta McLain, painter and mosaic artist (512-520 Snelling);
- Eric Mattheis, graffiti-style spray painter (638 Snelling); and
- Yoya Negishi, traditional Japanese and American idiom painter (681-89 Snelling).

With the artists on board, Oppenheimer began the process of meeting business owners along Snelling Ave. He walked from door to door over several months explaining how public art can be a powerful medium, and how it can be used to connect with people on the streets. "Placing these murals in our neighborhood will be a way of reclaiming it," he told people,

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Lori Greene, a full-time mosaic artist for 17 years, specializes in public and community art projects. Her bold colors and forms evoke a sense of strength, power and memory. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Youth outreach is part of standard community policing in St. Paul

Never touch a gun; be careful when walking or riding a bike; and respect adults while also being cautious

By JAN WILLMS

For Officer Mark Ross, who has been with the St. Paul Police Department since 2001, talking with school children about his role as a police officer is second nature to him.

With his background as a school resource officer, Ross said he is often asked to go out and speak to schools. "I have spent a lot of time with kids," said Ross, who is also raising his own children in the Como Park neighborhood.

This past May, Ross, who is a medal of valor winner, was invited to speak to the Hamline Elementary kindergarten class by teacher Rhonda Sue Simonson. Hamline Elementary is located at 1599 Englewood.

"We try to have fire trucks and police officers come at the end of the school year. We feel it is important for kids to know what to do in potential emergencies, and in summer they have more time, hence more potential risks," Simonson said.

Simonson said that what impressed her so much about Ross, as well as other policemen and policewomen who have come to the school in the past, is how they want the kids to see them as real people.

"Officer Ross said he was wearing the uniform for his presentation, but he goes to his kids' games in shorts, and he shops at Target and he rides the bus or uses a regular car. He is known by a badge number at work, but he has a name," Simonson continued.

Ross concurred that one of the things he always talks about with kids is what he does when he is not at work. "We're just people, part of the community," he noted. "I have a family, and I'm doing the same thing the kids are doing. I'm going to the rec center or walking around the lake. Being a police officer is my job, but we're just like everybody else."

Explaining his job is a big part of what Ross does at his school presentation. "My prime objective is to get the kids to understand that most of what we do is helping people. We work within the community every day, and we help people all day long in all kinds of different ways."

Through meeting with the kids, he hopes to build relationships with them so they know they can trust the police and consider them a resource for help.

"Of course, they want to talk about the equipment," Ross said. "We go over that as well and explain to them what each piece of equipment is for, what it is used for and different ways we use it to help them and people in the community."

He said kids always want to ask about the guns. "We try and get that out of the way very early and explain to them that guns are dangerous, and they should never touch a gun," Ross said. "We try to explain that if they were to see a gun, don't touch it; call an adult or call the police right away so they can deal with it. Do not touch it or let your friends touch it."

He said that at the school presentation, he doesn't necessarily talk about using deadly force. "I explain that the very last thing we want to do is use a gun," Ross said. He tries to emphasize to the class that guns are very dangerous and should not be handled unless one is an expert or trained.



St. Paul Police Officer Mark Ross, a Como resident, speaks with children in teacher Rhonda Sue Simonson's kindergarten class at Hamline Elementary. "My prime objective is to get the kids to understand that most of what we do is helping people," Ross said.

Ross also talks about safety when walking to school or crossing streets. "I tell them that just because you can see a car; it doesn't mean the car can see you. Be cautious when crossing streets. When you're riding a bike, wear your helmet and stay in pairs or groups."

Ross said he encourages kids to be respectful to adults and their elders. "That's a fine line with kids," he admits. "You don't want them to be too trusting. Even if they're not comfortable with a situation, they can remain respectful and go get help. Or just develop one-liners where they can get themselves out of a situation."

As an example, Ross said a child can say "No, my mom says I can't. I have to go."

Ross said he tells kids how they can help the police, also, by doing a good deed or reporting a crime or being a good witness.

"In many ways the police are preaching the same rule structure our discipline programs aim to enforce in schools," Simonson said. "There are not good people and bad people, but sometimes a person makes a bad choice and helpers need to be available to keep all safe. It helps when we

know the rules and talk about what went wrong."

She said that research has proven that five-year-olds have a strong sense of right and wrong and appreciate rules, yet can have empathy. "I think it is very important that city workers, teachers, police, fire, recreation, and food service, work together to build the foundation of trust and responsibility to others."

Ross said he believes the school presentations are a great way to ease tension between the police and the community, as well.

"But to be honest," he added, "what we see in the media lately in terms of the police and strained relations, I think most police officers in St. Paul, and probably throughout the country, would tell you that is not necessarily the true narrative in terms

of what is going on. Instead, the majority of people are happy to see us; they trust us, and they're excited to see us out there. I'm out there patrolling in Frogtown every day, and I just don't feel the kinds of things you think I might feel, based on the reporting on TV."

Sgt. Paul Paulos of the St. Paul Police Department agreed. "We have a strong Police Athletic League program for older kids and an Explorer program for kids interested in law enforcement. I think our patrol officers do a good job in just getting out and talking to the kids," he said. "It's common to see them get out of a patrol car and throw around a football with some kids, or just talk to them. It's part of working with the community, and I think we do a really good job of that."

Monitor

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And check us out on the web at:
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The Monitor is a monthly community publication in the Midway and Como areas of St. Paul, owned and operated by deRuyter-Nelson Publications, Inc. All correspondence should be sent to the Monitor, 125 First Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. To contact the editor, call Calvin at 651-917-4182. To reach the advertising department, call Denis at 651-917-4183. Our fax number is 651-645-4780.

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Questions persist on University SuperTarget liquor store license

By JANE MCCLURE

Midway SuperTarget's quest to add an off-sale liquor store may not be resolved until late summer or fall. A two-hour legislative hearing last month ended with technical questions about the concept of a store-within-a-store, including issues of liquor delivery and storage. Until those questions are resolved, a St. Paul City Council decision on the license is pending.

Midway SuperTarget is at 1300 University Ave. Target corporate officials want to remove the store's café and replace it with an off-sale liquor store. The plans have been on the drawing boards since last year. Union Park District Council (UPDC), which initially recommended approval of the store's license, asked for the legislative hearing. More than a dozen people attended the July 17 hearing.

The prospect of another liquor store in the area has raised concerns about more access to liquor, public intoxication, litter, negative neighborhood impacts and the efforts to change the Midway area's image. But much of the hearing centered on technical issues tied to city distance regulations.

The district council, Big Top Liquors, and area residents have questioned whether the proposed liquor store meets the one-half mile or 2,640-foot minimum distance separation required by city code. The city doesn't allow waiv-

er of the distance requirement, passed in the 1980s and amended more than a decade ago. One key issue that remains is how to measure "distance."

Big Top representatives contend that the distance should be measured building to building. In that case, the Midway SuperTarget doesn't meet the minimum distance requirement.

Target officials contend the proper measurement is from the store door because the liquor store would be separated from the main store. Target's surveyor measured the distance from Big Top to the store door at 2,651.98 feet.

But Jeff Fischbach, a project facilitator for the City of St. Paul Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI), said the surveyor measured the distance to the west store doors. The proper measurement should have been to the east store doors, where patrons will enter to access the liquor store. By his measurement, the total distance is 2,795 feet.

Ellen Saffron and Nancy Rosenberg, co-owners of Big Top, and Big Top Attorney Scott Banas said the distance requirements must be met. They contended that the measurement needs to be from the west building wall near Hamline Ave. and not by the doors. That would mean the distance requirement isn't met.

"The liquor store is not a free-standing building," said Rosenberg.

Banas said the distance issue has come up before in St. Paul, including the 2005 licensing of the Wine Thief on St. Clair Ave. Thomas Liquors, which is on Grand Ave., challenged the distance requirement. Banas said at that time the decision was made that the measurement should be building to building.

Nancy Husnik, senior legal counsel for Target, said the mea-

surement should be from liquor store to liquor store. "We're not seeking a liquor license for the whole store," she said. Husnik added that the liquor store should be considered a separate operation.

The planned liquor store would have its own door, own cashiers and about a dozen of its own workers. It would have shorter hours than the main store, opening at 10am. City ordinances require the liquor store to close at 8pm Monday through Thursday, and 10pm Friday and Saturday. State law requires it be closed on Sundays.

Once the off-sale license is approved, Midway Target would give up its existing 3.2 beer license and no longer sell beer and malt beverages in its grocery area.

One question Big Top representatives raised centers on liquor deliveries. Target officials said the deliveries will be made at the rear of the store. Liquor can only be stored there for up to 24 hours before it is taken to the liquor store.

Saffron questioned the legality of having deliveries to the larger store. Vang said that is the issues she will research before making a licensing decision.

Target has checked with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety on deliveries, said Husnik. State officials told Target that liquor deliveries can be made to the back of the main store, with 24 hours to move products to the liquor store. She said that is similar to what is done with store-within-a-store arrangements at other retailers. But Vang said she wants to talk to state officials herself and learn more about the issue.

The Midway store would be Target's third off-sale liquor store in Minnesota. Existing stores are in Otsego and St. Louis Park.

Como Community Council Corner

By District 10 Como Community Council

Como Community Council seeks an Executive Director

The District 10 Como Community Council is currently accepting applications for an Executive Director. The search for qualified candidates began after the Council approved the job posting in late July. The application period closes Aug. 21 and the Council hopes to have the position filled in early to mid-September. The Executive Director is the principle staff position for District 10 and provides support for all of the Council's activities.

"We are looking for an experienced candidate that wishes to work with a wide range of community members on a variety of issues," stated Board Chair Ryan Flynn. "The Council sets the direction and policies of District 10, but the Council consists of neighborhood volunteers. So we need

an Executive Director to complete our day to day operations and achieve our community initiatives."

The duties of the Executive Director include assisting with the Council's communications, administrations, finances, and community development. This is in addition to helping maintain and expand the many initiatives and community projects of District 10. The most important role of the Executive Director is to ensure that community members get accurate and up to date information about local government proposals that effect the neighborhoods within District 10.

"There is really a lot of things that District 10 accomplishes and responds to throughout the year," indicated Flynn. "The Executive Director is an integral part of ensuring open communication not only with individual community members, but also with our elected officials, business partners, and other District Councils."

The District 10 Como Community Council is a non-profit organization made up of elected, volunteer residents. Its mission is to "inform, educate, and connect the Como Park neighborhood to increase community pride and confidence." District 10 is one of seventeen district councils in St. Paul, ensuring community participation in the city's planning and decision making processes.

To learn more about the open position, you can view the full job posting at www.minnesotanonprofits.org/job-details?id=101427. To apply, you can send a cover letter and resume to jobs@district10comopark.org.

Second annual Ice Cream Social scheduled Aug. 14

The Second Annual Ice Cream Social will be held at the Street Car Station on Fri., Aug. 14, 6-8pm. Last year, the Ice Cream Social was a great success.

This year there will be ice cream and tasty toppings, kids activities and games, information tables and 'mostly' Como Park themed raffles.

Many area businesses have donated generously to the ice cream social including:

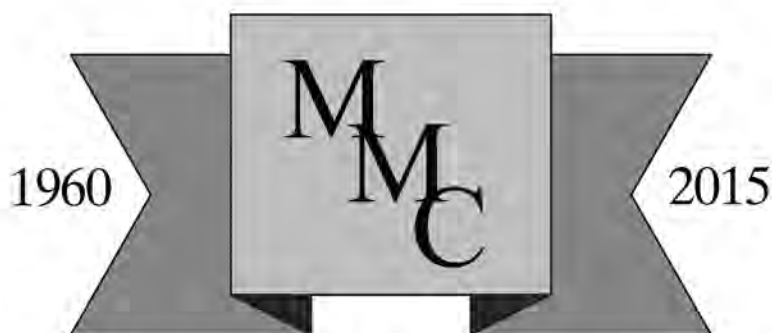
- Private Dining Boat Ride donated from Minnesota Wheel Fun Rentals at Lake Como
 - Gift certificates donated from Minnesota Wheel Fun Rentals at Lake Como
 - Fun and healthy family picnic basket for Como Park, donated by Kinderberry Hill Child Development Center in Roseville
 - Gift card from Gabes by the Park
 - Gift card from Conny's Creamery
 - Gift card from Subway on Lexington
 - Tickets for Mini Golf in Como
 - Tickets to the Science Museum
 - Cool t-shirts donated by Como Compost
 - Velasquez Coffee & mug donated from Cathy Velasquez
 - Massage from the Massage Maven!
 - Compost kitchen pails donated from District 10 Environmental Committee & Como Composts
 - Joe Mauer Bobblehead from the Minnesota Twins, donated by a neighbor
- Raffles so far include:
- Food and drink donated from Cozy's Pub
 - Gift certificate to Como Dockside
 - Gift certificates for Como Park Grill
 - A behind the scene giraffe adventure at the Como Zoo, Priceless!
 - A basket of gifts including rides on the beautiful Cafesjian's Carousel at Como Zoo
 - Two rounds of golf for four people & golf carts for each donated from Como Golf Course
 - Guest passes good for this season to Como Pool
 - Tickets to Steppingstone theatre
 - Recycle kit donated from Eureka
 - Two front row seats to the Children's Theatre production of The Frog Bride in October donated by a neighbor
 - Tickets to Penumbra Theatre's production of Black Nativity, a legendary Christmas event which runs between Dec. 3 and Dec. 20.
 - Lynx Basketball tickets to the final home game in September. The Lynx are currently in first place and will likely be headed for the playoffs, donated by a neighbor

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**Midway Men's Club
Hot food and cold drink**

- Four Como students are spending their summer at 3M participating in STEP (Science Training Encouragement Program). Celeina Lee, Shara Mafiz, Ashley Yang, and Mai See Yang are all completing eight weeks of research and work in various 3M labs. AP Biology teacher Robyn Asher attended the students' poster sessions, which were insightful presentations of their scientific process and discovery. Asher completed six weeks of research with 3M staff as part of the TWIST program (Teachers Working in Science and Technology).

- Seven MCJROTC cadets traveled to South Carolina to participate in a regional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) camp at The Citadel, with an intensive focus on cyber-security and robotics. The eight-day course facilitated a greater awareness of emerging threats to network-computer platforms. Students analyzed countermeasures and strategies to protect against cyber attack and/or infiltration. Hands-on learning with the construction and timing of robotics systems while working with cadets from around the country offered collaborative leadership experiences. Despite the extreme and oppressive heat, the cadets also conducted outdoor fitness and rappelling activities, along with a visit to historic Charleston and Fort Sumter.

- Two Como E2 environmental students were selected to spend four weeks at the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning

News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

3M, MCJR05C at SC, E2, AOF, and YCC



Ecology Credit Camp participants at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center included two Como students, pictured here on a North Shore hike in front of Pigeon Falls as part of their coursework.

Center on Minnesota's North Shore. Maureen Rein and Seven Armstrong participated in the Ecology Credit Camp, through which students earn high school credit, and college credit upon completion of the ACCUPLAC-

ER test. The experience at Wolf Ridge included doing projects both in labs and in the wilderness. Many aspects of the program are like an AP Environmental Science class in the wild. E2 is a vertical academic program between Murray Middle School and Como that begins in an 8th grade Earth Science elective.

to site visits and speakers in different business professions. Succeeding students are placed in an internship during their senior year and receive 16 college credits from St. Paul College. If you would like more information, please email AOF Coordinator Kris Somerville at kristine.somerville@spps.org.

- Principal Theresa Neal attended a week-long training in July at Harvard's Graduate School of Education. Neal was one of

- Como Academy of Finance (AOF) teachers attended the National Academy Foundation (NAF) annual conference in Anaheim, California from July 20-22. Learning focused on NAF's new brand, Be Future Ready and becoming equipped with tools to make Como's AOF program even stronger. The upcoming school year will include cohorts of 90 freshmen, 60 sophomores, and 60 juniors. The AOF at Como is a small learning community within the larger school where students focus on key components of the business world and are exposed



Como Academy of Finance teachers Jamie Crandall, Kirstyn Ouverson, Steve Powers and Kris Somerville attended the National Academy Foundation annual conference with Hannah Chan (Youth Career Connect Program Manager for St. Paul Public Schools) and Como Principal Theresa Neal.

200 school administrators from around the country participating in the National Institute for Urban Leaders. Sessions were led by national and internationally recognized Harvard staff. Topics included: Cultural Leadership for Transforming School Organizations; Using Data Effectively; Supporting Teachers in Instruction; Leading Inclusion; and many more sessions that were pertinent to developing leadership skills to effectively lead an urban school with 21st century learners.

- Following the Harvard Institute, Principal Neal represented Como at the Youth Career Connect (YCC) Grantee Conference in Washington DC, July 15-16. The conference was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and was held on Capitol Hill. Como's Academy of Finance program is partially supported by funds from the YCC grant. Neal spent two days looking at the framework of career pathways and its effectiveness in supporting academic achievement and career and college readiness. One of the keynote speakers was Thomas E. Perez, the U.S. Secretary of Labor.

- Fall sports teams are hitting the fields and courts this week as official practices begin Aug. 17. Fans can check schedules for all Como and St. Paul City teams at sports.spps.org.

- The Como all school Open House is Thur., Sept. 3 from 5-7pm. All incoming 9th graders and families are invited to meet Como staff, get class information, and see Como's facilities and opportunities. Returning students and families are also invited to get oriented for the new school year and reconnect with Como staff and families.

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Midway Arts Festival

Sat., Aug. 29, 12pm-6pm
Hamline Park

Four stunning murals have already begun to take shape on Snelling Ave. as part of the Midway Murals project. Come celebrate their completion at the Midway Art Festival brought to you by Midway Murals and Little Africa, Sat., Aug. 29, 12-6pm, at Hamline Park (corner of Snelling and Thomas). Enjoy live and interactive art projects and be a part of the renewal, rebirth, and rejuvenation of Snelling Ave.!

Head over to www.midwaymurals.com to learn more about the project and become a supporter. The project is ever so close, but still needs donations to meet their goal. Please consider donating as you enjoy and explore all that this exciting project has brought to the neighborhood and appreciate the lasting positive impacts it will have.

Midway Art Crawl on display through August

In the lead-up to the unveiling of the four murals on Snelling Ave., the Midway Murals team is organizing an Art Crawl for the Hamline Midway neighborhood. The Art Crawl officially kicked off at the end of July with celebrations and mural-making parties. But, it's not too late to lead a self-guided tour and check out some of the terrific local businesses that lend to the vibrancy of our community along Snelling Ave. The work of more than 25 artists connected to the neighborhood will remain on display at 14 locations (see sidebar) on and around Snelling Ave. Where possible, the art will be sold, with all of the proceeds going straight to the artists.

News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Arts Festival, Art Crawl, and strolling through the neighborhood

Art Crawl locations:

- Turf Club, 1601 University Ave. (1 block west of Snelling and University)
- Checkerboard Pizza, 511 Snelling Ave.
- Sunshine Beauty Salon, 520 Snelling Ave.
- Ganale Barbershop, 555 Snelling Ave.
- African Plaza, 555 Snelling Ave.
- Fluid Ink, 597 Snelling Ave.
- Mosaic on a Stick, 1564 Lafond Ave. (corner of Lafond and Snelling)
- Genesis Barbershop, 634 Snelling Ave.
- Snelling Cafe, 638 Snelling Ave.
- Sole Cafe, 684 Snelling Ave.
- Fusion Salon, 712 Snelling Ave.
- Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 Snelling Ave.
- Hamline Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. (1 block east of Snelling and Minnehaha)
- Eden Pizza, 629 Aldine St.

Visit www.midwaymurals.com for your art crawl map and list of all the art-filled destinations around the neighborhood.

com for your art crawl map and list of all the art-filled destinations around the neighborhood.

Celebrate Snelling!

Thur., Aug. 20, 4:30-7pm
North of Snelling — I-94 Bridge

The Snelling Ave. bridge over I-94 is set to reopen by Aug. 20. The bridge closure has been hard on businesses and residents in the surrounding area this summer, but with a new bridge and overall improved Snelling Ave., it's time to celebrate this integral neighborhood route.

To celebrate the improvements and to show appreciation for area residents, MnDOT, in coordination with area district councils and the Friendly Streets Initiative, is throwing a party just north of the bridge on Thur., Aug. 20 from 4:30-7pm. Come join the fun with local businesses and help the Friendly Streets Initiative explore ways to make the bridge even better into the future through pocket parks, place-making activities, and public art.

Take a stroll through the neighborhood with Hamline Midway Health Movement

Like to walk? Want to meet your neighbors? Are you interested in improving your functional fitness? The Hamline Midway Health Movement Walking Group meets outside Hamline Church United Methodist on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 9am. (Indoor walking during inclement weather and high humidity conditions.) Join us, make new friends, track your progress, and explore the neighborhood. No need to register—just show up. Everyone is welcome. Would you rather walk in the early evening? Call Kathy at 651-645-1235 to start an evening walking group.

A Hamline Midway miracle

When the community works together, we can make our own miracles. That's what Hamline Midway resident

Renee Spillum feels happened when her stolen jewelry box containing a sentimental wedding necklace serendipitously made its way back to her this week.

The jewelry box and necklace were taken from her house during a burglary in late July, which also led to the escape of her pet cat. The box and necklace were custom-made for Spillum as a wedding gift by a local artist known as Brittany (<http://www.brittanyjewelry.com>). Thanks to the vigilance of the Hamline Midway community, of which Spillum is an active member, the cat was first to find its way back home via communications on the neighborhood Facebook page.

Recognizing the thieves probably had little use for an adoring cat, unlike the contents of her jewelry box, Spillum sadly accepted the loss of her cherished wedding necklace. That made it all the more surprising when she got a message from her neighbor across the street saying someone had found a jewelry box and had posted about it on the neighborhood Facebook page.

Only a half-hour before, Kathy Sundberg, owner of Ginkgo Coffee House and Hamline Midway resident, had posted that she found a jewelry box wrapped in a blanket in her back alley. The box was in rough shape. But, there was still some jewelry left in it, and she wanted to attempt to get it back to its rightful owner in case any of the pieces had value—sentimental or otherwise. Less than one hour later, the box and jewelry were back in Spillum's possession, and to her surprise and delight, the wedding necklace was still inside.

The owner's reunion with both the cat and necklace were celebrated with sincerity and affection for the community that made it possible in the comments of the Facebook posts.

"When a break in happens, it can be easy to think negative things about your neighborhood, but my experience was the opposite. I feel safer and more a part of a healthy community in Hamline Midway than ever," Spillum said.

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A soccer stadium in the Midway?

Lingering questions about the Bus Barn / Midway Center site leave development open to discussion

By JANE MCCLURE

The former Metro Transit Snelling bus barn site and adjacent Midway Center properties are in play as a possible Major League Soccer (MLS) stadium site. Mayor Chris Coleman announced in July that he has invited MLS officials to meet with him and tour the property.

The mayor is touting a soccer stadium not simply as a way to lure a team here but also as a means to jump-start the long-awaited redevelopment of the "superblock." The superblock is bounded by St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues and Pascal St.

The 10-acre bus barn property is part of a larger 34.5-acre site (including Midway Shopping Center) that has long been eyed for various uses, most recently mixed-use transit-oriented development. An ambitious proposal for the superblock stalled last year after a study showed a need for up to \$31 million in gap financing, looking at the site's market value. Metropolitan Council officials recently said they may pursue bus barn site redevelopment on their own.

Emails between city officials and team owner William McGuire indicate that the bus barn property has been eyed for soccer since 2013. He also recently expressed interest in 25 acres of the Midway Center property for a larger development.

McGuire's partners include United Properties and the Minnesota Twins owners, the Pohlada family.

In a July 11 media conference call, Coleman indicated that he believes there would be a "clear path forward" for a stadium within a few weeks. The Minnesota United FC was awarded an MLS franchise in March. After a July 1 deadline for a stadium pact with the City of Minneapolis fell through, Coleman and the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce began advocating for a St. Paul site.

Coleman said he was told that the window for a soccer stadium in Minneapolis "is closing very quickly." He has denied that a St. Paul bid is a way for MLS to get more leverage with Minneapolis. But Minneapolis and Hennepin County officials say they are still in the game. An open-air stadium is proposed there, near Target Field.

The project has kicked off a varying range of opinions in area neighbors and elected officials, ranging from enthusiastic support to concerns about tax base impacts, traffic, spillover parking and what kind of redevelopment a stadium would bring. Union

Park District Council (UPDC) hosted a community meeting on the proposal Aug. 11 and will continue to gather input.

Union Park is an area of Saint Paul between the Mississippi River and Lexington Ave., and University and Summit avenues, including Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods. The parcel in question is located in the UPDC area.

While there has been much speculation and behind-the-scenes city discussion of locating a stadium here, UPDC Land Use Committee members and residents of the surrounding neighborhoods said community members need the chance to discuss the proposal.

"There's a need to get the community's perspective," said UPDC Land Use Committee Chairperson Anne White. Other committee members agreed. They noted that while there is considerable support for soccer and redevelopment, concerns include traffic and parking impacts, potential public subsidy, and the pros and cons of redevelopment that might be more of an entertainment district than the mixed-use long envisioned for the site.

On July 24, UPDC passed a resolution supporting further exploration of the bus barn site as a possible location for a stadium. But the project would have to allow for, and encourage, transit-oriented, mixed-use development of the entire 34.5-acre

Snelling-Midway site. That would keep consistency with the Snelling Station Area Plan developed as part of a series of station plans along Green Line light-rail.

UPDC is also asking that the city approach redevelopment of the entire superblock as whole and to "avoid allowing the excitement and urgency of the stadium project to limit the remarkable opportunity that exists in the heart of our city," the letter stated. "The best location for a stadium on the site may be the Met Council-owned parcel. But, we know the development would be stronger if the entire site and its infrastructure were designed as a whole, even though the plans would likely be implemented in phases over time."

Other concerns include making sure that stadium development doesn't compromise the goal of a walkable site with public open spaces, and a mix of housing and business development focused on creating long-term quality jobs. There is also concern about tax relief options, with worries that residents and businesses not bear financial burdens tied to stadium construction.

Another point the district council made is that parking and traffic management are "critical" and that shared parking needs to be explored. Stadium planners are also encouraged to promote transit use to get people to and from the games.

Taco Bell wants permit to rebuild aging restaurant

Planning Commission wants restrictions on restaurant's drive-through and operations

By JANE MCCLURE

Taco Bell wants city approval to rebuild its aging restaurant at 565 N Snelling Ave. But the conditional use permit, under study by the St. Paul Planning Commission for an Aug. 21 vote, could restrict restaurant drive-through window and operations. Conditions are eyed to address what neighbors and some Planning Commission members contend is a longstanding pattern of nuisance behavior.

The permit request has roiled the neighborhood, with some people liking the restaurant's extended drive-through hours and others describing it as "taco hell."

Hamline Midway Coalition and neighbors recommended denial of the permit, as did city planning staff. But denying the permit and not allowing the restaurant owner, Border Foods, to rebuild is seen by some Planning Commission members as simply allowing the existing restaurant to operate in a disruptive manner.

The conditions may include setting drive-through hours from 7am until midnight Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, with 1am closing Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Other conditions focus on litter collection, time and location of deliveries, use of off-duty police or private security from 10pm until closing, and other conditions meant to reduce impacts on neighbors.

The window is currently open until 4am on weekdays and 5am weekends. A city staff study showed that the hours are some of the longest in the city.

All fast food restaurants and all drive-through uses in St. Paul require conditional use permits to regulate hours of operation,



Neighbors say no to the rebuild, but some Commission members think that will allow Taco Bell to continue operating in a disruptive manner.

ditional neighborhood. That rezoning was done as part of long-range land use planning along Green Line light-rail.

noise, and distance from other uses. Taco Bell needs its new permit modified so its drive-through can be less than the 60 feet minimum from an Edmund Ave. home. The restaurant owners also want 20 parking spaces (which is more than required) and to have lower percentages than required for exterior landscaping, and window and door openings. The Planning Commission recommended approval of 18 parking spaces and approved a landscaping variance but sent the building plans back to the drawing board by rejecting the variance to door and window openings.

What is now Taco Bell was built in 1973 as Zapata restaurant. Its zoning at that time was commercial. The zoning was changed over Border Foods' objections in 2011, becoming tra-

ditional neighborhood. That rezoning was done as part of long-range land use planning along Green Line light-rail.

City records show that Zapata got a conditional use permit for the restaurant in 1973. But the city has no records of zoning or building permits being pulled when the drive-through window was installed. So there never was the chance for the city to put conditions on the drive-through window because it never received a conditional use permit.

Neighbors Mark and Kristine Vesley, who live just west of Taco Bell, contended last year that Taco Bell is a nonconforming use in the traditional neighborhood zoned area. The city zoning administrator disagreed but indicated that when a new drive-through window is proposed, a new conditional use permit is required. The Vesleys lost a case before the city's Board of Zoning Appeals.

Barb Schneider, Border Foods Vice President, said the permit and variances should be granted. She said variances are needed because of the small site and the desire to accommodate parking. She and other restaurant representatives also said Taco Bell is working with St. Paul Police to control behavior.

But neighbors said the restaurant has, over the years, added to its hours of operations and become a nuisance. Neighbors say their current hours till 4am and 5am makes it a magnet for people after bar closing. They described loud noise, drunken behavior, loitering, littering and public urination.

"I can stand in my back yard and take orders," said Thomas Ave. resident Bernie Hesse.

Kristine Vesley said the noise and behavior have gotten worse, and that hours need to be restricted. She asked that the drive-through be closed at midnight weekdays and 1am on weekends.

"This has become too intense a use to be next to a residential area," said Mark Vesley. He and others said the drive-through hours increased with no neighborhood notice. The restaurant staff doesn't respond to requests to turn down the speaker boxes.

Planning Commission members originally discussed denying the request but laid over the issue to allow time for staff research. Several commissioners said they took seriously the six pages of police reports between 2012 and 2015, as well as the videotapes made of late-night patron behavior.

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New coffee shop promotes art in unexpected places

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The storefront at 2399 University Ave. has been a coffee shop for more than 20 years: first the Prairie Star, then the Edge and, since May of this year, the Workhorse Coffee Bar. Co-owned by business partners and spouses Ty Barnett and Shannon Forney, the space has been repurposed to suit their vision. "This business," Forney said, "is our baby."

As all new parents must, Barnett and Forney have defined their roles and are playing to their respective strengths.

Barnett, a tinkerer by nature, loves the mechanics of making great coffee. A self-confessed motorcycle hoarder, she understands engines and moving parts both large and small. Her coffee equipment is in tip-top shape and, as the proprietor, she's almost always the one behind the bar serving up sublime coffees and fragrant teas from 6am-6pm, Monday through Friday, and from 7am-5pm Saturday and Sunday.

Forney works as the business manager while continuing to hold down a day-job as program director for the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. She's the Workhorse logistics specialist and described with pride a loan officer from the Neighborhood Development Council who helped them get started.

"The officer," Forney said, "valued that we were a women-owned, local establishment. She also commented that we had the best-developed business plan she'd ever seen and that she loved our cash-flow projections."

Barnett and Forney are a like a team of work horses. They have their individual talents but share an enthusiasm for the neighborhood, a strong desire to work



Shannon Forney holds the keys to the Smallest Museum in St. Paul. She and Ty Barnett were awarded a \$5,000 Knight Grant to complete the project. Out of 868 proposals for the St. Paul Arts Challenge, only 42 applicants received funding. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

hard and to welcome every customer who walks through their door. Forney said, "Nobody opens a coffee shop to get rich. You do it for the love, and you hope to earn a living along the way."

Like many coffee shops, Workhorse exhibits original art that changes every four to six weeks. Barnett and Forney decided early on not to take a percentage of sales, as a way of supporting the work of community artists.

Currently on exhibit are the gentle, wide-eyed portraits of neighbor Masanari Kawahara, a resident of the C & E Lofts across the street. "All of art we choose to

hang here," Forney said, "is hyper-local." Painter Eric Pearson is up next for exhibit on the walls and lives a block away in the Carleton Artist Lofts.

Slightly less conspicuous is the famed Smallest Museum in St. Paul, located in a vintage fire hose cabinet—recessed into the exterior wall near the entry door. With help from the Knight Foundation's St. Paul Arts Challenge, Barnett, and Forney were able to transform the 24" X 35" space into a micro-museum gallery. They believe that small art can make a big impact, and have lined up an ambitious monthly rotation of artists through June 2016. Up next is artist Ruthann

Godollei with a small exhibit on micro printing.

"We hope to give visibility to



More and more people are informally "officing" out of coffee shops these days. On a Saturday morning, Donald Stephens created illustrations for a graphic novel he was working on—with his coffee nearby. The portraits of Masanari Kawahara grace the walls above him. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

artists living and working nearby with this project," Forney said. "The Smallest Museum in St. Paul invites pedestrians to consider art in unexpected places; it promotes a sense of humor and maybe some sidewalk conversation." Forney added that the project was inspired by Little Free Libraries, which pepper the Twin Cities. Who knows? There might even be artists from Minneapolis vying for a spot there soon.



Shannon Forney, business manager, and Ty Barnett, proprietor, are co-owners of the Workhorse Coffee Bar at 2399 University Ave. They are breathing new life into the old space, located in the historic Security Building (ca 1910). Their newly renovated coffee bar boasts the only original tin ceiling remaining in the building. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

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Article and photos by
MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Episcopal Homes of Minnesota has been providing shelter and services to seniors for 121 years. Walking past their campus at Fairview and University avenues, you're likely to hear an unexpected noise: the laughter of small children. In addition to the newly opened pool, fitness center, restaurant and hair salon, Episcopal Homes is now offering on-site child care in an innovative program called Kinder Village.

The concept behind the program is simple. Its goal is to bring senior residents and young children (from six weeks to five years) together, to build a more inter-generational community.

Pam Tufts, Kinder Village director, explained, "Our program is open to families in the neighborhood, grandchildren of residents and children of staff." The philosophy of Episcopal Homes is that bringing elders and young children together will enhance the community for all.

The child care center, located at 504 Lynnhurst Ave., is bright and cheerful with windows overlooking Iris Park across the street. Twice a day, weather permitting, the older children take hands and march outside to the Kinder Village playground with their teachers and a volunteer resident or two.

It's a relationship that benefits everyone. Children get extra supervision and play time with caring adults. Seniors get the joy of "being children again themselves," as resident Truus Ingebritson said. "I'm 89 years old. I still have a lot of responsibilities but when I'm with the kids, I feel like I can just play."

Research has shown that children who regularly play with adults show more creativity and better problem-solving skills. According to the findings of Generations United, a non-profit dedicated to promoting inter-generational play, "engaging with adults supports children's optimal cognitive and social development."

What's in it for the seniors?

Regular play offers psychological and health benefits to the elder population too, including reduced depression and anxiety.

Building and maintaining relationships through play is associated with better mental and physical health, as well as a stronger sense of purpose.

"We have two residents who come to the child care center one afternoon each week," Tufts said. "Neither of them has grandchildren of their own, but the kids here all call them Grandma. They engage with the children in different ways depending on the day, sometimes rocking babies to sleep or reading to the older

children. In a society that is so stratified by age, this can only be described as a win-win situation."

The playground volunteers and designated grandmas come from independent or semi-independent living situations. There are also opportunities for chil-

dren to interact with seniors receiving more intensive services.

A wing of Episcopal Homes, called The Gardens, is Minnesota's first nursing home facility designed around the trail-blazing model of "Green House Care." In this model, quality of

life is put at the center of daily life, and daily life is meant to resemble a home rather than an institution. Residents live in communities of no more than ten seniors and two caregivers.

Continued on page 9

It's not just child's play



New Kinder Village at Episcopal Homes explores inter-generational community

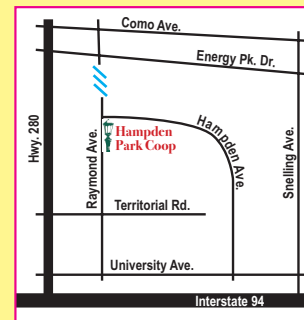


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Pam Tufts, Kinder Village director, came from a corporate child care background where she managed centers of 125+ children. Kinder Village is licensed for 23 children, with a few spaces remaining. The small size, dedicated staff and interaction with residents offers children many opportunities for social engagement—and fun.

Kinder Village

Continued from page 8

They can assist in preparing their meals and caring for their living space if they are able.

When the children visit The Gardens, they enjoy stories spoken or read by the caregivers and,

in the process, become part of the residents' lives.

Every other week, the chil-

dren are invited to participate in music games with an Episcopal Homes music therapist in The Gardens. "The children may help residents with finger plays and gentle movement activities to music, as many of the residents are wheelchair bound," according to Tufts. "All of this exposure to seniors really benefits our children, and vice-versa. Kinder Village is unique to Episcopal Homes of Minnesota and was the brainchild of our Chief Operating Officer Mike Karel."

So, whether you are 9 or 99, if you're looking for a fun, easy way to enjoy lifelong benefits for your heart and mind – PLAY.

(Photos above and left) Residents of Episcopal Homes join in playtime on the Kinder Village playground.



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Hamline and Galtier want the neighborhood back in their schools!

Like most parents, Jessica Kopp searched to find the right school for her second-grade daughter.

Kopp wanted top-notch teachers, strong curriculum, and a school that reflected the richness of the community in which she lives.

She found everything she was looking for at Hamline Elementary, a Saint Paul Public Schools campus that was just four blocks from her home.

"We loved that it was close to home because we love our neighborhood," said Kopp. "It's where we live; it's where we play, and the teachers are awesome and skilled educators."

So, it was surprising to her and other parents that neighborhood schools like Hamline and its nearby neighbor, Galtier Community School, weren't at capacity with waiting lists out of the door.

"Since we've been here we've wondered why aren't other people here. I'm constantly amazed by that," Kopp said.

To help promote both Hamline and Galtier, Kopp and other parents from both schools are collaborating to raise awareness of all the schools have to offer and to encourage other families to consider their neighborhood schools.

They've talked to neighborhood groups, garnered support from local businesses and are seeking other opportunities to keep their schools on the radar for other parents who are looking for exceptional schools.

Galtier Community School, located at 1317 Charles Ave, is a campus that was designed for personalized learning. Its classrooms are wide-open spaces, called learning studios, and encourage interaction among students and teachers.

"Many parents have called our school a 'hidden gem,' said Galtier Principal, Shawn Stibbins. "We have small class sizes,

dedicated teachers and we have high expectations for our students."

At Hamline Elementary, located at 1599 Englewood Ave, the motto is "College Begins in Kindergarten," and each year about 100 students from Hamline University spend time at the elementary school working with students.

"It's great to have a college as your next door neighbor," said Johnson. "Our collaboration with Hamline University not only provides tutors and mentors, but also a positive learning experience for all our students."

Kopp and other parents say they will continue to boast about their schools with the hope of convincing other families that both Galtier and Hamline are the right schools for their children.

"Our goal is to get our neighborhood back into our schools," Kopp said.

Both schools still have openings for kindergarten students. For more information about the schools, or any SPPS school, contact the Student Placement Center at 651-632-3760 or visit apply.spps.org.

High school football in Minnesota kicks off a most unusual of seasons early this year.

Scheduling conflicts with TCF Bank Stadium moved the Prep Bowl back two weeks thus warranting an Aug. 22 date for the first high school games. All teams, including Como Park and Central, locally opened their seasons with practices on Aug. 10.

Besides an early start, teams play in districts this fall instead of conferences as the Minnesota State High School League decided in 2014. The decision came about to keep teams from traveling far distances to get non-conference games to fill their schedule. The MSHSL also wanted to create a better competitive balance.

Also, the start date change cut down practice time by a week before the first games, and the MSHSL had its section realignment take effect this fall too. The only thing missing might be Brett Favre coming back to Minnesota to coach a high school football team for all the twists this new season has.

Despite the changes, Central looks poised to keep their usual winning ways this fall. The Minutemen returns significant talent from a team that went 7-3 last



In The Zone

By MATTHEW DAVIS

Central and Como Park look to have strong season in new "districts"

year. Senior quarterback Sam Gubbrud had a 1,000-yard season passing in 2014. Jamal Galato, a senior, has proven to be a force at linebacker and on offense. He had 340 yards rushing in 2014 and 188 yards receiving. Those numbers could go up with star running back Garrett Gardner graduated.

Galato ranked second for the most tackles on the team with 83 in 2014. Jon Gubbrud, the team's third-leading tackler with 67, also returns this fall.

Como Park will look for a less-than-usual season after a 3-7 campaign in 2014, their fifth consecutive losing season. Trevon Clay, a state hurdling champion, remains a key fixture for the Cougars' success at running back.

With all the schedule changes, nothing looks too unusual for Central's or Como's openers as far as opponents go. Both teams open with familiar rivals from

the old St. Paul City Conference.

Central, which opened with St. Paul Johnson, has a slew of less-familiar teams on their schedule this fall in the Twin City District Maroon Division. The Minutemen play St. Anthony Village on Fri., Aug. 28 at Griffin Stadium at 7pm followed by a trip to Fridley on Fri., Sept. 4 at 6pm.

Afterward, Central has three-straight games with Minneapolis schools Southwest (Sept. 11) at home, North (Sept. 18) at home and Washburn (Sept. 25) away. North, a section runner-up last

fall will pose one of the biggest challenges for the Minutemen this season.

The Minutemen close out the season with Class 4A power St. Croix Lutheran on Oct. 2 at home and St. Paul Highland Park on the road at 5pm on Oct. 9. Central then will take on a formidable Section 4 Class 5A field for the playoffs, which begin the week of MEA. Notably, that field features strong teams in Mahtomedi, Tartan, and Washburn. The new co-op of Minnehaha Academy-Blake-St. Paul Academy could also pose a threat.

Como has perhaps an even bigger change of scenery than Central. The Cougars play Highland Park (Aug. 22) and St. Paul Harding (Aug. 29) the first two weeks of the season and then no other old St. Paul City team after that.

From week three and beyond, the Cougars have Breck (Sept. 4), Minneapolis Henry (Sept. 11), Concordia Academy (Sept. 19), SMB (Sept. 25), Columbia Heights (Oct. 2) and Mound Westonka (Oct. 8). Fortunately for Como, the Mound Westonka game is at home this season instead of the almost hour-long trip across the metro.

Como will compete in a strong Section 4AAA for the post-season. SCL appears the favorite based on their constant success in recent years, and Breck has a strong offense. Brooklyn Center, Henry, and Minneapolis Roosevelt can't be overlooked either.

Music in the Park ends its season at Como Pavilion

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of musical experiences for all tastes and pleasures. Jazz, folk, blues, concert bands, world, electronic, and pop are just a few genres included feature at Music in the Parks 2015. The following performances are scheduled at Como Lakeside Pavilion (1360 N. Lexington Pkwy.):

Thur., Aug. 13, 7pm – Pan Handlers Steal Drum Band
Fri., Aug. 14, 7pm – Tropical Depression
Sun., Aug. 16, 3pm – Kenwood Symphony Orchestra
Mon., Aug. 17, 7pm – North Suburban Chorus
Tues., Aug. 18, 7pm – Barbershop Quartet Jamboree feat, North Star Barbershop
Wed., Aug. 19, 7pm – Touching Hearts
Thur., Aug. 20, 7pm – 321 Presents: The Roe Family
Fri., Aug. 21, 7pm – Farewell Milwaukee
Sat., Aug. 22, 7pm – Nikki Becker
Sun., Aug. 23, 3pm – Como Pops
Sun., Aug. 23, 7pm – Moonlight Serenaders Big Band Evening
Mon., Aug. 24, 7pm – The Percolators Variety Band
Tues., Aug. 25, 7pm – Roseville Big Band
Wed., Aug. 26, 7pm – Big Groove Bluegrass Band
Thur., Aug. 27, 7pm – 321 Club Presents: Mike Munson
Fri., Aug. 28, 7pm – Fort Wilson Riot
Sun., Aug. 30, 3pm – Emergence Brass Band
Mon., Aug. 31, 7pm – Wild Prairie Brass

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Monitor In A Minute

Campus boundaries hearing set

Anyone wishing to weigh in on more stringent property use and boundary rules for colleges, universities and seminaries, can attend a public hearing before the St. Paul Planning Commission at 8:30am, Fri., Aug. 21. The hearing, held in the City Hall basement conference room, centers on recommendations meant to discourage institutions from buying properties outside of their city-approved boundaries and tearing them down. The recommendations already face a challenge from Macalester College.

Comments made at the hearing or submitted in writing will be sent back to the Planning Commission's Neighborhood Planning Committee for review. The committee will then make a recommendation to the full commission.

A commission recommendation then goes to the St. Paul City Council for a second public hearing, most likely this fall. If the City Council approves the study findings, those would be incorporated into city zoning regulations affecting institutions.

The main recommendation considered by the Planning Commission affects the fate of institutionally-owned properties outside of a campus boundary. The proposed zoning code change states that any property where the primary structure has been demolished within the past ten years shall not be eligible for inclusion in a college, university or seminary boundary.

Planning Director Donna Drummond said the proposed change doesn't prohibit institutions from buying property outside of their approved boundaries. The intent is to have more discussion of how those properties are used in the future. Once a property is purchased, and

a building comes down, that changes the surrounding neighborhood.

Two St. Paul institutions of higher education, Hamline University, and Macalester College, have purchased several properties outside of their boundaries. Hamline has caused controversy by tearing down houses with little or no neighborhood notice.

Midway Men's Club makes donation

Midway Men's Club has donated \$19,500 to the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation. The St. Paul City Council accepted the donation July 15.

The club has raised money for youth activities in the Midway area since 1960. Its fundraising efforts include a food stand at the Minnesota State Fair.

This year's donation will be split among several groups. Hancock Recreation Center will receive \$6,000. West Minnehaha and North Dale recreation centers will receive \$4,000 apiece. The Canvas Teen Arts Center will receive \$1,000, with \$1,000 apiece also going to Oxford Community Center and Scheffer Recreation Center. Merriam Park and Northwest Como recreation centers will each receive \$500. Another \$1,500 will be donated to adaptive recreation programs, for people with disabilities.

New home guidelines set

The St. Paul City Council's adoption on July 22 of a new ordinance reducing the maximum height and size of new and remodeled homes in the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods is seen by housing preservation advocates as just the starting point. Citywide, efforts will continue to discourage the teardown of homes and their

replacement with houses that are out of character with the rest of surrounding neighborhoods.

District councils from Hamline-Midway, Union Park, and other area neighborhoods have expressed interest in seeing if guidelines could be developed for their specific areas. In Hamline-Midway, teardowns by Hamline University have caused consternation.

The new ordinance will take effect 30 days after its publication. The new design standards reduce the maximum height and footprint of new houses and accessory structures, as well as the size of new additions in the two neighborhoods. Some regulations, on new multi-family buildings, will take effect citywide.

While the new height and lot coverage limits may discourage housing developers from tearing down rather than remodeling existing homes, several local preservation groups believe that more needs to be done to preserve the historic character of all of St. Paul's neighborhoods. In several neighborhoods, measures are being discussed including con-

servation districts and a one-year moratorium on demolition permits. Conservation districts are a tool to preserve neighborhoods without the more complex regulations of a local or national historic preservation district.

Marshall median funding

More than a year after it sparked controversy in Merriam Park neighborhood, the long-awaited Marshall Ave. median project at Wilder St. is moving ahead. On a 4-0 vote, July 15 the St. Paul City Council approved a funding shift to allow the project to go forward. No one appeared at a council public hearing to speak about the project. The council action shifts \$57,500 in Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) funds to the project. Council President Russ Stark, who shepherded the project through design changes, was absent.

One letter was received July 15 in opposition, from Union Park District Council (UPDC) member and bicycle advocate Benita Warns. She said the existing medians on Marshall created

unsafe conditions for bicyclists and made the street less safe for public safety vehicles. UPDC is trying to get the funds redirected.

The project won City Council approval in February 2014 with design changes to accommodate vehicle access for Marshall Liquor, which is at the northwest corner of Marshall and Wilder. It was postponed in 2014 due to higher-than-anticipated bids.

Advocates clamored for the median to slow motor vehicles and aid pedestrians in an area with much foot traffic. But foes said a median will simply shift traffic problems and make conditions less safe for motorists and bicyclists, and would give pedestrians a false sense of security. Macalester College later withdrew \$50,000 it allocated to build the median at Wilder St., citing objections to project changes. That money was a match to a \$40,000 STAR grant awarded a few years ago and \$40,000 in city funds.

Last year the project budget was \$130,000, although that has risen slightly. Work will be done by the same contractor doing the Como-Chatsworth Residential Streets Vitality Program project this construction season.

Monitor In A Minute compiled by Jane McClure

Protect your teens with vaccinations!

Vax4Teens wants to alert parents to the need for teen vaccinations

Did you know that younger teens need vaccines, too? As kids get older, the protection from some of their childhood vaccines begins to wear off. There are also new diseases that teens can come in contact with at this stage of their lives. Keep your teens healthy with the Tdap, meningococcal, HPV, and influenza vaccines.

Vaccines for teens

—**Tdap Vaccine:** This vaccine protects against three serious diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (also known as whooping cough). Your teen should receive the Tdap vaccine at 11 or 12 years old.

—**Meningococcal Vaccine (MCV4):** Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, also called the MCV4 vaccine, protects against some of the germs that can cause meningitis. Meningitis is a serious disease that can cause swelling around the lining of the brain and spinal cord. It can also cause a life-threatening blood infection. Your teen needs this vaccine at 11 or 12 years old. They will need another meningococcal shot when they are 16 years old.

—**HPV Vaccine:** This shot is cancer prevention! Almost all people

will have a human papillomavirus (HPV) infection at some time in their lives, and some forms of HPV can cause cancer. HPV vaccines help protect against HPV infections and the cancers they cause. Both boys and girls should receive HPV vaccine. Teens need a series of three HPV shots starting at 11 or 12 years old.

—**Influenza Vaccine:** This vaccine protects against influenza (flu) and should be given every fall. The flu can cause health problems such as dehydration or lung infections.

Shots don't have to be scary!

Help your teen be as calm and comfortable as possible when getting their vaccines. Have them bring along their favorite music and headphones; or have them close their eyes and imagine a favorite place or activity. Remind them that getting shots may sting a little, but it's much better than getting sick!

When should my child be vaccinated?

A good time to get these vaccines is during a yearly checkup. Your teen can also get these vaccines at a physical exam required for

sports, school, or camp. Even if your teen missed these vaccines at 11 or 12 years, they can still get them at an older age. It's a good idea to ask your health care provider at every visit if there are any vaccines your teen may need.

What else should I know about these vaccines?

These vaccines have all been studied very carefully and are safe and effective. They can cause mild side effects, like soreness or redness at the spot where the shot was given. Occasionally, teens faint after getting shots. It's a good idea to sit for 15 minutes afterwards. It is very important to tell your health care provider if your teen has any serious allergies before they receive any shots.

How can I get help paying for these vaccines?

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides free or low-cost vaccines for some children and teens. Talk to your health care provider for more information and to find out if you're eligible.

Where can I learn more?

Visit www.vax4teens.com for more information on keeping your teen healthy and happy.



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In Our Community

Monitor

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The science of warming discussed

On Thur., Aug. 20, J. Drake Hamilton, science policy director for Fresh Energy, will speak at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Hamilton will discuss current science on global warming and actions we can take to address it, including the expanding options for solar energy. The program will begin at 6pm in the Fireside Room, and there will be refreshments. Child care and children's program will also be available.

Community oven dedicated Aug. 23

See what's rising at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. as the congregation dedicates its community bread oven at 11am on Sun., Aug. 23. The dedication is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served, and there will be a chance to try some fresh-from-the-oven treats. The oven was built thanks to a grant from White Bear Lake United Methodist Church. Community members are welcome to join the congregation for regular services at 10am.

Co-Ed Drum Circle planned Aug. 28

There will be a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., Aug. 28, 6:30pm at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored. All levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. Cost is \$10 at the door, and they provide drums. Info and registration at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

Support group for partners & spouses

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota is sponsoring a support group specifically for partners or spouses of someone who lives with a mental illness. The Partners & Spouses support group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm, at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St. (Holton & Garden). For more information, call Melissa at 651-354-0825.

La Leche Group scheduled Sept. 8

The next meetings of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tue., Sept. 8. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers to discuss breastfeeding and mothering issues. Call Heidi

Midway Y youngsters mentor handball



Three young people from the Midway YMCA volunteered to mentor participants at a Handball Camp in July. Antonio Flores (Hazel Park), Isaac GebbenGreen (Open World Learning Community), and Joseph Salinas Lallier (Dakota Hills Middle School) worked with Coach Mitchell Lallier to demonstrate techniques and encourage the younger players.

This Handball Camp was a part of the University of Minnesota Summer Youth Sports program focusing this week on the fun sport of handball. Most of the participants were brand new to handball, but they caught on quickly with fun exercises and friendly competitions.

Flores was impressed with the ability of the young participants to learn and play handball so quickly. Lallier hopes the camp participants will join the program on Saturday afternoons in the fall, running from 1-3pm at the University of Minnesota Recreation Center. The program is free to any kids 6-15 years old with equipment and coaching provided.

Lallier, GebbenGreen, and Flores were introduced to handball at the Midway YMCA, playing in both State and National tournaments. All three young men feel that giving back is important and want to be role models for others. Two of the young adults come from Latino backgrounds with strong ties to community and family, and the third comes from a family where both parents are ministers.

at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Local garden alliance recognized

The Urban Farm and Garden Alliance was recognized by the University of Minnesota as a "2015 Farm Family" at an annual ceremony during Farmfest near Redwood Falls on Aug. 6.

The Urban Farm and Garden Alliance is a collaboration of six individual community gardens in St. Paul. Member gardens include Aurora St. Anthony Peace Sanctuary Garden, Lexington Commons, Pilgrim's Community Garden, Morning Star Church Garden, Victoria Community Garden and the Greenhouse Garden. The group's mission is to increase the effectiveness and number of gardeners involved in community and backyard gardens in the area. This is done by offering free education on sustainable gardening practices, healthy eating, reconciliation workshops, training in conflict resolution and by promoting social and environmental justice through cultivating and sharing of food.

The alliance has helped create access to healthy food in the Summit-University and Frogtown neighborhoods in St. Paul. Its vision is to transform vacant lots,

boulevards, and backyards into a food production system that help feed the neighborhoods and connect people across cultures.

Anxiety support group meets

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota sponsors free support groups for persons with anxiety disorders. The groups help individuals develop better-coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. An Open Door Anxiety and Panic support group meets from 6:30-8pm, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, at Goodwill-Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., in Room 123. For information call NAMI at 651-645-2948.

Jehovah seeks donations

Jehovah Lutheran Church continues to gather clothing and household items for Congolese refugees. The church has helped 76 families with clothing donations so far, and more families are expected. Congolese refugees have been living in refugee camps for as long as ten years, and more now are arriving in Minnesota. Donations of bus cards, used or

new cleaning supplies, microwave, used TV or radio and summer clothing are urgently needed, says the Rev. Justin Byakweli, executive director of CEEDS USA (Center for Employment and Education Development Services), a group founded in 2011 to help refugees. The group has an office at the church. To set up a drop off appointment call Jehovah's Care Ministry at 651-628-4934, 651-644-7241, 651-230-8957 or 651-239-7581. Donated items can be left at the church, which is at 1566 Thomas in St. Paul.

Events planned at the local library

August at the Hamline Midway Library is all about activities that bring neighbors of all ages together to enjoy stories, music, and art-making.

In August, Summer Power picks up where Summer Spark left off, offering a series of fun events for kids and their families on Thursday mornings at 10:30am. On Aug. 13, the series will feature "You and Mr. Ethan's Boomwhacker Orchestra." Teacher and musician, Ethan Sutton will bring fun percussion instruments for kids to experiment with and "conduct" the audience as they add sound effects to read-aloud stories. On Thur., Aug. 20, picture book author Elizabeth Verdick will read from her Minnesota Book Award-nominated Peep Leap, a story about finding the courage to take big leaps in life. The event will include a duckling-themed craft. On Aug. 27, Greg Renstrom of the River Bank Players will perform a theatrical reading from The Wind in the Willows with musical accompaniment. Summer Power is sponsored by the Hamline Midway Library Association with the help of donations from generous community members.

Preschool Storytime happens every Friday from 10:30-11am, Aug. 14, 21, and 28 and Sept. 4 and 10. Storytimes teach number and letter recognition, social skills, and listening skills and provide a great way for children and their caregivers to bond and build great memories together—and great associations with the library! Children of all activity levels are welcome.

The library will be closed for Labor Day weekend on Sat., Sept. 5-Mon., Sept. 7.

Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club meets on Sat., Sept. 12, 1-3pm, to discuss mysteries. September's title is "The Valley of the Shadow" by Carola Dunn. Contact Geraldine Balter for more information at gerribalter@gmail.com or call 651-224-5570.

Tutors sought for grades 1-6

Help students succeed! Join the

team of outstanding volunteers at CommonBond Communities' Skyline Tower (1247 St Anthony Ave.) with Study Buddies, a 1:1 academic mentoring program. Tutor a student in grades 1-6 and support school investment and success by helping with homework and tutoring in literacy and/or math. You'll be supported by talented staff while you help close the achievement gap. It's fun, sometimes fast-paced, and a great way to support student success in St. Paul! Visit <http://www.commonbond.org/volunteer> to register for a new volunteer orientation and fill out an application today! Commit a year; impact a young person for a lifetime.

Frogtown Farm hiring coordinator

Frogtown Farm is seeking a highly motivated and dedicated Community Coordinator to support their community outreach and engagement efforts while also providing important operations and administrative support. Frogtown Farm is committed to creating an organization that is led by and accountable to the Frogtown neighborhood, in this role the coordinator will be critical to maintaining this value. They will also join an organization dedicated to creating an open, flexible, equitable and fun workplace. This is an exciting opportunity to join at the ground level of a growing organization!

Please see the job description for application instructions go to <http://frogtownfarm.org/frogtown-farm-hiring-community-coordinator>.

NAMI support group meets weekly

A NAMI Connection peer support group for adults recovering from mental illness meets in St. Paul. The free group is sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota. Trained facilitators who are also in recovery lead NAMI Connection groups. The group meets on Mondays, at 6:30pm, at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., Room 123. For more information, contact Mary at 612-387-6730 or call NAMI at 651-645-2948.

Zion celebrates 125th birthday with corn feed Aug. 25

Zion Lutheran Church at Aldine and Lafond streets will have a sweet corn feed and 125th birthday party on Tues., Aug. 25 from 5-7pm. The community is invited to help us celebrate and enjoy some sweet corn and hot dogs and birthday cake! Come and join your neighbors at this fun event.

Concert planned at Celtic Junction

Makem & Spain Brothers perform Irish folk classics, songs of the worker, songs of the sea and Irish culture at the Celtic Junction, 836 Prior Ave. N., on Tue., Aug. 18, 7:30pm. They capture the essence of their genre while standing out as something unique. A host of various instruments and three male vocals, using precise three-part harmonies blend perfectly for what many have described as a wall of sound. Makem and Spain are at their best onstage where their talent and enthusi-

asm draw in fans who have never experienced the joy of folk music. Makem & Spain Brothers are Rory Makem, Liam Spain, and Mickey Spain. Free lot and street parking. Doors open at 7pm.

Bible class series begins Sept. 10

Rev. Dr. Thomas Trapp (Pastor Tom) is offering a course called "Living with God" in two 10-week sessions per year over the next few years to highlight important insights from his 30 years of teaching the Scriptures. Co-sponsored by Concordia University and the

Minnesota South District, these sessions will be offered at no charge. CEUs will be available. The third 10-week class will cover Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah on Thursdays beginning Sept. 10 at either 1-3pm or 6:30-8:30pm. Trapp has concentrated his special studies of the Old Testament in this area of the Old Testament. Classes will be held at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 1074 Idaho Ave. W. Please register in advance so they can be prepared for the number of people who will be attending by contacting Emmaus: emmaus@q.com, 651-489-9426. Find out more online at www.emmaus-lutheran-church.org.

Dancing club notes 100th anniversary

Sun., Aug. 16 celebrates the 100th Anniversary season conclusion of the Linden Hills Dancing Club. This historic summer event will take place at the historic Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy. All dancers of every skill level are welcome to attend a social hour from 5:30-6:30pm. Guests will then enjoy dancing under the stars from 6:30-9:30pm to the popular ballroom dance music of the Rod Cerar band.

Today the club continues to grow and welcome dancers from throughout the Twin Cities and beyond. Couples still show up in dressy, though not necessarily formal attire. The group often hosts theme parties, complete with buffet-style meals. Winding up the season with a festive dance party underscores the Linden Hills Dancing Club's primary theme for the past 100 years - hospitality and fun.

Anyone who loves to dance can learn more and make reservations for this special hundred-year celebration at www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org.

Hamline Midway Investment Co-op schedules Community Forum Aug. 20

The Hamline Midway Investment Co-op will hold a Community Forum on Thurs., Aug. 20, 6:30-8pm in the Hamline Midway Library (1558 Minnehaha Ave.), basement meeting room.

What kind of businesses and resources would we like to see (or see more of) in our neighborhood? How can we attract businesses into sites and streets that have seen too little (or too much short-term) usage over the last few years? How can we support local businesses in a way that is mutually beneficial, and more sustainable over the long term? How can we as a community affirm and enhance our neighborhood—its look, its culture, its affordability, its strengths?

A dedicated group of neighbors have been exploring these questions and have more formally moved to form the Hamline Midway Investment Co-operative (HMIC). The group seeks to expand its membership, and its sense of how to answer these complicated questions, by hosting three community forums. The first will be held from 6:30-8 on Aug. 20, in the basement of the Hamline Midway Library. The objective is rich conversation—to get a better read on what a good investment might be and to broaden engagement across the neighborhood. Future sessions will be announced later.

HMIC began as an interest

group of 10-15 neighbors, called together by the Hamline Midway Coalition Board of Directors in an attempt to facilitate direct community participation in economic development. With the support of HMC and its director Michael Jon Olson, the group has been meeting for the past year or so to discuss the possibility of creating a neighborhood co-op here in Hamline Midway.

This idea has benefited communities throughout the country. Recently there was discussion on the neighborhood Facebook page about the NorthEast Investment Co-op (NEIC) in Minneapolis. The NEIC illustrates the power of community engagement in economic development. A building cooperatively owned by this group now houses a brewery and a bakery near Central and Lowry avenues.

The local brainstorming group in Midway has met approximately a dozen times and recently enlisted one of NEIC's founding members to serve as a consultant. Calling themselves the Hamline Midway Investment Co-op (HMIC), they have engaged in preliminary research about how co-ops work, done some preliminary investigation of sites and strategies, and debated different visions for moving forward. A preliminary mission statement emerged from the efforts:

"We want to form an investment co-op, to buy a commercial property, that underpins a sustainable business that serves the community, and provides a return to the investors. We want people in the community to engage with development—property, business, and all the less material elements of community growth and strength—in ways that empower them."

They are now at the stage where they are ready to incorporate as a co-op and begin coordinating with the broader community about what such an investment co-op might look like here in the neighborhood. There remain many larger questions of where exactly to look to purchase a building and what businesses might one day set up shop there. But HMIC now hopes to further the discussion—and expand the constituency of the steering group—by asking for all neighbors to share ideas, thoughts, input, feedback, and questions.

In addition to the community forums, HMIC will work through Facebook, email, and other personal communications to engage the whole neighborhood. If you are interested in learning more, joining in, or just being connected to our email conversations, please drop Mike Reynolds a note at mreynolds@hamline.edu.

Saint Thomas Academy hosts Sounds of Minnesota competition

The 2015 Sounds of Minnesota drum and bugle corps competition, hosted by St. Paul's Minnesota Brass Drum and Bugle Corps and presented by MB Productions, will be held on Fri., Aug. 21, at Saint Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights. The show starts at 7pm; gates open at 6pm.

Sounds of Minnesota will feature top all-age drum corps from Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as other ensembles in exhibition. Each competing unit will perform a 15-minute field show and will be evaluated by a panel of judges.

Units appearing in competition include the Govenaires of St. Peter, Minn.; Chops Inc. of Minneapolis; the Kilties, from Racine, Wis.; and Minnesota Brass. Both Minnesota Brass and the Govenaires won the 2011 Drum Corps Associates (DCA)

World Championships in their respective divisions. Preceding the competition will be performances by Minne-Brass, the small-corps ensemble of Minnesota Brass (and winners of DCA's first mini-corps championship in 1999 and again in 2005) and a special exhibition from the Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band.

The host Minnesota Brass Drum and Bugle Corps was established in 1947. Since 2008, including the 2011 World Championship, the 120-member unit and has never placed lower than third among upwards of 20 competing units. The Sounds of Minnesota show will be the final chance to see Minnesota Brass perform in the Twin Cities before the corps heads to Rochester, N.Y., to compete in the 2015 DCA World Championships.

Overall, Sounds of Minnesota will feature more than 500 musicians and color guard members performing music from all genres and marching precise drills on the field. The drum and bugle corps activity has been called the "Major League" of the pageantry arts. Membership of the units represents the best performers from dozens of high school and college marching bands across the country.

Tickets to Sounds of Minnesota are available at www.soundsofminnesota.com. Premium seats are available online in advance for \$10; Standard seats are \$10 at the gate. Kids 6 and under are admitted free. For more information, call 651-717-4382. Proceeds from the show help support the Saint Thomas Academy Band Backers.

Registration for fall classes begins!



Basketball Registration is Sept. 1-31 at all recreation centers. Remember the first five days are early discount days. You can register by going to your recreation site, by calling and using a credit card or go to www.stpaul.gov/parks.

Registration for fall classes has begun at all recreation centers. Here is what is happening at North Dale, Northwest Como and Langford Recreation Centers:

Northwest Como — 1550 Hamline Ave. N., 651-298-5813

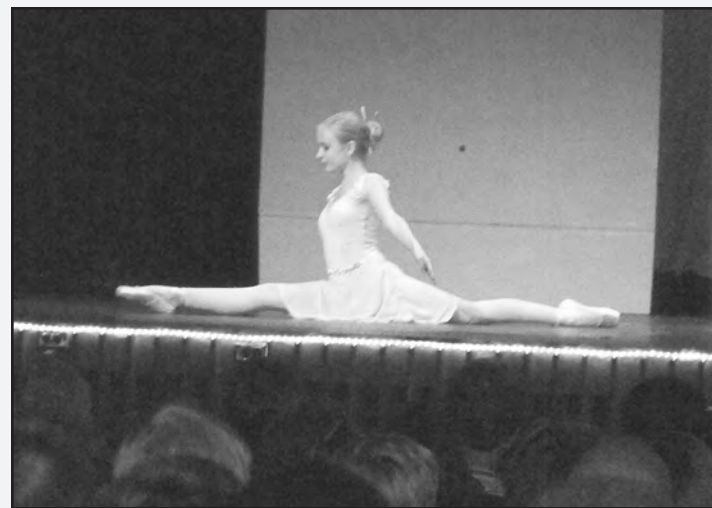
- Teen Dance ages 10-13
- Archery ages 9-14
- Tae Kwon Do ages 6 & up
- Red Cross Babysitting Class ages 11 & up
- Artist Workshop ages 7-13
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar Art Class ages 3-4
- Funtastic Fridays ages 6-12

North Dale — 1414 St. Albans St. N., 651-558-2329

- Adults/Seniors: Laughter Yoga, Pilates, Senior Fitness, Square Dance and Yoga
- Tae Kwon Do: all ages
- Ballet/Tap/Creative Movement ages 1-3/2-7
- Ballet ages 3-7
- Tap/Jazz/Ballet ages 7-13
- Drumming ages 8 - Adult
- Growing With Music ages 9m-5yrs.

Langford — 30 Langford Park, 651-298-5765

- Pilates for adults
- Badminton for adults
- Tot Time on Thursdays 9-10:30am
- Halloween Craft ages 2-4
- Basketball Warm-up ages 9-14
- Take Home Chef Cooking ages 8-14



Arnellia's on top of projects to win STAR funding

Sixteen of 58 projects submitted for Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grants and loans will go forward. Topping the list citywide is a renovation of a University Ave. restaurant and nightclub.

The grants and loans won St. Paul City Council approval in July. The slate of projects approved by the council mirrored the list of 16 projects recommended by the Neighborhood STAR Board. The city had about \$1.7 million to allocate. The pot of money for neighborhood projects has grown smaller over the years as sales tax proceeds were directed to city capital projects.

Arnellia's, 1183 University Ave., received a \$40,000 grant and a \$40,000 loan toward a new patio, sliding windows and interior renovations including a relocated bar and kitchen improvements. Almost \$90,000 was pledged as a project match.

The other two area projects winning approval are: \$60,000 in renovations to the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota building at 1096 Raymond Ave.; and a \$10,000 loan and \$10,000 grant toward renovation of Colossal Cafe, 2351 Como Ave.

The 58 projects submitted is the highest number seen in some time. Two were withdrawn, so 56 went through the

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Arnellia's on top of projects to win STAR funding

full competition.

Many area projects missed out on funding, including two at 550 Vandalia Ave. The Paikka events and creative space and the St. Paul Neighborhood Network's new community media

Arnellia's, 1183 University Ave., received a \$40,000 grant and a \$40,000 loan toward a new patio, sliding windows and interior renovations including a relocated bar and kitchen improvements.

center there missed the cut. So did ongoing redevelopment ef-



orts at the former Old Home Dairy building at Western and University avenues, Victoria Theater renovations at 825 University Ave. and the planned Can Can Wonderland mini-golf and building renovation at 755 N. Prior Ave.

Three arts and recreation projects also missed out. Those include Joy to the People's new soccer field at South St. Anthony Park Recreation Center (890 Cromwell), and funding for replacement of the ice rink

equipment at North Dale Recreation Center (1414 St. Albans St.). Midway Murals' Snelling Ave. project wasn't funded in the competitive round but was later awarded \$5,000 from the year-round STAR fund.

High school gets a boost

A high school that has been at different area locations will be able to buy, renovate and expand its current University Ave. home. The High School for Re-

cording Arts will be able to buy its site and renovate the building, as a result of up to \$8.5 million in conduit financing approved in early July. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, approved the financing.

Conduit financing is often used by charter schools, colleges, and universities and other nonprofit entities as a way to finance major projects. The city acts a conduit or pass-through for bonds. The practice doesn't affect the city financially.

The school moved to 1166 University Ave. in 2013, after being in the West Midway for many years. Its sponsor is Pillsbury United Communities of Minneapolis.

The building the high school occupies used to be a health and fitness club. The high school would purchase the property and would build an approximate 8,000 square foot addition for a new gymnasium. The existing space would be renovated to create more classrooms, movement studios, and student spaces. School officials plan to close on the financing in early September and start construction in October on the new addition. The addition would be wrapped by March 2016. The building renovation would take place in summer 2016.

City staff recommended approval of the project.

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LANDSCAPING

Como By The Lake

Continued from page 1

ing here," says longtime resident Shirley Williams "Home is where the heart is, and people's hearts are here. People love each other here; it's like a big family." All the residents interviewed seemed to agree—there's a sense of community and family that goes beyond other apartments.

News of the changes at Como By The Lake first surfaced this spring. Property owners are required, by law, to give residents one year's warning before a Section 8 contract is allowed to expire. At the Como complex, the warning letter came on Apr. 30. For residents of the community, the news was a complete shock. "After these letters I noticed how quiet it got around here," noticed Williams. "People became worried about getting displaced. Some got so worried they became sick."

To address concerns among the residents, the owners sent a lawyer to answer questions at a community meeting. "But that meeting didn't answer any of the questions we needed to know," says resident Jannet Troutman Simmons. Rather than easing their minds, the meeting only heightened frustrations. "The attorney just repeated what was in the papers," adds longtime resident Laurie Richardson. When I reached out to the owners, a lawyer responded, saying, "The owner is not able to discuss anything associated with the property during the

pendency of the sale."

Frustrated at the lack of transparency, a group of seniors, including Richardson and Simmons, organized the Como By The Lake Tenant's Association. Homeline, a non-profit Minnesota tenant advocacy organization, offered organizational support and resources for the group.

In their first action, the Tenant's Association sent a packet of letters, information, and personal statements to the owners, as well as to local politicians and government officials. "The package explained our position and requested that the owners meet with us," says Simmons. "We also expressed our desire to help as much as possible." But a response from the owners never came, and most of the material was returned unopened.

For many residents, the anxiety was building. Richardson, who is blind and lives with other medical restrictions, says the prospect of finding a new place is overwhelming. "I would just sit there and cry... I cry thinking about it now," she reflects. "Yes we can get an enhanced voucher, but if a private owner comes in and changes it to condos, we have to be out 120 days after Apr. 30, 2016. That's the longest that enhanced voucher will keep us here."

For others, like resident Elaine Linehan, it's the unfairness that hurts. "We're honest, hardworking people who have worked all our lives to educate our children, to pay our bills." She pauses. "Now, in our later years we're just stuck."



Como By The Lake residents (L to R) Jannet Troutman Simmons, Shirley Williams, Elaine Linehan, and Laurie Richardson discuss the impact the news that Section 8 Housing will have on their community. (Photo by Connor Klausing)

The seniors have found some allies in local government. Amy Brendmoen, the city councilmember for Ward 5, has reached out to the property owners about financing tools available through the government that could help maintain the affordable senior living. "It was pretty clear from their letter that the owners were making a business decision," she explains, "and of course, businesses are entitled to do business." Still, she says, "There's something here that we want to preserve, both in term of current tenants and

in terms of having future affordable housing options for people to live in place as they age."

Others, like County Commissioner Janice Rettman, hope that the next property owners can see the seniors as an asset to their community. "In the best scenario, the next owner will see the people there as value added," says Janice hopefully. "They've added a lot to this community, and continue to add to this community. Really, they're the biggest commodity."

Although Simmons' atten-

tion is focused locally right now, she also has hopes that the struggle in Como can help others organize nationwide. "I said, 'What we need to be doing here is to gather our information to come up with a program that people in other places in other parts of the country can follow.' I would love for us to have a St. Paul plan," she says with a laugh. Then, more seriously, she adds, "People can't fool around and wait because there are no laws protecting us."

Midway Murals Project

Continued from page 1

"of demonstrating that this place where we live and work is valued and cared for."

There's nothing small about the dream of Midway Murals, and there's nothing small about their size either. Lori Green, owner of Mosaic on a Stick at the



Hassan Hussein's Gennale Barber Shop and the African Plaza at 555 Snelling will receive Lori Greene's mural of Ethiopian images. He said of the Midway Murals project, "I like the idea of taking pieces of broken glass, and putting them together to make something beautiful." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

corner of Lafond and Snelling, has been working on her project seven days a week since early July. Once completed, it will measure 50' wide by 10' tall.

Greene, who draws her artistic inspiration from the African and Native American cultures she was born into, has been partnering with Ethiopian business owner Hassan Hussein of the Gennale Barber Shop for Midway Murals. Hussein is excited to see the Ethiopian-inspired images Greene has created with her cadre of volunteers that will soon cover the wall on the north side of his business.

Hussein explained that his barber shop is named for the Gennale River in Southern Ethiopia and that, "while many people think of Ethiopia as a desert, it is a place of great beauty." He went on to address the complexity of his birth-country, saying, "In Ethiopia, everybody speaks Amharic—that's our national language. But there are as many as 80 other nationalities within Ethiopia, each with their distinctive language, culture and traditions."

The other business owners whose walls will be home to Midway Murals are also Ethiopian, Eritrean or Oromo. As part of the creation of the Little Africa cultural corridor here, the highly visible murals should help business owners market themselves and their neighborhood together, and hopefully serve as a bridge across cultural differences.

Jon Reynolds, project support artist, said, "With Midway Murals, everybody has dared to dream big. In the beginning, in

the middle and in the final stages, it's always been about bringing people together."

Despite having met the challenge of the Knight Grant, Mid-

way Murals is still seeking to raise \$8,000 to ensure the artists are paid a fair and living wage. Donations can be made online at www.midwaymurals.com, or by

sending a check to the Hamline Midway Coalition, with "Midway Murals" written in the memo line.



Adrienne Sherman (left), Mosaic on a Stick employee, and Julie Dapper, volunteer, are two of the many pairs of hands helping Greene's mural come to life. The ten or so volunteers who have contributed time are all experienced mosaic makers – some putting in as many as 20 hours/week on the project, as it comes down the home stretch. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Urban Boat Builders' summer boat launch

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Urban Boat Builders, a youth development program that uses boat building as a tool for positive change, held its annual boat launch on July 29 at Lake Como. With 20 years experience, Urban Boat Builders has developed a fleet of light-weight, durable, and beautiful water-crafts which are sold to support their mission and the youth they serve.

Urban Boat Builders was established on the premise that wooden boat building by small groups of at-risk teens is an effective tool for youth development. Since 1995, they have built over 200 boats, worked with more than 3,000 youth in sixty different agencies, juvenile corrections programs and schools—and hosted 100+ apprentices.



Photo above: The launch attracted hundreds of supporters and interested passers-by. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Photo left: Members of the summer work program displayed one of two canoes they built together. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



Photo right: Eleven boats in total were launched July 29 on Lake Como in a stiff breeze. St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman paddled in the stern behind Lily, one of this year's apprentices. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

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