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Midway Como

Monitor



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March 2019 • Vol. 44 No. 8

www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

21,000 Circulation

University-Snelling housing developments en route to City Hall

By JANE MCCLURE

Two six-story mixed-use buildings planned for the University-Snelling area won votes of support from Union Park District Council (UPDC) Mar. 6, and are now en route to City Hall. In February Wellington Management's development at 427 N. Snelling and Scannell Properties' development at 441-453 N. Snelling Ave. won recommendations of approvals from UPDC's land use committee.

If both win needed city approvals, the University and Snelling area would likely have two large mixed-use projects under construction at the same time. That has impacts ranging from traffic and noise disruption for neighbors to concerns about how two adjacent churches and the many community services programs they run could be affected.

Both projects need the St. Paul Planning Commission to grant conditional use permits for additional heights and floor area ratio variances for increased density in the traditional neighborhoods three district. Developers hope to submit formal requests to the city this month.

With the developments under construction at the same time, committee members and neighbors said that good communication is essential. "It's not every day you have two large developments going up next to each other," said John Lassaux, Scannell's development manager.



This spectacular aerial view of the proposed Wellington housing development at 427 N. Snelling shows how it would fit into the surrounding neighborhood. The new Allianz Stadium is across Snelling, and directly in back of the building is Central Baptist Church. It does not show the proposed Scannell housing development at 441-453 N. Snelling Ave. (Photo provided)

Representatives of Wellington and Scannell are working together on their plans and will work closely with church, commercial, and residential neighbors. Wellington's project backs up to Central Baptist Church, and Scannell's is adjacent to Bethlehem Lutheran Church-in-the-Midway.

Many church representatives were among the two dozen people attending the February land use committee meeting. "We're so close, we wonder how we can not be affected," said Tom Nichols, a member of Bethlehem Lutheran. That church recently replastered walls and repaired windows. Las-

saux said the company would work with the church to try to mitigate possible damage and impacts including noise, dust, and traffic.

Open Hands Midway at the church feeds 150 to 300 people with a weekly meal and provides other services. Both churches host clothing closets, many sup-

port groups and programs, and Bethlehem Lutheran rents to a second congregation. "We don't want to lose the great community work both churches do," said Dean Nelson, co-chair of the land use committee.

"It's a big change," said Rev. Scott Simmons, Bethlehem Lutheran's interim pastor. "We want to see where opportunities are and mitigate any challenges."

But Simmons said his concerns go beyond the adjacent projects. He and others said they worry about gentrification and people being displaced from the area.

"We hear those concerns, and we're not tone-deaf to that," said Casey Dziejewczynski, Wellington project manager. Wellington is currently working on a mixed-use project with affordable housing and University Ave. and Dale St. He said the Wellington and Scannell projects would be among the first east of Fairview Ave. to be market-rate rather than affordable housing.

The buildings will also be among the tallest in the area. Spruce Tree Center, at the southwest corner of University and Snelling, is about 64 feet tall.

The Pitch, Wellington's building, is six stories tall with 156 dwelling units and a proposed height of 74-75 feet. Dziejewczynski outlined project changes including enclosed drive-through lanes for tenant Bremer Bank and potential

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Café Biaggio to host annual St. Joseph's Day Feast on Mar. 24

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

St. Joseph's Day is a traditional Italian holiday celebrated around the world. Thanks to Café Biaggio co-owners John D'Agostino and Shari Breed, it will be observed in the Midway neighborhood too. Joseph is the patron saint of Sicily, and recognized as the husband of the Virgin Mary.

D'Agostino said, "On Sun., Mar. 24, starting at 1pm, we'll be serving our annual St. Joseph's Day Buffet. There's no charge to come and eat, though you can leave a donation for local charities and families in need. We bring any leftover food to the Visitation Monastery of North Minneapolis, where the sisters serve the urban poor every day. This tradition was started locally by my mother 52 years ago at her restaurant 'Sammy D's' in Dinkytown on the U of M Campus."

"Mama D," as she was affectionately known, passed away in 2006 at the age of 95. "I told her

Café Biaggio co-owner John D'Agostino in the restaurant named for his maternal great-grandfather, Biaggio. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

I would keep this tradition going because it was important to her," D'Agostino said. "In small towns in Italy, families still walk from door to door enjoying a dish at each home. Last year, we served about 700 people, and it's not just for Italians. We get a lot of clergies; the sisters from the Visitation Monastery will bring a bus load of neighbors from North Minneapolis. People come who are poor, and who are not poor. In the old days, my mother's friends and family would contribute dishes, but the Health Department doesn't allow that anymore. Everything is prepared right here; we'll make 100 pounds of meatloaf and about 40 pounds of mashed potatoes. We'll have fish, vegetables, breads, and desserts—something for everybody."



Sysco, Twin City Produce, and Greco and Sons are all generous donors to the event. D'Agostino and his business partner pay for

the rest. D'Agostino said, "Last year, I watched a guy who came in for the St. Joseph's Day Brunch. I could tell he was homeless. Af-

terward, he came over and said, 'Thank you—this is the first good meal I've had in a long time.' If we

Continued on page 2

Environmental review petition further delays TCGIS project

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**
An environmental review has put the Twin Cities German Immersion School construction progress on hold.

A team of Save Historic Saint Andrews (SHSA) members, led by Roy Neal, asked the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) on Feb. 22, for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) on the proposed demolition of the former St. Andrew's Church and the addition to the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS).

TCGIS officials view the petition as yet another delay tactic. The EQB has determined that

the petition is consistent with state requirements and that the city of St. Paul is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for determining the need for an EAW, pointed out SHSA member Bonnie Youngquist. "State rules governing environmental review (including EAWs) prohibit the city from taking final action on any zoning applications until all environmental review processes have been completed," explained Youngquist.

Because of this, the planned Mar. 6 hearing on the appeals of the requested TCGIS variances and the site plan was canceled.

A City Council hearing on the

the city has either determined that an EAW is not needed or until an EAW process is completed.

In all, 126 people signed the petition asking for the review. Of them, 80 percent live outside the district, according to the District 10 Community Council.

Petitioner's concerns

The petitioners have asked for a review citing four environmental impacts:

1. The loss of a significant and irreplaceable historic resource, the former St. Andrew's Church
2. Increased traffic and safety concerns in a small, residential neighborhood
3. Increased noise levels from higher student population and more traffic
4. An increase in net carbon production near to homes, and an unsustainable plan

The petition, and more description of the four points, can be read in its entirety at www.district-10comopark.org/uploads/eaw_petition_partial.pdf.

According to the government website, "The EAW is a brief document designed to lay out the basic facts of a project necessary to determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for

a proposed project. In addition to the legal purpose of the EAW in determining the need for an EIS, the EAW also provides permit information, informs the public about the project, and helps identify ways to protect the environment. The EAW is not meant to approve or deny a project, but instead, act as a source of information to guide other approvals and permitting decisions."

Appeals on hold

The city had been planning to hear appeals on Mar. 6 by the Dist. 10 Como Community Council and by SHSA which had sought to overturn decisions by the Planning Commission.

If there had been no action, the school's original variance requests would have automatically gone into effect on Mar. 26.

Both of those deadlines are now null.

District 10 filed an appeal on Feb. 19 questioning the Planning Commission's Feb. 8 decision to not vote on the school's most recent variance requests and site plan. According to the documents filed with the city, District 10 alleges that "the Planning Commission failed its fundamental role of ensuring that a project complies with the city zoning code. As a result, by a

violation of law, three variances and a site plan that violate the zoning code will take effect. In reaching the point leading to its Feb. 8 action, the commission made errors in fact, finding and procedure."

On behalf of SHSA, Kevin Anderson filed two appeals on Feb. 15, one pinpointing the TCGIS site plan and the other the three variance requests.

Both cite an error in procedure and decision at the Feb. 8 Planning Commission meeting.

"The Planning Commission process has been incredibly confusing for everyone involved," said Ward 5 Council member Amy Brendmoen. "I appreciate both parties' appeals as it will provide the City Council an opportunity to evaluate the planning staff report and make an unambiguous decision."

Historic preservation

The city has yet to decide on giving historic designation to the former church building, which would prevent the school from tearing it down and constructing a 25,000-square-foot addition.

The City Council may hold a public hearing on the issue on Wed., Mar. 20, followed by a City Council vote on Mar. 27.

Café Biaggio

Continued from page 1

feed even one person out of the whole bunch who really needs it, then I think it's worthwhile."

Café Biaggio has been in its current location at 2536 University Ave. W. for 18 years. The menu is the owners' interpretation of simple, rustic Italian foods found in small cafes in Chicago, on the East Coast, and throughout Italy. Many of the recipes have been handed down through D'Agostino's family. Mama D's classic antipasto salad, which first graced the

appeals will be rescheduled after menu at Sammy D's Restaurant in the 1960s, remains unchanged.

Features of the "made-from-scratch" menu include homemade pasta, an all-Italian wine list, hand-turned gelatos, and an Italian specialty called semifreddo: a creamy, semi-frozen concoction made with amaretto, egg whites, and macaroon cookies.

Café Biaggio has a large parking lot behind the restaurant (enter from the Raymond Ave. side.) Regular hours are Mon.-Thur., 11am-9pm; Fri., 11am-10pm; Sat., 4:30-10pm; Sun. closed.

Housing developments

Continued from page 1

tenant Walgreens, and a proposal to vacate less of the north-south alley shared with Central Baptist. The alley will be truncated, which should reduce cut-through traffic for Roy St. residential neighbors southwest of the development site.

Pedestrian safety and the drive-through lanes were discussed by the land use committee. They asked Wellington to consider ways to mitigate any potential safety hazards.

Deliveries for future retail tenants will be off of Snelling, which raised concerns among audience members. They questioned how much traffic would back up along Snelling

Wellington needs a conditional use permit to allow for a height of 73 to 74 feet. The underlying zoning allows heights up to 55 feet. Site plan approval, a variance for floor area ratio for

additional density, alley vacation, and a non-conforming use permit to continue drive-through lane use for commercial tenants are sought.

Wellington plans micro, studio, one and two-bedroom units in its U-shaped building. Two levels of underground parking are planned, with some first-level enclosed parking for retail customers. Wellington and Central Baptist are also working together on shared parking that would front Roy St.

Shields Ave. and a north-south alley will provide access for business drive-through and business and resident parking.

Scannell needs a conditional permit to allow a height of about 71 feet, as well as a floor area ratio variance to allow increased density.

Scannell's building is to have 122 apartments in a mix of small and standard studios, one, two and three-bedroom units and 72 resident parking stalls. It will also have 5,700 square feet of commercial space.

Scannell plans 15 "public" parking stalls, which would be used by a tenant or the general public. The latter use raised questions from neighbors, who questioned whether soccer fans would vie to park there. How the spaces are used will likely be determined once a retail tenant is named.

Scannell's parking would be accessed from Shields and Spruce Tree Dr., and a north-south alley. That is also where any retail deliveries would be made. Lassaux acknowledges that the alley is already a cut-through and that the developer and church need to work with city officials to see how that can be resolved.

Both developers are planning similar strategies to encourage transit use and reduce motor vehicle use, through ample bike racks and giving tenants a \$50 transit card when they move in. There are some differences. Wellington wants to use parking along Snelling for its building. Scannell wishes to eliminate parking and widen its sidewalk.

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Monitor In A Minute

By JANE MCCLURE

Lancer takes over Spring Café

For the third time in three years, there will be a change in operators at the Como Park pavilion restaurant. Lancer Hospitality has taken over the Spring Café, which reopens this spring. Lancer is no stranger to Como, as the company has long operated the food service at the nearby Como Zoo.

Lancer, who began in Madison in 1976 as an ice cream truck operator, is taking over Spring Café from Matty O'Reilly. Lancer is also taking over another spot of O'Reilly's, Red River Kitchen, which now operates in a converted grain elevator head house and sack house just out of downtown.

Lancer has assumed the operating contract with the city for the two restaurants, said Parks and Recreation spokesperson Clare Cloyd. Lancer has indicated that it isn't planning major changes at Spring Café or Red River Kitchen, and a specific opening date hasn't been announced.

O'Reilly will continue to own restaurants Bar Brigade in the Mcalester-Groveland neighborhood and Republic in Minneapolis. He has announced that he is scaling back his operations to allow for more family time and to complete a master's degree.

Lancer began in 1981 in Minnesota and operates food service at Minnesota Zoo, Science Museum of Minnesota and other venues around the country. The firm was sold in 2017 to Elio North Ameri-



Metro Automotive, 657 N. Snelling Ave., has been sold to a new owner and has obtained the business license and conditions to allow them to stay open. (Image capture from online photo)

ca, a large national food service and catering company.

Como Dockside opened with fanfare in spring 2015, after a legal battle between the city and former pavilion restaurant owner-operator David Glass. Glass obtained an \$800,000 settlement from the city after he claimed that his lease for Black Bear Crossings was improperly terminated. It was the third-highest legal settlement in city history.

Como Dockside was operated by restaurateurs Jon Oulman, his son Jarret Oulman and John Mandelman, the owners and operators of Amsterdam Bar in downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis' 313 Club. Como Dockside closed in November 2017, citing slow business during the winter months.

O'Reilly then took over the pavilion's Spring Cafe in 2018. Lancer will take management in 2019.

Como area residents filled a meeting after Como Dockside closed, to indicate what kind of venue they'd like to see at the pavilion. Split opinions were voiced, with some people wanting a full bar and others contending that a bar isn't appropriate in a family-friendly place.

City staff indicated that the pavilion will continue to be used for entertainment programming, including the Music in the Park series. The pavilion hosted more than 100 events last year.

Metro Automotive is sold

Metro Automotive, 657 N. Snelling Ave., has a new owner and new license to do business. The St. Paul City Council approved the business license and conditions on Feb. 6.

Metro Automotive has operated at the Hamline-Midway location for 27 years. Longtime owner Brian McConnon is retiring and selling the business to Ramon Rosas. Metro has a nonconforming use permit; which Rosas and his business manager will assume responsibility for. It spells out operating conditions. The permit was reviewed at a legislative hearing last

fall, where one neighbor appeared to complain about noise and vehicles in the alley.

The auto repair license has 11 conditions. Conditions dictate hours of operation, restrict where customer and business vehicles can park, ban exterior storage of vehicle parts, indicate that all repairs will take place inside of the building, and outline steps to mitigate noise. The business can continue to be an auto repair shop, but auto body work and vehicle painting cannot take place there.

Concordia withdraws proposal

Concordia University-St. Paul has dropped its bid for conduit bond financing to purchase the Central Midway building at 393 N. Dunlap St. The City Council was informed of the change of heart in mid-February, so an action item on the Feb. 20 City Council agenda was withdrawn.

Concordia has used space in Central Midway, formerly Central Medical, for several years, and has offices and learning space on 3½ floors. The building is across Interstate 94 from the university's campus. School officials said the space is needed for a growing student body and programs.

But City Council members fought the property sale and the bond issue, citing the potential loss of property tax base and a lack of information before the plan was brought forward. Concordia worked with the St. Paul Port Authority on the bond issue, which needed final city approval.

The Port bond issue was for \$5.5 million. Using the bonds would have meant an interest savings of about \$60,000.

In letters to the council, university officials said they are taking a different route to the property purchase and won't use the bonds.

The sale will still mean a loss of property taxes for the city, county and school district. The building this year will pay

\$202,526 in local taxes.

Concordia will still pay taxes on floors of the building with for-profit tenants, but it's not clear what the bottom line will be in the future.

The proposal had the support of Ward One Council Member Dai Thao, whose ward includes the university and Central Midway. But other council members opposed the bond issue and purchase, and it became clear it lacked the votes to proceed. The council laid the matter over twice.

Event space receives approval

A former furniture store at 786 University Ave. can become an event space, the St. Paul Planning Commission decided Feb. 8. The commission approved a conditional use permit for Francesco O'Ryan. The decision became final ten days later when no-one appealed to the City Council.

O'Ryan is using part of the building as an event center. A furniture store operated there until recently. A bakery in the building will remain. The one-story commercial building was built in 1926.

The building is zoned for traditional neighborhoods 2 use. It was rezoned several years ago as part of zoning studied tied to Green Line light rail. It is in the Victoria Street Station area.

The building has 14 parking spaces, which will remain in place. It isn't required to have additional parking, even though it could have more than 100 people at events. That is because it is near the Green Line, said City Planner Tony Johnson. That surprised some Planning Commission Zoning Committee members.

Summit-University Planning Council met with O'Ryan in January and recommended approval of the permit. No one has attended neighborhood or city meetings to raise objections.

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News from Galtier Community School

By SAMANTHA HENNINGSON

The third-grade Galtier Gators are participating in the myON reading challenge. The challenge tracks minutes read for every school participating. It is set up in a bracket system similar to the NCAA basketball March Madness. There were 288 MN ele-

mentary schools in the challenge. Galtier was the only SPPS school remaining in the sweet sixteen round. On the last day of reading for the round, students read for 35 hours to make it into the top two teams who will compete in the "elite eight." The four schools

that make it to the "final four" of the reading challenge receive three tickets per child for the actual NCAA final four held at US Bank Stadium.

In other fun March news, Galtier fifth graders headed to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center for a two-night stay at the beginning of the month. Third, fourth, and fifth graders head to the Children's Theater to see the Hobbit at the end of the month.

Monitor

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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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• The Como Culinary Club participated in the St. Paul Public Schools Culinary Arts Competition on Feb. 23 at St. Paul College. The club has eight dedicated members who are passionate about cooking. They have taken classes at Como including Introduction to Culinary, Advanced Culinary, and International Cuisine. Courtney Gbolo teaches the Culinary Arts courses and coordinates the club.

To promote the St. Paul event and display the skills they've learned, Como juniors Isaac Vu, Ong Vang, and Miguel Ortiz Loveland did a cooking demonstration on the Feb. 19 edition of the Fox 9 Morning News show. "Anytime students have the opportunity to showcase something they're passionate about, the sky's the limit," Gbolo said.

As for the competition, which required students to prepare a three-course meal in an hour, Como's students shined brightly. The team of Robbie Link, Ong Vang, Jillian Brenner, and Emma Luchsinger came in second place. They prepared a starter of pink gnocchi with pesto, ricotta and beet sauce, an entrée of glazed black cod with honey cream and crunchy grapes, and a chocolate, avocado and lime parfait.

To complete the Como sweep of the competition, the team of Dina Thoresen, Isaac Vu, Audrey Westerberg, and Ong Vang took first place. They prepared a starter of vegan scallops and a citrus fennel salad, an entrée of ravioli with acorn squash, marjoram, sage and butter, and a dessert of strawberry and pistachio Fraiser.

The club kept cooking after school and prepared for the State ProStart Competition on Mar. 7 after the *Monitor* went to press. Look for results in the next *Monitor*!

• The Academy of Finance (AOF) and Math Department are part-

News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Culinary competition, math mentors, History Day, and athletics



Como Park chefs swept the St. Paul Public Schools Culinary Arts Competition on Feb. 23. Members of the Culinary Club are (l to r) Ong Vang, Jillian Brenner, Emma Luchsinger, Robbie Link, Miguel Ortiz-Loveland, Dina Thoresen, Audrey Westerberg, and Isaac Vu. (Photo by Courtney Gbolo)

nering with local businesses to bring in mentors to help serve Como Park students. Every Wednesday, ten mentors visit Como to tutor 20 freshmen with their algebra skills during the advisory period. The mentors are from Math Motivators, coordinated with the Actuarial Foundation, and represent companies and institutions including Securian Financial, Travelers Insurance, the University of Minnesota and the University of St. Thomas.

AOF Coordinator Kris Somerville believes the external support from the foundation can help students achieve while strengthening partnerships in the community. "By getting help with math freshman year, students will be more confident academically in their high school years while also building relationships with outside professionals and mentors. Win! Win!" Somerville said.

Arden Ashley-Wurtmann is the Program Coordinator for Math Motivators. She understands the challenge of bringing in extra help for individual math tutoring. "As a former teacher, I often had volunteers who were excited to mentor students but didn't have the math confidence to help them with their work. Recruiting tutors who are either professionals or students majoring in math-related fields has been critical to the success of the program," Ashley-Wurtmann said.

Any public school or math-related business desiring partnership with Math Motivators may contact arden.wurtmann@actfnd.org.

• Lori Nakamura, who has been Como's school nurse since 2008, coordinated a project with the Helen Keller Institute that provided every Como stu-

dent an opportunity to receive a free eye exam at school and obtain free glasses.

Many Como students don't have access to regular eye exams or resources to secure corrective eyewear. In total 869 students were screened and 194 students are getting glasses. An additional 32 were referred for further treatment.

"Students were thrilled to see clearly! Being able to choose their frames brought a whole new level of excitement!" said English Language Learner (ELL) teacher Jane Sevald. ELL teacher Jill Wielgos added, "even for students who had glasses, many had frames that were outdated or damaged. Students were extremely thankful for an updated pair."

• History Day at Como featured the presentation of final products culminating weeks of research and development by 11th grade U.S. History students. History scholars who qualified for the St. Paul regional competition on Mar. 9 include the following students from their respective categories:

—Group Exhibit: Dinnea Riley, Deleela Robinson, Anisa Moreno, and Kayla McDonald for Emmett Till.

—Group Website: Noelia Marin Leal, Mai Chue Xiong, Najma Adem and Moo Soe for Women's Suffrage; Gemma Phan, Kaw Mu, and Paw Say Wah for Jonas Salk's Polio Vaccine; Alicia Rivera, Dulce Ruiz Contreras, Mariana Zubke and Angeles Caballero for Frida Kahlo's Paintings; Way Htoo and Shar Too for WAVES (Women's branch of the U.S. Naval Reserve); and Ly Xiong,

Rose Say and Maisee Her for the Immigration Act of 1924. —Individual Website: Melody Yang for Pennhurst State Hospital; Jorge Nieto Pliego for Warren Robinett's Easter Egg; Ethan Lee for the My Lai Massacre; Mai See Her for Anne Frank; and Lillian Sticha for NASA's Human Computers.

—Individual Documentary Film: Lisa Saechao for the Hmong Genocide; Wyatt Hanson for Sound in Film; and Yeeleng Vang for 9/11.

—Research Paper: Issac Vu for the Tragedy of Pearl Harbor; and Aleeyar Keh for the State of Minnesota v. Dennis Linehan.

• For the fifth consecutive season, the Como Girls Basketball team won the St. Paul City Conference Championship. Dating back to 2015, the Cougars are on a 52-game winning streak within the conference. Como capped off its regular season with another Twin Cities Title by defeating Minneapolis South, the champion of the Minneapolis City Conference, with a dramatic 56-55 victory.

The annual Twin Cities Championship Game is always an intense game with city pride on the line. The Cougars have won all five of their Twin Cities games to keep bragging rights in St. Paul. The Cougars were practicing for the Section 4AAA semi-finals in early March as the Monitor goes to press. Their overall record was 23-2.

• Como sophomore Stone Frasl qualified for the State Wrestling Meet by placing second in the 138-pound division of the Section 4AA Meet. Sophomore Kaleb Sears and senior Alonte Johnson finished third in their weight classes, narrowly missing a chance to wrestle at state. They joined other teammates at the Xcel Energy Center on Mar. 1 to support Frasl, who lost his match but had an unforgettable experience representing Como on the big stage.

The Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., is your neighborhood gathering spot, where you can enjoy great programs and Internet access and access portable WiFi hotspots, books, CDs, DVDs and more, all free with your library card. Here's what's coming up in late March and early April.

For families and kids

Preschool Storytimes in English happen Fridays from 10:30-11am, with upcoming story times on Mar. 15, 22, and 29 and on Apr. 12. Storytimes feature stories, songs, puppets, and more. They're a great way for caregivers to bond with children and build social skills, listening comprehension, and letter and number recognition while creating a solid foundation for lifelong learning. Children of all

News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

activity levels are welcome!

Evening Storytimes in English start up again on Tues., Apr. 9, from 6-6:30pm, with another storytime on Apr. 16 at the same time.

On Sat., Mar. 23, from 3-4pm, enjoy local musician Lucy Michelle singing fun songs and reading entertaining stories to young children and their caregivers.

Science Saturday is happening on Sat., Apr. 13 from 1:30-3pm. School-aged children and their families can explore fun science and art projects. This month the theme is Balance and Topple.

Also happening on Sat., Apr. 13 from 11:30am-5pm is Math and Science Day, a drop-in program for kids and teens and their families. Enter an estimation contest, play with Ozobots, enjoy a math-themed scavenger hunt, experiment with PVC pipes, circuits, sudoku, and more!

For adults

Get your cuteness overload on Wed., Mar. 27, from 1-3pm, when Jody's Documentary Film Series will present the PBS documentary "Pick of the Litter." The film tells the story of sib-

ling puppies training to become service dogs for the blind. Bring tissues—no kidding. This event is co-presented by the Hamline Midway Coalition and the Hamline Midway Elders.

The Novels at Night Book

Club for adults will meet Thur., Mar. 28 from 6:30-7:30pm to discuss Paul Beatty's "The Sellout." This biting satire tells of a young man's isolated upbringing and the race trial that sends him to the Supreme Court.

The Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club meets on Sat., Apr. 6, 1-2pm, to discuss good mystery novels. Contact volunteer G. Balter for book list or more information at gerribalter@gmail.com or 651-224-5570.

LULA
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2nd Half with Lyngblomsten is a life enrichment center in the Como Park neighborhood for adults 50+. It is located on the Lyngblomsten campus at 1415 Almond Avenue, St. Paul. Offerings focus on:

- Education & the Arts
- Health, Wellness, & Spirituality
- Social & Outings
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Learn more: Download the catalog at
www.lyngblomsten.org/2ndHalf or call (651) 414-5293.

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Annual elections will take place Apr. 16 for two-year terms on the District 10 Como Community Council board. Nine board positions are up for election; in at least five of them, the incumbent is not seeking re-election. That makes it an excellent opportunity for new activists to seek an open seat. The positions on this April's ballot:

- Chair
- Secretary
- One representative from each of the four geographic sub-districts
- Three at-large representatives

Any renter, homeowner, or other resident of District 10 who is age 16 or older, is eligible to run. So are authorized representatives from a business or non-profit organization located in District 10.

To get on the ballot: Submit your name and a brief biography no later than Tues., Apr. 9. Nominations submitted after that date will be treated as write-in candidacies. The nomination form, a

Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director

list of board member responsibilities, and other information is available on District 10's website at www.district10comopark.org.

Sunday Series

Yes, we're rushing the season

District 10's 2019 Sunday Series is guaranteed to get you thinking about spring and summer.

First up: mosquitoes. On Sun., Mar. 24, 1-2:30pm, one of our most invisible government agencies—the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District—talks about how they control the blood-sucking and disease-spreading pests, middle-of-the-night maneuvers, what's in those fog machines, and even what those red triangles on storm

grates mean. This free series takes place in the Como Park Streetcar Station, which is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

One week later: Tornadoes. Floods. Fire. Civil unrest. If disaster strikes, how prepared are you to evacuate your home in a hurry? Saint Paul Emergency Management talks about their role in preparing for the unexpected, what you can do to prepare yourself and your family, and what you should pack in your "go bag." "Preparing for an emergency" will take place Sun., Mar. 31, 1-2:30pm, also in the Como Park Streetcar Station.

Upcoming events

- Sunday Series: "How to be a cit-

izen scientist," Sun., Apr. 14.

- Sunday Series: "Reduce, reuse, recycle: What do you really know?" Sun., May 5.
- Como Neighborhood Garage Sale, the weekend of May 17.
- Como Community Seed Library's "Seed Your Dream," Sat., May 18.
- District 10 Community Yoga, Sun., June 9.
- District 10 Ice Cream Social, Fri., July 12.
- Como Neighborhood Pollinator Garden Tour, Sat., July 13.

Upcoming District 10 meetings

- Como Community Council Board: Tues., Mar. 19.
- Environment Committee: Wed., Mar. 27.

- Neighborhood Relations Committee: Tues., Apr. 2.
- Land Use Committee: Wed., Apr. 3.

All meetings typically begin at 7pm at the Como Park Streetcar Station. Renters, homeowners, and other community members are always welcome to attend and participate. Whenever possible, agendas are posted in advance in the "Board News" section of District 10's website.

We're open once a month

The Como Park Streetcar Station is now open on the first Sunday of each month. It is a great chance to pick up organics recycling bags or kitchen starter kits, or chat with a District 10 board member who is staffing the day. Hours are noon to 4pm. The next open date is Apr. 7. (Beginning in May, the Streetcar Station will open every Sunday afternoon through September.) The Historic Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

Hamline Midway Coalition was a proud sponsor of the first session of "Criminalization of Poverty."

Hamline University launched the year-long educational series focusing on the Criminalization of Poverty, hosted by the University's Center for Justice and Law. The first event was a Feb. 22 and focused on the criminalization of poverty in Minnesota.

For more information on upcoming sessions, visit www.hamline.edu/center-justice-law. Tickets

Hamline Midway Coalition

By MELISSA CORTES, Community Organizer

for the 2nds session are almost sold out so get your tickets now!

Online business directory

Hamline Midway Coalition encourages neighborhood busi-

ness to register for an online business directory.

The Coalition has spent the past few months improving their website to make hosting and sharing information easier. Hopefully, the changes are noticeable.

The business directory is one area on the website that has seen improvements and now they are encouraging Hamline Midway businesses to sign up! To do so, visit the website at www.hamlinemidway.org/community/business-directory to view or sign up.

Why shop locally? Each dollar you spend at independent businesses returns three times more money to your local economy than one spent at a chain. This fact isn't enough? Learn more on our website.

Garage sale weekend returns May 3-5!

In 2015, the Hamline Midway Neighborhood Garage Sale started

as a one-day sale and opportunity to meet neighbors, all while clearing out the items you no longer wanted or needed. Now, in its 4th year, more people are collaborating with neighbors to increase their visibility, coordinate this as a fundraiser for their school or team, and have hope that it is a way to boost the local neighborhood economy.

This year the fee to enter your sale is \$12. This cost goes to advertising, fees for the interactive-online mapping tool, and for the signage that goes put all around the neighborhood. Now is your chance to start planning for this year's sale and something we call all look forward to for warmer days!

Sign up at www.hamlinemidway.org/garagesale or contact us at garagesale@hamlinemidway.org.

Environment Committee

Hamline Midway Coalition is seeking applicants for the Hamline Midway Environment Committee. Do you have an in-

terest in tracking, discussing, and taking action related to sustainability and the natural environment? If yes, this committee is for you. Anyone interested should call or email Melissa at 651-494-7683 or melissa@hamlinemidway.org.

A few exciting upcoming projects will focus around water quality with Adopt-a-Drain, and native species in an urban setting in the Pierce Butler Meadows! Visit us online to learn more.

Community Engagement Intern needed

The Hamline Midway Coalition (District Council 11) is one of 17 District Councils that serve the neighborhoods of St. Paul. A dynamic organization with a rich history, HMC is dedicated to making the Hamline Midway neighborhood a great place to live, learn, work and play. The neighborhood is a vibrant community that is home to a diverse and active population as well as many businesses and institutions.

For the position description visit www.hamlinemidway.org/news_events/331/community-engagement-intern-needed.

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Sunday 9:00am - 1:00pm

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St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 645-8636

www.lloydsrx.com

Hamline Elementary School

By JESSICA KOPP

Every month is partnership month at Hamline Elementary, and in March we're happy to welcome back some of our favorites: Science

from Scientists, Hamline Midway Elders' Reading Buddy Program, and Mobile Menders. Our fourth-graders will begin a social

justice project with students from Hamline University. Fifth graders will continue with their swim lessons taught by certified swim instructors, using the Hamline University pool. And, our kindergarten classes will visit the Children's Museum. The PTA will host a conference meal for staff and a special Friday night Hamline Family Night complete with a community meal and dance lesson.

We're grateful for the support of neighbors and invite you to share your time and talents with the Hamline Elementary community.

We are currently collecting Box Tops for Education and looking for a couple more volunteers to tutor with Reading Partners to help us provide almost 70 students with 90 minutes of one-to-one tutoring every week.

Contact Marissa at marissa.heim@readingpartners.org to learn more.

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SUNDAY MORNINGS

10:15 Worship
11:30 Bible Study

Check our website for weekly events and opportunities to serve.



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Pastor Ted Andrada

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Create, connect, craft at camp

Friends School, Hamline Young Writers, St. Paul Urban Tennis, St. Paul Ballet

By **TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN**

Create a cardboard castle, a cigar box guitar, or a Lego robot. Connect with long-time friends and make new ones while learning how to kayak, juggle or sew. Make a puppet, animated cartoon, stationary, or your own song. There are so many summer camp options in the Twin Cities area your kids will have trouble picking just one!

Browse below for more information on some of the camps offered locally.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

AUTISM SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

Experience outdoor activities including swimming in an outdoor pool, horseback riding, use of a ropes course and climbing tower, group games, or hiking. Enjoy sensory crafts, gross motor activities led by a registered occupational therapist, music groups led by a board-certified music therapist, boating, and sports during a Wahode Day Camp in Eagen where campers arrive each morning and leave each afternoon. Two residential camps where campers stay several days and nights are also offered in northern Minnesota at several locations. AuSM camps are tailored for youth and adults with autism. AuSM camps are available for individuals ages 6 and up who are AuSM members.

651-647-1083

<https://ausm.org/camp/ausm-summer-camps.html>

BLACKHAWKS OF ST. PAUL

Blackhawks offer several exciting half- and full-day soccer camps for players ages 5-18 that encompass a wide variety of activities and skills. Specialty camps focus on specific skills such as ball control, shooting, and goalkeeping.

651-894-3527

<http://blackhawksoccer.org>

CAMP COMO

Spend some time "Monkeying Around" with your primate pals, go for the gold in "Animal Olympics," take an "African Adventure" without leaving Como, or try on the hat of a zookeeper or gardener in "Behind-the-Scenes!". Como's camps focus on developing children's appreciation for the natural world through play and exploration, behind-the-scenes experiences, interactions with zookeepers and gardeners, and up-close encounters with plant and animal ambassadors. Five-day, half-day or full-day sessions for preschool to grade eight. Extended care is available.

651-487-8272

<http://www.tinyurl.com/p3u4lqv>

FOREST SCHOOL

Free Forest School of the Twin Cities is a free group, open to young children and their parents or caregivers. This is a welcoming and non-judgmental group where parents and caregivers can practice giving children space and autonomy to explore

and create in nature. Free Forest School meets every day of the week throughout the year at wilderness areas around the metro. Share a snack, take a hike, play in the woods, and have circle time. Parents get a chance to unplug and step back... Kids and their imaginations take the lead.

Cost: Free

www.freeforestschool.org/free-forest-school-twin-cities-minnesota



Exploration is encouraged at Friends School summer programs. (Photo provided)

FRIENDS SCHOOL

Want to make a film just like the professionals? Feel like biking 10 (or 20!) miles a day? Have a secret stash of poems to share? Feel a need to express yourself through paint and paper-folding? Maybe you'd rather argue for the defense in a real courtroom? Friends School will be the place to do that—and more—from June to August for ages 4-14. There are weekdays, half- and full-day options available. Extended daycare in the mornings and afternoons and need-based financial aid available.

651-621-8941

<http://www.fsmn.org>

GIBBS MUSEUM OF PIONEER AND DAKOTA LIFE CAMPS

Travel back in time and learn about life in the 1800s. Explore seasonal Dakota activities including the maple sugar camp, wild rice village, and learn about life in the tipi, hunting games, methods of travel, language and song. Three-day, half-day camps. One-day Pioneer PeeWees camps offered for ages 4-5.

651-646-8629

<http://www.rchs.com>

HAMLIN YOUNG WRITERS

High school students ages 15-18 can explore the craft, prepare for college, and connect with other young writers in the Twin Cities while working closely with Hamline Creative Writing faculty and published authors.

651-523-2476

<http://www.hamline.edu/gls/youngwriters>

MINNESOTA WALDORF SCHOOL

Join the Minnesota Waldorf School for good, old-fashioned summer fun with outdoor games, natural crafts, water play, gardening, fairy camp, and much more. For children ages 3.5 to (rising) 6th grade.

651-487-6700 x202

<http://mnwaldorf.org/summer-camp>



Outdoor activities take center stage at the Autism Society of Minnesota summer camps. (Photo provided)

RAPTOR CENTER

Summer sessions for ages 6-14 are run by the University of Minnesota's Rec & Wellness Camps. Camps also offered in partnership with MIA and Richardson Nature Center.

<https://www.raptor.umn.edu>

SPIRIT TAE KWON DO

Fun, exciting camps that combine physical fitness and education are offered throughout the summer for school-age kids. Register early for discounts.

651-428-6172

<http://www.istkd.com>

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

Make your own games and design circuits. Paint with pizzazz. Search out connections between visual art and creative writing, and explore the life of a story in journalism. Options at SPA cover a wide range of academic, arts, and enrichment activities for grades 2-12.

651-698-2451

<http://www.spa.edu>

ST. PAUL BALLETT

Summer is a great time to try dance. Programs include workshops and camps for ages 3 and up, weekly drop-in classes for teens and adults, and a "mommy and me" baby class.

651-690-1588

<https://spballet.org/>

ST. PAUL URBAN TENNIS

Located at 30+ sites, with sever-

al locations in the Midway Como neighborhoods, St. Paul Urban Tennis offers a summer program for all age groups and skill levels. Tennis lessons combine high-quality instruction with life skills learning. Sampler Camps offer a condensed, 4-day version of the lesson program. Scholarships are available.

612-222-2879

<https://stpaulurbantennis.org/summer>

YMCA

Explore the variety of Y Summer Programs at over 60 metro-area locations. Programs include flexible three-, four-, and five-day options for preschool and up, as well as day camps, overnight camps, Teen Wilderness, family camps, and more.

http://www.ymcatwincities.org/child_care_preschool/summer_programs

IN THE TWIN CITIES

ADVENTURES IN CARDBOARD

Be initiated into an ancient and esteemed House of The Realm, jump into live-action adventure gaming, build your own arms and armor, and more during these five-day, full-day sessions for ages 8-17.

612-532-6764

adventuresincardboard.com/

ALEXANDER RAMSEY HOUSE

Solve mysteries of the past in

this three-day History Detective Camp for ages 10-13. Or, young ladies ages 9-12 can step back in time in a unique Finishing School for Young Ladies day camp.

612-341-7555

www.mnhs.org/summercamps

ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY

Unleashed summer campers entering grades 3-10 spend a full week immersed in animal learning and fun at one of four AHS locations,

763-489-2220

<http://www.animalhumane.org/camps>

ARTICULTURE

A variety of art disciplines and mediums with themes like puppetry, world cultures, If I had a Hammer, animation, art car, public art and activism, print-making and more offered for ages 4-18. Five-day, half- and full-day sessions available.

612-729-5151

<http://www.articulture.org>

BLACKBIRD'S MUSIC STORE

Write your own songs, start your own band, build cigar guitars from the ground up, and learn electric guitar.

612-326-5745

<http://blackbirdsmusicstore.com>

CAMP SUNRISE

Camp and canoe while learning leadership and teamwork skills in a free, seven-day resident camp for youths age 13-18 who live within the city limits of Minneapolis or St. Paul. Held on the St. Croix River in Rush City and organized by YouthCARE.

612-338-1233

<http://www.youthcaremn.org>

CIRCUS JUVENTAS

Explore international circus arts at Circus Juventas. Five-day, full-day sessions and one-day sampler camps offered for ages 6-15. New this year is Teen High-Flying Adventure Camp for ages 13-18.

651-699-8229

<http://www.circusjuventas.org>

CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES

Experience cultural and language immersion; 15 languages to choose from. Resident camp for

Think big. Build big.

Engineering, art and technology workshops for ages 6-17. All year.

South Minneapolis
leonardosbasement.org

Camps over the summer months

Let, Camp Como, and others make summer memories they'll never forget

ages 6-18 and family camps.
1-800-222-4750
<http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org>

DODGE NATURE CENTER

Campers have fun while gaining an appreciation for nature by meeting live animals, building forts, and getting their hands dirty during full- and half-day, four-day camps offered for students entering 1-8 grades. Shorter sessions are available for ages 3-6.

651-455-4531
www.dodgecenter.org



Camp Como's focus is on developing children's appreciation for the natural world. (Photo provided)

ENGINEERING FOR KIDS

Day camps exploring science, technology, and engineering are offered in partnership with local community education programs. Sessions, length and price are varied per location and type of camp for ages 4-14.

www.engineeringforkids.com

FARM TO TABLE

Make butter, ice cream and bread while learning about science, agriculture and history at the Bruentrup Heritage Farm in Maplewood. Plus, students will play old-time games like town-ball and do arts and crafts during three four-day sessions.

651-748-8645
<http://www.maplewoodhistorical.org>

FIDDLE PAL CAMP

Fiddle Pal Camp Minnesota is four days to discover, learn and play for children, adults and families at three locations.

<https://americanfiddlemethod.com/fiddle-pal-camps/minnesota>

FOCI MN CENTER FOR GLASS

From fusing to casting to glass blowing, ages 9-18 are introduced to the mesmerizing medium of glass through immersive half-day, five-day experiences.

612-623-3624

<https://www.mnglassart.org/classes/camps-for-kids-and-teens>

FORT SNELLING

Experience the outdoors, or the lives of the engineers and grenadiers who called Fort Snelling home. Go back to the past and explore the stories of children who lived in Fort Snelling at Bdote area. Camps range from one to four days.

612-341-7555
www.mnhs.org/summercamps

GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CAMPS

Speak, hear, sing, and create in German while exploring subjects ranging from history and art to science and music during five-day, half-, full- and extended-day sessions for grades K-13 at the Germanic American Institute.

651-222-2979
<http://gai-mn.org>

HEARTFELT

Summer camps allow time for more in-depth projects, such as Wild & Woolly, Fairies, Critters, and Sea Creatures, for kindergarten and up.

<http://heartfeltonline.com>

INNER CITY TENNIS

Enjoy Summer Tennis in Minneapolis parks for ages 6-17. Free and reduced programs available.

612-825-6844
<http://www.innercitytennis.org>

IRISH DANCE

Professional Irish Dance training by director Cormac O'Se, an original member of Riverdance.

612-722-7000
www.oshearishdance.com

JUGHEADS JUGGLING CAMP

Half-day, five-day sessions and single day sessions for beginners through experts ages 8-18 enhance hand-eye coordination, boost concentration and build self-confidence.

612-229-3348
<http://jugheads.com>

KID YOGA

Yoga infused throughout the day via story, dance and games for campers age 5-12. Located on the Greenway with daily field adventures.

612-202-5164
kidyogamn.com

LEONARDO'S BASEMENT

Girls and boys ages 6 to 17 can design and build their creative ideas, mixing art, science and technology during partial-day, weekday camps. There are more than 120 classes available over ten weeks, including a Harry Potter Theme Week with giant Hogwarts Castle build.

612-824-4394
<https://www.leonardosbasement.org>

LITTLE FOLK SUMMER CAMP

Ages 4-8 can participate in a nourishing, creative and relaxing "backyard" summer experience. The morning starts with free play/maker time with loose parts, a mud and wood chip kitchen, supervised use of basic tools, costumes and art projects. Take picnic lunches to nearby Brackett Park or trails along the Mississippi, where there is after-lunch reading time on blankets and in hammocks. Afternoons are spent at Brackett Park, playing ball, climbing trees, or playing at the playground or wading pool.

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/ffMuf5AOypFq3>

LOFT LITERARY CENTER

There's something for everyone—from the youngster just learning to put pen to paper to the seasoned high school senior with a novel already under her belt. Sessions run in week-long blocks July and August, full and half-day options available for ages 6-17.



A variety of athletic, academic and enrichment programs are offered at Minnehaha Academy. (Photo provided)

612-215-2575
https://www.loft.org/classes/about_youth_classes_6-17

LOPET ADVENTURE CAMPS

Roller ski, mountain bike, canoe and more during adventure camps for ages 9-13 at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis. Equipment provided during the full-day, five-day sessions.

612-604-5330
<http://loppet.org>

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

A variety of athletic, academic and enrichment programs are offered, including baking basics, woodcarving, viola and cello, Ev3 robots, Hispanic Culture Camp, fencing, stop motion, sewing, painting, rocket science, drumming, and more. Half- and full-day, one- to three-week week-day sessions. Camp Minnehaha, a full day camp for pre-k to grade 8, includes daily devotions, games, indoor and outdoor activities, daily swimming lessons, and weekly off-campus activity.

612-728-7745, ext. 1
www.minnehahaacademy.net

MILL CITY MUSEUM

Play music, get creative, bake bread and construct books while exploring the rich culture along the Minneapolis riverfront district. Campers aged 9-11 will explore a new experience each day at four arts centers.

612-341-7555
www.mnhs.org/summercamps

NORTHERN CLAY CENTER

Work with sculpture, tiles, or wheel-thrown pottery in half or full-day sessions for ages 6 and up.

612-339-8007
www.northernclaycenter.org

SNAPOLOGY

With camps happening at the new Discovery Center in Minneapolis Uptown every week of the summer, as well as at various schools and educational partners around the Twin Cities, Snapology has got you covered for kids as young as 3 and as old as 14—Robotics, Coding, Science, Technology, Drones, Pre-K, Engineering, Architecture and more.

<https://www.snapology.com/locations/minneapolis>

STEPPING STONE THEATER

Learn about devised theater, music and other performance art forms during these one- to two-week, half- and full-day sessions for those preK to grade 12. Two theater classes offered in collaboration with the Science Museum and Minnesota Zoo.

<http://steppingstonetheatre.org>

STREETCAR MUSEUM

Learn about track, motors, and controls and how the crew does their jobs at the Minnesota Streetcar Museum in Minneapolis. Each child ages 6-11 will have the chance to climb into the Motorman's seat and run the car down the line.

<https://trolleyride.org>

TEXTILE CENTER CAMPS

Sew, knit, felt, dye and more. Take home completed fiber items from three- and five-day, half-, full- and extended-day sessions for ages 6-16.

612-436-0464
<http://textilecentermn.org>

TRAPEZE CENTER CIRCUS CAMP

Students ages 8-17 enrolled in the week-long, half-day camps will experience a variety of circus disciplines—including Trampoline, Static Trapeze, Acrobatics, Circus Bike, and of course Flying Trapeze.

651-262-9477
<https://twincitiestrapeze.com>

TAMARACK NATURE CENTER

Animal encounters, canoeing, hiking, swimming, pond-dipping, mud-mucking, and gardening adventures await for ages 3-13.

651-407-0597
<http://www.WhiteBearArts.org>

WHITE BEAR CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Painting, drawing, clay, theatre, writing, glass and much more for ages 6-14.

651-407-0597
<http://www.WhiteBearArts.org>

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is not a comprehensive list of every camp in the Twin Cities. If you would like to be included in next year's guide, please send us detailed information on the camp.

CHILDREN AGES 2.5 - 12

- Parent & Me
- Ballet Fairytales Camp
- Dance, Art, Yoga Camp
- Marry Poppins Camp
- Music & Movement

SUMMER DANCE!

TEENS AND ADULTS AGES 13+

- Ballet Intensives
- Yoga and Modern
- Creative Movement
- Lifelong Ballet
- Fundamentals of Ballet
- Beginning Ballet

Boys and men welcome!

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655 Fairview Avenue N

SP BALLET SPBALLET.ORG
651-690-1588

Technology drives new United Theological Seminary space

United notes how religion is changing while continuing a strong social justice program in a busy corner of St. Paul

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

The floors in the new United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities space in the Case Building are plain concrete, but the technology in the classrooms is state-of-the-art.

United Theological Seminary President Lew Zeidner explained that the seminary used its money on improvements that would directly benefit students rather than on fancy flooring.

Large offices for staff didn't make the cut either. At the New Brighton campus, "I had an office that a family of six could live in," pointed out Zeidner, who served on the seminary board for eight years before being hired as president in July 2016.

That old model isn't one that United Theological Seminary copied at its new space in the renovated Case Building (767 N. Eustis St., Suite 140). Designed by Doug Pierce, an architect with Perkins and Will, Zeidner's office is like all other offices and includes a crank sit-stand desk. Several of the offices house two staff, so there are a few rooms—called huddle rooms—that are set aside for meetings and phone calls, or used when a staff member needs to spread out.

"We put maximum dollars in student education space and technology—into things that matter in the training of students," said Zeidner. He said that if he needs more space, he can go into the library and be among students.

When designing the seminary, they worked to balance open and airy with the work they do dealing with tough issues and the emotions they bring up, Zeidner remarked.

Classes for the spring term began at the new campus on Jan.



"For me, this is the kind of space contemporary students want to be in," said United Theological Recruitment Specialist Silas Morgan. To serve their distance education students, each classroom has high-quality video cameras, microphones, speakers and screens so distance learners can more fully participate in classroom discussions. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

14, for the seminary's 122 students.

Space contemporary students want to be in

"For me, this is the kind of space contemporary students want to be in," said United Theological Recruitment Specialist Silas Morgan as he gave tours before a public lecture on Feb. 8.

The former campus in New Brighton consisted of about five acres with four buildings, while the new space in the Case Building is 25,000 square feet.

Morgan observed that the old space was so large that not all of it was used, and things were very spread out. With the newer space, students gather in the intersection between the library, classrooms, dining area and chapel.

"There's a very different

form to the space, and it's very functional," observed Zeidner. "There's a vibrancy."

"We love it here," added Gina Lotzer, who is assistant to the president. "It is so nice to see students in this space. You can feel the energy here."

A key feature of the new building is the Innovation Lab, a space for student projects from podcasts to artistic expressions of faith. Under the leadership of the Reverend Karen Hutt, a United vice president with responsibility for innovation, this lab will serve as a space for speakers and series, such as "The Art of..." series, and focus on topics such as improvisation and conflict resolution. According to Hutt, they also plan to serve the community by opening the lab and other parts of campus to caregivers and change makers who are seeking a place

where they can be refreshed and re-energized for their work.

There are three classrooms, a conference room, computer area, "living room," and several breakout rooms, as well as a mother's room/meditation space and archive room.

To serve their distance education students, each classroom has high-quality video cameras, microphones, speakers and screens so distance learners can more fully participate in classroom discussions. Recognizing that learning takes place outside the classroom, the 25% of seminary students who are distant learners can also participate in student and faculty conversations in student huddle rooms, the Innovation Lab and even the dining area thanks to technology placed there.

While the library did downsize to accommodate a more compact footprint, most of the books came with to the new space and are stored on racks that can be rolled out and expanded.

Large windows allow lots of natural light, and there are also skylights and urban green space.

Practical ministry training

Ministry has changed significantly since United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities opened its doors in 1962. Founded by the United Church of Christ as an ecumenical seminary serving all Protestant denominations, today's leaders recognize that faith leadership requires more than theological understanding. Whether seminary students become ministers, chaplains or nonprofit executives, they also must develop innovative, financially viable programs to address the needs of the popu-



United Theological Seminary President Lew Zeidner stands in his simple office as he explained that the seminary used its money on improvements that would directly benefit students. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

lations they serve.

The staff believes that this new location in St. Anthony, near the Green Line, University Ave., Highway 280 and Interstate 94, will provide many opportunities for students to be involved in social justice work.

"This positions us right in the middle of the city," observed Morgan.

"Religious leaders need to be comfortable outside of church buildings, working within diverse communities ministering to the needs of people in everyday settings," said Zeidner. "Our new campus and innovation focus will ensure that students develop strong practical ministry leadership skills in ways that are well integrated with their rigorous academic training."

One block to change from one-way to two-way as part of traffic changes

Long-awaited traffic study for Allianz Field development still not released six weeks before the opening game

By JANE MCCLURE

A one-block section of Roy St. between Spruce Tree Dr. and Shields Ave. will be converted from one-way to two-way traffic, the St. Paul City Council decided Feb. 27. No date has been set for conversion, but it is expected before Major League Soccer starts at Allianz Field in April. Roy St. between Shields and St. Anthony avenues remains one-way going north.

The change is being made as part of the changes in the University and Snelling avenues' area, in response to soccer stadium development. The traffic signal was removed at Snelling and Spruce Tree Dr. A new signal was placed at Shields and Snelling avenues. A median and fence were placed on Snelling south of University.

More changes could be possible, as the traffic study for Allianz Field and Midway Center redevelopment is supposed to be released soon. Initial studies were done a few years ago as part of an alternative urban areawide review, but area district councils, residents and businesses have waited many months for the more detailed study.

The change, which won support from the Union Park District Council, was discussed several weeks ago at a neighborhood meeting. It's not exactly known why the block was designated for one-way

traffic. Some longtime area residents believe it was an effort to prevent cut-through traffic from heading from University Ave. to Interstate 94 almost 50 years ago. Fry south of Shields and north of St. Anthony Ave. will remain one-way.

"This is only affecting one block that for many years has been a one-way street," said Elizabeth Stiffler of St. Paul Public Works.

The street is wide enough to have two-sided parking, even with the traffic change. "I know parking is critical in that area," said Stiffler.

A neighboring church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church-in-the-Midway, 436 N. Roy St., raised concerns about parking and traffic. Another concern brought up by Interim pastor Scott Simmons is that the church had only a few days' notice about the pending change and public hearing.

"We're not necessarily opposed to the two-way idea," Simmons said. "but we want to raise strong concerns about parking." This winter, the snow is piled so high on city streets that two-sided parking and two-way traffic isn't possible in many places. "You can't get two-way traffic up and down that street now."

Simmons spoke not just on behalf of the church but also for Open Hands Midway, a social services nonprofit it houses that serves

up to 300 people each week with a meal and other assistance. Some services and meals are offered outside during the summer, with hundreds of people lining up for help.

Simmons also asked the city to consider looking on an ongoing basis at parking as well as traffic. The change to the Shields stop light has meant more cut-through traffic in a north-south Roy-Snelling alley beside the church. With new housing planned along Snelling, Sim-

mons said there need to be measures taken to address traffic.

Ward Four Council Member Mitra Jalali Nelson said she'd continue to work with the church, other neighbors and the district council. Changes can be made later to address traffic and parking concerns.

Owners of Spruce Tree Center and the Midway Chamber of Commerce, which has offices at Spruce Tree, weighed in to sup-

port the change. Other tenants of Spruce Tree, which is at the southwest corner of University and Snelling avenues, also support the change. A recently installed Snelling median means northbound motorists can no longer make a westbound or left-hand turn onto Spruce Tree Dr. Spruce Tree Center representative said the two-way street was offered as a way to address the traffic flow issues with changes to Spruce Tree Dr.

Healthy Mom EXERCISE PREGNANCY STUDY

The University of Minnesota is seeking women who are currently **less than 20 weeks pregnant** to participate in a research study examining the effect of exercise and wellness on mood following childbirth.

- Program delivered to you via the mail and phone
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must not currently exercise regularly
- Must not take antidepressants
- You will receive \$100 & a FitBit for your time (you will be allowed to keep the FitBit after the study is over)
- Program can be delivered in English or Spanish
- Must be considered low-income, defined as:
 - Enrollment in any government assisted program (e.g., WIC, SNAP)
 - AND/OR Annual income that is considered low (less than \$45,510 for a family of four, less than \$30,044 for a family of two, and less than \$22,311 if single).

Mamá Saludable ESTUDIO SOBRE EL EJERCICIO DURANTE EL EMBARAZO

La Universidad de Minnesota está buscando mujeres con **menos de 20 semanas de embarazo** para participar en el estudio de investigación que examina los efectos del ejercicio y la salud del estado de ánimo posterior al parto.

- Programa ejecutado vía correo o teléfono
- Debe ser mayor o igual a 18 años de edad
- No debe hacer ejercicio regularmente
- No debe tomar antidepressivos
- Usted recibirá \$100 y un FitBit por su tiempo (será permitido quedarse con el FitBit después de la culminación del estudio)
- Debe considerarse de bajos ingresos, lo cual se define como:
 - Inscrita en cualquier programa asistencial del gobierno (por ejemplo, WIC, SNAP)
 - Y/O Ingresos anuales considerados como bajos (menos de \$ 45,510 para una familia de cuatro, menos de \$ 30,044 para una familia de dos y menos de \$ 22,311 si es soltera).

Call or TEXT to 612-345-0325 or mompro@umn.edu to see if you qualify for this research study.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Llamada o TEXTO 612-237-1004 o mompro@umn.edu para ver si calificas para este estudio.

In Our Community

Monitor

Send us your news! When you submit your press release it will be considered for the next print edition of the Monitor. You can also go to our website, MonitorSaintPaul.com and enter your information in the online Event Calendar.

Renters Summit Planned for April 18

Ward 4 Council Member Mitra Jalali Nelson and five district councils are teaming up to hold a free “renter voice summit” on Thur., Apr. 18, 6:30-8pm at Hamline University’s Anderson Center, Room 111, 774 N. Snelling.

The summit will help renters:

- Learn whom they should call for what, so renters can access public and private resources available to them.
- Understand rights and protections renters have under state and local law.
- Connect with the district council in their neighborhood and find out how renters can make an impact on local issues where they live.
- Meet neighbors and plan new ways for renters to make their voice heard across Saint Paul.

District councils participating are District 10 Como Community Council, District 11 Hamline Midway Coalition, District 12 St. Anthony Park Community Council, District 13 Union Park District Council, and District 14 Macalester-Groveland Community Council.

While this event has a specific focus area and topic, it is open to all—and all are welcome and encouraged to attend! For more information, email ward4@ci.st-paul.mn.us.

Elpis schedules fourth fundraiser

Elpis Enterprises, which provides internships in screen printing and woodworking for homeless youth, is having its 4th annual fundraiser Fri., Mar. 22 at Lake Monster Brewery, 550 Vandalia. The fundraiser is from 4-8pm, with a silent auction from 5-7pm.

Tickets for the fundraiser are available at the door and will include a flight of beer, the chance to print and take home a t-shirt and an opportunity to build and take home a birdfeeder. All are welcome.

New Bible study group meets

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., is hosting a Bible study that helps participants read through the full Bible in a year, and offers a free softbound print chronological Bible with the sessions.

Participants meet over coffee and treats at 11:30am on Sundays.

The sessions are based on “The One Year Chronological Bible” from Tyndale House Publishers Inc. This edition, the easy-to-read New International Version, guides readers through the entire Bible in one year, suggest-

ing readings for each date.

The edition also arranges texts in chronological order of the events described. March, for example, places readers in the books of Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, and Judges.

Participants are invited to accept a copy free of the Bible from the congregation. The readings for the week before each Sunday are the study material for a given Sunday. Group leaders encourage participants to note during the preceding week what they would like to discuss and then share it at the meeting.

Exhibit opens on the “Joys of Jell-O”

The Smallest Museum in St Paul (SMSP), outside Workhorse Coffee Bar at 2399 University Ave., will hold an artist’s opening reception on Sat., Mar. 23, 12-2pm. This exhibit is “Joys of Jell-O.” The exhibit will be on display until Mar. 31.

The exhibit, by JoAnne Peters, chronicles some of her favorite Jell-O creations; featuring everything from sparkling wine to homemade rhubarb syrup to a combination of avocado, mayo and Lime Jell-O. Also featured are images captured from Jell-O brand recipe pamphlets from the early 1900s, part of the University of Minnesota’s Kirschner Cookbook Library. Finally, Jell-O FUN Barbie shares her proud moment as the key feature of Peters’ first Jello Spectacular win.

You can also be part of the exhibit. Send your selfie with Jell-O to myfairjello@gmail.com by Mar. 21, and you’ll be added to the “Show me your Jell-O!” exhibit inside the coffee shop.

The artist reception will include a View-Master reel of Peters’ Jell-Os, plus cafe-themed jello treats.

The Smallest Museum in St Paul is a 3ft x 2ft micro museum, housed in a vintage fire-hose cabinet outside Workhorse Coffee Bar. The Smallest Museum in St Paul offers the museum to artists, makers, historians, naturalists, and creative people in all disciplines. SMSP is a space for art, humor, engagement, reaction, and public discourse.

Free QPR class scheduled Mar. 21

QPR is a free, one-hour presentation sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that covers the three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide—Question, Persuade and Refer. Just like CPR, QPR is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can save lives.

The QPR class will be offered on Thur., Mar. 21, from 12-1pm, at NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave. W., in Suite

400. For more information or to register call 651-645-2948 x198 or see “classes” at namimn.org.

New play scheduled at Hamline University

Hamline University’s Department of Theatre & Dance is excited to continue its 88th season with “Love and Information.”

In constellations of connections—felt, attempted, missed, celebrated, long overdue, burgeoning—“Love and Information” offers glimpses into interactions that shape and define our lives. The intersection of momentous and mundane moments grouped together reveal who we are, and why we are, right now.

“Love and Information,” opens on Fri., Apr. 19 at 7:30pm and runs Apr. 20, 25, 26 and 27 at 7:30pm at Hamline University’s Anne Simley Theatre, 1530 W. Taylor Ave. Tickets are \$2 for Hamline students, \$3 for ACTC students and staff, \$8 for adults and \$5 for outside students and seniors.

Reservations are recommended and can be made through the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or via e-mail at tickets@hamline.edu.

Cuban Rumba Class scheduled Mar. 22

A co-ed beginning class, Cuban Rumba, will take place at the Women’s Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., on Fri., Mar. 22, 7-8:30pm. Instruments provided, and the cost is \$20. You can register online at www.womensdrumcenter.org. This is a fun, exuberant class teaching conga and rhythm instrument technique through songs from Cuba. No experience necessary.

Senior Linkage Line to be explained

A meeting to learn about the Senior Linkage Line will take place at Como by the Lake Senior Apartments, 901 Como Blvd. E., on Tues., Mar. 26, 1:30-3pm. The meeting is sponsored by the North End-South Como Block Nurse Program.

This presentation will cover the role of the Senior Linkage Line and how it promotes choice and independence. We will specifically highlight how the SLL helps people with questions about Medicare benefits and options; talks people through how to age and live well in the community of their choice, and identifies caregivers to connect them to resources available to support them.

Faculty exhibition slated at Hamline

The Soeffker Gallery—tucked

away on Hamline University’s campus—will celebrate a new and diverse spring exhibition of faculty work through Mar. 29.

The depth of the Hamline fine arts department will be on full display as the show will include two-dimensional works, sculptures, woodcuts, digital media pieces, and more.

Along with the new exhibition, selections from the permanent collection will be on view, including works by Warhol, Picasso, Goya, Lasansky, and DeKooning.

Everyone is invited to visit the Soeffker Gallery in the Drew Fine Arts 103 at Hamline University, 1536 Hewitt Ave.

Emotions Anonymous meets Wednesdays

Emotions Anonymous (EA) meets each Wednesday, 7pm, at the Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Use the rear entrance and ring the bell to gain admittance. The meeting is upstairs in Room 7.

The meetings are open to anyone who is seeking to achieve and maintain emotional balance. EA is not a religious group, and they welcome people of any religious affiliation. There is no cost to attend meetings. Only first names are used, and everything said at a meeting is confidential.

News from Hamline Midway Elders

Jody’s Documentary Series returns Wed., Mar. 27, 1pm at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha. View a PBS Documentary, refreshments provided. This month’s film is “Pick of the Litter.” Will Poppet, Primrose, Patriot, Potomac, and Phil make it? Will these sibling puppies become service dogs for the blind? Watch them go through the ropes—with their dedicated human helpers.

The next Monthly Luncheon of Hamline Midway Elders is planned for Tues., Apr. 12, 11:30am-1pm at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, 739 Lafond Ave. Jocelyn Collins, HME Board Member and Community Stabilization Project staff, will present “Seniors, Housing & Renter’s Rights.” Chef Erik Hendrickson will prepare a wonderful meal; blood pressure checks will be provided. New attendees are always welcome at our “Second Tuesday” free-will donation luncheon events.

Cards and Games Group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 1-3pm. This new group will meet at Hamline Church United Methodist. Join us for cards, games, and puzzles. Coffee and cookies are provided.

Gentle Exercise Class with Joni will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:30pm, through

May 9. Specially designed for people with arthritis, but open to all seniors, this exercise class is gentle and fun.

Knitting Group meets Mondays, 1-3pm, at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Hamline Midway Elders provides the yarn and needles along with some light snacks. The group members work on projects, such as making shawls to be donated to a local hospice or blankets for a child care center. New participants are always welcome.

Tai Chi with Kathy happens Mondays, 11:30am-12:30pm, Mar. 18 through May 6. Everyone is welcome to give Tai Chi a try! Tai Chi is a slow and gentle form of movement, that can help to increase overall strength and balance.

Reading Buddies are still wanted the first and third Wednesdays, 10:45-11:30am at Hamline Elementary School, 1599 Englewood Ave. HME partnership with Hamline Elementary School and the Reading Buddy Program. Third-grade students enjoy reading to neighborhood elders, so we’re hoping to recruit even more older adults to participate. No experience is necessary, just a desire to interact with children. And you don’t have to attend every session, just come when your schedule permits.

For more information, please contact Laurel Collins of Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or laurel@hmelders.org.

NAMI holds partner support group

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors a support group specifically for partners or spouses of someone who lives with a mental illness. The Partners and 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. For more information, call Melissa at 651-354-0825 or Sara at 763-350-6502.

La Leche League meets Apr. 9

The monthly meeting of the La Leche League will next be held on Tues., Apr. 9, 7-8:45pm at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave.

The meeting is for pregnant and nursing mothers to discuss breastfeeding and related topics such as parenting, pregnancy, and weaning. Babies and support persons are welcome. Entrance is on the south side of the building, just off parking lot that is on the north side of Minnehaha Ave.

The May meeting will be May 14, same place and time.

Continued on page 10

In Our Community

Continued from page 9

Family support group meets monthly

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors free support groups for families and friends of individuals living with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy., on the fourth Monday of the month from 6:30-8pm. There is free parking in the ramp. For information, call Jennifer at 507-254-5524.

Events planned at Merriam Park Library

The Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., is planning several events in the coming weeks.

Get a free book and two hours of artful fun at "Art It Up" on Fri., Mar. 22, 10:30am-1pm. "A Year Full of Stories" by Angela McAllister is your free book. First, meet at Merriam Park Library from 10:30 to 11:30am to have a short book club about "A Year Full of Stories" and do an art project revolving around your favorite folktale. Younger siblings may take part in the library hour. Then, we meet at the Weisman Art Museum (free admission), from noon to 1pm, when participants will play art-discovery games, including choosing a piece of art in which they drop their favorite story from the book.

Enjoy "Maker Break: Ordinary Objects, Extraordinary

Experiences" on Thur., Apr. 4, 3:30-5pm. Select an object from the 'story prompt/idea box' then let it become the inspiration for the creation of a story. A fantasy, a memory from long ago, a re-imagined folk tale, or an event that just occurred yesterday will be crafted into a story with the basic elements of character(s), plot, setting, maybe a moral or lesson. Practice performance skills then present your creation.

The Merriam Park Book Club meets Mon., Mar. 25, 6:30-7:30pm. The title they will discuss is "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee.

There are Family Storytimes at the library on Fridays, 10:30-11am. Preschoolers, toddlers, and babies are welcome.

Board at the Library will be held Wednesdays, 2-4:30pm. Join others for board games such as Apples to Apples Jr., Clue, Chess, Checkers, and more. Or, bring your own board games.

"You Can Make It!" takes place at the library on Mondays, 3-5pm, with hands-on crafts and activities for kids ages 7 to 11.

Open Lab for Writers meets every Thursday, 10:30am-noon. There is no instructor. This is an opportunity to meet, discuss, or work on whatever you're writing. All styles welcome!

Tech Help Clinics are set for Thursdays, 11:30-12:30pm, Fridays, noon-2pm, and Saturdays, 11:30am-12:30pm. The clinics are for all tablets and smartphones. Bring your questions and, problems, and concerns.

2019 Neighbor Day planned for Mar. 22

The 5th annual Neighbor Day event is planned for Fri., Mar. 22, 4-7pm, at 560 Concordia Ave. (enter at the red doors). Doors open at 4pm followed by a community meal from 5-6:30pm.

Celebrate the legacy of Fred Rogers by joining your city-wide neighbors for an evening of fun. Enjoy hands-on activities, youth performances, a community meal, the Metro State Dome (an inflatable planetarium), a bouncy house, inflatable obstacle course and more!

This free event is hosted by

License enforcement was ramped up in 2018 at Fair

By JANE MCCLURE

A Minnesota State Fair peddler of cold beverages must pay a \$500 fine for violating regulations and ignoring a warning from city inspectors. The St. Paul City Council imposed sanctions on James E. Carroll on Feb. 20.

Carroll was found to have violated his peddlers' license during the 2018 Minnesota State Fair. Carroll didn't contest the violation but asked for a hearing before the City Council, as is his right. Violators usually use the hearings as an opportunity to ask for a lesser penalty. If they contest the facts before the City Council that can mean sending the matter back to an administrative law judge for a hearing and recommendation.

Carroll didn't appear at the hearing and couldn't be reached for comment.

The fine is a positive message for many Como neighbors who tire of having their area overwhelmed with state fair activities. While some neighbors appreciate the extra income generated from renting parking spaces and yard

spaces to endorses, others have raised objections. City Council members said they sympathize with the issues raised.

The violation was found on Aug. 23, 2018, when Carroll was selling cold water and Gatorade outside of the fairgrounds. Vendors cannot sell within 25 feet of a corner or intersection. Nor can they sell items on park property, including Midway Pkwy. They also must display their city licenses and wear a city-issued badge. Carroll was selling items near Snelling and Midway Drive/Midway Pkwy. He was also found to be impeding the sidewalk foot traffic flow.

Inspectors warned Carroll, but he continued to sell beverages and told the city inspectors that they needed to move on because they were "messing with his money." He was warned, but as inspectors were driving away about 15 minutes later, they saw Carroll committing the same violations and issued a citation.

During the fair, the city's De-

Continued on page 11

Register at your local Recreation Center

SUMMER SPORTS REGISTRATION: March 1-31 at all Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Centers (T-Ball, Baseball, Softball)

Northwest Como Recreation Center: www.stpaul.gov/northwest-comoRec or call 651-298-5813

- Spring Break Field Trips, ages 7-17, to the Movies, Swimming, Bowling, contact Rec Center for details
- American Sign Language, ages 13-17 on Tues., Apr. 9-May 28, 6-7:30pm, \$8
- Art/Wine/Pizza, Adults on Mon., Apr. 8, 6:45-9pm, \$50
- Artist Workshop Spring, ages 6-13, on Tues., Apr. 16-May 21, 3:15-5:15pm, \$60
- Parents Night Out, Sat, Apr. 27, 6-9pm for ages 4-12, \$10/child
- Planting with NWComo Staff, ages 7-14, on Mon., Apr. 29-May 20, 3:15-4:15pm, Free
- ***Join the Northwest Como Booster Club by contacting Teresa Little at Northwest Como

North Dale Recreation Center: www.stpaul.gov/northdaleRec or call 651-558-2329

- Open Dance Studio, ages 13-17, on Fri., to May 31, 2:15-4pm, Free
- Advanced Vegetable Gardening, adults, Sat, Mar. 30, 10-11am, Free
- Let's Soak and Scrub This Winter Away, adults, Sat., Apr. 6, 10am-Noon, \$5 + supply fee
- Eating Smart, Being Active, adults, Mon., Apr. 8-29, 6-7:30pm, Free
- Young Rembrandts Jr. Zoo Drawing, ages 4-6, on Wed., Apr. 10-May 15, 5:30-6:15pm, \$60
- World of Dinosaurs Pastel Drawing, ages 6-12, on Wed., Apr. 10-May 15, 6:30-7:30pm, \$60
- Youth Canvas Painting, ages 11-17, on Fri, Apr. 19, 1-3pm, \$30
- Little Mess Maker Art, ages 1.5-3, on Sat., Apr. 20-May 11, 10-11am, \$50
- Flowers For Pollinators for Adults, Thur., Apr. 25, 6:30-7:30pm, Free
- Mario Frogger Game Coding, ages 9-14, on Sat, Apr. 27-May 4, 9:30am-12:30pm, \$75
- Adult Pickleball, on Fri., through May 31, noon-2pm, \$2/daily
- Women's Self Help Book Club, adults, on 3rd Thur./month from 6:30-8pm, Free
- ***Breakfast With The Bunny on Sat., Apr. 13, 10-11:30am for all ages, \$2/person, \$5/family
- ***Join the North Dale Booster Club by contacting Brian Tobritzhofer at North Dale

Langford Recreation Center: www.stpaul.gov/LangfordRec or call 651-298-5765

***Langford Park Helicopter Egg Drop, Sat., Apr. 13, 1pm, Free

the Saint Paul Public Schools' Community Education department. Their daily programs include Adult Basic Education, Adult Enrichment, Discovery Club, Early Child and Family Education, Flipside Afterschool, Youth Enrichment, and the Como Planetarium.

Neighbor Day is open to the public, and all are welcome. Youth ages 15 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Please RSVP at <https://neighborday2019.eventbrite.com> so we know how many to expect and can prepare.

Walk-ins are also welcome.

Submit your news

If you are an organization located in the Midway Como Monitor delivery area, you can submit your event, special program, or noteworthy news to us for consideration. Submit your item by email to editorial@deruyternelson.com. The deadline for the next issue is Mon., Apr. 1 for the Apr. 11 issue.

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by April 1 for the April 11 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, PO Box 168, Osseo, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor by Apr. 1 for the Apr. 11 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

APARTMENT WANTED

Seeking one or one-plus bedroom apartment for March or April. Moving date is flexible. Prefer duplex or 4-plex. Lynn - lynns@bitstream OR 651-489-9053

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Creative Solutions With a Personal Touch. Legal Services in the areas of: Small Business, Wills and Trusts, Probate, Real Estate,

and Family. Kirsten Libby, 855 Rice Street, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN, 651-487-1208 www.libby-lawoffice.com. B-19

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Keane Sense of Rhythm builds community through tap dance

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Ellen Keane and Cathy Wind have co-directed the Keane Sense of Rhythm dance studio and company for 22 years. They recently won a \$5,000 grant from the UCare Foundation to expand the curriculum of their wildly successful Tappy Hour, which is offered free of charge at Can-Can Wonderland every Friday from 4-6pm. During Tappy Hour, anyone can borrow a pair of tap shoes and take to the dance floor for free tap dance lessons.

The focus of the UCare Foundation grant is health equity—with the goal of addressing wellness, lifestyle, and health improvement. In this case, Keane will use the grant to continue broadening the Tappy Hour mission of getting people to tap who wouldn't normally come to a dance studio. The expanded curriculum will be developed into a series of classes and offered through St. Paul Community Education later this year.

How does tap dance improve health? "It integrates new neuro-pathways in the brain," Keane said, "and helps people improve or maintain balance. It's an aerobic way of moving; it requires strength and coordination."

There will be two beginning classes offered at Central High School in the summer, and one beginning and one advanced beginning class in the fall.

Keane continued, "I want more people to have access to this way of expressing themselves, and to be able to socialize while improving their health."

Tappy Hour attracts dozens of new and returning tappers every week. Both there and in her



Ellen Keane (center) led the advanced class through a tap routine at the Keane Sense of Rhythm Dance Studio. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

studio classes, Keane said, "I work hard at finding music that people instinctively want to move to. My roots are in jazz, but I've got a great collection of funk, country swing, and lots of old rock and Motown, as well as music from around the world."

In another community initiative, Keane Sense of Rhythm has developed a comprehensive school program incorporating tap dance to enrich students' after-school experiences. Their outreach in the St. Paul public schools introduces students to a new form of art. They've worked with over 2,000 students since the program began in 2008, and have expanded to six schools with Title I designation (a high percentage of low-income students).

Keane noted, "The improvisational and collaborative nature of tap dance and culture allow us to teach problem-solving skills, respect for diversity of voices and talents, how to accept leadership roles, and how to share knowledge by kids teaching peers."

Keane Sense of Rhythm will be hosting their annual National Tap Dance Day Festival at Como Park Pavilion on Sun., May 19 from 1-3pm. The festival showcases percussive dance styles including African traditional, Irish step, Hollywood swing, and contemporary rap. The event is free and usually draws a full capacity crowd. "It's a big deal for the kids," Keane said. "Principals, teachers, and parents come to see our students from the

About the after-school programs her studio offers, Keane said, "Every year, in every school, teachers tell us there is at least one child who, though quiet and withdrawn in other parts of the school day, lights up when they tap dance for the first time. Providing that motivation to be in school and to succeed is critical to long-term engagement and student success. We are honored to be part of the success of these students and to also be part of their family's experience."

studio and the after-school programs. There will be tappers of all ages and abilities performing, and dancers from other studios and affinity groups besides ours."

Keane Sense of Rhythm is located at the Celtic Junction,

836 Prior Ave. Check the website at www.tapcompany.org for class times, or talk with Ellen Keane on Fridays between 4-6pm at the weekly Tappy Hour class at Can Can Wonderland, 755 Prior Ave. N. Kids are welcome too.

State Fair licensing

Continued from page 10

partment of Safety and Inspections (DSI), as well as police, parks and recreation and public works stepped up activities and enforcement in the neighborhoods near the fairgrounds. Assistant City Attorney Teresa Skarda said DSI did a number of peddler compliance checks during the fair and issued warnings and citations.

Skarda outlined the specific violations and noted that the beverage sales continued as inspectors tried to speak with Carroll.

Michael Kuchta, District 10 Como Community Council executive director, spoke at the public hearing and urged that the fine be imposed. He said that in recent years, Como Community Council had asked city officials for a "genuine, consistent approach" to the issues that overwhelm the Como neighborhood

during the state fair period.

The district council has asked that the city do more to enforce its various ordinances on on-street parking, peddlers, yard parking, and yard vendors, to "cut down on the questionable activity that goes on in the neighborhood," he said.

"For 12 days it's the wild, wild west," Kuchta said. People have gotten away with breaking the law and disrupting the neighborhood for years.

Como has had yard parking regulations since the 1980s. During that same period, peddler laws were changed, largely in response to complaints from the Grand Avenue Business Association over Grand Old Day peddler issues. Yard vendor regulations were amended later.

In 2018 the stepped-up, unified enforcement was appreciated as it reined in some of the most blatant behaviors, said Kuchta. "People would stretch the law, they'd break the law, and they've been getting away with it for years."

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Pawn America changes

A new bank will rise at the southeast corner of University Ave. and Fry St. in the months ahead, replacing a vacant Pawn America building. TOLD Development vice president Trent Mayberry outlined plans in February for Union Park District Council's land use committee.

The project doesn't need any specific city approvals such as zoning changes or variances, so the presentation was for informational purposes. The bank is to be built

this construction season. The bank won't have a drive-through lane.

The one-story building will be occupied by Bank of America and will be about 4,700 square feet. Its exterior will be feature stucco and simulated stone. The main entrance will be at University and Fry.

The new building will have parking on its east side and at the rear. One complaint about Pawn American was that it had some off-street parking off of Fry, which created a hazard for other vehicles and pedestrians. That parking area

isn't in the new building plans.

Sale of the property means big changes. The site itself is about 7,800 square feet. It is zoned for traditional neighborhoods use.

Some UPDC committee members discussed whether or not a mixed-use development, or even a larger development, should be considered, especially because a former dental office east of the old pawn shop has also been vacant for some time. But Mayberry cited the space constraints of the former Pawn America site. Also, a new oc-

cupant for the former dental office may be announced soon.

Pawn America had operated at 1636 University Ave. since 1997. In 2014 plans were announced for a building facelift, that never materialized.

Pawn America officials contacted city licensing staff in 2017 about canceling their license to operate a pawn shop there. The business closed but sought to reopen last year. Rixmann Companies, which owns Pawn America, told city officials that the store was closed during bankruptcy and reorganization of Pawn America.

In Aug. 2018 the St. Paul City Council approved a request to reopen the pawn shop. Some neighbors objected, but city staff determined that since the pawn shop use had been discontinued for less than one year, a new conditional use permit didn't have to be sought. The building has remained vacant.

Vandalia Tower is sold

Vandalia Tower, the former King Koil mattress factory that has become a key piece of its neighborhood creative enterprise zone, was sold last month for about \$14 million.

Owner-developer First 7 first sold the property to Chicago-based NorthPond Partners.

The property at 550 Vandalia St. was a King Koil mattress factory for many years. It was transformed into a hub of activity, as new features were blended with historic architecture.

The 5.5-acre property has seven buildings with an iconic water tower, and has tenants including Lake Monster Brewery, Independent Film Maker Project, Munster Rose, Hackwith Design, Union Park Marketing, and other entrepreneurs.

Development grants

Area projects are among those receiving state and Metropolitan Council grants. On Feb. 29, the St. Paul City Council voted to accept more than \$4 million in grants from the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and Metropolitan Council Livable Communities (MCLC) grants.

The Raymond Station 126-dwelling unit mixed-use development, planned for 2250 University Ave. W., received an MCLC grant of \$483,900.

Fairview Business Center, a project of Minneapolis-based Hillcrest Development, also received \$441,600 in MCLC Tax Base Revitalization (TBRA) funds.

North West University Dale received \$949,250 in MCLC Demonstration Account Transit Oriented Development funding and \$233,700 in a TBRA grant.

DEED Contamination Cleanup and Investigation grants were awarded, including \$228,300 for Fairview Business Center, 641 Fairview Ave. N., \$237,630.00 for North West University Dale, and \$93,813 for O'Gara's Vintage 2 (Selby-Snelling) sites.

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Como author publishes a life-long collection of short vignettes

By JAN WILLMS

Como resident Paul Kotz wanted to write a book for his daughters. "I was trying to write something that they might know their dad in a different way," he said. A number of years passed and in 2018 Kotz published "Something Happened Today."

It is still a book for his daughters, now young adults, but it is also a challenge to other readers to find something positive and unexpected in the simple experiences of everyday living.

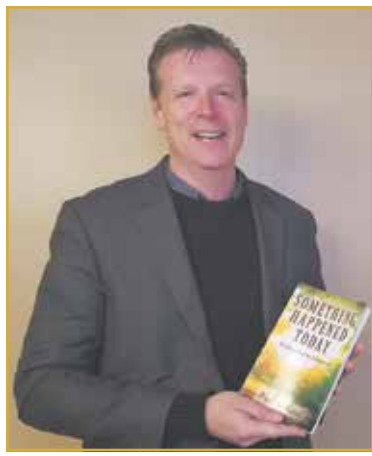
His publication is some short excerpts that can be read in one or two sittings or can be read as a message a day to search for the positive elements of life.

Kotz, who initially came from a corporate background, has been an educator for the past 27 years. He currently teaches a doctoral program in leadership at St. Mary's College in Minneapolis.

"I love to observe what is going on in the world," Kotz reflected. "So I started writing stories, looking for good and hope in the world. I think a lot of it springs from seeing what people experience each day."

Kotz said that, especially with his students, over the last 20 years he has seen a myriad of things happen, from the horrific to simple acts of kindness. And it is these acts of kindness that he has showcased in his book.

"There is a sense of humor throughout the book," he continued, "but you also see 'Oh, Wow! That happened?' in its pages, also."



Como author Paul Kotz holds his book, "Something Happened Today." (Photo by Jan Willms)

One example he writes about is a young man named John, who has come from Kenya and needed a host family for a couple of weeks. Kotz and his family took him in, and a neighborhood celebration was being planned to welcome him. The evening before that took place; John learned his father had died.

Kotz writes about the feelings of joy in being welcomed to a new place while at the same time the feelings of sadness at losing a parent thousands of miles away.

"We had to make this into a celebration for John," he noted. "We tried not to reflect on the loss, but at the same time we recognized it."

On a different note, Kotz describes coming across a young man in LA Fitness who was screaming

and yelling expletives. Kotz said he had his fears and was not sure whether to engage him. "I just told him I hoped it would get better. He swore at me again, but after a little time with this man, he let me know he was struggling; he had lost his job and broken up with his girlfriend, his car was not working, and he was in economic straits. Sometimes you just have to listen, and I wonder, are we doing that enough?" Kotz said. "Are we taking the time to listen and to care about others?"

He said that in gathering the information for his book, he kept his ears open and his eyes receptive to people's experiences.

"In my line of work when I hear a story or observe something, it is a gift just to take it in," Kotz said. "As an advisor in St. Mary's leadership program, people will ask me what they should do. They want advice on what their next step should be. In the grand scheme of things, I can't give them advice, because all our stories are different. I have to stay open and listen."

He said he listens and stays present and hears what is going on in the world. And this has been his experience in writing "Something Happened Today."

"I love to write," Kotz said, "and I will write about the things I see and the people I meet." He said he might meet someone during the day and write it down that night, or think about an experience he had in the past couple days, and write it down.

He said his goal in teaching is to make his students better decision-makers and help them make better ethical decisions. He said some readers have asked him if his ideas are not too Pollyannaish. "They say you can't trust people, because they will burn you."

"My answer is yes, we have all been burned, but every person has some good in them. You don't always see it, and sometimes you have to dig really deep."

Looking back on his own life, Kotz said that there were always other people who would look out for him and steer him onto the right path. He was born in New York and came to Minnesota when he was 11. "I am now 55, and I have seen a lot in my life. But when I was young, if I would drift off the path I would have people who would tell me that if I wanted to be in this community, I needed to act a certain way."

Kotz said there were always people who could see the goodness in him and see his potential. "A lot of kids don't get that opportunity today," he explained. "A lot of adults don't get that opportunity."

Kotz also mentioned the mentoring of strong women in his life,

including his mother. She had a bumper sticker on her car that read "Women are natural-born leaders. You are following one."

The students Kotz works with now are primarily adults, and he said they go through a lot. "How do you integrate work life with the rest of how you want to live your remaining days?" he asks them. And he tells them there is not a lot of time until they retire to savor the goodness, so why not start now?

"I go to bed, tired, with a lot of responsibilities like everyone else," Kotz said. "But I wake up and ask God to help me be a better man. I am present to people. I sometimes don't do the best job, but I try. And I start the day out that way and capture the good moments."

Kotz said this book is a collection of surprises about what life has to offer. "I think the world is an amazing place, and I look for the good to see hope in society and that everybody has something good to give back. As a nation and as a world, it is imperative to keep this world going in a good way. We can really learn from others, and you can alter your perspective on how you deal with the daily grind of life."

Resurrection City Church meets at Hamline Elementary School

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Resurrection City Church (RCC) is a newly planted church that meets in the cafeteria of Hamline Elementary School on Sundays at 9:30am. Their vision is to glorify God by seeing people, the city, and the world made new in Christ.

Julie Stegman and her co-pastor husband Joel live near the State Fairgrounds. "We'd been working at a church in downtown Minneapolis," Julie said, "but felt like we really wanted to be more a part of the community where we lived. It seemed like the right time to plant our own church. Hamline Elementary School was welcoming, and willing to let us rent."

To hear Stegman describe it, starting a church from scratch is a lot like starting a business. "A team of about 35 people helped us turn our vision into a reality," she said. "Most of them live in the Hamline- Midway or Como neighborhoods, and some are people we'd met at our previous church. The team helps us set up in the cafeteria every week, among a hundred other things. We're all at the school by 7am on Sundays, unfolding chairs and making coffee."

RCC appears to be a young congregation, with an average age of less than 30. There are a lot of young families moving into the neighborhood, and the congregation reflects that. Stegman said, "We have a strong emphasis on community here. There are small, community groups that meet in people's homes throughout the



Julie (center left) and Joel Stegman (center right) are co-pastors of the newly planted Resurrection City Church, which meets weekly at Hamline Elementary School. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

week to pray and to be a supportive part of each other's lives. We're also involved in the broader community; several of our members volunteer at Hamline Elementary School through their Reading Partners Program."

On the first Monday of each month, RCC sponsors a conversation at Groundswell Coffee called "Views and Brews" from 7-9pm. According to Stegman, "This is a time to talk about life and faith, and anyone can come. We're very polarized in our country right now. It's hard to have respectful conversations with people we disagree with—we're hoping this will be a place to have respectful conversations about many different things. The next meeting is scheduled for Mon., Apr. 1. The March discussion topic was: is Christianity still relevant?"

Stegman said, "Obviously, we believe it still is. We chose the name of our new church carefully because we see the resurrection as the sign that Jesus was exactly who he said who he was. We believe that he's making people new every day; and that these people are being called to make their city new, and the broader world they live in."

Hamline Elementary School is located at 1599 Englewood Ave. The parking lot on Hubbard St. offers the easiest access, near the Rec Center. Dress is casual, and the fellowship time wraps up around 11am. There is childcare for children under five, with a secure check-in process. Brake Bread donates muffins and pastries, and the RCC provides coffee. Email co-pastor Julie Stegman at julie@rescitychurch.org with any questions.



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