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Mister Michael Recycles Bicycles is on a mission

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Midway Como

Monitor



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By JAN WILLMS

College begins in kindergarten.

Craig Anderson, principal at Hamline Elementary, 1599 Englewood, explained that this phrase is the school's motto. And with its connection to Hamline University, the school definitely lives up to it.

"Last year we celebrated 125 years of collaboration between Hamline University and this school," Anderson said. "And the beauty of it is that it started with a handshake. We stand on the shoulders of many, many fantastic people. Both schools commit to be wonderful neighbors and work with each other."

The Hamline to Hamline Collaboration entails strong connections between the college students and the elementary students that take place throughout the school year. It also includes a scholarship which started four years ago that is awarded to an individual who has at some time attended Hamline Elementary and becomes a student at Hamline University.

"Somewhere between 2005 and 2007 Rita Johnson, a professor at Hamline, won an award from the University. Part of the award was a \$5,000 prize, and she donated that prize as seed money to start the scholarship fund," Anderson said. "The scholarship could not be in place until it was endowed, and the endowment level used to be \$20,000," he continued, "and a \$20,000 endowed scholarship would generate \$1,000 per year for a student. So we needed to



A 125 year collaboration between Hamline Elementary and Hamline U is multi-faceted

raise \$20,000."

With the \$5,000 start from Johnson's award, Hamline Elementary spent the next few years doing fundraisers and having si-

lent auctions to reach \$20,000.

The scholarship is open to any student who has attended Hamline Elementary. Anderson said the same person has re-

ceived it for the last three years, as a freshman, sophomore and junior at Hamline.

"Obviously, we want it to be more. A thousand dollars is not a

At Hamline Elementary, the motto "College Begins in Kindergarten!" is a guiding principle fostered from a 125 year relationship with Hamline University, located across the street from the elementary school. It is a complex relationship that has served both institutions well. "It really is pre-K through 16 in the Hamline Midway neighborhood," said Hamline Elementary School principal Craig Anderson. (Photo by Jan Willms)

lot, but it does go a little way in helping the student," Anderson said.

He noted that three years ago an idea was developed to have a Hike for the Health of the Hamline to Hamline Collaboration.

"It combines healthy living and walking with the idea that we need a little bit of money, too," he said. "So we ask for pledges on our walk, and the kids raise money to go towards the scholarship. It's not as much about the kids raising money as it is the community, so the teachers on this side of the street throw into the hat and the professors on the other side of the street do the same, and we encourage all the Hamline University students who work on the collaboration to donate to the scholarship fund."

This year the walk took place on May 5, and all of the sports teams at Hamline University decided to support the hike and healthy living. They set up events

Continued on page 4

Midway YMCA breaks ground for new facility on University

Last month, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, other community and business leaders, as well as Y members, participated in the ceremony recognizing the construction of the new innovative Y facility that will better serve members and residents.

"We are excited about the many new programs and community gatherings we will be

able to offer in our new Midway Y," said David Dominick, executive director of the Midway Y. "There will be more fitness and aquatics programming for youth, families and active older adults in the bigger aquatics center and multiple fitness studios; new nutrition and diabetes prevention classes in the demonstration kitchen; and more opportuni-

ties for the community to meet in the gathering rooms."

The Midway Y will be located in the space of its old location, and is scheduled to open in early 2016. The 52,000 square-foot facility will feature:

- * an expansive fitness center;
- * multiple fitness studios;
- * state-of-the-art aquatics center;
- * big flex space for basketball,

volleyball, pickleball, badminton, and group and youth fitness classes;

- * walking path;
- * racquetball/handball courts;
- * rooftop patio;

- * demonstration kitchen;
- * kid's play maze;
- * Kids' Stuff, a signature program for kids while parents use the facility; and
- * community room

Everyone got into the act at the Midway YMCA ground breaking (photo bottom left) and immediately thereafter the heavy equipment started their work (center). Below right is an artists' rendering of the new Midway YMCA as it will look when completed in early 2016.



Annual Heiruspecs Scholarship Concert coming up May 29

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The hip hop band Heiruspecs will play their annual scholarship concert to benefit Central High School students on Fri., May 29. Bedlam Theatre is hosting this year's event at 213 E. 4th St., across from the Union Depot. Doors will open at 7pm and the concert, which promises to be jumpin', will start at 8pm.

Heiruspecs band members, past and present, are all alums of St. Paul Central, and this event is their biggest giving-back moment of the year, according to bass player Sean Twinkie Jiggles McPherson.

The band has been donating \$1,000 scholarships to three graduating Central High School seniors every spring since 2010. The winners are chosen from a stack of promising applicants, who are challenged to describe how they will use the money to further their passion for the arts. The band members believe it's tougher being a young person these days, and they want to recognize artistic talent, value and merit with their scholarships.

The scholarship concert is known as the band's most collaborative event. They like to invite special guests who reflect the diversity of talent on the Twin Cities' music scene, opening them-



Members of Heiruspecs (L to R) dVRG, Josh Peterson, Sean McPherson, Felix, Peter Leggett, and Muad'dib. Their annual concert for Central High School, for a scholarship fund, will be held on May 29. (Photo courtesy of Heiruspecs)

selves up to different styles and instruments. One of this year's guests will be trumpet player Solomon Parham: a stellar musician and teacher extraordinaire at the Walker Music Academy in St. Paul. In the early days of Heiruspecs, horns had a place of prominence, so look forward to bringing that sound back home.

For the first scholarship concert, Mayor Chris Coleman introduced the band members from the stage. Their relationship with the mayor has stayed strong over the years. Last month Heiruspecs played for Coleman's State of the City address in the Ordway's new performance hall downtown. Coleman acknowledged Heiruspecs not only for the lasting quality of their "good hip hop music," but also for their solid St. Paul pride.

The current band line-up is Sean Twinkie Jiggles McPherson on bass, Chris Felix Wilbourn on raps, de Von R. Gray on keyboard, Muad'dib on raps and beatbox, Peter Leggett on drums and Josh Peterson on guitar. McPherson and Wilbourn are the two remaining founding members, graduates of Central's class of '97.

Other members have come and gone but the band's connection to the Midway neighborhood has never wavered.

The first place Heiruspecs played at was Cahoot's Coffee Bar, just down the street from Central High School. Their rehearsal space was, and still is, near the corner of University and Snelling avenues. Several of the current band members live nearby.

"When we were younger," McPherson said, "a lot of hip hop groups from St. Paul would pretend they were from Minneapolis—but we were always proud of where we came from. Growing up in Midway, we could see that our neighborhood was one big mosaic of many different people living together, without having to be the same."

So what about that name? Heiruspecs (pronounced *high-roo-specs*) is an intentional misspelling of a Latin word it closely resembles. McPherson was an earnest Latin student at Central High school in 1995, and heard the Latin word "haruspecs" in class and just liked the way it sounded. He shouted it out to Wilbourn in studio recording class that afternoon (where the original band members met). The rapper liked it too, wrote it down on his hat as he heard it—and the name just stuck.

The scholarship concert is an all ages event; you can't be too young or too old to enjoy it.

Tickets are \$12 in advance or at the door (if there are any left).

Heiruspecs was featured in a recent edition of the TPT music showcase Lowertown Line. The legacy they hope for, according

to McPherson, "is to be Minnesota's ultimate hip hop band."

It seems they have earned some high respect...

Monitor

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The Hamline Midway Library will feature a wide array of activities for library patrons of all ages in June and July, with everything from jazz and old-time "hillbilly" music to many great programs for kids off school for the summer.

Thur., June 11, 10:30-11:30am, Hamline Midway Elders presents Chair Yoga with Nancy Giguere. Chair yoga focuses on range of movement, alignment, stretching, strengthening, breathing, and relaxation, with all poses done seated or using a chair for balance.

Preschool Storytime takes place every Friday in May and June from 10:30-11am. Featuring songs, stories, puppets, and more,

News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

Yoga, storytime, science club, jazz, and Summer Spark all in store

preschool storytimes foster social skills, listening comprehension, letter and number recognition, and vocabulary, and are a great bonding activity for children and their caregivers.

Sat., June 13, the Second Saturday Science Club for Kids meets. Peter Hoh and Jackie Lan-

nin lead fun, hands-on activities for kids ages 6 and up and their families. Pre-registration is required; please sign up at the library or by calling 651-642-0293.

Thanks to the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, the Good Vibes Trio will bring their love of jazz to the Hamline Mid-

way Library on Wed., June 17, 6:30-8pm. The trio, led by Twin Cities bassist Chris Bates, plays a combination of standards and original tunes and includes vibes master Dave Hagedorn and drum titan Phil Hey.

The library's Summer Spark program kicks off on Thur., June

18, 10:30-11:30am, with Como Zoo Bird-a-Wocky. The program engages participants in an interactive bird story, then lets them meet a live bird, helping them learn about differences between birds and other animals.

And set all your summer dates now as Summer Spark continues on Thur., June 25, 10:30-11:30am with the Schiffl-Puppets. Comedy, puppetry, and fairy tales abound in this action-packed show. On Thursday, July 2, the program features Como-Zoo-Bug-Wocky from 10:30-11:30am. The Roe Family Singers' old-time music takes center-stage on Thur., July 9, also from 10:30-11:30am.

Councilman Stark wants more context to April article on Snelling

To the Editor,

The recent article in the April *Monitor* about the improvements coming to Snelling Avenue did a nice job of outlining the concerns of the business owners. I wanted to provide additional context.

In 2012, MNDOT and the City led a community process to create a new Multi-Modal Transportation Plan for North Snelling (Selby to the Fairgrounds). The community was informed about this process with notices in the *Monitor*, the Hamline Midway Coalition e-newsletter, and flyerings of the businesses.

The Plan calls for a better balance between the needs of the 35,000 daily motorists, and the neighbors, customers, students, and others who use Snelling on foot, bicycle, and to access transit. The plan emphasizes the need to make north Snelling a place where pedestrians feel and are safer walking and crossing the street. This includes improved and (where feasible) wider sidewalks; pedestrian-scale lighting and street trees; safer and more clearly marked crosswalks; planted medians in some locations; and improved, modernized curb ramps consistent with current Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

In 2013, Metro Transit announced plans to introduce the new A-Line Bus Rapid Transit along Snelling. In 2014, they decided to move forward with these improvements in 2015. MNDOT had been planning to re-deck the Snelling bridge over I-94 in 2017 and to resurface north Snelling in a similar timeframe. But in order to minimize construction im-

pacts, MNDOT decided to do the work in 2015 concurrent with the A-line project.

Having just completed the Multi-Modal Plan, MNDOT reached out to the City to explore ways to implement as many of the elements of the plan as possible. However, based on their funding policies, MNDOT would only pay for the resurfacing of the street and fixes to bring the sidewalk and curb ramps up to current ADA standards. The other elements of the plan—pedestrian scale lights, planted medians, street trees, etc.—would have to be paid for by the City.

Long-standing City policy states that the above-standard costs of installing pedestrian-scale street lanterns (which are more expensive than traditional "bent straw" highway-type lights), are assessed 100% to the abutting property owners.

At this point, I and other City leaders had a choice to make—scramble to find resources to implement these needed improvements, or wait as many as 20 years for North Snelling to be fully reconstructed. We decided to get done in 2015 as many improvements as we could.

As soon as I became aware of the pricier than expected cost of the assessments, I began looking for ways to offset some of these costs for the business and property owners. I have set aside \$75,000 of City Sales Tax and Revitalization (STAR) funds to reduce the total cost of these assessments. I am also pursuing other funding sources to reduce the assessments further.

Parts of North Snelling are

struggling today, with several vacancies and an old and tired appearance. This reality makes it all the more difficult for the business and property owners to afford the proposed assessments.

On the other hand, North Snelling clearly needs a shot in the arm to be brought back to life and to look and feel more like a place where people will want to spend time and money.

Construction of the project begins in May. Please join me in supporting the businesses during construction by patronizing them on a regular basis. My office is working with the district councils, the Midway Chamber of Commerce, and African Economic Development Solutions to develop a campaign to support the businesses during construction. Please visit my website (www.stpaul.gov/ward4) to sign up for my e-news, where you will find out my schedule for lunches on Snelling throughout the construction season.

Councilmember Russ Stark

EDITOR'S NOTE: While we thank Councilmember Stark for this excellent summary of the events leading up to the Snelling construction project, we would like to add that almost all of these points were dealt with in several articles that appeared in issues prior to last month's article on business concerns. The truth remains that many of the businesses along Snelling Ave. believe that their concerns were listened to, but not "heard." The belief was, and is by many, that the project had basically a pre-determined outcome, and that their concerns—and their pocketbooks, on the heels of the business-stressed University construc-

tion—were not truly being "heard" by those who had the power to determine the final outcome. That, not the history of the project, was the purpose of the story.

You missed the boat ... uh... bike

To the editor,

It was sad that your article in last month's *Monitor* about bicycling in the Midway did not mention Mr. Michael Recycles Bicycles. They have been such a help to so many who cannot afford the cost of a new bike.

Shelley Robshaw

EDITOR'S NOTE: We couldn't agree more! To help make up for that, we have devoted a full article to this great service by giving them their own stand-alone article. See the article in this issue of the Monitor on page 16.

Lights provide more than beauty!

To the editor,

It is too bad that the April article in the *Monitor* about the Snelling mill and overlay was so negative. I appreciate Kyle's brief and positive remarks on the project.

The addition of the "decorative lighting" is not primarily about adding a beauty item, but rather, the decision priority for the community team members who worked to gather neighbor perspectives on the project, was

pedestrian safety. With the bent-straw style lights currently in place, the cars have excellent light—FOR SEEING OTHER CARS.

Drivers pass thru here and are often unable to see the pedestrians in the area. Pedestrians' lack of safety is three-fold—the sidewalks are poorly lit, which leaves individuals more vulnerable to trip and fall hazards as well as crime. They are also not seen well by cars.

The lighting will add beauty, yes. But primarily, it will add safety.

Jennifer LeClaire
Resident of Hamline Midway

The real truth about photosynthesis

To the Editor,

In last month's *Monitor* article about Murray students touring the U of M greenhouses, I quote from the paragraph below the photograph: "...allows oxygen into the leaf to be used in photosynthesis."

I do worry about their chemistry unit if this is what the students have been taught. Sorry, but it is horribly back to front. The stomata allow carbon dioxide molecules to diffuse in, not oxygen which is a by-product of photosynthesis.

The process of photosynthesis is: carbon dioxide and water, mediated with energy from light, produce carbohydrates for the plant and oxygen which is released OUT through the stomata. Commonly written as CO₂ + H₂O + Light -> CHO + O₂. In other words oxygen is a waste product of plants but is what keeps us, and all the other animals on the planet, alive.

Stephanie Digby (PhD Botany)
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Hamline Collaboration

Continued from page 1

on the Klas Field, and the elementary students walked from the school to Hewitt and across the street to the Field. They walked the track, and as they were walking the Hamline athletes pulled out classes to do an activity, such as relay races, hula hoops or catch and toss.

As the kids finished one activity and went back to walking, they would do another activity as it opened up.

"The hike takes place over the convocation hour at Hamline, so students and instructors are not in class," Anderson said.

Anderson said that both the University and the elementary school have liaisons that work on the Hamline to Hamline Collaboration. "They get a course release so they don't have to teach a course, but then they do have to work with the committee to keep all things collaborative between the two campuses," he explained.

Margot Howard, who is currently working on her master's degree at Hamline, was formerly a University liaison.

"The collaboration between the elementary school and the university was definitely one of the first in the country," she said. "Now it's becoming more popular. And, it doesn't just focus on the School of Education, but involves the whole school."

She cited as an example the School of Anthropology. The anthropology class goes to the elementary school and teaches the younger students about an archaeological dig, and then they take them to a dig on campus.

"I knew as an undergraduate I wanted to work with kids, but not as a teacher," Howard said. She said working with the Collaboration gave her that opportunity to connect with them.

"It energizes my soul to work with kids," she noted.

Hamline Elementary currently has its technology instructor, Jodie Wilson, serving as its liaison.

"We have pairings of students at every grade level," Anderson stated. "Our most famous pairing is 5th grade students paired with the law school. We have law students come to Hamline Elementary and teach us all



The Hike for the Health of the Hamline to Hamline Collaboration was conceived three years ago. This year's walk was on May 5. The idea combines fundraising for the scholarship fund with the idea of healthy living and walking. This year, all of the sports teams at Hamline University decided to support the hike by setting up events on Klas Field. The elementary students walked from the school to Hewitt and across the street to the activity field. They walked the track, and as they were walking the Hamline athletes pulled out classes to do an activity, such as relay races, hula hoops or catch and toss. As the kids finished one activity and went back to walking, they would do another activity as it opened up.

"We really try to instill a desire for post-secondary education, not necessarily just at Hamline, because we know kids have other interests; we have a fifth grade class going to St. Paul College and visiting their shop department."

Craig Anderson, Hamline Elementary Principal

about the law process, and then our students do a mock trial, taking on all the roles over at the courtroom on the Hamline campus. There's a Ramsey County judge who comes to preside over the proceedings. It's just a fantastic way to learn in a real setting and see what's available post-secondary. These are real things you can learn how to do."

Another pairing is kindergarten students with the Hamline female gymnasts. "The girls do a big demo for them so they

get to see how all the equipment works, and they get to play with, and touch, some of the equipment," Anderson related. He said kindergartners also get to go over to the Bush Memorial Library and listen to a story read by the Hamline University librarian.

Another program involving collaboration between the two schools is the federal work-study America Reads and America Counts. Anderson said 70-100 college students earn their work-study by being tutors at the el-

ementary school, working with the kids and teachers.

He added that the university's student council has as its largest activity a college access mentorship program called Hand in Hand, similar to Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

"An elementary student and a university student are paired, and the Hamline student comes over to spend 45 minutes a week with a kid who is in need socially. They also hold three big events a year."

He said the Hamline elementary students play games and talk about college access with their college mentor buddies. "We currently have about 50 pairs," he noted.

He said one other event involves the kindergartners going on a tour of the Hamline University campus in the spring, getting to see dorms and have some ice cream. They get a certificate for having attended their first day of college.

"We really try to instill a

desire for post-secondary education," Anderson stated. "Not necessarily just at Hamline, because we know kids have other interests; we have a fifth grade class going to St. Paul College and visiting their shop department."

"We really are a shared campus," he added. "Hamline University uses us for learning about education and giving its students a place to serve, and we get from them learning opportunities that wouldn't otherwise exist. It really is pre-K through 16 in the Hamline Midway neighborhood."

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Redevelopment of the one of the Midway area's largest sites may be moving ahead, although perhaps not in a way envisioned. Midway Center owner RK Midway LLC is proceeding with plans to split off the property where Big Top Liquors, 1574 University Ave., is located. Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee voted Apr. 20 to recommend approval of the plans.

The lot split could allow redevelopment of that part of the shopping center property to move ahead more quickly. Joe Finley, attorney for RK Midway, said the split also has financial implications. It would get that portion of the property out from under the current mortgage covering most of the shopping center property. Center owners are in the process of refinancing the property.

The 1950s-era shopping center is part of a 34.5-acre property bounded by St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues and Pascal St. Metropolitan Council owns 10 acres that was occupied for many years by a Metro Transit bus maintenance and garage facility. RK Midway owns the rest of the property, although the city has an option to buy the 4.5-acre vacant site at the northwest corner of Pascal and St. Anthony.

Many development ideas have been suggested over the years for the various properties, but none have come to fruition.

Last year plans were approved for a drive-through lane so that Walgreens could move from the main shopping center into the former Midway/American Bank building at Snelling

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Midway Center owner is selling off Big Top Liquor property

and University avenues. But Walgreens hasn't decided to actually move its store.

City, Metropolitan Council and RK Midway owners spent several months working with consultants on an ambitious plan to redevelop the entire block for high-density mixed use. A so-called "SmartSite" plan, released last year, would have a mix of housing and commercial uses, with a new street grid and green spaces. It would be built out over a period lasting 15 years.

But a roughly \$30 million financial gap has property owners reconsidering their plans. Preliminary estimates are that just new development infrastructure would cost \$67 million. That breaks down to \$40 million for structured or ramp parking, \$5.8 million for streets, \$5.6 million for drainage improvements, and \$2.2 million to create 1.3 acres of park land.

That price tag would mean that infrastructure costs are predicted to be up to \$30 million more than anticipated revenue from land sales. Costs increase as development phases continue. "Projected market values suggest that this gap is unlikely to close in a reasonable time frame," a Metropolitan Council staff report stated.

In March, Metropolitan



From the air, a person can see the enormity of the Midway Center development site. The portion of the site that is Big Top Liquor is designated by the darker space right above the boundaries of the "Former Busbarn Site," and its adjacent parking lot.

Council officials discussed some next steps for the old bus barn property, and possibly pursuing redevelopment of that site on its own. Council members have indicated they'd still like to see a future land owner/developer tie into the SmartSite plans. No decision has been made.

"We're a little disappointed," Finley said of Metropolitan Council's recent actions. But RK Midway wants to forge ahead with redevelopment. The subdivision would include the Big Top building, parking lots to its north and east, and the shopping center entrances from Spruce Tree Dr. and Asbury St., creating a flag-shaped lot.

The shopping center property currently has a large main lot and three smaller outlots. The split would create a fourth outlot. Lot splits are typically done by city staff, but RK Midway went to the district council because of past discussion of redevelopment plans.

The part of the site occupied by the Big Top building is eyed for mixed residential-retail development. The liquor store occupies about half of the building. The rest has been vacant for many years. If and when the property is redeveloped, Finley said center owners would work to relocate Big Top elsewhere in the center.

Another developer eyes Sholom Home project

Como Park residents are hoping that the former Sholom Home at 1554 Midway Pkwy. can be redeveloped soon. On Apr. 10, the St. Paul Planning Commission unanimously approved a conditional use permit for the vacant structure. The permit allows conversion of the property for 170 assisted living and memory care units.

The project is now being taken on by Carlson CRE Group. The company is working with Tanek Architects of Minneapolis to make improvements to the former nursing home. Part of the property was built in 1923, with additions later. At its peak more than 300 residents lived there.

No one appeared at a Planning Commission Zoning Committee hearing to speak against the proposal. Como Community Council sent a letter recommending approval.

Sholom moved to the West Seventh neighborhood several years ago. A number of developers have looked at the property, but no proposed new uses have come to fruition.

The latest proposal calls for exterior improvements to enhance the building's earlier architecture, as well as new landscaping and interior improvements.

8-80 projects to be announced soon

Midway area sites are in competition with other areas around the city as Mayor Chris Coleman and the St. Paul City Council look at two sites for revitalization as part of the 8-80 Program. Two sites will receive \$700,000 for redevelopment, with the choices announced in May. The choices will be announced by the mayor and City Council.

The 8-80 program gets its name because it is meant to spotlight walkable, livable communities that are accessible and open to residents between the ages of 8 to 80 years old. The name comes from development and land use consultant Gil Penalosa, who spoke at city workshops in 2014.

The projects were a highlight of the mayor's State of the City address in April. The mayor also praised the many recent development projects along Green Line light rail in his remarks. This year's State of the City was at the Ordway theater downtown.

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Prep Sports Notebook:

By MATTHEW DAVIS

A look ahead at the last leg of area high school sports season

Spring sports have hit the home stretch with May underway.

Como Park's baseball team will look for a strong final stretch in hopes to make a big post-season run. The Cougars (10-4 through May 5), have been racing Highland Park and Central for the St. Paul City Conference title. Both the Cougars and Scots shared last year's title.

Unfortunately, Como's promising 2014 season ended quickly in the first round of the Section 4AA tournament. They will look to go further in this year's tourney, which begins on May 22. Section 4AA looks loaded with seven teams that have only lost four or fewer games through early May, including Minnehaha Academy (14-1).

Central (7-4) stands among those teams. The Minutemen stumbled early in the season at 2-5 but made a turnaround with a five-game winning streak in late April. Nicholas Dawkins, a sophomore, helped the Minutemen get that streak going with two RBI and a run scored on 1-2 hitting as his team beat Harding 11-5 on Apr. 22.

This year's Section 4AA finals will take place on June 4 at Wintercrest Park in Coon Rapids.

Similar to baseball, Como Park (12-5) and Central (8-8) softball teams have been in the thick of the St. Paul City Conference race with Highland Park. The Cougars and Scots both have 8-1 league

records, and Central sits a game back at 7-2 in league play.

Como's only conference loss came against the Scots 10-6 on Apr. 16. Delilah Wolf was one of the main bright spots for the Cougars in the loss as she hit a home run and scored three runs herself.

Central junior Sarah Cerkvenik also had a strong game against Highland, driving in two runs on 2-3 hitting as her team fell a run shy, 4-3 on Apr. 17.

Section 4AA will challenge both Como and Central at tournament time. Visitation (15-0) and Minnehaha Academy (16-2) look like the two of the most dangerous teams in the state. Tournament play began on May 13, and the championship game will take place at the University of Northwestern-St. Paul's new softball field on May 26.

St. Paul Bobcats lacrosse teams, consisting of all St. Paul public schools, have seen mixed results in their inaugural MSHSL season. The Bobcats boys team has a 3-4 record with one of the losses coming against Minneapolis 15-2 on Apr. 11. That contest marked the first organized game at the high school varsity level or higher between the two cities in since 1912 according to the *Star Tribune*. Both cities had club teams at the time.

Advancing in the upcoming Section 6 tournament will be a challenge for the Bobcats.

The tourney field is loaded with quality teams such as state tournament regular Blake.

On the girls' side, the Bobcats have yet to win a game through early May at 0-6 overall.

Both Como Park and Central have fielded competitive boys tennis teams this spring. The Cougars (7-6) have third place in the conference locked up through early May. The Minutemen (5-5) will finish at least a game back since they fell to Como 4-3 on Apr. 22.

The Section 4AA team tournament has begun for the Cougars and Minutemen since publication with the title match coming on May 20. The individual tournament will run on May 21 and 27 at Mahtomedi.

Tom Fritts of the Como Park boys golf team has won three conference meets this season and could make a run for the league title on May 21 at Highland Park. Elliot Cordano of Central tied Fritts once in an Apr. 21 meet with 42 strokes apiece.

Central's boys and girls track teams have done well this spring, taking second in the conference True Team meet on Apr. 30. Highland Park has been the main challenge for Central, and the May 14 conference championship meet will likely come down to those two squads.



Volunteers and Great River School students birding in the soon to be dedicated Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom.

Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom dedication planned

The Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom (CWOC) will be dedicated on Wed., May 20 at 11:30am at a public outdoor ceremony on the south side of the Como Woodland between the Kilmer Memorial Fireplace and the Como Park Pool at 1221 Como Ave.

In case of rain, the ceremony will be held just across the street north of CWOC, on the corner of Midway Pkwy. and Horton Ave. in the Como Picnic Shelter.

Tim Chase, Murray Middle School teacher and MAEE's Environmental Educator of the Year (2014), will be the keynote speaker. After the ceremony students will plant a tree in the woodland and take part in a habitat restoration activity in the woodland.

Great River School students adopted the Como Woodland as their "School Forest" several years ago and they have spent many service learning hours and class hours in the Como Woodland.

Other area schools, such as Como Park Senior High, Crossroads Elementary and Murray Middle School also regularly use and volunteer in the woodland. And the 2,500 feet of accessible trails make the 17-acre woodland a popular walking area for locals.

In October and November 2014, Saint Paul Audubon Society funded a series of artist/science workshops for an elective class of Great River School students. Volunteers helped with the students with birding and the bird habitat portion of the workshops. Scientific illustrator and artist Vera Ming Wong lead the artist portion of the workshops. From that workshop, student artist Annika Quinn's artwork was chosen to be the new icon for the Como Woodland: the Red-bellied woodpecker (a bird species that can be seen and heard in the woodland during all seasons).

The Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom has been a community driven project since 2006. The idea for developing an outdoor classroom in Como Park came from members of the District 10 Community Council's Environment Committee after they started removing buckthorn from the woodlot back in the late 1990s.

All are welcome to celebrate and dedicate the outdoor classroom that would not have become a reality without community support and volunteer effort. More information on CWOC's background and its location can be found at: www.comowoodland.org.

HU students premiere multi-media program to showcase social justice issues in Hamline-Midway

Students at Hamline University are collaborating to bring a unique vision of social justice through photography and sound to tell the story of the Hamline-Midway community. The students will be showcasing their work to the public at the Hamline-Midway Library Auditorium on May 20 from 5-7pm.

The exhibit, titled "Overlooked and Underheard: Image, Sound, Social Justice," incorporates photography taken in the Hamline-Midway community by students in an "Introduction to Issues in Social Justice" class. Students from a class called "Sound for Moving Image" then created unique soundtracks for the photos. The showcase focuses around issues impacting the community including homelessness, lack of access to healthy foods, and racial and ethnic diversity.

Headed up by two first-year professors, Valerie Chepp (Social Justice) and Josh Gumiela (Digital Media Arts), they wanted to bring students together from distinct disciplines to illustrate how one set of disciplinary tools and perspectives informs the other.

The project is based on a participatory action research technique called "Photovoice," in which participants use photography to advocate for important issues in their community. The Hamline students' project, however, incorporates an innovative twist on Photovoice, adding a sound design element in order to

tell stories of social justice in the Hamline-Midway community.

The goal of this project is to empower students to become actively involved with the Hamline-Midway community and help bridge the gap between the university and surrounding neighborhood. Community members are welcome and encouraged to attend the showcase and participate in the conversation about community change. The hope is that this project will contribute to the ongoing collaboration between Hamline students and neighborhood partners.

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LYNGBLOMSTEN

St. Paul Urban Tennis moves into Midway Como neighborhood

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

St. Paul Urban Tennis (SPUT) is about more than tennis.

"SPUT is a great program on so many levels," remarked Pamela McCurdy, whose two children have been involved in SPUT since they were in kindergarten.

Not only does it get kids out exercising in a safe place, but they're learning a lifelong sport, she pointed out.

Even more than that are the life skills SPUT teaches. "They work on things like integrity, perseverance, fair play and responsibility, to name a few," said McCurdy. "I love what my kids learn."

As St. Paul's only tennis program, SPUT moved into the Midway Como neighborhood in April. The community is invited to an open house on Sun., May 17 from 12- 2pm at Griggs Recreation Center at 1188 Hubbard Ave. (approximately midway between University Ave. and Como Park, and a block west of Lexington).

"We're excited to be here in the community," stated SPUT Executive Director Becky Cantellano.

After 25 years of storing equipment one place, having an office at another, and holding meetings all over town, the Griggs Center is SPUT's first real home.

"We feel fortunate to be a part of SPUT"

McCurdy has been impressed by the tennis coaches SPUT employs

because of the skills they teach and the hard work they pull out of the kids. "They're so positive and really get to know the kids," she said. "We feel so fortunate to be a part of SPUT."

Her eldest daughter, Emmy, who is 14, has learned mental toughness, including how to be calm and centered during a match. Last August, her 12 Advanced Team won the USTA championship for the whole region. Her 12-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, advanced with her team to the finals at the University of Minnesota and made it to the Top 5 in the regions.

McCurdy also appreciates how the kids learn how to lose gracefully. Sometimes in life we lose, she pointed out, and it's important to learn how to not let that get you down.

"The game of tennis was invented and based upon the ability to show sportsmanship even under pressure," pointed out Mary Stoner, who has been a SPUT coach for three years.

"The amazing aspect of tennis as a sport is that it mirrors so many things that can occur in



SPUT Coach Poem Vang works on forehand groundstroke technique with a young boy at the Central High School location.

your life," Stoner added.

In addition to learning how to handle pressure, tennis teaches communication, problem-solving and resiliency. "The entire sport is an exercise in problem solving not just in its lines and racquets and balls, but within yourself to have the ability to channel all of that and not let it

distract you," Stoner said.

"Resiliency is an important skill in tennis because you can come back from far behind if you keep working at it."

SPUT spirit

SPUT calls its life skills and character development element "SPUT S-P-I-R-I-T" — which stands for Service, Perseverance, Integrity, Responsibility, Imagination and Teamwork.

By demonstrating SPIRIT, kids can earn SPUT bucks to apply towards shoes, rackets and other clothing that has been donated to the group.

Besides the on-court experience, SPUT also offers the younger kids a reading program. SPUT is looking for people to volunteer at least 1 day a week as readers at its various sites.

Taking tennis to the people

SPUT began 25 years ago with 125 players at three park sites. Last year, they reached 4,000 kids at 30 sites.

"We work to make it easy to be involved," pointed out Cantellano.

"We take the tennis to where the people are," said long-time board member Gregg Wong, who first learned about SPUT while working as a sports reporter for the *Pioneer Press*.

About 80 percent of the kids in the program either walk or ride their bikes to the court sites, which are spread out at 30 locations in St. Paul. If there are no tennis courts, SPUT sets up portable nets in parking lots and dead end streets.

Adult lessons offered too

SPUT will offers adult lessons starting May 30. They are conducted evenings on the courts at Central High School, Phalen Park and Edgumbe Recreation Center, and during the day at the College of St. Catherine. Adult fees are \$55 to \$65 for once-a-week sessions for five weeks.

"I think there are many adults that would like to play tennis but are afraid because it seems so difficult," said Stoner. "The goal of the adult program is to get them playing as soon as possible so they can enjoy the

sport. It isn't about technique for them but doing something active and learning something."

Cardio Tennis is a popular class because it doesn't require any tennis skills. "This year I've noticed that I have people signing up for classes just so they can meet other players," said Stoner. "We also wanted to offer classes to get some parents whose kids are in the program playing tennis so they can play with their kids."

Tennis for those who might not be able to afford it

When one of SPUT's founders, Sandy Martin, began working to recruit Wong to serve on the board of directors in 2003, it was an easy sell. "I knew how much good they were doing for kids, especially kids who didn't have much means," said Wong, who has been board chair for eight years and is currently secretary.

He loves seeing how much fun kids have playing tennis, kids who otherwise probably wouldn't be able to afford to play.

Fees for the seven-week summer program beginning June 15 are \$70 for youths 5 to 8 years old and \$95 for those between the ages of 9-18. Four-day camps are offered between June 15 and July 17 are \$40.

But SPUT does not turn away any kid because of an inability to pay. Last year, SPUT gave out nearly \$150,000 worth of scholarships. Discounts are offered for families with more than one child in the program.

In addition to its summer camps, SPUT works with schools, the Boys and Girls Club and other organizations throughout the school year, offering tennis classes and other programs.

"The biggest misconception is that it requires a lot of money to play. That, of course, is true for every sport when you get to a certain level," observed Stoner. "At the beginning stages tennis only requires a racquet, some balls and a court or wall to play against."

Half of coaches are former SPUT players

Through the leadership group, SPUT trains its older kids on how to be coaches and leaders. Topics include financial literacy, wealth development and entrepreneurship. Over half of SPUT's 80 coaches are former SPUT participants.

"The younger ones always need good role models and our

Continued on page 15

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ComMUSICation focuses on life skills through music



All eyes are on Ryan LaBoy, music director for ComMUSICation, as he directs a performance. Faith, Mia, and Aniya (l to r) are among the students in the class. (Photo by Jan Willms)

By JAN WILLMS

Perseverance. Discipline. Teamwork. Collaboration. Empathy. All these skills that can help a person succeed in life are being taught to the young people participating in ComMUSICation in Saint Paul.

Founded by Sara Zanussi, ComMUSICation is based on the El Sistema system developed in Venezuela by Dr. Jose Antonio Abreu that uses excellence of the music ensemble to develop a transferrable set of life skills that fosters good teachers, leaders, citizens, and musicians.

Zanussi, a St. Paul native, did a Sistema fellowship in Boston at the New England Conservatory in 2012 and 2013.

"It was a year-long program that trained musicians who are passionate about transforming their communities, using music," Zanussi explained. She returned to St. Paul and learned there are no secular youth choirs in the city, and she particularly focused on the Promise Neighborhood, a program designed to give all St. Paul children the resources and support to be successful from "cradle to career." That area falls within the borders of Pierce Butler, Rice, Selby and Lexington.

Zanussi said the Promise Neighborhood connection led her to St. Paul City School at 635 Virginia St., and she got Saint Paul Public Schools, the St. Paul Conservatory of Music and Sprocket Youth Development Network involved.

"I really wanted to do something that was using existing resources," Zanussi said, "and the community collaboration was really important to me. As a result, 60% of our budget is in-kind."

"We started planning the program in the summer of 2013 and started hiring staff that fall," she continued. "We did our pilot program in January 2014 and continued until the beginning of May, and we had 100% of parents at our final performance."

ComMUSICation follows the school year and also continues for two weeks in the summer.

"Something that makes our program unique is that we are not just about providing a program for the students but also something that connects families together," Zanussi stated. "It provides an opportunity for parents to connect with their child in a positive way through seeing their child perform, as well as providing community performances that anyone can go to. We've done a ton of partnerships with the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Opera and Minnesota Orchestra. We've built bikes with Cycles for Change and done a ton of things that involve the greater community. We introduce these kids to a lot of cool opportunities that I didn't have as a kid."

The program is divided into two choral groups, Crescendo Choir and ComMUSICation Choir. Between the two, they will be meeting five days a week next year.

"Both groups will meet together on the fifth day, drumming and doing activities together," Zanussi said. She said new members will likely go into the Crescendo Choir, where they will learn about building a team as well as how to sit through a vigorous rehearsal of two and a half hours, five days a week.

Zanussi said a lot of kids come to the program thinking "I want to sing. I'm

going to be a star."

"They think it's an American Idol trainee program," she joked. "Instead we're focused on the chorus ensemble."

There are no auditions, and anyone can participate in ComMUSICation. Zanussi said 38 children from grades 3-6 have been served this past year and a half, with a current active group of 25. They represent five different schools: Ben Mays, Jackson, Maxfield and St. Paul City Schools' primary and middle schools.

"Next year our five-day-a-week group will allow us to become a St. Paul Public School bus stop, and so it will be much more open to any kid in the neighborhood," Zanussi said.

"We're really excited about that, and this summer we're also doing a two-week day camp with the Boys and Girls Club at Mt. Airy, with a theme of how animals evolve and grow. Mt. Airy draws kids from all over the city."

Zanussi said funding for the program comes from many sources, with 60% in-kind. This includes such things as after-school busing and a practice space provided by St. Paul City School. There are also government and corporate grants, free will donations at concerts and a \$10 registration fee from students if they can afford it.

"Anyone can join," Zanussi reiterated, "but currently 100% of our students are on free and reduced lunch. If a student from a more privileged background came, we would do a sliding scale type of thing."

She said the students arrive for practice between 3:15-3:45pm, depending on the end time of their school. "During that time they can do homework and teamwork activities," she said. Recently, for example, the students wrote letters to students in Baltimore.

"We have college interns



(l to r) Tamia, Gaozong, and Mahogany are among the musicians participating this year in ComMUSICation. (Photo by Jan Willms)

who come in and help weekly, and they have been fantastic," Zanussi added.

"We also do music literacy games, pen pal activities and get a snack," she said. Students write back and forth to community members as part of a pen pal project, and each one has been exchanging letters with a member of the Minnesota Orchestra and Minnesota Opera.

"They got to build individual relationships with pretty big organizations, and then they gave a concert for them, so they performed for someone in the audience that they knew," Zanussi said.

She said that between 4-5:45pm, the children practice choir and percussion, learn how to read music and learn the songs they will perform. They perform one to two concerts a month, as well as doing four big concerts a year.

Zanussi said the program has presented a couple of challenges. She said that for her, personally, not being from the neighborhood she is working in meant that it took time for her to gain credibility with the parents. The other challenge has been transportation.

"Transportation has been our biggest barrier so far," she noted. "It's worked out because St. Paul City School provided vans, but it's difficult when we have performances outside of program time. That is a very important part of what we do, because it's a risk-taking opportunity for the kids and a chance for their families to celebrate their achievement with them--but finding transportation for outside of programming has been very challenging."

The most rewarding part of the program?

"Hearing them sing. In less than a little over a year, they sound great, doing three-part harmony and singing in five languages."

"In the first year, we have seen up to 50% fewer behavior incidents at school, which is huge. Kids who used to say they had stage fright are now singing solos."

"To quote the founder of El Sistema, 'To create music is to create beauty.' To see these kids create beauty together regardless of socio-economic background, race, different schools, different genders and different cultures, is really powerful."



Accompanist Jacob Dodd at rehearsal. (Photo by Jan Willms)

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Native Plant Market and Expo returns to Roseville

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Where can you shop 12 different nurseries specializing in native plants – all in the same place at the same time?

The Roseville Community Pavilion (behind CUB at 1201

Larpenteur Ave. W.) will once again be the site for this year's Landscape Revival on Sat., June 6 from 9am-3pm.

As if the plants weren't excitement enough, there will also be representatives from more

than a dozen conservation organizations to help shoppers understand why native plants are so important.

Now in its fifth year, the Landscape Revival was the inspiration of two friends, Val Cunningham and Karen Eckman. Both are long-time St. Paul Audubon members with a deep interest in gardening, stewardship and conservation.

"Gardeners are giving more thought these days to the effect our gardens have on the world around us," Cunningham said. The Landscape Revival promotes the use of native plants for their countless benefits to wildlife, pollinators and water quality, as well as for their beauty.

As our population keeps growing, the demand for land development does too. Land development changes the way water flows, creating more runoff where water would otherwise soak into the soil. Native plants not only require less water to grow than cultivated ones, they also improve water retention in the soil because of their deep root structure. "If you care about clean water, you care about native plants," Revival co-creator Eckman said.

A native plant is defined as one that grew naturally in a specific area before the arrival of European settlers. It's important to know that planting stock or seeds from more than 200 miles away doesn't constitute a native planting. The plant material must

have grown in close proximity to where it is being planted: a native plant from Montana isn't native to Minnesota, for example.

Native plant species have evolved over hundreds of years to be compatible with local pollinators. Cultivated plants don't produce as much nectar and pollen as natives do, and aren't as beneficial to pollinators. Cultivated plants are often pre-treated with insecticides, such as neonicotinoids, which scientists believe are contributing to the collapse of bee colonies across North America and Europe. Neonicotinoids actually make plants inhospitable to bees and other pollinators, while preventing some diseases and infestations. None of the plants sold at the Landscape Revival are treated with insecticides and will be a safe, abundant food source for those who need them.

The Landscape Revival drew 300 visitors in 2010, its first year. More than 1,100 people attended last year, despite a heavy downpour that lasted all day.

When Cunningham and Eckman were first considering this idea, they quickly realized that education was going to be as important as plant sales. They wanted people to leave the event feeling well-informed. This belief continues to shape the Landscape Revival, even as leadership has changed over time. Expo presenters this year include ex-



The Cup Flower grows 3-6 feet tall, with leaves joining at the stem to form a cup. This adaptation, for which the plant is named, holds water and attracts thirsty birds. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



A shopper at last year's event loaded up on native plants. (Photo courtesy of Capitol Region Watershed District)

Continued on page 11

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Area projects rank high in Capital Improvement Budget proposals

By JANE MCCLURE

Proponents for new playgrounds, recreation centers, bike lanes, library improvements and other projects are preparing for the public hearing on St. Paul's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB), at 6pm, Mon., June 1 at St. Paul City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd.

As the *Monitor* went to press, the CIB Committee was reviewing rankings from its task forces of community facilities, streets and utilities and residential and economic development. After the public hearing, the committee will finalize its rankings by mid-June and send them to the mayor and St. Paul City Council for inclusion in the 2016 city budget.

"We begin this process in February and it looks extremely different when we get to April," said CIB Committee Member Michael Steward.

"The process has been a real success, from what I've been hearing from the task forces," said CIB Committee Chairperson Paul Sawyer. Other CIB Committee members said they liked the citywide balance they saw in task force rankings, and the diversity in projects likely to be funded.

That's not to say all went smoothly as task forces had sev-



May Park, at 816 Clayland St., is a 1/2 square block of green space with a swing set, a slide, a merry-go-round, and one picnic table. The proposal to spend \$254,000 to improve the park ranked #1 in community facilities.

eral close votes as to whether or not to move projects up or down. One concern in Community Facilities Task Force discussions is that needed, big-ticket public safety projects compete for funding with libraries, parks and playgrounds. "It's always difficult to lump in fire stations and police facilities with playgrounds," said Highland District Council representative Laura

Merriam. "It doesn't make sense at all."

Replacement of Fire Station 20, May Park equipment and Hamline-Midway Branch Library improvements fared well coming out of the task forces. But other area projects including improvements to Merriam Park, Dickerman Park, Como Ave. and Pelham Blvd. didn't fare as well.

In total 131 projects were reviewed and ranked over the past few months.

Another frustration task force members raised was that projects bumped in 2014-2015 should have had priority for 2016-2017. A few projects lost funding due to other projects cost overruns or City Council members and the mayor making funding shifts. But not all of the projects dropped may make it into the next funding round.

Here's an overview of how projects look going to the full committee:

Community facilities

The top-ranked project citywide out of 49 projects is tiny May Park, 816 Clayland St., in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. Improvements were funded in the 2014-2015 CIB cycle. But the money was taken away by the City Council to fund another project.

Task force members who moved the park to the top of the rankings said they wanted to make a statement in supporting the \$254,000 project.

May Park was followed by Fire Station 20 replacement, at \$5.6 million. The top priority for the St. Paul Fire Department, a new Station 20 would be built on land donated by the Rock-Tenn paper recycling company. The current Fire Station 20, which is located on University Ave. just west of the Cretin-Vandalia intersections, was built in 1920. Access had to be re-configured when Green Line light rail was built.

Scheffer Recreation Center replacement (\$9.47 million) ranked third. Scheffer is at Thomas and Marion. Other area projects in the top 15 include Hamline Midway Branch Library modernization (\$1.965 million) ranked at 13 and Frogtown Farm and play area (\$522,000) at 14.

The library project is promoted by neighborhood residents, who had to wage a battle several years ago to even keep the library open. While it has had some improvements in recent years, it hasn't had the full-scale modernization other libraries have enjoyed.

Streets and Utilities

The Streets and Utilities Task Force ranked 61 projects, with Sidney St.-Robert St. redesign (\$50,000) topping the list. The Pierce Butler Route-Lexington Pkwy. bicycle connection ranked fourth (\$220,000) and Vandalia St. Bridge rehabilitation (\$750,000) was fifth.

Like May Park, the bicycle connection was funded two years ago and then cut out of the budget.

Residential and Economic Development

The Residential and Economic Development Task Force gave the East Side Home Improvement Revolving Loan Fund (\$1 million) its top ranking, out of 21 projects. Area projects met mixed response from the task force. Model Cities' Central Exchange residential-retail development near University and Victoria (\$400,000) ranked sixth. The Victoria Theater renovation (\$400,000) ranked seventh. The St. Paul Green Line Home Improvement Loan Fund (\$500,000) was ranked 11th.



Replacement of the 95-year old Fire Station 20, currently on University at Vandalia, ranked high in the CIB listing with its \$5.6 million price tag.

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• Senior Ellen Purdy is a 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program semifinalist. The elite recognition program, established in 1964, includes 500 semifinalists from across the country. 140 Finalists will be recognized at the White House in June.

Ellen's perfect ACT score, AP course work, leadership and community service have led to several other prestigious honors and awards including the National Merit Scholarship. She will attend the University of Chicago next fall.



Ellen Purdy

• Senior Will Kidd was awarded the Mike Warter Scholarship from the Minnesota State High School Soccer Coaches Association. The award is received by just one male and female soccer player in the state each year. Coaches select the winners from a competitive pool of players who have excelled on the field and in the classroom. Kidd has signed a national letter of intent to play and study at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois.

News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Como Park High senior is Presidential Scholars semifinalist

• Como's College Possible students have earned over \$58,000 in private scholarships. College Possible is a program that supports first-generation college students in navigating the college application process, from SAT and ACT prep through admission. 98% of Como's 2015 College Possible class has been accepted into at least one college. Schools range from the University of Minnesota to Vassar College in New York state where senior Sundus Hassan has chosen to attend.

• The Como Chamber Singers and Concert Choir earned a "Superior" rating at the Minnesota State High School League Region 4AA Large Group Contest held at Stillwater High School on Apr. 16. The choirs sang three contrasting pieces of music and were judged by three experts in the field. "Superior" is the highest rating awarded.

• The annual St. Paul Public Schools Ordway Honors Concert was held in April. The following singers auditioned, were accepted, and sang at this premiere event: Anna Blaine, Hannah Cornish, Margaret Coyne, Raphael Forrest, Anna Fryxell, Emily La-Croix-Dalluhn, Jimmy Chimeng Lor, Stella Quale, Nathan Stover, Adam Swanson, Divine Ucheg-

bu, Chang Vang, Esther Vang, Peter Vue, and Zaci Wells.

Instrumental Musicians that earned the honor of performing at the Ordway were Nate Parsons who served as the Orchestra's Concertmaster, with Rachel Teltie, Christian Berger, Arturo Digiralamo, Martin-Malik Williams, Kaitlyn Thomas, Jacob Heiberger, and Justin Rogers also in the Orchestra.

The Concert Band featured Madeline Karan, Joe McCune-Zierath, Ellie Thorsgaard, Emmet O'Connell, Kathryn Proper, Madeline Kara, Stacy Yang, Evan Pauly, Tuomas Sivula, Nate Jackson, Noah Frese, Tyrin Anderson, and Emily Devaney.

• In April over 50 French students participated in the annual A Vous la Parole language competition at the University of Minnesota. Como students came away with many 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards in contests that ranged from prose, and poetry, to song and original skits.

• CPAAC (Como Park Asian American Club) members, joined by a few fellow Como students, spoke eloquently at the St. Paul Youth Forum on Apr. 11. Students shared insight on school environment, safety issues, health, and equity at the event hosted by the St. Paul Federation

of Teachers and the NAACP.

• In the Academy of Finance (AOF), 14 girls attended "Girls Going Places" where they met with over 30 female entrepreneurs. All AOF 9th graders also attended Junior Achievement's "Finance Park" where students were charged with completing a budget simulation. Ten AOF students attended Wells Fargo's lecture on "Opportunists for our Next Generation."

• 25 Como Park Karen students staged an original performance

in April, expressing the obstacles, struggles, and triumphs of their journey from Burma to Como. Dangerous Productions, in collaboration with the Karen Organization of Minnesota, and Fight or Flight Academy, spent a month supporting the students in writing the play, while also training advanced acrobatic skills to dramatize the action. It was a powerful and unique show for both the students and community.

• The Marine Corps JROTC held its traditional Mess Night Dinner on May 1. Over 70 cadets took part. The entire night's events were orchestrated and put together by the 18 Cadets of the Junior class, who take leadership in wishing a fond farewell to the Senior Cadets. Announcements of the new Cadet Commanding Officer, Kaitlyn Thomas, and Cadet Sergeant Major Eddy Vue were also made.

Landscape Revival

Continued from page 9

perts in the areas of beekeeping, monarch preservation, land stewardship, water conservation, and more.

One Expo presenter is the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD). Elizabeth Beckman, education coordinator for CRWD, explained, "There are 48 different watershed districts in Minnesota. Ours covers about 2/3 of St. Paul, and operates as a special unit of government – something like a school board. We receive a percentage of revenue from Ramsey County prop-



erty taxes, and work on innovative ways to improve water quality for the benefit of all."

CRWD awards stewardship grants to home owners, businesses, schools, and places of worship so they can reduce or prevent storm water run-off on their property. Storm water runoff is the #1 cause of water pollution in urban areas. Anyone within the boundaries of CRWD can apply; applicants may be eligible for financial and/or technical assistance on their projects, whether the projects are large or small. The size of the grants is dependent on the scope of the water quality improvement. Typical projects include rain gardens, shoreline restorations, water reuse systems and permeable hardscapes. To learn more about the program contact Gustavo Castro, CRWD grant administrator at gustavo@capitolregionwd.org.

Sponsors for this year's event include CRWD, St. Paul Audubon Society, Blue Thumb, Wild Ones and the Ramsey/Washington Metro Watershed District.

In addition to the wide selection of native plants, rain barrels, organic compost and native plant seeds will also be available for purchase. Visit the Landscape Revival Native Plant Sale and Expo to see the stunning diversity of Minnesota native plants and learn how to start creating your own thriving, vibrant and low maintenance garden.

This event is free and open to all, and will be held rain or shine. Remember to bring re-usable bags, if you have them, to transport your purchases. Cash or checks only—credit cards cannot be used.

Monitor In A Minute

Two local projects win award

Area projects were among the dozen award winners honored Apr. 22 as Mayor Chris Coleman and the St. Paul City Council presented the 2015 Sustainable St. Paul Awards.

Murray Middle School (2200 Buford Ave.) won the Environmental Education Award for its Environmental Inquiry Immersion program, which bridges the achievement gap in science through environmental learning. Students do research projects, which are later submitted to the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair. The program also extends beyond the school building. Graduates matriculating to Como Park Senior High School return to Como Woodland Classroom as mentors, helping new students complete fieldwork.

Bang Brewing Company (2320 Capp Rd.), which is located in the West Midway, won the Green Products Award. The brewing center is a uniquely purpose-built facility with an emphasis on green design and environmental stewardship. The entirety of the highly efficient operation is housed in a 1,300 square foot partial pre-fab grain bin designed in concert with Alchemy Architects. The US build brew system was custom designed to minimize water use. Its electricity is provided through Windsource. Bang Brewing partners with a

local farmer in a spent grain program and champions composting, reuse and recycling.

Stores could lose licenses

Convenience store owners found to be in violation of licenses to sell tobacco face additional sanctions, as a result of regulations adopted unanimously Apr. 22 by the St. Paul City Council. If a tobacco sales license is revoked due to violations, a new one cannot be issued for that store address for five years. An exception could be sought by a new store owner if she or he meets several conditions.

The restriction, which will become part of city ordinances regulating tobacco product sales, was adopted to address persistent problems that have occurred at same neighborhood convenience store locations, including one on University Ave.

More than a dozen people attended an Apr. 15 St. Paul City Council public hearing to ask for the sanctions.

One issue city officials have faced is that of shutting down a problem store, only to have the former owner, or owners' family or friends, apply for new licenses at that location and reopen the store. Property owner Daisy Huang, who owns a commercial building at 910 University Ave., said it took more than three years of complaints to get the St. Paul Grocery shut down at that

location. She said the restriction on tobacco licenses would help landlords as well as neighbors affected by nuisance and illegal behavior.

Dan Nizolek, deputy director of the St. Paul Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI), said the city only has had problems with a handful of convenience stores in recent years. Currently 267 businesses hold licenses to sell tobacco products. In the past eight years only six of those licenses have been revoked. In some cases businesses faced sanctions for selling stolen goods or were fronts for other illegal activities.

Dog run to open

Meeker Island Park, which is located on Mississippi River Blvd. in Desnoyer Park neighborhood, is home to a new dog run this spring. The run opened officially May 11. The park is just south of the Minneapolis-St. Paul city boundary. There is limited off-street parking available. Go to the trail head just west of the Intersection of Eustice St. and East River Pkwy.

The park was established several years ago along the Mississippi River, partially in response to neighborhood complaints about illicit behavior and drinking parties in the area. Its property includes an old wagon road, which led to the Meeker Island lock and dam. That was

the first lock and dam on the upper river. It was demolished many years ago when other parts of the lock and dam system were installed.

It is the first public dog run facility added in the area. There is a dog park on the East Side, at Arlington and Arkwright, and a second near the High Bridge in the West End.

Road name changes made

St. Paul city officials were on hand Apr. 20 for changes in street names at Como Park Regional Park. The changes won City Council approval earlier this year.

One change honors St. Paul's Sister City relationship with Nagasaki, Japan. This was done to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the sister city relationship, the oldest for St. Paul. Gateway Drive was renamed Nagasaki Road.

Other changes were also made. Horton Ave. between Gateway and Lexington Pkwy. remains Horton, but Horton between Lexington Pkwy. and Hamline Ave. is changed to Como Ave. Como Ave. through the McMurray Field area changes to Wynne Ave.

Monitor In A Minute is compiled by JANE MCCLURE

**Next deadline:
June 1**

In Our Community

Monitor

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

Senior fitness day scheduled May 20

St. Paul Midway YMCA is celebrating Senior Health and Fitness Day on Wed., May 20, from 8:30-noon. Members and guests will enjoy an open house with special events and programs promoting active, healthy lifestyles through physical fitness, good nutrition and preventive care. Activities will include free exercise classes, balance assessments, games, wellness activities and refreshments. The YMCA is housed in their temporary facilities at 1000 University Ave.

Keystone seniors plan monthly events

The Keystone Senior Program at Merriam Park Community Center (2000 St. Anthony Ave. one block off of Cleveland Ave.) has many exercise opportunities beginning this summer. Zumba Gold is held every Friday through November from 12:30-1:30pm. Just drop in and try it out. Live Exercise will be ongoing Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through the summer. Call for time of day. And, Stick Walking will be on Thursdays at 10am. Bring your sticks and walk with other "stick walkers" throughout the neighborhood.

The Senior Summer Picnic will be on Wed., June 24 from 11:30am-1pm. Games, jokes, laughter and Cecil's box lunch will be featured. Call to register and choose your choice of veggie, turkey or corn beef. The cost is \$9.

The AARP Smart Driver Refresher class will be held on Thur., June 25 from noon-4pm.

To register for programs or if you have questions, call 651-645-7424.

New showcase opens at HU May 14

ACT/REACT opens on Thur., May 14 at 7:30pm and runs May 15 and 16 at 7:30pm in Hamline University's Anne Simley Theatre. Tickets are \$2 for Hamline students, \$3 for ACTC students and staff, \$8 for adults and \$5 for outside students and seniors. Groups of ten or more are \$3 per ticket if reserved in advance. Advance reservations are recommended and can be made through the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or via e-mail at tickets@hamline.edu.

Hamline Dance Ensemble's showcase features new work by noted Twin Cities choreographers and displays the Ensemble's movement exploration and physical risk taking. Roxane Wallace's Afro Modern choreography infuses elements of modern dance with traditional dance

forms of the African diaspora. Taja Will's new work considers the intricacy of the pop culture ideal of love. Artistic Director Kaori Kenmotsu's "Bye" creates a physical score that represents the complex nature of letting go. Finally, new student works explore a variety of different movement styles, including: modern, lyrical, and hip-hop fusion.

Spring Carnival planned May 15

Chelsea Heights Elementary, 1557 Huron St., will be hosting their annual Spring Carnival on Fri., May 15, from 5-8pm. Tickets are 50 cents each; activity prices range from 1-6 tickets. There will be games (with prizes), food trucks, raffles, bouncy houses, climbing wall and other activities. All proceeds will help support student activities such as classroom supplies, field trips, and playground maintenance. Volunteers are needed to staff the event! If you'd like to volunteer or have any questions, contact the Carnival Committee at chelseacarnival@gmail.com.

Elders schedule monthly events

Hamline Midway Elders (HME) has a lot of programs to keep your spring blooming with activity:

Chair Yoga returns for a 4 week series on Thursday mornings starting May 21. Nancy Giguere leads these free classes which will be held from 10:30 to 11:30am at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. New participants are welcome.

The next Monthly Luncheon, "Confessions of a Professional Eater," will be held on Tue., June 9. Eleanor Ostman, longtime food writer for the *Pioneer Press*, will share experiences from her life in food. She will also sign and sell copies of her new book, "Always on Sunday Revisited," which will be available for purchase for \$20. Green Books will also be conducting another book giveaway at this luncheon. The luncheon will be held from 11:30am to 1pm at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Free blood pressure checks will be provided and transportation for neighborhood seniors can be arranged with advance notice. New attendees are always welcome at second Tuesday monthly luncheons and free will donations are encouraged.

HME's Caregiver Support Group is open to anyone caring for older adults, or persons of any age, with special needs. This group is facilitated by Monica Gallagher and trained volunteers. The group will meet on



Kurt Schweickhardt plays Sigmund Freud and Nathan Cousins as C.S. Lewis in Open Window Theatre's production of "Freud's Last Session." (Photo by Matt Berdahl Photography; Courtesy of Open Window Theatre)

Local man takes lead in play about Freud

Kurt Schweickhardt, a resident of the Midway area for 30 years, will be performing the role of Sigmund Freud in Open Window Theatre's production of "Freud's Last Session" running Thurs., Fri., Sat., and Sun. through May 24. The theatre is located at 1313 Chestnut Ave., #102 in Minneapolis. Tickets are available at the door, or go to openwindowtheatre.org, or 612-615-1515 in advance.

Schweickhardt will play the role of the iconic Sigmund Freud in his final days of life. "Playing Freud is fun and challenging because of his larger than life reputation as well as his extreme intelligence and quick wit," he said. "The challenge is to

find the balance between his mental strength and his physical frailty."

Schweickhardt is a professional member of Actors' Equity and will be making his debut at Open Window Theatre, after having performed on most of the Twin Cities largest stages. He is also a regular director at the Minnesota Jewish Theatre in St. Louis Park. Kurt has taught and directed at Normandale Community College for many years, and has acted in the feature films "Fargo" and "Factum." Kurt's children attended St. Paul Central and one daughter, Amy, has followed in her father's footsteps, treading the boards in local theatre.

Thur., May 14 from 6:30-8pm (and routinely meets on the second Thursday of each month) at Hamline United Methodist Church (1514 Englewood Ave.). There is no cost and new attendees are always welcome.

Save June 25 for our annual Ice Cream Social for the entire community to be held on Thur., June 25 from 6-8pm. Look for details in next month's *Monitor*.

For more information on any of the above items please contact Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or info@hmelers.org.

Dist. 10 presents neighborhood development plan

Since 2012, a District 10 Committee has been developing a neighborhood plan to help guide future development and improve the quality of life for residents. Prompted by neighborhood concerns related to potential development at the Lexington/Larpenteur intersection and in the Midway Parkway area, the committee has conducted extensive outreach to the

neighborhood to help shape the plan. The plan addresses issues related to housing and land use, transportation, parks and recreation, business, and the environment. Later this year, this plan will be submitted to the City of St Paul and recommended for incorporation into the city's Comprehensive Plan.

All Como Park residents are invited to join the committee for a public presentation of the plan on Mon., May 18 at 7pm at St. Timothy Lutheran Church (1465 Victoria St. N.).

Support group for partners & spouses

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

La Leche Group scheduled June 9

The next meetings of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tues., June 9. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers to discuss breastfeeding and mothering issues. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

YMCA Benefit Sale through May 16

Shop and support YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord at the annual Garage Sale at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Merchandise Mart building from Wed., May 13 to Sat., May 16. Free admission, with doors open from 9am to 7:30pm, Wed., Thur. and Fri. Saturday Bag Sale day opens earlier at 8am, and ends at 2pm. More than 250 families contribute good quality camping equipment, clothing, household items, toys, books, antiques, furniture, sports equipment, etc. All proceeds go to the YMCA camps. For more information, call 651-645-6605.

Adopt A Storm Drain program up

Storm drains in Saint Paul neighborhoods drain to local lakes and the Mississippi River, so whatever goes into the street ends up in local lakes and rivers.

A new program, Adopt a Storm Drain, allows users to adopt a drain in their neighborhood and commit to keeping it clear of leaves and other debris to reduce water pollution.

People who sign up online will receive an attractive metal garden sign to put in their yard, along with a tip sheet on what every homeowner can do to protect Lake Como and the Mississippi River. To sign up, go to www.adopt-a-drain.org. Adopt a Storm Drain is sponsored by the City of St Paul, Capitol Region Watershed District, and Hamline University.

German Immersion plans celebration

Please join the Twin Cities German Immersion School in celebrating their 10-year anniversary, as well as the opening of their new building, on Sat. May 16, 10-3pm! Come experience the school community and German-American friendship. There will be fun activities throughout the event and food and re-

freshments will be available for purchase. Remarks and ribbon cutting ceremony will take place from noon-1pm.

The Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS), authorized by the Germanic American Institute (GAI), is a flourishing, tuition-free public K-8 charter school located in St. Paul. According to representatives of the German government responsible for interacting with German language schools worldwide, TCGIS is the fastest growing German immersion primary school outside of Germany. In the 2014-2015 school-year, TCGIS enrolled 440 students in grades K-8.

Driver review class offered May 20

There will be a AARP Driver Review Class on Wed., May 20, from 9:30-1:30pm. This class consists of an overview of safe driving. There is no writing or driving test required. Minnesota law mandates a 10% reduction in car insurance premiums for persons 55 years and older who complete a defensive driving class like this. The class will be held at Merriam Park Community Center (2000 St. Anthony Ave.) and is sponsored by Keystone Community Services. Cost is \$18 and you can call 651-645-7424 for more information and

to reserve your spot.

The class will be offered again on Thur., June 25, from noon-4pm, and Mon., July 27, 10am-2pm.

Dayton recommends funding for Sparky

Governor Mark Dayton released his list of recommendations for 2015 bonding projects in April. Included in his list of recommendations was \$14.5 million for the Sparky seal and sea lion exhibit at Como Zoo.

"I am excited to see Governor Dayton's priority for the seals and sea lions at Como Zoo," said Representative Rep. John Lesch, who represents the area. "The 'Sparky [the Sea Lion] Show' is an institution at Como, and Minnesota families have enjoyed the exhibit for 58 years. This project is an important part of our community and the cultural heritage of Minnesota."

The Governor recommends \$14.5 million for a grant to the city of St. Paul to plan, design and construct the renewal of the seals and sea lions exhibit at Como Zoo. The new exhibit would provide year-round use that meets or exceeds all regulatory and collection management requirements. The Governor's recommendations are important for the passage of the funding, but the proposal must remain a priority in the final House and Senate versions of the bonding bill for it to survive.

The Sparky Show runs daily throughout the summer months beginning Sat., May 24 at 11:30am with an additional show at 3pm on weekends and holidays.

Glass endorsed by Police Federation

David Glass, candidate for City Council for Ward 5, has received the endorsement of the St. Paul Police Federation. "The endorsement is a great honor. I am humbled to have the support from such a great group of public servants," said Glass. "Our St Paul police policy of community policing has nurtured the community and increased safety. Working together, the community and the police have better results in resolving and preventing neighborhood crime. In this time of negative news, it seems their profession has become a thankless job. ...I encourage everyone to recognize and to say a 'Chi Miiigwetch' (a Big Thank You) to our local police, who are outstanding in community policing, outstanding by numbers and outstanding in their compassion for the community. Our local police should be recognized for all they do."

Hamernick's is paint drop-off location

Hamernick's Decorating Center, 1381 Rice St., has joined the PaintCare program as a paint drop-off location. PaintCare is a non-profit organization that works with retailers to make recycling leftover paint easier. All people have to do is take their leftover paint to Hamernick's Decorating Center during business hours and their staff will



Annual cleanup nets 500 pounds of trash

The National Junior Honor Society students braved a cold and snowy day last month for their annual environmental spring volunteer field trip. They helped to collect over 500 pounds of debris from former farm land that is being converted to a nature preserve. Items included many glass jars, fences, old plumbing, tires, cinder blocks, toys, furniture, metal, building materials, etc. The students did a wonderful job!

store it until PaintCare picks it up and properly disposes of it. This solution is much easier and more convenient than bringing leftover paint to county-managed household hazardous waste sites.

HM Neighborhood Garage Sale planned May 30

The Hamline Midway Neighborhood Garage Sale is planned for Sat., May 30, from 8am-3pm.

You can register to participate in the sale online, by mail, or drop off the form with the registration fee of \$10 to Hamline Midway Coalition, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104. Please register by Fri., May 22. The Registration Form can be found at www.hamlinemidway.org/garagesale, or you can pick up a form at the Hamline Midway Library.

Your \$10 registration fee includes: a listing of your address and items for sale that will be distributed via a link to our webpage on Facebook and Craigslist; signs that will be placed at all major intersections and various locations throughout the neighborhood; flyers that will be posted around the neighborhood at various locations; and an ad in the *Pioneer Press* (if enough households participate). If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact someone at garagesale@hamlinemidway.org.

Mini Maker Faire scheduled May 30

The Minneapolis/St. Paul Mini Maker Faire will be at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds on Sat., May 30. The one-day festival will bring the world's greatest show (and tell) on earth to the Twin Cities. More than 200 local and regional makers will showcase, demonstrate and share interactive creations with the public during this family-friendly event. This all-ages event starts at 10am. Tickets and more information are available at makerfairemsp.com.

"Leonardo's Basement is partnering with Maker Media," said Executive Director Steve Jevning, "to celebrate the richly diverse community of makers in the Midwest, from small DIY builders to global manufacturers."

Maker is a term used to cover a wide range of creative work, projects and hobbies. If you are a tinkerer, coder, woodworker, crafter, farm hacker, art-

ist, student, designer, chemist, roboticist, entrepreneur, scientist, food inventor, metalworker, educator, green technology creator, inventor, corporate designer or bicycle builder, you are a "maker."

Mood disorders conference subject

Beyond the Baby Blues is a full-day conference designed to educate professionals and families about mood disorders and anxiety before, during, and after pregnancy. It will be held on May 28 at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education Center, 1890 Bufford Ave. Experts in the field of psychology, social work, and maternal and child health, along with women and family members whose lives have been affected by postpartum depression, will offer presentations. The conference is sponsored by NAMI Minnesota, the University of MN School of Social Work, Postpartum International Support and UCare. For registration or information, call NAMI Minnesota at 651-645-2948 or go to www.namihelps.org.

Chamber names interim director

The Midway Chamber of Commerce announced Wendy Helgeson as the new interim Executive Director,



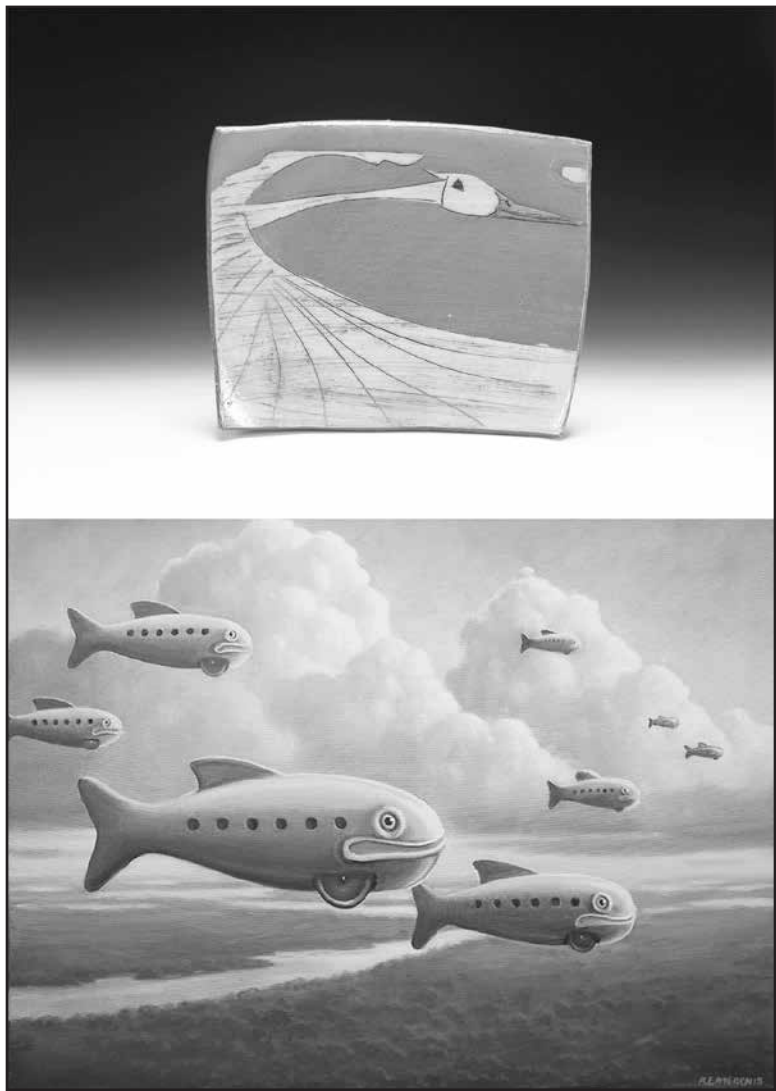
effective immediately, while the Board continues its search for a permanent Executive Director.

Helgeson brings more than 25 years of experience delivering meetings and community-focused agenda experience to the Midway Chamber of Commerce. Seven of these years were with the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce where she served as the Vice President of Membership Development.

The Board is continuing the search to fill the role of a permanent Executive Director for the Midway Chamber of Commerce and encourages all experience levels and backgrounds to apply.

For more information and to submit an application for The Midway Chamber of Commerce Executive Director position, please visit <http://business.midwaychamber.com/Info/executive-and-management-executive-director>.

Continued on page 14



"Juxtaposition" opens at local gallery

The Raymond Avenue Gallery (761 Raymond Ave.) will open its 2015 second quarter exhibition, "Juxtaposition: Paintings and Pots" with an opening reception Fri., May 15, 6-8pm. The exhibit features the work of Bruce Nygren and Matthew Krouse and runs through Fri., June 19.

Nygren is a Minneapolis painter whose paintings (photo bottom) strongly suggest an influence of surrealism and contain much whimsy. In addition to his painting, Nygren has created sculpture and murals. He performs blues and rock and roll music with his band, The Mumble Bugs, which will be performing at the opening reception.

Mathew Krouse, creates thrown functional stoneware pottery (photo top) which he fires in a wood or soda kiln. The warmth of his work reflects his love of the hardwood forest and prairie of central Minnesota where he grew up.

Support group meets twice/month

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota sponsors free support groups for families who have a relative 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 group meets in Roseville at 6:30pm, at Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 Co. Rd. C-2 West, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. For information, call Anne Mae at 651-484-0599.

Roundtable slated on Pedestrian Planning

The District Councils Collaborative of St. Paul and Minneapolis Governing Council are presenting "Green Line Issues Roundtable: Pedestrian Planning for Saint Paul: Learning from Minneapolis," on Wed., May 20, 6:30-8pm, at the Western District Po-

lice Station, 389 Hamline Ave N. With the adoption of the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, many people are interested in seeing the City begin the process of drafting a Saint Paul Pedestrian Plan.

A number of other cities have adopted pedestrian plans that Saint Paul can look to for inspiration, and to learn what policies and implementation measures might be included. One example is the Minneapolis Pedestrian Plan. Adopted in 2009, it provides a good opportunity to learn what has worked well, and what has been ineffective.

At the Green Line Issues Roundtable, Mackenzie Turner Borgen, from Minneapolis Public Works, will present an overview of the Minneapolis Pedestrian Plan and its implementation to date. A panel will offer responses and suggestions, followed by a lively roundtable discussion about policies and implementation strategies we would like to see included in a Saint Paul Pedestrian Plan.

Panelists will be Rebecca Airmet (Summit-University Planning Council Board, Women on Bikes Advisory Board), Craig

Churchward (FASLA, Transportation Landscape Architect, Avenue Design Partners) and Kristin Jorenby (Olmstead Implementation Office). The panel will be moderated by Anne White, Vice Chair, District Councils Collaborative.

Rail safety and chemical awareness topic on May 20

There will be program, "Chemical Awareness Training: Hazardous Chemicals and Rail Safety," Wed., May 20 from 7-8:30pm at the North Dale Recreation Center, 1414 St. Albans St. N. This community conversation will be led by Dr. Bill Toscano, Professor, Environmental Health Sciences in the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Toscano will lead an informal discussion and answer questions related to hazardous chemicals being transported by rail through the Twin Cities. An intersection in Como has been designated as one of the vulnerable in the state for an accident due to the high volume of traffic,

and its proximity to a large population residing nearby.

They encourage interested persons to submit any questions they might want answered ahead of time by posting to the Facebook event at www.facebook.com/events/1577276565854988.

Zion rummage sale planned May 29-30

Zion Lutheran's Rummage Sale will be from 9am to 5pm on May 29 and 30. Zion is located at 1697 Lafond Ave. at Aldine St. Please use Aldine entrance. There will be lots of clothing, toys, books, small household items and much more.

Shakespearean plays set for Newell, Como

This June and July, Classical Actors Ensemble (CAE) will present Shakespeare's comedy "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," for free in five Twin Cities' parks, Newell Park and Como Park being two of them.

Usually an indoor compa-

ny, this production will be CAE's sophomore foray into outdoor Shakespeare.

Dating from early in Shakespeare's career, "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" centers on small town best friends Proteus and Valentine who find themselves in the cosmopolitan world of Milan, where they both fall for the Duke's chic daughter. When Proteus' hometown sweetheart, Julia, soon follows him to the big city, loyalties in love and friendship are put to the test. The comedy in this coming of age story is heightened by a band of bumbling highwaymen, some sassy, quick-witted servants, and a disobedient dog.

In keeping with CAE's aesthetic style, this production will include live, contemporary music, performed by the actors. New to CAE will be a greater focus on choreographed movement and dance from director Hannah Steblay and choreographer Jessica Smith.

The Newell Park performance will be Fri., June 19 at 7pm and at Como Park on Fri., June 26 at 7pm. Admission is free, donations are appreciated.

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be in the Monitor before June 1 for the June 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*, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the *Monitor* before June 1 for the June 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

AIR CONDITIONERS

Recycling discarded air conditioners. Free pick-up. No charge! Roger 612-210-3529. 11-15.

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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-15

AUTO STORAGE

Secured auto and boat storage near Snelling and University. Short term or long term. Heated and unheated available. 570 Asbury Street. 651-641-0166. hamlineparkstorage.com 5-15

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Lawn/Snow Service, spring and fall cleanups, gutter cleaning and repair. 651-688-9977. B-15

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Painting, lawn mowing, furniture refurbishing. Jim. 612-202-5514. 9-15

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Quiet, professional office space with free, attached parking. Single offices up to 10,000 sf. Building information available at hamlinepp.com. Contact Eric with Colliers at 952-837-3087. 1-15

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All Seasons painting, glazing/repair, woodframe/stucco; power washing. Insured. Free estimates. Kevin. 651-699-2832. B-15

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Celebrate our community at the Hamline Midway Spring Festival 2015

Tues., June 16, 4-8:30pm
Fields behind Hancock
Recreation Center,
1610 Hubbard Ave.
Free and open to all

Gather your friends, family and community pride and get ready for the Hamline Midway Spring Festival Tues., June 16. A dedicated group of neighborhood volunteers has been working hard in partnership with Hancock Rec. to host a full evening of fun and revelry in the fields behind Hamline Elementary and Hancock Recreation from 4-8:30pm, with an outdoor movie theater feature film showing at dusk. There no charge for admission and all are welcome and encouraged to come out and join the fun.

With delicious local food, live music and entertainment, arts activities, games, a rock climbing tower, bouncy house and so much more, there's plenty of fun for the whole family to enjoy.

Come out and get to know your neighbors and neighborhood; challenge another block to a round of human foosball, presented by Can Can Wonderland; pick up some new tips and tricks for your home garden at the Urban Farm and Homestead Demonstration area, and explore all the neighborhood groups, businesses and organizations that make our neighborhood special.

Don't miss out on this chance to connect with your

News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Hamline Midway Spring Festival planned June 16

community and meet new neighbors, customers and partners. Whether you're a local business, community volunteer organization or are just looking to participate in what is sure to be a terrifically fun event, there's a way for you to get involved.

Bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the food shelf, your old and unused electronics to donate to Tech Dump, or your old shoes for Shoe Away Hunger, and get a prize at the door.

Head over to hamlinemidway.org/springfestival for more information, to register your group or business for a table; pitch an arts activity; sign up to perform and otherwise learn how to get involved. See you June 16!

Hamline Midway Neighborhood Garage Sale

Spring has sprung, which can only mean one thing: it's time to clean out your closets, basement, attic and wherever else your unused items tend to accumulate. Rather than sending them to the dump, give them a chance at new life by participating in the Hamline Midway Neighborhood-wide Garage

Sale!

Community Garage Sales are a great way to build community while getting rid of your unneeded stuff, or picking up some great deals from a neighbor on things you do need.

Head over to www.hamlinemidway.org/garagesale to register your sale now, and be sure to come out and see what your neighbors have for sale while getting better acquainted with your community on May 30, from 8am to 3pm.

"Shop Snelling": support our local businesses throughout construction

Construction is underway on Snelling Ave. For the duration of the summer, it's going to be a hassle getting around the area, but it's going to be even harder on many of the valued businesses on or near Snelling that depend on easy access for their customers. Let's show our local businesses we value them and do what we can as a collective community to ease the burden of construction.

We are confident that in the long-term this project will do a great deal to revitalize this important neighborhood route and will go a long way to making Snelling a safer, more pleas-

ant place to travel, shop, work and be. In the meantime, let's work together to ease the transition for our local business community.

Do you have regular meetings or dates in the neighborhood? Why not host them at one of the great businesses on Snelling? Take some time and make an effort to visit a new business in the neighborhood you've been meaning to explore. Take a chance and go somewhere new, or just make an extra effort to patronize your favorite spots on Snelling.

Your dollars go furthest when spent close to home, and you can make them go even further by supporting a local business on Snelling Ave. that might be facing a tough couple of months. Support our local business community and make the effort to "Shop Snelling."

For the latest detour and closure information, you can sign up to receive alerts and notices at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/snelling-falconheights>. Also stay tuned to the HMC Newsletter, Facebook and Twitter for regular updates. Check hamlinemidway.org/snelling-construction-2015 for project background and major developments.

St. Paul Knight Arts Challenge now open for submissions

You can now send in your best ideas for the arts in St. Paul for a chance at funding through the Knight Arts Challenge. It's your turn to inspire St. Paul's arts scene. You're here because, like us, you believe the arts are the highest form of human expression. They describe beauty, speak to our soul, engage and enrage. They celebrate our community's diversity and etch our shared experience. The arts inspire.

The Knight Arts Challenge draws the best and most innovative ideas out of local organizations and individuals seeking to transform the community through the arts. The Midway Murals project now afoot in Hamline Midway was a winner last year.

The deadline is May 18, the application is available at KnightArts.org, and there are just three rules to follow:

- The idea must be about art.
- It must take place in or benefit St. Paul
- You must find additional funding to match the Knight Foundation grant.

If your idea falls within these three rules, you're eligible. And that means everyone from private companies to non-profit organizations and individuals. You don't have to live or work in St. Paul either. Your idea just has to take place in or benefit the city. The Knight Arts Challenge St. Paul is truly open to anyone. Head over to KnightArts.org to submit your idea now.

Urban Tennis

Continued from page 7

leadership kids really do that," noted Stoner.

"It's just great to see the kids develop as coaches and leaders," agreed Cantellano, navigating through their own self discovery.

Wong has seen many kids from the Eastside who had never played tennis before go through the summer camps and go on to be coaches themselves. Many of them are first and second generation Hmong and Karen immigrants who said later that this program kept them off the streets. They've gone on to be the first in their families to attend college.

"To see these outcomes makes everything we do worthwhile," said Wong.

Free family night June 12

"The best part of SPUT is that we offer the opportunity to kids to try the game and see what fun it is," stated Stoner. "We provide rackets and even shoes. There's no excuse. Everyone can get out there and get active," encouraged Cantellano.

To kick off SPUT's 25th summer, there will be free family nights/open houses on Fri., June 12, from 4:30-6:30 at all 30 park sites. Visit www.urbantennis.org for a list of sites and to register for all SPUT programs. Or, call the SPUT office at 612-222-2879.



Coaches Mai Vang and Pajar Lee (both former SPUT students and now coaches) with some students proudly displaying earned SPUT bucks at the Washington Tech High School site last year. Kids can earn SPUT bucks by demonstrating SPIRIT to apply towards shoes, rackets and other clothing that has been donated. S-P-I-R-I-T stands for Service, Perseverance, Integrity, Responsibility, Imagination and Teamwork.



SPUT's U12 Advanced Team won the regional USTA championship last summer. Pictured, Front row: Yunissa Vu, Jack Sweeney, and Ryan Sweeney. Back row: Coach Ricky Moua, Oliver Hicks, Riley Eddins, Emerson Ellington, Surena Vu, and Coach Emily Walz.

URBAN TENNIS FREE FAMILY FUN NIGHT/OPEN HOUSE
Friday, June 12 • 4:30-6:30 p.m. at all 30 park sites.
Visit www.urbantennis.org for a list of sites

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THE NEWMAN SCHOOL



Mister Michael Recycles Bicycles

Bike shop in Midway is on a mission



A volunteer trues a wheel on a give-away bike. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

Benita and Michael Warns in one of their six garages. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Shop owners Michael and Benita Warns have a lot in common. They own a business together: Mister Michael Recycles Bicycles at 520 Prior Ave. N. They're "tandem people," who enjoy riding their bicycle built for two. They're both engineers, they abhor waste, and they *really* like giving away recycled bikes.

By their own estimates, they've given away more than 4,000 bicycles in the course of their ministry, which is what they call their work. In 1998, a young boy in their Midway neighborhood saw Mike and Benita were always tinkering with bikes. He

dragged one over to their garage and asked, "Can you fix this?" The bike wasn't much, but that young neighbor, who is grown now and a vital part of the shop team, figured it'd get him around. It did that and more. The broken bike started a 17 year friendship between the three biking enthusiasts, and launched a business idea.

"Our main focus is on giving away bikes," Benita said. "Among our diverse recipients are low income kids, college students, new immigrants, neighbors, residents of half-way houses, and homeless people. Our bikes are available to anyone – we don't have an intake process or ask any questions."

The shop operates on a break-even basis and succeeds because the raw materials are free, and volunteers donate many hours of repair time and skill.

There is a small selection of repaired/refurbished bikes for sale, as well as an assortment of new and used bike parts.

Customers can bring their own bikes in for repair at the rate of \$15/hour. Ninety percent of the income earned goes right back into upkeep and operation of the store. The remaining 10% is given away to charity. The volunteers designate a different charity each quarter; recipients from 2014 included the ALS Foundation, Feline Rescue,

Anne Bancroft Foundation and Sisters Camelot.

Michael and Benita make the rounds of various community recycling centers and pick up bikes that are considered junk. "Those that are beyond repair, we tear apart," Michael said, "but we salvage as many parts as possible and use them to repair other bikes. We've been able to keep a whole lot of metal from going into local landfills."

They've been at their current location for seven years. "We operated out of our garage at first," Benita said. "Over the course of ten years, we had to keep renting more garages and it didn't make

sense to have bikes stored in so many different places. We needed a more formal arrangement. When we heard that 520 Prior Ave. was for rent with a retail front and six garages out back, we figured it was just about perfect."

The store is open for business on Tuesday and Thursday from 7-9pm and Sunday from 12-4pm. Those are also times when volunteers are invited in to help repair bikes for give-away. Bring your bike repair skills, whatever they might be, and learn to answer the question yourself, "Can you fix this?"

Upcoming summer events at Hamline University

MAY 22-23

Commencement

Commencement ceremonies and other activities will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 22, for the law school, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, for undergraduate and graduate students. We ask for your patience as we welcome friends and families of our graduates to the neighborhood.

hamline.edu/commencement

JUNE 22-26

Minnesota Private College Week

Attend an open house, go on a tour, and learn more about Hamline during this week for prospective undergraduate students and their parents.

651-523-2207

AUGUST 27 TO SEPTEMBER 7

Hamline at the Minnesota State Fair

Visit the Hamline University booth at the Education Building while you're at the Great Minnesota Get-Together this summer. Don't forget to stop by and see us at the Eco Experience Building also!

JULY 10-19

Readings by Celebrated Children's Authors

Each July, celebrated authors gather at Hamline for the MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults residency. As part of this 10-day event, the authors offer free readings of their published and in-progress works. The readings are free and open to adults and kids of all ages. Check the Hamline website in June for the schedule.

For a full listing of events, please visit hamline.edu/events-listing.html.

