



# monitor

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## State Explorer Will Steger's latest trek brings urgent message of global warming

By JAN WILLMS

The excited sound of children's voices fills the air. It is a Sunday afternoon, and children from elementary, junior high and high schools have gathered at the University of Minnesota to receive the Carbon Buster Awards of Excellence. Through video, pictures and essays they have presented ideas to conserve energy and tackle climate change, and today they are being rewarded by Sen. Amy Klobuchar and explorer Will Steger.

An eighth grader from Washington Technical Magnet Middle School waves repeatedly to his family as he and his classmates are honored for their video production, featuring the "Global Warming Rap."

Steger, who also judged the entries, stands out as an explorer even in a crowded room. Dressed in a grey and white heavy sweater, dark pants and hiking boots, he patiently poses for pictures with the children, greets their parents and mingles with individuals who are eager to talk with him about the threats of global warming.

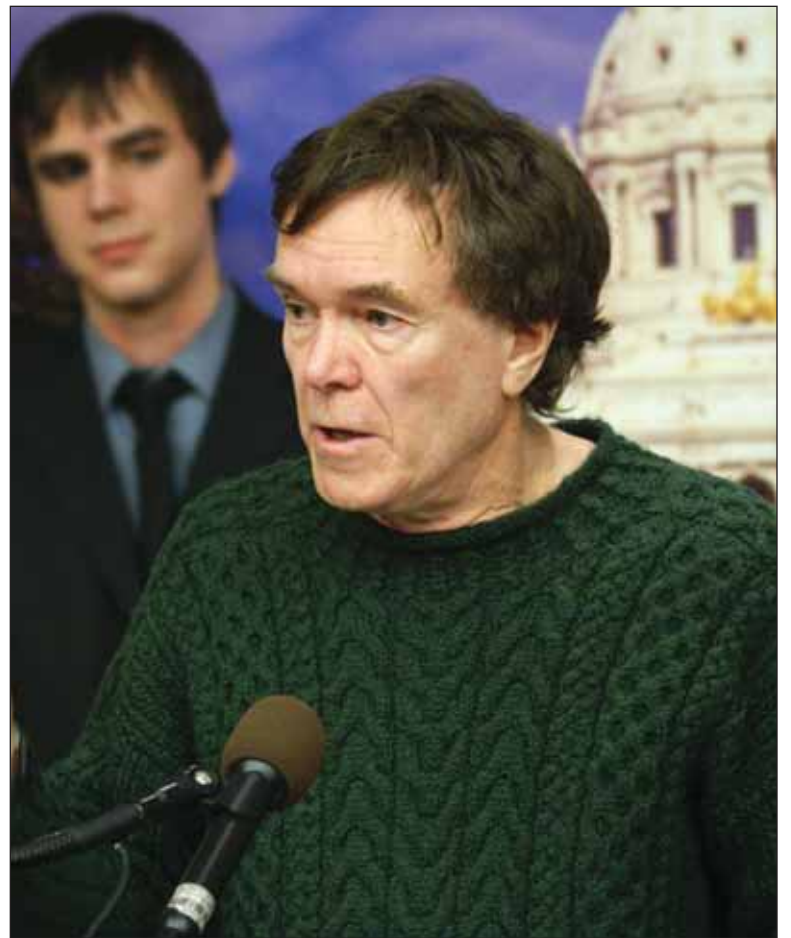
For Steger, this event and others like it across Minnesota, meet-

ing with elementary and high school students, offering presentations at Hamline University and the University of St. Thomas, and talking to small gatherings in church basements, are a far cry from the peaceful life at his cabin in Ely, MN.

After completing several historic dogsled expeditions to the North Pole, Greenland and Antarctica and kayaking thousands of miles of northern rivers, he returned to Ely to write and build furniture.

This simplistic existence has changed to a hectic, flurrying schedule of racing to meetings, giving lectures and offering presentations to schools and businesses alike, all for the purpose of alerting the country about the perils of global warming.

"I have been working on climate issues for the past 20 years," Steger said. "But what really moved me to start getting so active was this past administration not showing any direction (in global warming concerns) in 2002 and 2003. I saw everything happening in the Antarctic, and I thought I should get more socially engaged



Explorer Will Steger talked about energy priorities while Macalester student Timothy Denherder-Thomas listened. Students from Macalester, Hopkins High School and the University of Minnesota joined Steger in an Energy Forum with Governor Tim Pawlenty. Later, Steger talked with reporters about his activities March 3. (Photo by Terry Faust)

in the community. I left my life, headed out here, and started this rolling."

Steger said there has been a big change in the schools' acceptance of him voicing his concerns about the environment, just in the past two years.

"A lot of schools wouldn't let you talk about it," he said. "But you must start from the young kids up."

Steger said he had very recently been speaking to a group of big businesses and corporations. "Many of them are skeptics," he said. "It's something you expect, I guess. Enlightenment is coming from the younger kids. The younger they are, the more enlightened. You almost have to get the elementary children's voices out to the adults."

Steger noted, however, that not all of the adult population offers deaf ears. He said there are many older individuals who are aware of the issues of global warming and what it means to the planet.

"There are just a lot of people in leadership positions who question my concerns," Steger said. "But I can teach them about global warming in 15 minutes."

In January 2006 he established the Will Steger Foundation, dedicated to creating programs

which foster international leadership and cooperation through environmental education and policy.

The Foundation's Global Warming 101 initiative raises broad public awareness about global warming as witnessed through Steger's polar expeditions.

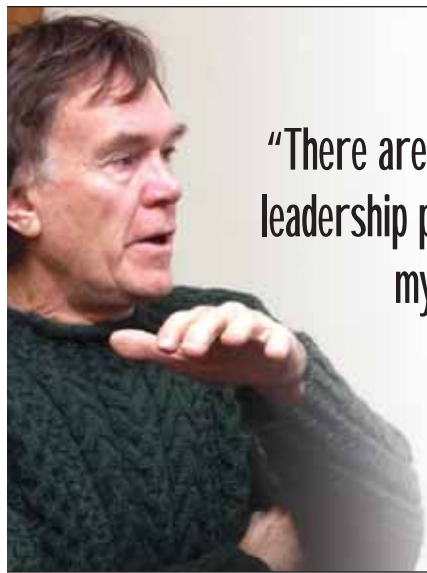
Steger has already led a four-month dogsled expedition in 2007 across the Canadian Arctic's Banfil Island, joining with four Inuit hunters to explore the impact of global warming on the Inuit culture, as well as the effects on polar bears of the region.

In April, he plans to bring six young people from four different countries on an expedition across Canada's Ellesmere Island. During the 1,400-mile trip, the group will visit ice shelves that have collapsed due to global warming and those that are on the brink of collapse. They are traveling 480 miles above the North Pole, on the northern coast of the third largest and northernmost island in the Canadian Arctic.

"This expedition has three main purposes," Steger said. "It will show people firsthand what is happening; it will encourage people to start working on their social networks and it will help drive the youth into action."

"There are just a lot of people in leadership positions who question my concerns."

- Will Steger



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# monitor

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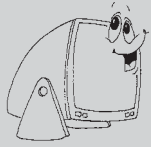
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## Monitor in a Minute

### Orchard Rec home to St. Paul Blackhawks

Orchard Recreation Center will soon become the new home of the St. Paul Blackhawks Soccer organization. An agreement between the city and the soccer organization is being finalized, said Kathy Korum, manager of recreation services for St. Paul Parks and Recreation.

Orchard, which is located in the South Como neighborhood, is one of eight St. Paul recreation centers closed and transferred to other non-profit operators under Mayor Chris Coleman's 2008 budget. Under the agreements for the centers there will still be public access to playgrounds and fields. In most cases there will also be access to gym space.

Orchard had originally been slated for demolition. City officials consider it to be a small, oddly designed structure. One complaint is that building design and window placement made it difficult for parks staff to easily monitor the playground and fields from inside the building.

The other seven recreation centers closed are still in process of having facility management transferred. Earlier this year Lexington-Hamline Community Council decided it lacked the financial capacity to operate Dunning Recreation Center in that neighborhood. The council had negotiated with the city for the past few months. The Arts-U.S. group and at least one senior organization are eyeing that space. Desnoyer Park is being considered by two groups, a preschool and the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's KidsPark drop-in day care program.

St. Clair Recreations space was taken over by West Seventh Community Center. That meant the popular Urban Tennis program, which was housed at St. Clair, has moved to Rice

Recreation in the North End. Merrick Community Services has taken over the former Eastview space. St. Paul Public Schools has taken over management of three recreation center spaces in schools – Homcroft, Highwood Hills and Frost Lake.

### McDonald's plan goes to Commission

A proposal to rebuild the Rice Street McDonald's restaurant goes before the St. Paul Planning Commission and its Zoning Committee this month. The commission will consider a conditional use permit and modification of a number of conditions for a new restaurant at 1535 Rice St.

The Planning Commission Zoning Committee will hear the request March 13, with the full Planning Commission casting its vote as early as March 21. A Commission decision will be final unless there is an appeal to the St. Paul City Council.

The restaurant has been on Rice Street for many years. The current proposal calls for tearing down the existing structure and replacing it.

All drive-through restaurants and coffee houses in St. Paul are required to have conditional use permits. The permits are used to regulate a number of issues including placement of speakers, volume of speakers, traffic flow and any other design issues. The current restaurant has its drive-through service located west of the building, on a shared property line with residential properties. The main restaurant entrances and exits are on Rice Street.

The new plans call for placement of the drive-through service between the building and the street, location of a driveway within 60 feet of a residential property and access from a primarily residential street. All of these site issues require modification of conditions, before the restaurant can be built.

Hoyt Avenue is the east-west residential street to the north of the restaurant site. Residents there and District 6 Planning Council have been notified about the site changes.

### Iris Park dwelling to be sold

A troubled Iris Park dwelling will be sold and rehabilitated by its new owner, under an agreement approved February 20 by the St. Paul City Council. 1897 Feronia Av. had been slated for demolition, as a result of City Council action in February 2007.

The property is one of a growing number in St. Paul that are sitting vacant. More than 1,600 properties are currently empty. Most are in some stage of the foreclosure process. That was also the case with the Iris Park property when it went through the city's property code enforcement process.

The building has been a problem property for years. Neighbors have complained about its deteriorated condition, as well as garbage, tall weeds and unshoveled snow and ice.

After the city voted to have the Feronia building demolished, the city then faced a legal challenge from the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and Kally U.S. Limited Liability Company. That lawsuit was filed with the Minnesota Court of Appeals last year.

Fannie Mae is now selling the property to Kally U.S. That company has posted a \$10,000 performance bond with the city and set up a \$50,000 escrow account, which will exclusively be used to pay for the property's rehabilitation. Kally U.S. has agreed to complete an agreed-upon list of property improvements listed in a May 2007 code compliance report. Kally U.S. will then sell the property to a reputable, screened tenant.

As part of the settlement the city will continue to monitor the property and its rehabilitation. The demolition order issued last

year by the City Council remains in effect until the rehabilitation is done.

If the rehabilitation work is not done by August 15, 2008 the \$10,000 performance bond reverts to the city.

As a condition of the settlement, Fannie Mae will give the city \$10,200 to cover the legal costs incurred by the City Attorney's Office.

### Central Corridor open house

Area residents and business owners interested in future land uses along the Central Corridor light rail line invited to attend a community open house on Saturday, March 29th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Avenue (south side of University, just east of Lexington). The City of St. Paul and a St. Paul Planning Commission task force are hosting the open house on Central Corridor station area planning.

The open house is a drop-in format and visitors do not need to stay for the day. City planners will be on hand to provide information and answer questions. Each station area will have a separate display.

Light refreshments will be served.

Last year the City Council adopted a development strategy for Central Corridor, to plan for future redevelopment along St. Paul's section of the light rail line. The task force is now working on plans for seven St. Paul station areas — Westgate, Raymond, Fairview, Snelling, Lexington, Dale and Rice.

Planning for downtown station areas and for the Hamline, Victoria and Western stations planned for the future will be handled at a later date.

Draft plans for each of the seven station areas have been prepared, with suggestions for future land use, zoning, public spaces and pedestrian and bicy-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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# Key decisions on Central Corridor spur engineering studies

By JANE MCCLURE

Key decisions on the Central Corridor have been made, so that project engineering studies can continue toward a September deadline. The full Metropolitan Council voted February 27 to finalize the University Avenue route and a number of its key features.

If federal and state funding can be lined up, the \$909.1 million project would start construction in 2010. Operations would start in 2014. Trains would run every 7.5 minutes and would run 21 hours a day, seven days a week.

"This, I feel, is a historic day," said Metropolitan Council Chairman Peter Bell. Both the full council and its Corridor Management Committee approved the route and numerous features.

Approval February 27 was seen as critical to getting the project's engineering work done in time for a September submission to the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA).

A compromise plan hammered out last month means some features along the 11-mile line have to be dropped or delayed. Many Midway area residents and business owners had lobbied hard for up to three additional stations, at Hamline, Victoria and Western. The plan adopted February 27 calls for the infrastructure for those stations to be installed now with the stations themselves to be added in the future. Although Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega pushed through a provision that calls for at least one station to be built if there are project contingency fund dollars left over, some station supporters say it could be years before any of the stations are built.

Metropolitan Council officials have resisted adding the stations, citing the added costs and travel time. The cost to build each station is \$5.5 million. Installing infrastructure now would cost about half that amount, for a total of \$4.1 million.

Other activists lobbied unsuccessfully for Metropolitan Council to retain the current route 16 bus frequency, rather than cut it when and if light rail begins operating

on University. (See related story.)

One of the biggest sticking points was the University of Minnesota's request for a tunnel beneath Washington Avenue. That was eventually dropped with the understanding that putting rail at-grade on Washington means making numerous changes to surrounding streets. The need to make many improvements and changes to streets on and around the East Bank campus could eat up most if not all of the contingency fund.

Building the line at-grade would save an estimated \$147.6 million. But the University's Board of Regents, alumni association and other groups have taken issue with the notion of trains at-grade, citing concerns ranging from difficult accessing U of M Hospitals and Clinics, access to classrooms, impacts on research facilities and pedestrian safety.

Kathleen O'Brien, who represents the University of Minnesota on the Corridor Management Committee, said there are concerns about the impacts on U of M Hospitals and clinics if access is affected. "Many of the people who come are ill. These are exactly the kind of people who need an easy way into and out of campus." One idea on the table is to leave hospital and hospital ramp traffic on Washington.

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak also pointed out that there are concerns about traffic impacts that could spill over into neighborhoods around the campus. He urged that more be done to plan for and mitigate those problems.

Other highlights of the plan include:

\*The east end of the line would end in front of the Union Depot at Fourth and Sibley streets, not at the depot's concourse as Ramsey County officials had hoped. That cuts as much as \$58 million from the project costs.

\*Trains would run diagonally through the downtown St. Paul block bounded by Fifth, Cedar, Fourth and Minnesota streets. That saves \$2.6 million.

\*University Avenue would not be rebuilt curb to curb but

would instead have a less expensive mill and overlay, in which only part of the road's surface is removed and replaced. That would save \$25 million.

Business leaders and city officials had lobbied for the street to be rebuilt storefront to storefront, saying that the improvements should be made at a time when the street is already torn up.

\*Three-car station platforms would be built to accommodate future expansion. Some Hiawatha stations were built with two-car platforms and cannot easily be expanded now. That adds \$15 million.

\*Modifications to the Washington Avenue Bridge to carry trains over the Mississippi River, adding \$25 million.

\*Addition of a vehicle maintenance facility and tracks to the facility, adding a total of \$28.5 million.

Over the past several weeks an array of light rail options have been debated.

Keeping the most expensive options in the Central Corridor plan pushed costs to as high as \$1.25 billion. The project has been hovering around \$990 million, but with the cuts, that is reduced to \$909 million.

Metropolitan Council staff had said the project needed to stay at \$840 million to meet the Cost Effectiveness Index, a federal formula used to determine which transit projects do and don't get funded. That goal has been revised upward to \$900 million. The figure announced February 13 puts the CEI at \$23.80. It needs to be at \$23.99 for the project to be viable at the federal level.

Meeting the CEI is critical because it is expected that the federal government would pay for \$450 million or half of the project's capital costs. The state would kick in \$300 million, with Ramsey County paying \$105 million and Hennepin County \$45 million.

The February 27 vote ended a flurry of activity all along the line, including a series of community listening sessions and key decisions by the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority and St. Paul



City Council.

The City Council

voted

unanimously

February 6 to

call for the addition of

Hamline, Victoria and Western

stations. Ramsey County Board

members voted 7-0 February 12 to

drop the notion of a rail connection

to the Union Depot concourse and

support the call for three additional

stations.

Ramsey County, St. Paul, St. Paul

Area Chamber of Commerce, Midway

Chamber of Commerce and state

legislators hailed the city-county

compromise at a February 12 press

conference. Ramsey County Regional

Rail Authority Chairperson Jim

McDonough said the compromise is

a 'critically important step' toward

getting Central Corridor built.

State Representative Alice Hausman

said she will work to make sure the

project gets \$140 million from the

2008 Minnesota Legislature. Governor

Tim Pawlenty has threatened to cut

that amount to \$70 million if project

costs could not be cut.

The hard decisions that had to be

made for Central Corridor will pay off,

McDonough said. He expects train

ridership to exceed all projections.

But the county's compromise means

postponing its long-held plan for a

multi-modal transit hub at the Depot

concourse. County commissioners are

supporting the idea of trains stopping

on Fourth Street in front of the Union

Depot's white-columned head house.

The concourse is one block to the

south, on property the county is

buying from the United States Postal Service.

Dropping the concourse connection doesn't end their hopes for a multi-modal transit hub at the concourse. "It's no secret that Ramsey County wishes this line would pull into the concourse," said Commissioner Toni Carter. But adding the maintenance facility at the line's east end makes it easier to extend rail to the concourse later.

Commissioner Tony Bennett, one of the most staunch concourse connection proponents, said he voted for the compromise reluctantly. He expressed disappointment that nothing is being done at Snelling and University to mitigate traffic problems there. That decision has been stalled largely due to opposition to reconstruction plans from residents of surrounding neighborhoods.

Bennett also noted that Central Corridor, as it is designed, will not provide the speed some transit users are looking for. "This will be one of the slowest lines in the country," he said. Riders looking for a faster trip will be better off taking express buses on Interstate 94.

In exchange for dropping the concourse connection request, Ramsey County is asking Metropolitan Council for three things. One is the three additional stations. The second request is that there be no delays in getting Central Corridor funded and built. The current timeline calls for starting construction in 2010. Trains would start running in 2014.

The third demand is that there be a light rail maintenance yard built on county-owned property south of Kellogg Boulevard, near the LaFayette Bridge. The maintenance yard would be designed in a way that allows light rail to later be extended to the concourse. Current Central Corridor plans call for no maintenance facility in St. Paul.

Now the focus is on the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and Hennepin County. Work will continue on traffic and bus issues around Washington Avenue. Studies will also continue of a northern alignment that would take trains closer to the new football stadium, and research facilities planned for that part of the campus. Those studies will be done in the next few months but could not be completed in time for the scoping decisions February 27.



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# Residents respond to Central Corridor plans

By JANE MCCLURE

When and if it is built, Central Corridor light rail would travel through some of the region's most transit-dependent neighborhoods. But light rail operations would mean service cuts and longer waits between stops for the Route 16 bus and elimination of Route 50 express service. That's an unacceptable option for many area residents, business owners and elected officials.

Although the February 27 Metropolitan Council vote on project scoping does include infrastructure for infill stations to be added later at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues, there are concerns that the stations may be added much later — if at all.

Before the council vote, several people held up "Stops for Us" signs in the meeting room. Merriam Park resident Anne White leads the District Councils Collaborative, a group of neighborhood organizations along the rail line. She noted it has taken five years to get the lone Hiawatha Line infill station built on that route, in Bloomington.

"While we're happy to have the station infrastructure added to the project, we just think it could be a long time before we actually see any stations," White said.

Other activists lobbied unsuccessfully for Metropolitan Council to retain the current route 16 bus frequency, rather than cut it when and if light rail begins operating on University. Buses now run at frequencies of about 10 minutes. That would be cut to 20 minutes when light rail begins operating. Metropolitan Council Chair Peter Bell has resisted the calls for main-

taining the current frequency of bus service, saying University Avenue already has more transit service than any other corridor in the Twin Cities.

When light rail is operating, Route 16 buses will stop at 20-minute intervals during rush hour and 30-minute intervals. Buses currently operate at 9-minute intervals at peak periods and 15 minutes at non-peak times. While adding infill light rail stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues is seen as one way to provide more access to transit, transit advocates say it doesn't address the needs of many bus riders who face longer waits for service.

Hamline-Midway resident Reggie Aligada represents neighborhoods on the committee. He notes that the high ridership of Route 16 is being used as argument to put light rail down University Avenue. Yet many residents have indicated that the one-mile distances between rail stops is too far for the elderly, people with young children or people carrying groceries or other heavy items.

Of transit-dependent residents, Aligada said, "We cannot have a situation where we make their lives more difficult due to transportation."

"The 16 is kind of an unusual animal," said Mayor Chris Coleman, who rode that bus when he lived in Frogtown. He questioned how computer models on ridership, which are used to justify federal funding for the rail line, can quantify a bus route that may be someone's only access to shopping or work.

Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin said shorter wait times between Route

16 stops should be explored. He said that when the Hiawatha Line was built, there were no comparable south Minneapolis bus lines it replaced. He called 30-minute waits for a University Avenue bus during non-peak times "problematic."

Another concern raised by Corridor Management Committee members and citizens is that of connecting bus service. The current Central Corridor plan calls for one new north-south line, down Lexington Parkway, and circular bus service that would go as far north as Minnehaha Avenue and as far south as St. Clair Avenue. Frequency of service on the north-south connecting routes is a question Corridor Management Committee want more information on.

justice organizations weighed in. Metropolitan Council members heard from a group of Somali residents from the Skyline Towers high-rise at 1247 St. Anthony Av., the Hmong Business Association and several minority business owners.

Arguments for the stations centered on increased access to rail transit, as well as the potential redevelopment opportunities added station sites could bring. Many people characterized the push for additional stations as one of seeking equity for poorer neighborhoods that are giving up some of their bus service.

"We don't see them as infill stations," said Summit-University Planning Council representative Carl Nelson. "We see them as sta-

tion. "I just comes down to, for me, who are we going to service?" said Lexington-Hamline resident Paul Slattery. "Is rail for the people in the neighborhood or is it for commuters?"

Hamline-Midway resident Benita Warns said that the decision to put light rail on University Avenue was made by the Ramsey County Board, without the same level of public input that was heard before the original Central Corridor route decision was made in 1991. That decision put rail down the Interstate 94 median.

Warns and several other speakers said if rail must built on University, it has to benefit the residents of surrounding neighborhoods. "Are you listening?" she asked Bell.

Andrea Lubov of Jewish Community Action said area residents are being asked to give up bus service in exchange for the rail project. "Neighborhoods will put up with a lot of noise. Businesses will put up with a lot of disruption," she said. Rents and property taxes may go up, forcing the poor out.

One of the most forceful speakers was lifelong area resident and former Ward One St. Paul City Council Member Debbie Montgomery. She reminded the Metropolitan Council that St. Paul's African-American community lost many homes and much of its business district when Interstate 94 was run through the Rondo neighborhood. Added stations would help restore economic vitality to the area that never fully recovered from those losses. "I want you to remember that," she said.

"The 16 is kind of an unusual animal."

- Mayor Chris Coleman

The high demand for local service on Route 16 prompted the call for three more light rail transit stations at a series of Central Corridor listening sessions held in February. More than 300 people attended the sessions, with 88 speakers and more than 100 emails and letters sent.

The three added stations topped the list of concerns, said Aligada. "This was the issue — no doubt about that."

At a series of listening sessions in February, the demand for more stations dominated the public comments. Many area district councils, community development corporations, religious and social

conditions needed to meet the needs of the community."

Metropolitan Council has proposed building station infrastructure when the line is built and then adding stations later. But Anne White, chair of the District Councils Collaborative, said it's better to build the three new rail stations sooner rather than later. She said Metropolitan Council ends to look at the implications of a delay and what that means for transit-dependent communities.

Summit-University resident Jackie Cooper said light rail should benefit the community, not destroy neighborhoods and make peoples' lives more difficult. "If we

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# North End condo project appeal

By JANE MCCLURE

Conversion of a long-vacant lot and wetland area into a 50-unit condominium building will have negative consequences for residential, commercial and industrial neighbors of the North End project. That was the argument project foes made February 20 before the St. Paul City Council. But those against Alliance Properties' project were unable to persuade the council to block the project and uphold their appeal. That means construction on the block bounded by Sylvan, Cottage and Mayre streets can go ahead unless there is a court challenge.

The property is currently vacant. It is zoned for multi-family residential use so no further zoning changes are needed.

Several neighborhood residents and business owners attended the council meeting. Earlier this year the project obtained a conditional use permit and variances from the St. Paul Planning Commission. The project

also has support from District 6 (North End-South Como) Planning Council. Neighbors appealed the Planning Commission decision to the City Council.

The permit is needed so that the developer can fill and replace part of a wetland on the property. The project was granted a front yard set back variance and a parking variance. The developer said the variances are needed because of the configuration of the lot and the desire to have open space, including the wetland.

Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen said he understands that the project will bring a major change to the area. But he believes the condominiums should go ahead, saying the development has treated the site "with care and thought." The project went through city staff and watershed district reviews to address site and wetlands-related concerns.

"I think this will be a much-needed improvement to the neighborhood," Helgen said.



Construction on the long-vacant block bounded by Sylvan, Cottage and Mayre Streets can go ahead unless there is a court challenge. Residential, commercial and industrial neighbors of the site tried to persuade the City Council that the 50-unit condominium project would have negative consequences.

Dale Capistrant, who owns Cappie's Trucking and a self-storage business on Sylvan Street, said the condominium project will remove what has long been a barrier between the area's residential and industrial properties.

Other projects have been proposed for the property in question in the past, he said, but have been denied.

"The vast majority of home owners and business owners in the area feel that this project is too large," said project neighbor Dennis Chisholm. The building is too close to Mayre and Cottage streets, and doesn't appear to provide any room for a sidewalk along those streets.

"The condominium project not only removes a buffer between the industrial properties and the neighborhoods, it will bring in at least an additional 50 cars a day," said Capistrant. He and other business owners are concerned that once the new housing is up and new owners move in, they will complain

about the business traffic. Businesses that use the adjacent streets include Capistrant's businesses, as well as a house-moving company and a bus company.

The impression some business owners are getting is that the city is trying to force them out of the area, Capistrant said.

The project raises a host of environmental concerns, neighbors say. Six of the businesses in the area use wells, as do some residential property owners. It's not known what impacts if any that filling part of the condominium site's wetlands will have on those wells.

Some neighbors in the area have been told they cannot have city water and have dug wells. Chisholm said contamination of the existing wells during construction of the project is a real concern.

The construction is also coming at a bad time, said Chisholm. The Rice Street Bridge nearby will be removed this summer and traffic detoured. Con-

struction on top of the detour could cause problems for the neighborhood.

Neighbors are also very concerned about impacts on wildlife, as well as the destruction of woods and wetlands. They aren't mollified by requirements that the wetlands be replaced elsewhere on the development site.

Lack of notice of neighborhood meetings and meetings of the Capital Region Watershed District were additional objections neighbors raised. Some said they were not fliered about community meetings or did not receive fliers.

"We didn't receive any notices from District 6," said Chisholm. He was frustrated in trying to get information on the project, until he contacted Helgen's office.

Chisholm was also unhappy about the time limits the City Council imposed on the public hearing, noting, "They get a year and we get 15 minutes?"

Kerri Antrim, District 6 Planning Council Community Organizer, said the neighborhood was fliered prior to a land use committee meeting. She said the project will provide an improved wetland as well as enhanced housing stock for the neighborhood.

Helgen apologized to neighbors who feel they did not get adequate notice of the project. District councils get no dedicated funding for mailing meeting notices or newsletters and must rely on volunteers or others to deliver fliers.

The city only sends out notices to property owners within 100 feet of a project.

"The quality of the wetland is definitely going to be improved," said project architect Steve Erban. He said the property has been a dumping ground for refuse and a site of parties, quipping that neighbors must be concerned about a "different kind of wildlife."

Erban said the project will provide improved water quality because it will have underground parking and not a large parking lot that would drain into the wetlands.

The three-story building had to be set back from the wetland as far as possible. It will be closest to and face Mayre Street. It is in a mixed-use neighborhood of single-family and multi-family dwellings, and light industrial uses, just southwest of the Rice-Arlington intersection.


Under city zoning regulations a 25-foot front yard setback is required and a 7-foot setback is proposed, for a variance of 18 feet. The project requires 75 parking spaces and 61 are proposed, for a variance of 14 spaces.

The parking variance will also allow the developers put all of their parking underground and not have a surface lot. That will reduce the amount of runoff from a lot that could flow into the wetland area.

About 4 percent or 2,456 square feet of the wetland on the property would be removed under the development plans, and 5,693 square feet added.

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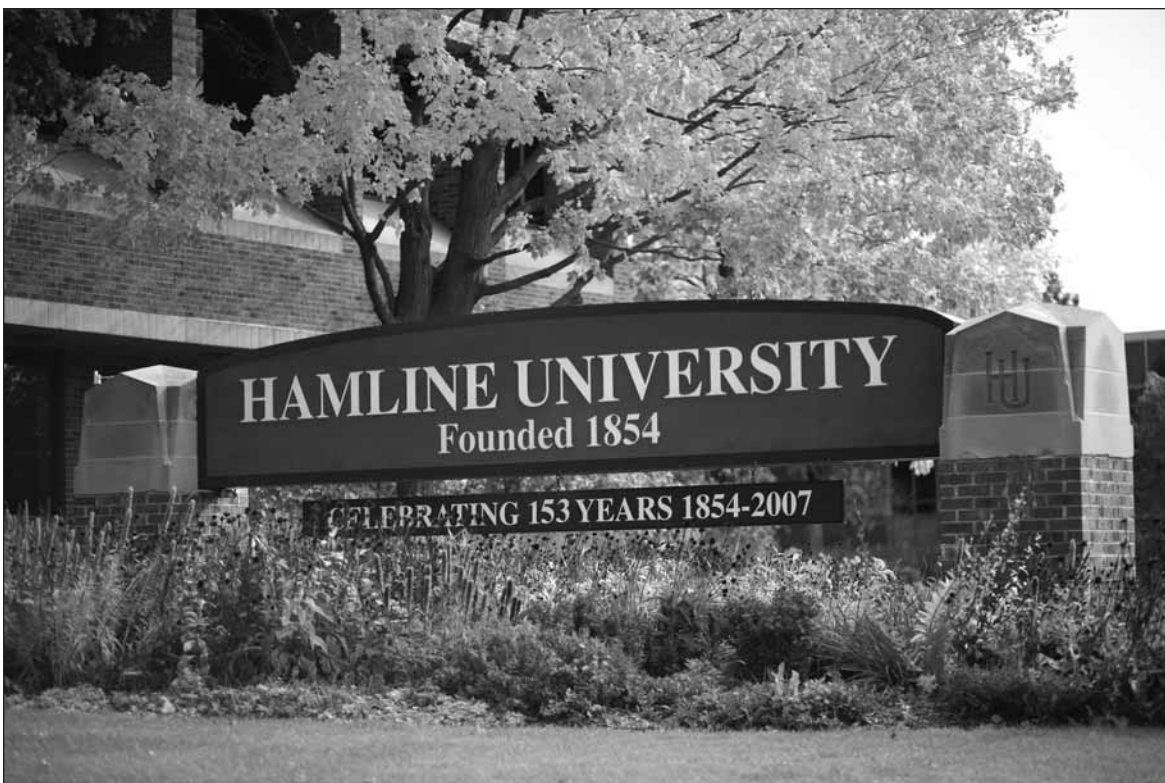
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The Hamline University of tomorrow will be very different than the Hamline of today if the administration has anything to say about it. New residential halls, classrooms, and parking garages are just a few of the additions that administration-led planning committees have decided will make the university more competitive in the 21st century. (Photos courtesy of Hamline University)

# Hamline announces plans for growing University

By ANDY FINKEN

The Hamline University of tomorrow will be very different than the Hamline of today if the administration has anything to say about it.

New residential halls, classrooms, and parking garages are just a few of the additions that administration-led planning committees have decided will make the university more competitive in the 21st century. In order to achieve their growth goals, planners are anticipating the expansion of the university outside of the current Hamline footprint.

"We have a small campus. If the number of students is increasing, you need more facilities," said senior Hamline student Ed Elfmann. Elfmann is the only student on the committee to plan the physical expansion and improvement of the campus, the master planning committee.

"The community has become a very big concern in the committee because the easiest way to build new buildings is on the perimeter of campus, said Elfmann.

Hamline's strategic plan, approved last May by the board of trustees, clearly stipulates that the university is attempting to increase the size of its undergraduate program from 1,900 students to 2,500. The plan was toiled over by a myriad of planning committees containing administrators, faculty and students.

"A big part of (of our plan) is the offering of new programs," said President of the University Linda Hanson. "We looked at the marketplace and decided what we need to offer so graduates can compete."

The biggest change to come out of the planning process is the addition of the Hamline School of Business. By offering a more competitive and timely course list, the administration believes that a business school can attain the university's desired growth. The plan is to add accounting, finance, and marketing majors to the current management, economics and international management courses.

Hanson said the university lost 4,000 perspective students to

other colleges between 2003 and 2006 because they were not offering the programs those students desired.

For many years the university has allowed other local colleges like St. Thomas to accommodate such students. It seems this is no longer the case. Now the question is where these students are going to live, park their cars and attend class. That's where the master planners come in.

"We ask the question, if you could build the perfect campus, what would it include," said Assistant Dean of Students and master planning committee member Patricia Klein. "The master plan is what the campus could or couldn't hold on its campus." She said big concerns are the already busy traffic flows on Snelling Avenue, additional parking space and the maintenance of the current campus environment and style.

"We're at full capacity right now," said Vice President for Finance and Marketing Doug Anderson. Anderson is on the planning committee as well. "We're

going to have to coalesce our needs with those of the community's," he said.

Snelling makes a western expansion very unlikely as a major highway through the middle of campus is not practical, and north is impossible as the BSNF railroad and an industrial park encompass all land north of Hamline. This leaves only two directions, and both contain mostly residential homes.

"This is one of those situations where no one is going to be completely happy," said Elfmann. "It rarely is with building projects." He said the university currently owns a lot of property south of campus around the Hamline United Methodist Church, but that expansion will take place where it can.

"Our desire is to remain a good neighbor to the community," said Anderson. "We've made an historic agreement with the neighborhood to keep the edge of our campus looking residential." In fact, that is what they've planned to do. However, the edge of campus appears to be

shifting.

On Tuesday Feb. 19 the master plan was presented to the community by representatives from Hamline's facility services and Hamline's architectural consultant Oslund and Associates. Three slightly different versions of the 20 year plan were displayed alongside two potential hybridizations of those plans.

On every plan, expansion includes most or all of the three blocks south of the university across Englewood Avenue, but never across Minnehaha Avenue one block further south. That area is currently occupied by a few university buildings, the church, community homes and Snelling businesses.

On each plan, the block that currently holds the Hamline Apartments, on the corner of Englewood and Pascal Street, student residential halls will surround a parking garage and encompass the entire block. A display at the community presentation read, "Student housing along the south and west edges of campus mirror the residential

land use of the neighboring community and buffer parking facilities." Additionally, every plan contained residence halls along the current eastern boundary of campus, but never crosses Pascal.

Englewood is completely closed off in one plan, to "facilitate a more pedestrian campus feel," states the caption. In other plans, the street is closed to varying degrees. In one, it is turned into a roundabout to facilitate a student pick up and drop off area. In each layout, the university has not expanded east, north or west past its current boundary.

The university already owns several residences in the three blocks along the south of campus. On the block outlined by Simpson and Pascal Street, only one property, 1489 Minnehaha, is not owned by the university.

In January 2007, the university purchased what is now the Hamline Wesley Center, three doors south of the Snelling Englewood Super America at 734 Snelling Ave. The building had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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# Midway couple copes with family challenges while co-pastoring at St. Paul church

By JAN WILLMS

A year ago, Midway residents Phil and Julie GabbenGreen collided head-on with the realities of life. Phil's position as a pastor in Shoreview was eliminated, and their young daughter, Lydia, was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

"Facing unemployment, and Lydia's disease, we started re-evaluating our whole lives," Phil said. "We were feeling very connected as a family," he added, and they started looking at opportunities where he and Julie could work together. Phil has been ordained in the Presbyterian Church USA, and Julie in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These church bodies have joined in full communion, and each fully recognizes ordinations of pastors of either denomination.

Enter Edgumbe Presbyterian Church, a struggling center of worship located at 2149 Edgumbe. "Here was a neighborhood church that was struggling itself with qualities of life and death," Phil said. "Can it survive?"

"The church was going through the same level of questions that we as a family were going through," added Julie. "What is working, and what is not? Who are we now?"

Phil applied, and eventually was called to serve the church.

"During the interview process, it became clear to us that we could be a really good team," he said. "The church rejected the idea, but still wanted to call me."

Phil said he responded with a thank you, but no. "You need to call us together," he said. Edgumbe Presbyterian reconsidered, and another interview was held with both Phil and Julie. On Aug. 1, they began their joint pastoral duties.

The couple had met more than 10 years ago, when both were attending school in Berkeley, CA. Julie was in her third and final academic year at a Lutheran seminary, and Phil was a first-year student at a Presbyterian seminary.

"I took a class in Greek at the Lutheran seminary, and Julie sat next to me," Phil recalled. She received a pastoral call to Portland, and the two married and he received a call there also upon his graduation.

"I left my call in 1999 and promptly got pregnant," Julie said. The couple has three children: Isaac, 7; Micah, 5 and Lydia, 3. "I was home with the kids, but taught confirmation at Phil's church while being a mom," Julie said.

The family moved to the Twin Cities in 2003 to be closer to grandparents, and Phil began a ministry in Shoreview.

The couple started having conversations about serving a church together.

"One of the reasons it was never appealing for me to pursue my own church is that church creates a place of family," Julie explained. "It would put my own family in a bind. The thought of splitting our family up on Sunday mornings was stressful."

She said that with the idea that a full communion was a pos-



Phil and Julie GabbenGreen started looking at opportunities where the couple could work together. Phil has been ordained in the Presbyterian Church USA, and Julie in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These church bodies have joined in full communion, and each fully recognizes ordinations of pastors of either denomination. Enter Edgumbe Presbyterian Church, a struggling center of worship located at 2149 Edgumbe. (Photo by Terry Faust)

sible option, and a realization that she wanted to start working again, she and Phil began talking with other clergy couples.

"Some were fine with working together, and others said their spouse was the last person they would want to work with," Julie said. "But I had been watching Phil the past seven years, and I had watched him develop and grow as a pastor. He's one of the best preachers out there, and he has a really gifted worship presence."

Julie said she wanted someone with those qualities to work with.

"I would need to work on a relationship with anyone I co-pastored with," she said. "There will always be bumps with a co-worker, and I would rather do it with my husband."

To qualify for full benefits, Phil said he needed to work half-time, so he works a few more hours than Julie, but otherwise they share all the duties.

"We generally each preach every other week," he said. "We split pastoral care."

Julie's experience with mothering and community organizing."

Julie has recently worked on creating art in the neighborhood, leading a plan to create a huge, colorful mural in the intersection by their house.

"Getting neighbors together is similar to getting community people together from the church," Phil said. "Revitalizing a place that has been kind of dormant for awhile."

Edgumbe Presbyterian has approximately 60 members, and had an average of 30 attending worship. That number has risen to 40 now.

"We went from zero children to eight, three of which are ours," Phil said.

He said the hardest issue by far in their co-pastoring is finding a babysitter.

"Any evening meeting we both want to attend, childcare is kind of a constant challenge and expense," he said.

Julia said they had drilled into their children that they had to stay with mom during worship services.

church bodies," she said. "We're also a blended experience, because our denominations are very similar."

"There are differences," Phil added with a smile, "especially in Minnesota Lutherans, who think of themselves as God's chosen people. But in the big picture of things, the differences between the Presbyterians and Lutherans are miniscule."

The GabbenGreens look back at the past year with a mixture of feelings.

"It was a year of a lot of trau-

ma and grief," Phil said. He said that in addition to their immediate family challenges, a sister-in-law had died suddenly from a brain aneurysm. But he said it was also a year of blessings.

"Friends and neighbors brought meals to our home and shoveled the sidewalks," he said, as the couple pursued treatment for Lydia. She is now stable, and Phil said that to look at her you would never know she had a serious illness.

"We talk about all of the things we have learned in this past year," he said. And part of that discussion has been about their co-pastoring at Edgumbe.

Julie said she had been impacted by church dynamics. She talked about prayer triads that had been formed at Edgumbe, and how people have become connected on a one-to-one basis.

"Groups of three met ten times for 100 minutes," she said. "There has been community listening, and we hear who others are. What are the stirrings and excitements of our own hearts? You can ask that of a church that's on the edge."

"We think Edgumbe is a great church with really great potential," Phil added. "We were the five youngest in the church when we walked in. But the longer term members have a real heart for doing ministry."

"The very questions Edgumbe is facing are also being faced at other churches," Julie said. "What are the struggles and pressures? How do we authentically live? It's fun to help shape who a church is becoming."

The couple said they are trying to model people sharing a ministry together.

"We complement each other," Julie said, "and that makes the job we have sustainable. It keeps us fresh, too."

**"During the interview process, it became clear to us that we could be a really good team."**

- Midway resident Phil GabbenGreen

"I sit on the Deacons committee, and Phil sits on Christian education and worship," Julie said.

"We're at different places at different times occasionally," Phil said, "but we like working together. I was more nervous coming in to this than Julie was, but it has been a real blessing to work together, to have a colleague, friend and life partner to share this with. We have taken some of my experience of the church the last years, and

"Now my daughter follows me up into the pulpit," she said. "She follows me wherever I go. It's cute, but not everyone may appreciate it. Kids are squirmy and not as body still as some people would like, but they have to be in on worship for us to embody the diversity of God."

She added that she and Phil have a great benefit in being from two denominations. "We have access to resources from both of our





# monitor

Spring Home Improvement Section



## Home and Garden Show March 29 can help folks get 'Green'

By DEBORAH BROTZ

With energy prices continuing to climb and the effects of global warming posing a threat to life on earth, people are interested in finding out what they can do to help with these problems. "Green" is the way they want to go. The 17th Annual Greater Midway Home & Garden Show to be held on Sat., Mar. 29, at Crossroads Elementary School, 543 Front Ave., can help them get there.

In response to visitor requests, the Show has added more "green" home improvement offerings in their workshops and vendors. This year's workshops include three eco-friendly options: Eco-Friendly Gardens, Reducing Your Carbon Footprint, and Project EcoHouse. Exhibitors will be offering energy-saving windows, insulation strategies, non-toxic cleaning products, composting ideas and more.

Another new feature is a workshop, Older/Wiser and Home Sweet Home, which explores the community resources available to support health and independence in your choice of home.

Back by popular demand is the free children's bird feeder project provided by youth working for Elpis Enterprises, a teen employment training program. The teens prepare the bird feeder kits from reclaimed wood and assist children/parents in assembling the feeder at the show. They will also have a sales booth featuring bird feeders, butterfly houses, and planters made out of recycled or reclaimed wood.

Other workshops at the show include: How to Choose a Remodeling Contractor, Creating Landscaping Spaces, and Container Gardening for Vegetables and Flowers.

The Exhibit Hall features local home improvement contractors/products, garden/landscaping experts, financing options, senior resources, "green" remodeling options, and Q & A with Ramsey County Master Gardeners. While Exhibit Hall hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m., workshops are 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

"We have a really good selection of workshops," said Beth Hyser, co-coordinator of the Greater Midway Home & Garden Show. "People were really interested in the 'green' theme."

"Green" approaches include using recycled materials, energy-efficient appliances, sustainable materials, and spending more time walking than being dependent on cars.

Ramy Selim, of Sunny Day Earth Solutions, runs a workshop on Reducing Your Carbon Footprint. In Selim, explains how people can minimize the own impact on the environment.

"Every thing we do creates carbon, like turning on lights, driving a car, or making shopping choices," he said. "How is the product packaged or manufactured? How locally is it produced? The average meal comes from 2,500 miles away."

According to Selim, people can visit websites Carbonfund.org or gocarbonzero.org to figure out what their footprint is.

"One simple thing everyone

can do is buy carbon offsets," he said. "Donate to plant trees. The biggest thing is to reduce what you use."

Selim chose Reducing Your Carbon Footprint as the title of his workshop because it's a fairly popular term these days.

"A lot of people have heard of the term," he said. "It's a good generalized talk to explain all these simple things to do to reduce carbon greenhouse gases, which are the cause of global warming."

There are thousands of things people can do to reduce their carbon footprint.

"They can drive less, take public transportation, walk, shut off lights when they're not in the room, and shut off appliances that they're not using," said Selim. "A phantom load or ghost load is something that is using electricity whether you're using it or not like cell phone chargers. If everybody in America unplugged their cell phone charger, we could shut off every nuclear power plant in the country."

Televisions, DVD players, VCRs, and garage door openers also have phantom loads.

"Something is used to turn it on," said Selim. "The average phantom load in America is 5,000 watts a day."

Selim, who is the only certified solar site assessor in the state, decided to open his business at 1000 26th Ave. S. in October 2007 because of frustration.

"I got so sick of the trouble I had finding things," he said. "When I put a solar water heater in my house a couple years ago, I

had to go 14 places to get the pieces."

At his store, Selim sells zero VOC (volatile organic compound) paints, a full line of eco-friendly cleaners, soaps and laundry detergents, compostable picnicware, compost bins, kitchen composters, dog and cat toys made of recycled soda bottles, plastic bags and lawn and leaf bags made of corn.

People are becoming more interested in the products Selim sells at his store.

"Green" has definitely become a hot topic these days," he said. "People are becoming more aware of the mess created with Earth. We are running out of fuel. People are realizing there are other alternatives."

With the addition of "green" and eco-friendly workshops, this year's Greater Midway Home & Garden Show is different than last year's show.

"We're responding to requests from folks," said Hyser. "What they would like to see more of are workshops and the 'green' lifestyle. We hope to build on them."

Hyser believes people are interested in "green" home improvements because of global warming and the rising cost of energy.

"The whole global warming issue shed light on how we're living our lives affects everybody," she said. "Unplugging things or changing light bulbs aren't that hard to do and save money. There is an environmental consciousness. You see more people go to The Reuse Center."

When light fixtures, toilets, sinks, and kitchen cabinets are pulled out of a house being renovated, they're often taken to The Reuse Center, in Minneapolis.

"They promote donating things rather than throwing them away," said Hyser. "It's the right kind of business at the right time."

With all the home and garden shows held in the Twin Cities area, the Greater Midway one is important because of the homes it focuses on.

"In St. Paul, we have older homes not suburban houses," said Hyser. "We're celebrating the St. Paul community and older homes and seeing the good things to do with that. We want people to be proud to live in their neighborhood, build community and to stay and improve their homes."

While all the big shows charge admission with the latest and greatest products, St. Paul homeowners may not be looking for those things.

"A lot of those shows don't have the kind of materials and services useful to city homeowners," said Hyser. "Our contractors are willing to do small projects."

Despite the recession, Hyser hopes for blockbuster attendance.

"With the eco feature, we hope to have well-attended workshops and good foot traffic," she said. "I'd like to go beyond 500. That's about our average. We have something for everybody. We're hoping people will take some new ideas and run with that."



# People still investing in their prime investment: their homes

By DEBORAH BROTZ

While the mortgage crisis and home foreclosures have fueled talk of a recession, people are still investing in their homes by doing home improvements. Many of the improvements are focused on saving energy with new energy-saving windows, insulation, and new siding.

Dave Austad, owner of Austad Construction who has 25 years of experience, says they're seeing a lot of exterior rehabilitations.

"People want their homes to be energy efficient," he said. "Windows have really taken off with the energy crisis. A lot of homes have single-pane glass with a storm window on the outside, which is not very energy efficient. People want to tighten things up and improve their homes."

Another thing Austad has done a lot of is insulation.

"The economy is not as good as it was," he said. "People are investing in their homes to stay there.

People can cut down their heating bills 15 to 20 percent by putting in energy-saving windows and insulation. People are spending money on things they see a payback in."

The cost of doing home improvements has increased slightly.

"We've seen some increases due to the price of fuel," said Austad. "Everything runs on gas and oil. We've seen materials go up seven to 10 percent in the past year. Most things are made from a petroleum product or made with a petroleum product."

The kinds of improvements homeowners are making today have not changed much from a year ago.

"We're primarily doing the same things," said Austad. "People basically want to guarantee their house is solid. They're not doing as many frivolous things like koi ponds in the backyard. They're doing roofs, window replacement, and insulation. They can see a payback on these."

While Austad says they also do pavers and patios, that business has dropped off quite a bit.

"That's where people are cutting back," he said. "If they improve their insulation and windows, in five years that's all paid off. If the price of gas and oil continues to climb, by doing it now the savings will be there for them."

Homeowners are doing many "green" energy projects.

"People believe in stopping global warming by saving energy," said Austad. "They're changing all bulbs in their house to fluorescent bulbs. People consider re-insulation to be green."

The whole industry is moving toward 'green.' More and more materials are being recycled."

Austad says the industry has "green" materials available for siding.

"The problem with vinyl is that it's a cheap solution," he said. "They're starting to recycle new stuff. Before, they could not recycle



Brad Nilles, of Nilles Builders, Inc., which has been in business for 30 years, says people in the Como Park, North End, and Midway areas are doing infrastructure improvements such as rain gutters, siding, and roofing.

because of its different formulas. Steel siding lasts 40 or 50 years. Vinyl siding has a life expectancy of 20 to 25 years. Steel costs 20 percent more, but it has a longer life cycle. People are getting away from the quick fix to a longer fix. They

are getting back to wanting quality and longevity."

Brad Nilles, of Nilles Builders, Inc., which has been in business for 30 years, says people in the Como Park, North End, and Midway areas are doing infrastructure improvements such as rain gutters, siding, and roofing.

"It's important to save money on energy bills," he said. "They're doing window and door replacements and exterior upgrading. They want their home to be warmer and dryer. Basement windows rot because of their close proximity to the ground. We replace the basement window with glass block. Since many of these are older homes, they may have original windows and siding or rain gutters. There's always demand for that kind of improvement."

People are also doing interior remodeling of kitchens and bathrooms.

"These are the two most actively used rooms in the house," said Nilles. "We do a lot of upgrading on these."

Some people are enlarging their homes to accommodate renovations.

"It happens with kitchen upgrades," said Nilles. "Upgrading the kitchen involves new cabinets, flooring, lighting and making the room larger with an addition."

Like Austad, Nilles says the kinds of home improvements homeowners are making today hasn't changed much from a year ago.

"We're doing some of everything," said Nilles. "There are no real departures from that. We also do concrete work like retaining walls, sidewalks, patios, steps, and foundation repairs."

Nilles says homeowners are interested in conserving energy.

"This is not a new trend," he said. "Homeowners are more and more aware of the high cost of heating and cooling. They are looking into replacing windows and upgrading heating equipment. They're adding insulation or re-insulating and replacing drafty doors with new, modern tight-fitting doors."

It's important for homeowners to do home improvement projects because they take pride in their homes.

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# Igniting Community Development

By SETH BENZIGER

## Non-profit CDCs play crucial role

Believe it or not, but spring is right around the corner. It may be hard to believe with the cold winter we are experiencing – but I know it is true because each night I leave work it is a little brighter outside. One interesting phenomenon of this job is the increase in calls once the weather starts to warm up. Like the primal urges for shelter, food, and fire, something inside the homeowner awakens after its winter hibernation and home improvement projects come to the forefront.

However, current economic conditions make financing these projects more difficult. With stagnant and declining home values, it is harder to find equity in the home that can be used as collateral for home improvement loans. As well, the tightening in the credit markets makes it more difficult, and expensive, for homeowners to borrow money.

In these situations where assistance from traditional lenders is unavailable, non-profit community based development corporations (CDCs) can play a crucial role in helping homeowners

finance those improvements. Oftentimes, CDC lending standards are more flexible than traditional lenders. This is not to say money is lent willy-nilly to any homeowner that walks through our doors. We do apply prudent underwriting criteria to our loan applications – but we can lend money to credit challenged homeowners. One example of this flexibility is that Sparc can lend up to 100% of the home's value. This means that the outstanding principal on loans secured against the house can equal the value of the house. Traditionally lenders will lend no more than 90% of the home's value – and nowadays sometimes less. This added flexibility allows us to help residents of our community make needed repairs.

Another great example of that flexibility can be seen in lending to seniors. While we do not have senior specific loan funds, we do have funds that fit their unique needs. Oftentimes senior homeowners have very little income, but a lot of equity in their home. CDCs have access to deferred loan funds – funds that do not require monthly payments

and are secured against the equity in those homes, due on sale. These types of products are great for keeping seniors in their home by helping them make necessary repairs and improvements without affecting their monthly budget.

In addition to home improvement financing, CDCs offer the neighborhoods they serve a wealth of knowledge in regards to home improvement. Oftentimes they can assist homeowners with contractor referrals, offer unbiased advice about home improvement projects, and refer clients to other home improvement services. In these tougher economic conditions, CDCs will play a more vital role in helping communities maintain and improve the housing stock.

There is also one last topic I would like to address. In the past year I wrote about the foreclosure crisis facing our neighborhoods. In response to the great needs for assistance, a national call center to provide phone-based counseling has been established to help

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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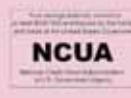
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# In Our Community

## Hamline holds rummage sale April 11

Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Avenue, will hold an All Church Rummage Sale on Friday, April 11 from 12 noon-8 p.m. and on Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Baby and children's clothes only, along with tools, small electronics, games, books, toys, household items, linens, craft items, jewelry and collectibles will be available. For further information call the church office at 651-645-0667.

## Origami, chess, more at Hamline Midway Library

Impress your friends. Learn how to make origami bunnies, chicks, and other simple animals at the Hamline Midway Library on Saturday, March 15, from 2-3:30 p.m. Appropriate for ages 6 and up.

Join actors Linda Kelsey and Karen Landry as well as their director Jim Cada for a discussion of Park Square Theatre's new psychological thriller production *Frozen* on Tuesday, March 18, at 7 p.m.

Bring the family to the next Saturday movie matinee on March 22 at 2 p.m. Call 651-642-0293 for details.

Teens will enjoy playing chess with other teens every Friday. Drop in anytime from 2 to 4 p.m. to join the fun.

Seniors are not left out! Join in a few friendly matches against your friends and neighbors! Play chess or checkers on the fourth Tuesday of every month, anytime between 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Bedtime storytimes are held every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in newly furnished children's area. Toddler and preschool storytimes are held every Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. Every second Saturday of the month a special Play & Learn Storytime from 10:30-noon. Share age appropriate books and toys with your child from birth to 5 years old. Drop in! No registration required. Provided by Resources for Child Caring.

## The Passion Of The Christ

On Good Friday, The Central Mission will be showing the movie "The Passion Of The Christ" followed by a time of reflection. This is a powerful portrayal of the events that took place leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. There is no charge for admission, but you are encouraged to bring a non perishable food item for a local food shelf. There will be popcorn and other snacks available.

There will be child care available. The Movie starts at 7

## A Capella Choir Concert Palm Sunday Eve at Jehovah Lutheran Church

The 70-voice University A Capella Choir from Concordia University-Nebraska will sing in concert at Jehovah Lutheran church, corner of Snelling and Thomas, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, the eve of Palm Sunday. Two local Concordia Academy choirs from Roseville and Bloomington will join in two numbers under the baton of Dr. Kurt von Kampen, director of the Nebraska choir. The program offers a diverse repertoire of sacred and secular choral music sung in English, German, Latin and Russian.

On March 16, Palm Sunday, the Nebraska choir will sing at a festive 9 a.m. worship service also at Jehovah Lutheran Church. The president of Concordia University- Nebraska, Dr. Brian Friedrich, will preach; Jehovah's Sunday School children will lead a Palm procession and junior high students will dramatize the scripture for the day. The choir then travels to Woodbury Lutheran Church for a 10:45 a.m. worship service.

The public is invited to the Saturday evening concert and Sunday worship services. For more information call Dawn at 651-644-1421 or check [www.jehovahlutheran.org](http://www.jehovahlutheran.org).



The 70-voice University A Capella Choir from Concordia University-Nebraska will sing in concert at Jehovah Lutheran church, corner of Snelling and Thomas, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, the eve of Palm Sunday.

p.m. on March 21st. Mark your calendar!

Also, join us for our Easter Sunday Baptism service, 10:30 a.m. Sunday March 23rd.

## Rice Street Library offers events in March

The Rice Street Branch Library has a wide variety of activities planned for February. A list of events:

The library will offer early-literacy-based preschool story times on Tuesdays March 11, 18, and 25 from 10:30-11 a.m.

Free Job Search Assistance will be offered by a consultant from Goodwill-Easter Seals on Friday March 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

The North End Book Club will meet on Monday March 24 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. They will be discussing *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. For more information please call Sandy at 651-293-8811. This group is offered in partnership with North End Community Education.

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

Teens in Action Club will be meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. This program, offered in collaboration with Camp Fire USA, offers teens the opportunity to play crazy games, compete in challenges, plan and do projects that help our community, meet special guest speakers, and learn about different cultures.

The Rice Street Library is located at 1011 Rice Street between

Lawson and Hatch. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 12:30-9 p.m.; Tuesday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

For more event information, please contact 651-558-2223 or visit [www.sppl.org](http://www.sppl.org).

## Classes offered by HM Elders

A free, one time Osteo Exercise Class conducted by a Physical Therapist will take place on Wednesday, March 26 from 2:00 - 3:30 at 1514 Englewood Avenue. Participants will learn gentle exercises designed to build bone and muscle strength and improve balance. Pre-registration is required. Call the office of Hamline Midway Elders for more information: 651-209-6542.

On Tuesday April 8, "Sleep Apnea and How it Affects Seniors" will be presented by a representative from the MN Sleep Institute at a luncheon for seniors at 1514 Englewood Avenue. Call the office of Hamline Midway Elders 651-209-6542 to make reservations for the luncheon and request free transportation. If you are a senior, caregiver or neighbor and would like information about our services. Visit [www.blocknurse.org](http://www.blocknurse.org)

Hamline Midway Elders is taking donations of new and gently used art to be sold at "Feast, Friends & Fabulous Art," a lasagna dinner & art sale on Thursday, April 17 3:30 - 7:30 at 1514 Englewood Avenue. The art sale will continue Friday, April 18 9:30-7:30. Requested donations include: paintings and photos (framed and/or matted), textiles (cross-stitch, knitted, crocheted, quilted, sewn), sculpture, woodwork, metal, jewelry/beading, mosaics, ceramics, pottery, and

works by children (framed or matted if flat). Professional artists who donate are welcome to have business cards and flyers promoting their work on display. To donate art or RSVP for the dinner, call the HM Elders office at 651-209-6542. Ticket prices: \$7 in advance & seniors 62+, \$8 at the door, \$3 children 6-12, children 5 and under free.

## T-ball and more scheduled for area rec centers

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation's registration for T-Ball, Nearball, Baseball and Softball for ages 4 - 18, is April 7-11 at the following recreation centers: Northwest Como, North Dale, Sylvan, Rice, Front, and McDonough. Participants may register in person at the recreation center or online at [www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks).

## Flower Show opens March 22

As spring blooms, so does the 2008 Spring Flower Show at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's Sunken Garden. This year's show features a sea of tulips, as well as hydrangeas, hyacinth, daffodils and lilies in a color palette of salmon pink, yellow, purple, blue and white. The Spring Flower Show opens March 22 and runs through April 27.

Guests visiting the Spring Flower also have the opportunity to bring a piece of the show home. On May 18, Garden Safari Gifts will hold their annual bulb sale from 8am to noon with the sale of bulbs that came from the Sunken Garden.

The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's Sunken Garden

was built in 1927 and continues to host five annual flower shows each year for the residents and guests of Saint Paul, a part of making Saint Paul the most livable city in America.

## Central Area Annual Egg Hunt

Join Saint Paul Parks and Recreation at West Minnehaha Recreation Center, for Central Area's Annual Egg Hunt. The event will be at 10am, on Saturday, March 15 for all children sixth grade & under. Activities will include an enormous Jump Castle, a Cup-Cake walk, and of course, an Egg Hunt.

West Minnehaha Recreation Center is located at 685 W. Minnehaha Ave. For more information, please contact West Minnehaha Recreation Center at 651-298-5823. [www.stpaul.gov/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks).

## Eagle Scout award to be presented

Daniel Newsom, of St. Paul, has earned the highest advancement award the Boy Scouts of America offers to Scouts, the Eagle Scout Award.

Newsom was recognized in ceremonies on March 1 at St. Columba Church.

A member of St. Columba, Troop 13, Newsom is one of approximately 4 percent of all Boy Scouts who attain the Eagle rank, according to Scoutmaster Nick Denkinger.

Each candidate must earn 21 merit badges and successfully complete a community, church, or synagogue-related service project to earn Eagle; Newsom earned 26 merit badges and chose to empty and remove shelving from a storeroom with in the school. Once everything was removed his team re-painted the room and rebuilt the shelving and a counter space for the CCW Group.

He has served as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Instructor, Senior Patrol Leader and Tomahawk Scout Camp staff member. He received the Ad Altare Dei religious award. Newsom joins other outstanding American citizens who have become Eagle Scouts, among them former President Gerald R. Ford, Jr., Astronaut Neil A. Armstrong, Cinematographer Steven Spielberg, and head of the F.B.I., William Sessions.

Newsom is a member of St. Columba Church and is active in cross country and track teams he is in the Honor Society and is the Vice President of the Senior Class Council at St. Paul Central High School, where he is a senior.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



# German Immersion School will move to University Ave.



Darby Burton, 9, a third-grader, just can't wait to get to school every day and speak only German. Burton's school, the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS), currently located at 1399 Eustis St., in St. Anthony Park, has outgrown its space and will be moving to its new location at 1745 University Ave. (Photo by Terry Faust)

## By DEBORAH BROTZ

Darby Burton, 9, a third-grader, just can't wait to get to school every day and speak only German. And, she is not the only one who feels this way. Burton's school, the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS), currently located at 1399 Eustis St., in St. Anthony Park, has outgrown its space and will be moving to its new location at 1745 University Ave. in St. Paul's Midway area this summer to be open for the start of school in fall 2008.

TCGIS is a K-3 charter school which was developed by an independent group of teachers and parents under the sponsorship of the Germanic-American Institute. The school is dedicated to educating children for bilingual, informed and active world learning.

"The world is driven by international markets and international relationships," said Mary-Fred Bausman-Watkins, director of operations for the school. "You have to be competitive on a global basis. Children who have been through immersion programs are more open and flexible in understanding other cultures."

Burton, who has been going to TCGIS since first grade, loves

going to school there.

"I like it because I get to speak German for the whole day," she said. "We have English class so we learn a little here and there. But, my favorite subject is physical education."

In addition to giving more children the chance to learn German, Burton thinks moving to a new location might be good for another reason.

"I'll miss the old place we're in right now," she said. "Now, I'll have to get used to a new part of town. It's good I will know more of the town."

Learning German now will help Burton in the future.

"It will help me through high school," she said. "If I speak German at such a young age, I can get a scholarship for college."

With a German uncle, aunt, and two cousins living in Frankfurt, Germany, Burton has visited Germany twice.

"You don't pay with dollars, quarters, and nickels," she said. "You pay with the euro. It's worth more than a dollar. A \$1 euro is a coin and a \$2 euro is a coin, but we have only \$1 and \$2 bills."

Burton wanted to learn German so she could speak to her rel-

atives in that language when she visited. She is so glad her mother decided to send her to the TCGIS.

"It's important to me because I not only get to learn one language, I get to learn two languages, English and German," she said. "I'm bilingual. You get to learn a language while making friends. I get to learn new things."

Working hard at school doesn't scare Burton. She is always willing to learn more.

"I'm hoping to learn more German so I can talk to my cousins in German," she said. "I speak German, but I don't know what to do for all things."

Bausman-Watkins thinks people want to learn German because of the way it's taught.

"I think the draw is immersion," she said. "They really want immersion. They like the curriculum. They like the way we do it."

Parents also like the school's smallness, the way the classrooms look, and the fact the German language has some distinct career possibilities.

"Germany is an economically sound country with businesses all over the world," said Bausman-Watkins. "It's not just about being open to service industries."

Living in a global world, children who are taught to be global citizens have better understanding of the world.

"Global citizenship is about respecting and understanding people around the world," said Bausman-Watkins. "It's about seeing yourself in a larger context."

The school believes that children who know more than one language will be better prepared for life in the 21st century.

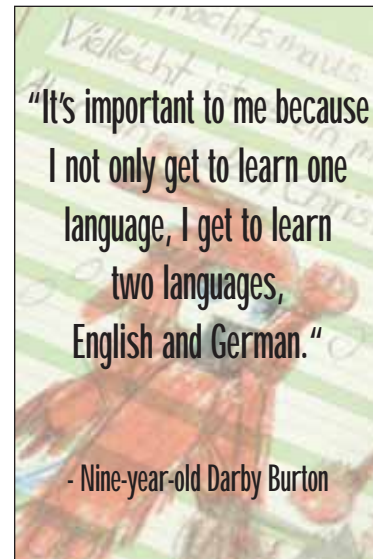
"There has been research that children who learn more than one language do better at school," said Bausman-Watkins. "They're better thinkers and problem-solvers. They have to work very, very hard

here because of the foreign language."

Sharing space at the new Midway location with Avalon School, a charter school with project based learning at high school level, TCGIS can not get to its full K-8 configuration without Avalon moving. With a five-year lease, the school plans to just continue to grow.

"We're really excited about that," said Bausman-Watkins. "Every year since we opened we have been full to capacity."

The biggest plus for the school's Midway location is how central it is.



"Families come from the western, eastern, and north suburbs," said Bausman-Watkins. "This is a destination school. The appealing thing about this building is the windows. The gorgeous natural light is very attractive for us."

Theresa Borgren, a parent of a TCGIS second-grader and third-grader, chose the school because she wanted her children to be bilingual.

"My luck led me here," she said. "I've seen an extraordinary

outcome both in the academic and creative part of it. I'm pleased wanting a second language turned into a global experience from the education point of view."

Borgren's children have benefited from being at TCGIS.

"There's always the confidence and pride you have of being able to speak a second language," she said. "My kids have a much broader global concept. They're not Americentric. They know more than just about America."

According to Borgren, being bilingual opens up Europe for higher education, travel, and business.

"A bilingual child sets themselves up for learning other languages more efficiently," she said. "This is a gateway. If they're asked to learn Chinese, it will not be such a task."

Borgren feels having the TCGIS is very important to her because not only do her children get a good education, but they're learning to be successful in a global economy.

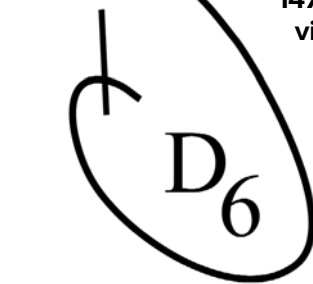
"The curriculum is unparalleled," she said. "The fact they're walking out every day with a full day of speaking in another language is wonderful. They're dissolving borders and opening up so many opportunities."

Starting with 43 students in 2005, TCGIS grew to 87 students in 2006, and currently has 127 students in 2007. Adding a grade every year, the school will continue to grow at its new location but will remain a relatively small school with only two classrooms per grade level.

"My hopes are the new location will reflect the dynamic learning happening in the classroom," said Bausman-Watkins. "We hope to become a wonderful gem of a school in the Midway, a wonderful, nurturing, bilingual community to be part of."

**Our Mission** is to continue to improve the quality of life in the community by supporting active and engaged residents with programming that educates, develops leadership and promotes participation.

**District 6 Planning Council's 2008 Annual Meeting & Elections will be held April 14, 2008 at St. Bernard's Parish Center, 147 W. Geranium beginning at 6:30 PM. Child Care will be provided at no cost - please RSVP your child care needs to District 6, 651-488-4485 no later than April 1, 2008. Snacks will be served!**



To be eligible for any Board seat you must live or own a business in the precinct area:

- 1 Open Seat Precinct 1-Larpenteur, Dale, Maryland, Rice
- 2 Open Seats Precinct 2-Larpenteur, 35 E, Maryland, Rice
- 2 Open Seats Precinct 4-Maryland, Rice, Burlington RR, Dale
- Five Open Seats District Wide-you may live or work anywhere within the District 6 boundaries

### A quote from a new member:

"I had always wanted to get more involved in my community, learn more and make a difference. I took the plunge last year and began showing up to District 6 meetings and it has changed my life and helped my community. As a fairly new member of the Board, I encourage anyone wanting to get more involved in their community to consider attending and even participate in our elections. Serving on the District 6 Board has been a truly challenging, yet rewarding experience."

Please join us for a fun, informative evening and please download a Board application from our website; [www.district6stpaul.org](http://www.district6stpaul.org), email us at [district6@qwestoffice.net](mailto:district6@qwestoffice.net) or call 651-488-4485 if you have questions!



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**In Our Community**

Continued from page 12

**Mehaffey new director of Oratorio Society**

The Oratorio Society of Minnesota recently announced the selection of new Artistic Director, Dr. Matthew Mehaffey, who will make his debut with the 2008-2009 concert season. Dr. Mehaffey will replace current Founder and Artistic Director, Dr. George S.T. Chu, who after 28 years of inspiration and leadership announced his retirement from the organization last fall.

Dr. Mehaffey holds degrees from Bucknell University, Westminster Choir College, and the University of Arizona. He is Assistant Professor of Music and the Associate Director of Choral Activities at the University of Minnesota where he conducts the Concert Choir, Men's Chorus and teaches graduate courses in Choral Conducting and Literature. He officially began his duties as OSM Artistic Director-Designate on March 1, 2008.

Dr. George S.T. Chu will continue conducting for the remainder of this season with a performance of Duruflé's Requiem and Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral on March 9th and two performances of their May concert, Eternal Spring. While Dr. Chu's inspirational leadership will be missed, the members of the Oratorio Society of Minnesota look forward to many more years under the talented leadership of Dr. Mehaffey, who with OSM, will continue to inspire and delight audiences for many years to come.

More information on the Oratorio Society of Minnesota and upcoming programs can be found on the web at [www.oratorio.org](http://www.oratorio.org).

**Kindergarten registration at Como Park**

Como Park Elementary School invites prospective Kindergartners and their families to attend Kindergarten registration on Thursday, April 10, from 6-7:30 p.m. Parents should bring their child and enter via the lower level entrance at 780 West Wheelock Parkway.

Christine Vang, Como's new principal, will introduce staff and give an overview of the school's programs. You will be given enrollment and health forms and have an opportunity to tour the school. Como Elementary offers all-day Kindergarten for no fee and students participate in the free breakfast program. After

**Midway in a minute**

Continued from page 2

formation and provide comments on each of the draft plans for the neighborhoods around seven planned University Avenue LRT stations.

The plans were developed based on the Central Corridor Development Strategy, as well as public roundtables and workshops held in the Fall of 2007. The development of these plans is being overseen by a task force of com-

**Como wrestlers move on to State Tourney**

Two CPSHS students qualified for State at the Individual Sectional Wrestling Tournament at the end of February. They competed in the Minnesota State High School Wrestling tournament this past Wednesday through Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul. Joe Guzman, Senior, took second in the 189 pound weight class and Mark Dooley, Junior, took second in the 119 pound weight class. Greg Petrie and Roy Magnuson coach the Como Park Senior High School Wrestling Team.



Joe Guzman, Senior, took second in the 189 pound weight class and Mark Dooley, Junior, took second in the 119 pound weight class.

school care is available through North Dale's Rec Check service.

Children must be five years old on or before September 1, 2008 to enter Kindergarten. Interpreters will be available and refreshments will be served. For more information call Jennie Roesner at 651-293-8820.

**Easter Sunday Breakfast at Zion**

All are welcome to come to Zion's Easter Sunday Breakfast, 1697 Lafond Ave. The Men's Club is sponsoring the Easter Breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. on March 23rd. The menu includes pancakes, bacon, orange juice and coffee. Cost will be a free will offering. For more information call 651-645-0851.

**Men's Club holds annual Spaghetti Dinner**

The Men's Club of St. Stephanus Lutheran Church will be having their Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, April 5, from 4 to 7 p.m., at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, 739 Lafond Avenue. Adults: \$6.00; Children 5 to 12: \$4.00; and Family: \$15.00. Take out available. For tickets, call Arnie at the church: 651-228-1486.

**District 6 meetings change venue**

District 6 Community Building Meetings will be changing venues during the months of April through September. We are moving outside, into the community, at parks around

the district. We will be distributing flyers in the vicinity of each month's meeting location. Take back your local parks and get involved in your community at the same time. Call Branden at 651-488-7684 with questions. Keep an eye on our District 6 office window for community calendar and public meeting updates. Join us Monday, April 7th, 6:30 p.m., at a park near you!



Megan Seckler.

**Como Park student goes to Gymnastics tourney**

CPSHS student, Megan Seckler, participated in the Minnesota Gymnastics tournament at Roy Wilkins Auditorium on February 23. Megan scored 8.7 on the Uneven Bars and an 8.2 on the Balance Beam. She had a personal season best on her Floor Exercise, 9.25, and Vault (9.375). Overall, Megan came in 14th in the State.

munity representatives.

For further information contact Donna M. Drummond, Senior Planner, City of St. Paul Dept. of Planning and Economic Development, 25 West Fourth Street, Suite 1200, St. Paul, MN 55102. Phone 651-266-6556 or e-mail: [donna.drummond@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:donna.drummond@ci.stpaul.mn.us).

- Compiled Jane McClure



# Hamline Plans

Continued from page 7

been vacant for some time and, like many of Hamline's purchases of late, the owners initiated the conversation. The university also leases space for the School of Law annex on the same block.

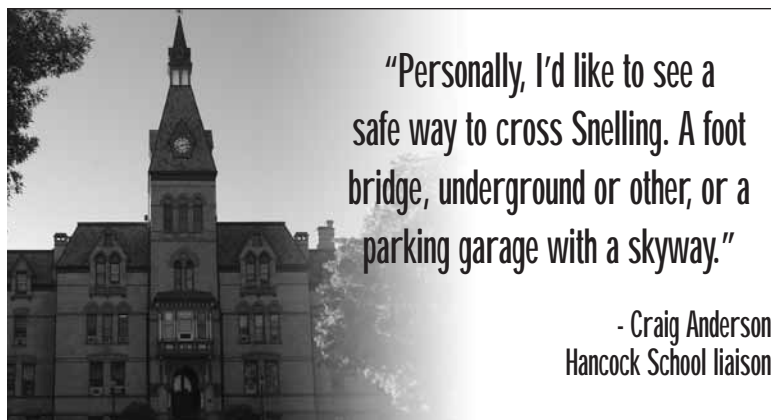
The university is also leasing space at the Hamline Park Plaza on the corner of Asbury and Thomas six blocks south of campus for the Graduate School of Management and the Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching.

"As enrollment grows, finding an adequate home will be vitally important for projecting the overall appearance of our institution," said Dean of the Graduate School of Management Julian Schuster.

Schuster's role in campus planning has recently been elevated as the Masters of Arts and Management Graduate School was replaced by the Hamline Master's of Business Administration program at the start of this calendar year. Much like the Hamline School of Business, the move is an attempt to align the Graduate School of Management program with current trends in the business community.

Schuster said that necessary expansion, although not ideal, could take place at a location not adjacent to the current campus. Other schools in the area have had to do this. A decision will have to be made soon, however, as Hamline School of Business courses are expected to begin this fall.

As expected, the master plan has enjoyed a steady stream of



"Personally, I'd like to see a safe way to cross Snelling. A foot bridge, underground or other, or a parking garage with a skyway."

- Craig Anderson  
Hancock School liaison

criticism since its unveiling three weeks ago. As part of the process, the committee plans to consider all of the feedback it receives in order to make appropriate changes to the plan.

Craig Anderson, the Hancock liaison for the Hancock-Hamline University Collaborative Magnet School, noted that the Hancock Elementary was not mentioned at all in the plan. "To be an integrated campus, we should be included. We did have an opportunity to give feedback and I did that," said Anderson.

He said that his main concern is students' safety, both elementary and university, and without including any safety measures, such as stoplights or a crosswalk, the plan is incomplete.

"Personally, I'd like to see a safe way to cross Snelling. A foot bridge, underground or other, or a parking garage with a skyway," said Anderson. "If the entrance point to the university is going to be Englewood Avenue, they should change the stoplight from Hewitt." He said the university has historically been a very good neighbor to his school.

Like Anderson, Hamline University Student Congress President

Elect Tina Vansteenbergen had suggestions, but unlike Anderson, her discrepancies were with the plans and not what the plans left out.

"My biggest issue with the plan is the fence surrounding the entire campus," said Vansteenbergen. She said the one of the biggest reasons she came to Hamline was integration with a community that can come to campus as easily as students can go out.

"A fence would alienate us from the community. It sends the message that you have to be accepted to come here," said Vansteenbergen.

Concerns about student safety are not answered by a six foot fence, according to Vansteenbergen. She said if people have a strong enough desire to enter the campus they will find a way regardless of a fence.

In addition, she mentioned that a campus that extended to Minnehaha would place the Hamline Church within the campus footprint, which raises parking issues for church members, especially if Englewood Avenue is eventually closed.

The master planning committee is expected to address such issues before a final version goes be-

fore the board of trustees in May.

Hanson said that all of the current and upcoming changes, as well as a few others, including the law school's recent approval of a joint business and law degree, are about filling in pieces that the university has been missing. She claims that other disciplines that are not being targeted in the planning process, such as the university's largest major, psychology, will not be left behind, nor will the type of students Hamline has historically targeted.

With the master and strategic plans, many people have put in a lot of time planning Hamline's fu-

ture. The strategic plan was conceived with joint contribution from six different committees composed of 13 to 18 students, faculty and staff charged with developing specific guidelines within their respective personal and professional strengths. The work that originated from these committees was gathered and refereed by a committee composed of the president's staff and the dean's council, the University Leadership Team.

"We're very proud of the document," said Hanson. "I came here to really make a difference...I want Hamline students to have a well-rounded experience."

## Local caregiver wins "District G—Caregiver of the Year"



Across the Twin Cities metro area, Carol Keller (a registered nursing assistant at the Lyngblomsten Care Center, 1415 Almond Ave., has risen to the top to receive the Caregiver of the Year for District G, bestowed by Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance (MHHA) at the annual MHHA Institute for Older Adult Services held on February 6-8, with 3,000 people in attendance.

# Noted Historian Don Empson to present St. Paul history workshop

Donald Empson, the author of *The Street Where You Live: A Guide to the Place Names of St. Paul*, published by the University of Minnesota Press, will be conducting a workshop on how to research local history, using the University Avenue corridor as a case study on Saturday, March 22, at 10 a.m. and repeated at 7 p.m., Thursday March 27 at U-PLAN Community Planning Studio, 1956 University Avenue.

Empson will present a variety of research sources readily available to the public on the Internet or at local libraries, including photographs, newspaper indexes, building permits, and

oral histories.

This class is being offered by the newly established University Avenue History Group, a program of University UNITED. It is intended to encourage residents to join in a grassroots effort to write the history of this fascinating corridor. Stories and pictures will be posted on the website [www.universityavenuehistory.com](http://www.universityavenuehistory.com), and will hopefully be incor-

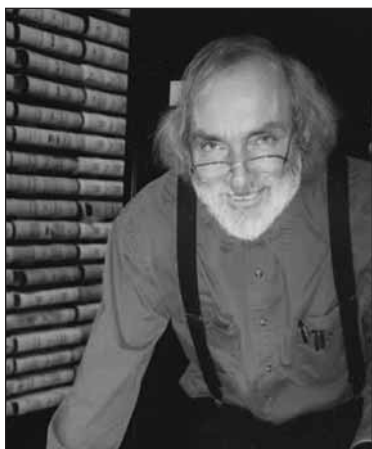
porated into a published book. It is expected that the website will become a repository of information about buildings no longer standing, such as Montgomery Wards and the Prom Center, and other local landmarks, such as Porkys, and the disappearing automobile dealerships. With over one billion dollars being invested in a new light rail line, and related redevelop-

ment activity along the Avenue, the History Group felt it was a particularly opportune time to document the history of this storied corridor.

Don Empson is the author of several books and articles on the history of St. Paul and Stillwater neighborhoods and was a reference and map librarian at the Minnesota Historical Society. He is a Principal Investigator un-

der the Secretary of the Interior Standards and Guidelines.


The one-and-one-half-hour class will be taught at the U-PLAN Community Planning Studio, 1956 University Avenue, St. Paul, on Saturday, March 22, at 10 a.m. and repeated at 7 p.m., March 27. Please register by emailing Brian McMahon at [bmcmahon@universityunited.com](mailto:bmcmahon@universityunited.com) or calling 651-647-6711.



Donald Empson, the author of *The Street Where You Live: A Guide to the Place Names of St. Paul*, published by the University of Minnesota Press, will be conducting a workshop on how to research local history, using the University Avenue corridor as a case study.

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# Cafesjian's Carousel opens May 1

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

These are the hours: May

1-Sept. 1: Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sept. 2-Oct. 31: Saturday-Sunday 11

a.m.-4 p.m.

Infants under age 1 ride free; tickets for all other riders are \$1.50.

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

McNeely Conservatory at Como Park and the new Visitor Center.

The carousel's 68 horses and two chariots have been fully restored to the way they looked when new in 1914, and a fully restored band organ plays waltzes, marches and popular tunes. About 100,000 people ride the carousel each season.

The carousel is owned and operated by Our Fair Carousel, the non-profit community group that saved it from being auctioned to collectors in 1988. More volunteers are needed to operate the ride, assist riders, and sell tickets and merchandise. For information, call 651-489-4628 or see [www.ourfaircarousel.org](http://www.ourfaircarousel.org).



The carousel's 68 horses and two chariots have been fully restored to the way they looked when new in 1914, and a fully restored band organ plays waltzes, marches and popular tunes.

## Cafesjian's Carousel seeks volunteers

Cafesjian's Carousel—the historic and treasured merry-go-round that has delighted riders for eight seasons at St. Paul's Como Park—is seeking additional volunteers for its ninth season, which begins May 1.

Volunteers operate the carousel, sell tickets, and sell merchandise at the gift shop. They work 3- or 4-hour shifts, two or more times each month. New volunteers are encouraged to apply individually, in pairs or as groups. Training is provided for all positions, and free parking is available. For information about volunteers opportu-

nities, contact Cafesjian's Carousel at 651-489-4628 or [volunteer@ourfaircarousel.org](mailto:volunteer@ourfaircarousel.org), or visit our website at [www.ourfaircarousel.org](http://www.ourfaircarousel.org).

Cafesjian's Carousel originally operated for 75 years at the Minnesota State Fair. It is now owned and operated by the nonprofit organization Our Fair Carousel, Inc. Volunteers have restored the carousel to its 1914 appearance and installed it in its new pavilion next to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park in 2000. The group pays operational expenses through ticket and gift sales.

The carousel operates Tuesdays through Sundays from May 1 through Labor Day, and weekends from Labor Day until the end of October.

## LETTERS

### Upset about condo project

As the last month's issue of the Monitor went to press with its story about the 1412 Mayre Street condo project, area property owners were issuing an appeal to this project. We have several signatures on a petition stating we were never notified of this project until it went to planning, a full year in the process without any knowledge or in-

volvement from area residents.

The District 6 Planning Council failed area residents in the delivery of notification for two District 6 meetings on this project. We will all swear under oath we were not notified.

The timing of this project puts area residents in between two major construction projects. (1412 Mayre and Rice Street Bridge Project) The size and scope of the 1412 project was minimized in its presentations. This project is bigger than Terra Springs Three located in down-

town Stillwater with a view of the St. Croix River. TS3 was completed two years ago and hasn't fully sold. (It's the largest building in Stillwater.)

We were only allowed 15 minutes to voice our appeal and charged over \$400 for the opportunity. The project is closer to 5 stories in height, there are 6 fresh water wells that immediately border the property in question. We still have a list of concerns and were completely left out of the process. But the City, District 6, and the developer met the

minimum description under law and passed the project.

*Dennis Chisholm  
North End resident*

### Thanks for printing real news

I want to take this opportunity to commend the *Monitor* for several things: First, thank you for expanding into and covering the North End. Your paper has

quickly become a real neighborhood asset and important resource for information that actually affects my life.

Next, I want to thank and praise you for printing real news. When I open my St. Paul daily paper and see an article devoting a large news space to such a crucially important topic such as "Exfoliating," I was struck by the contrast of that sort of non-news coverage to the approach evident in the *Monitor's* current edition. You covered noteworthy neighborhood events and issues such as light rail plans, upcoming community infrastructure improvement projects and the problem of vacant and sub-standard housing stock and what to do about it. Those stories were done by skilled community journalists who did a lot more than just re-write a press release.

All I can say in conclusion is keep up the good work. We are lucky to have you. A publication such as the *Monitor* is a vitally important element in keeping citizens aware of neighborhood goings-on and providing us with informational tools to keep the North End moving forward. I hope local advertisers take note.

*Thomas S. Montgomery  
North End*

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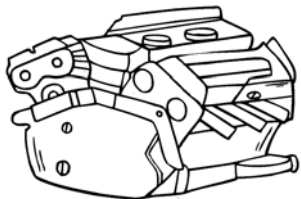
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March (like the Roman god Janus) has a personality with two faces; one face is winter and the other is spring. While spring seems enticingly close, this long winter has not yet released its grip. There can still be snowstorms and frigid weather in March. However, the birds that have been with us all winter long already have spring fever. The stronger and more direct sunlight stimulates their hormones, and the hormones change their bodies and behavior.

The male goldfinches, which have been dressed in drab plumage since last fall, are showing a few brighter yellow feathers. The flock of male cardinals, who fed peacefully together over the winter, began to quarrel. Now the resident male cardinal is alone singing passionately from the treetops. And woodpeckers are reasserting their ownership of Como's woodlands with their manic whinny-calls and territorial drumming.

Members of the woodpecker family are hard-headed birds that use their chisel-like bills to forage for insects, to excavate nesting and roosting cavities in trees, and to communicate with other woodpeckers by drumming.

The species of woodpecker that I've seen most often in my urban neighborhood is the petite little downy woodpecker. However, occasionally I see a hairy woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, or the granddaddy of them all, a pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*).

A pileated woodpecker is hard to miss. They can grow as large as 19 inches from the tip of its bill to the end of its tail. When this impressive bird, boldly feathered in black and white with a sporty red crest (on both sexes), swoops onto a tree trunk and starts hammering away,



# Nature in the City

By DEB ROBINSON

## The drumming of woodpeckers: Spring's music

woodchips are sure to fly.

While out for a walk around Como Lake in February, my husband and I watched a male pileated woodpecker nosily excavating a cavity in a decayed ash tree. Like other species of woodpecker, he grasped the bark firmly with his zygodactyl feet (two toes point forward

chopping blows.

Woodpeckers have other adaptations to facilitate their woodworking lifestyles. For example, downy woodpeckers have a protective third eyelid (nictitans), which closes over their eyes to keep out flying

bris from flying up their noses while they hammer away.

The male pileated woodpecker hardly noticed our presence as he removed tree bark in a round-edged rectangle. He proceeded to chip away in the center until he broke through into a hollow where the tree's heartwood had rotted away long ago.

We continued on our walk around the lake. By the time we passed the same ash tree 45 minutes later there were two holes in the ash tree, but the ambitious male woodpecker was gone.

Carpenter ants are a pileated woodpeckers favorite food, but the two holes didn't look like foraging activity. Woodpeckers roost at night in tree cavities, but woodpeckers usually excavate their roosting holes in the fall. These holes did look like the beginnings of nesting cavities because the entrances faced away from the prevailing winds and were located on the underside of the leaning trunk. Yet, I think this big guy was just practicing. A mated pair of woodpeckers usually agree on their nesting site together, but I never saw the female.

Cavity nesting birds have a much higher success rate raising young to maturity. Cavity roost-

ing birds are more likely to survive bitter cold nights. Protection from both the elements and predators are found inside a tree cavity. Only woodpeckers excavate their own nesting and roosting holes in trees, which makes woodpeckers critically important to the other species of birds that share their nesting preferences.

Bluebirds, tree swallows, common goldeneyes, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, common mergansers, buffleheads, European starlings, house sparrows, Eastern screech-owls, tufted titmouse, red-breasted nuthatches, American kestrels, house wrens, all use woodpecker holes to nest in. Many of these birds will nest in birdhouses, but a woodpecker hole would be their first and natural nesting choice.

The song of a bluebird is the music of spring to my human ears. But maybe the tapping of woodpeckers, as they construct new tree cavities, is the spring-music to bluebirds and other cavity nesters. Endnotes: \*Ramsey County Bird Festival, "Where Birds and People Meet," a free celebration of spring-time birds will take place May 1 - 4. Join local bird experts, Val Cunningham and Clay Christensen, for a Como Park bird walk May 2, 8 am to 9:30 am - meet them at the Como Lakeside Pavilion by the wooden black bear. Clay and Val will also lead the May 3 Reservoir Woods bird walk, which starts at 8am at the parking lot on the north side of Larpenteur Ave. just east of Dale. Val said, "We'd really like to encourage people who have never been on a bird walk before to come, it will be fun and easy, Clay and I just want to share our enthusiasm for birds with everyone we can." Some binoculars will be provided, but if you have your own, bring them. For other Festival events: <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/parks/NaturalResources/urbanbirdfestival.htm>

\*To contact this writer: [dm-robinson@bitstream.net](mailto:dm-robinson@bitstream.net)

ward and two toes point backwards). The woodpecker's tail has stiff feathers, which he used to brace himself against the trunk while he delivered strong

woodchips. Woodpeckers also have tufts of fine feathers around their nostrils to keep wood de-



Illustration by Deb Robinson

## CDC's

Continued from page 11

homeowners facing foreclosure. Not only will this service provide counseling, if your situation warrants it, the hotline can help you start a dialogue with your lender.

If you, or anyone you know, can relate to these questions, please contact 1-888-995-Hope - or check them out on the web at [www.995hope.org](http://www.995hope.org).

- I don't understand my mortgage.

- My mortgage payment will adjust soon.
- I am behind on my mortgage payments.
- I will miss my next mortgage payment.

This hotline can provide you information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If your situation requires seeing a counselor in person - you will be set up with a counselor based in the Twin Cities.

Remember, the most important thing to do if facing foreclosure is to seek assistance prior to missing any mortgage payments!

## Home investment

Continued from page 10

"They want a good, solid house that is well-cared for," said Nilles. "Homeowners want to be comfortable and secure in their homes. They're upgrading different systems as needed. They want a good resale value when it's sold or passed on to their children. Homeowners want to take care of that investment."

Nilles believes home improvements will go on as long as people continue to own homes.

"People need to maintain

their homes by repairing them or upgrading them," he said. "They want to change them, add on to them or renovate them. I don't think it's ever going to stop." Austad looks forward to a busy spring of home improvements.

"We like to see the finished product," he said. "We really like what we do. It's satisfying to see a job well done."

Like Austad, Nilles loves doing home improvements.

"We enjoy every part of home improvements," he said. "We've done it for a long time, and we take pride in every part of it. We like to leave a home in better shape than we found it. It's very satisfying."

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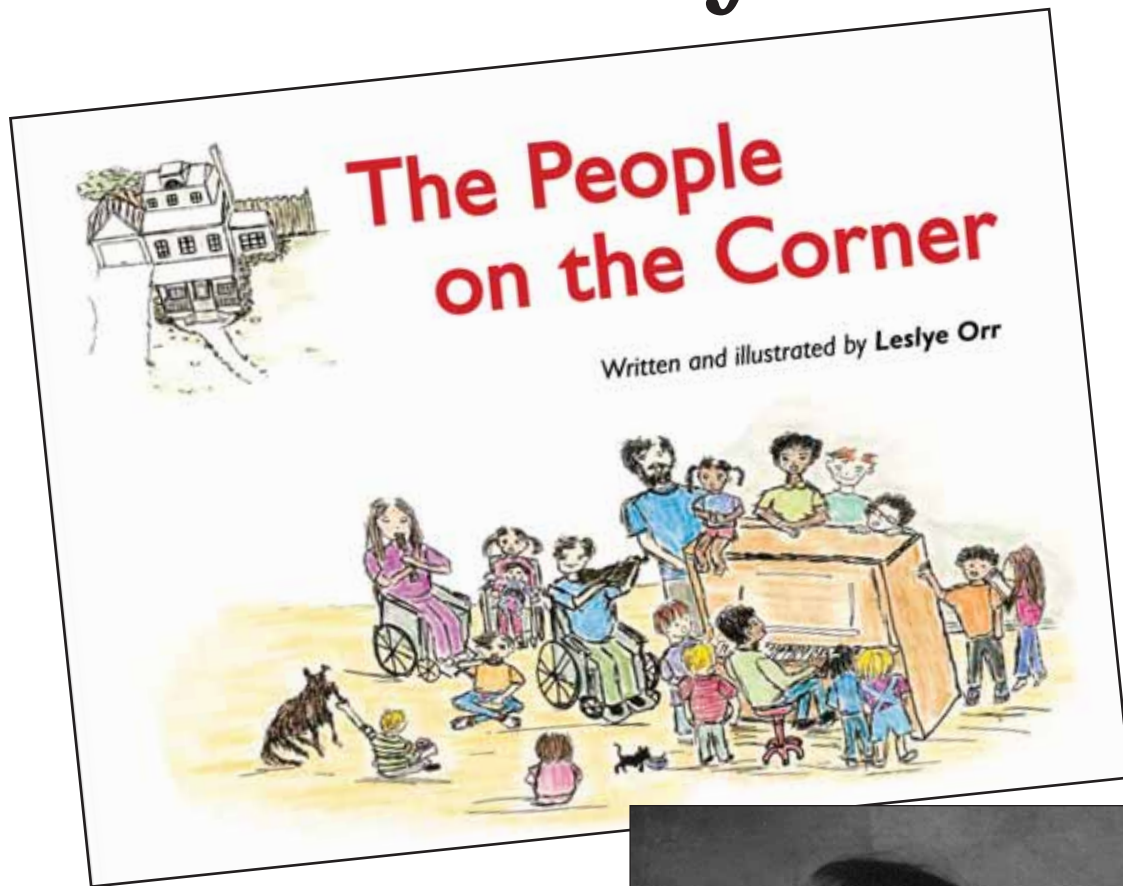
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**Mr. Norman**  
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# Picture book by local author acquaints kids with disability



The picture book *The People on the Corner* is part of playwright, actor and illustrator Leslye Orr's ongoing attempt to acquaint young kids with disability.

By **ANDY FINKEN**

The picture book *The People on the Corner* is part of playwright, actor and illustrator Leslye Orr's ongoing attempt to acquaint young kids with disability.

Orr just released the second edition of the picture book which now includes reinvented drawings of kids with disabilities participating in games and parties alongside other neighborhood kids, a more becoming font style and a page at the end of the book for readers to create their own inclusive drawing.

"Right away I want kids to include people with disabilities in their drawings," said Orr. "Currently, as long as it goes on, we keep making one-fifth of our population invisible. Disability needs to be more prominent."

The book is about five neighborhood children who are introduced to a new family that has just moved into their part of town. The family, the Longs, is a large, blended, family with kids who have a range of different disabilities. The neighborhood kids are trying to decide if these new kids will fit into their games and lives when they themselves get invited to join the Longs for a baseball game and quickly learn how everyone can be included in games by simply equalizing the rules.

She said the idea for the book just hit her one day, and immediately she knew it was something that she had to do. She wanted to portray a family that functioned as other families, even though that family included several people with disabilities.

"I always thought blended families were cool. I grew up in a similar situation, with family

members who had cystic fibrosis," said Orr.

Orr, herself legally blind, has made it her life's work to facilitate the inclusion of people with disabilities into everyday life. For the past 20 years, she has taught workshops all over the nation promoting the possibilities of disabilities. She currently owns and operates Dreamland Arts, a 40 seat theatre on Hamline Avenue, where she writes and acts in plays that empower and teach disability to children as well as others.

"I want to be sort of the ambassador of inclusion," said Orr. "Ages three to seven is the perfect time to include this type of information in their lives."

The first edition of *The People on the Corner* was released in 2003, and now that she is satisfied with her updated version she has her sights set on a book for an older age group. She said it would be a kind of continuation of *The People on the Corner*, interrogating disability and diversity issues of her characters as they grow.

"I've never seen a kid's book go all the way from children to college," said Orr. "We only first met Harry (Potter) when he was already 11."

She said with an older age group and more space for text,

she could include dating and other grown-up situations as well as a family with same sex parents.

"I want my readers to know it's the people that are first, not the disability. It's not blind kids, but kids that are blind," said Orr.

The *People on the Corner* is available for purchase directly from Orr at <http://www.dreamlandarts.com> or through the nonprofit organization Fraser, at <http://www.fraser.org>.

On March 22 at 11 a.m. Orr is hosting a reading and book signing of *The People on the Corner* at Dreamland Arts at 677 Hamline Avenue North.

Orr hopes that her book will help promote the visibility of disabilities in other picture books and inspire children to visualize and create a more inclusive world.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classifieds

Monitor Want Ads are now \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to [denisw@aplacetoremember.com](mailto:denisw@aplacetoremember.com). Want ads must be in the Monitor before March 31 for the April 10 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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## Bethel Lutheran to host Passover Seder on March 20

Bethel Lutheran Church, 670 W. Wheelock Parkway, will host a Christian Passover seder at 6 p.m., Thursday, March 20. The festival meal and worship service is open to the public, but seating is limited. The cost of the celebration is \$15 per adult and \$10 per child (age 11 and under). For tickets, call: 651-488-6681.

The seder meal and worship service commemorate how God delivered Israel from their bondage in Egypt. In the Christian context, it also reflects God's deliverance of His people from sin through the atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Passover is the precursor to the Lord's Supper. This Christian Passover seder will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, the date of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

The seder celebration will include all elements of the tradi-

tional Jewish Passover. These include:

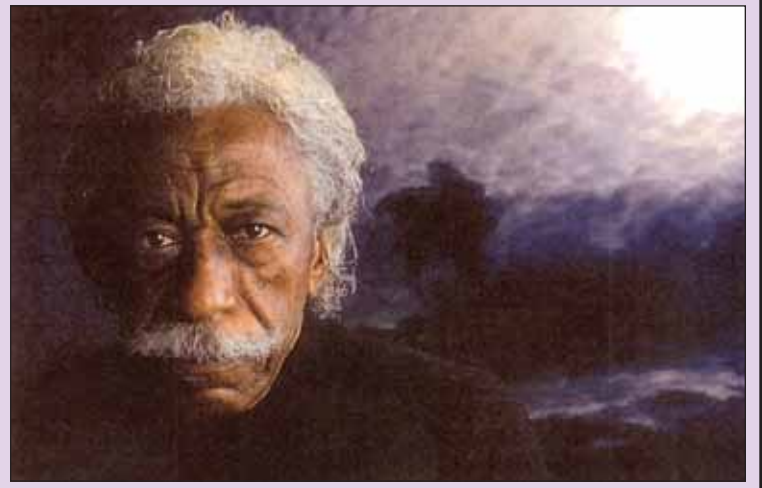
\* The blessing of the festival candles; The introduction; Kiddush (the first cup of wine, the "cup of sanctification"); Rechatz (the first washing of the hands); Karpas (eating of the green vegetable); Yachatz (breaking of the middle cake of matzah – unleavened bread); Maggid (recital of the Passover story); Rachatz (second washing of the hands); Motzi (blessing for bread; Matzah (eat the bread); Maror (eat bitter herbs); Korekh (eating of a sandwich of matzah, bitter herbs and charoset); Shulchan Orekh (the Passover supper; [includes roasted fowl – turkey]); Tzafon (eating of the middle piece of matzah); Barekh (grace after the meal); Hallel (singing songs of praise); Nirtzah (affirmation of God's acceptance)

"This Christian Passover seder offers Christians and others the opportunity to experience God's love and grace shown to His people," said the Rev. David Seabaugh, pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church. "This meal will heighten one's appreciation for God's great act of deliverance and salvation."

Individuals interested in more information about Bethel Lutheran Church, its programs and ministries can visit [www.bethelstpaul.com](http://www.bethelstpaul.com) or call 651-488-6681.

Bethel Lutheran Church is a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation of 175 families and 332 members located in St. Paul's Como Park neighborhood. Its mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ in its church, neighborhood and world.

## Gordon Parks: Part II



Last month's Monitor carried a story on Gordon Parks Alternative School in St. Paul which included photos of both the school and the man the school was named after. Unfortunately, in the course of obtaining an archival photo of photographer Gordon Parks to run along with the story, a relative inadvertently supplied photos of Gordon Parks' father as well, which appeared along with the story. Above, readers can view a picture of the real Gordon Parks. Sorry for the confusion.

## Steger

Continued from page 1

Although Steger is concerned with worldwide effects of climate change, he said he looks at the walleye, the moose and the pines of Minnesota and wants to keep all that in balance. He said Minnesota has a beautiful environment, but that could change.

"We do have solutions, but we have to move quickly," Steger said. "Climate change is very serious, and our economy is going to suffer in a big way. If we're not making use of the new technologies, all our hard work is at stake; our retirement is at stake, not to

mention the children."

He again emphasized the need for haste in dealing with global warming, likening it to the race for the moon. He said things might change with the next election.

He cited the need for "green jobs," employment that is environmentally based. He said rural bio-fuels play an important role.

Steger said the United States is about 15 years behind Europe in working with climate change. "Germany and Japan are far ahead," he said. "Germany has a style of better living, yet only half the carbon dioxide emissions. Because of it, the country's economy is stronger and more secure."

As he prepares for his next trip, Steger considered his life as an explorer.

"Exploration is like a mobile Zen monastery," he said. "There is a need to be disciplined, rhythmic, and full of awareness. It is a beautiful space for the mind to be in."

Steger said the biggest need for an explorer is curiosity.

"Exploration doesn't even have to be physical," he added. "Most people think of a dog team and the North Pole when they think of explorers, but we all explore in different ways. Individuals explore new frontiers by finding things out for themselves—that's the key to life. That's exploration."

## Classifieds

Continued from page 19

### RUMMAGE SALE

All Church Rummage Sale, Hamline UMC, 1514 Englewood Ave., Friday, April 11, 12 noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. 651-645-0667. 3-08

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## VOLUNTEERS

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# HAMLIN UNIVERSITY

## MARCH HAPPENINGS

### Theatre

#### *The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*

Set against the backdrop of the Great Depression, Naomi Wallace's *The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek* illustrates the relationship between two teenagers. With lyrical elegance, this seemingly candid look at youth evolves into a romantic and tragic mystery. Directed by senior theatre arts major Kieran Adcock.

Dates: March 6, 7, and 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Anne Simley Theatre

Cost: General admission \$7, senior citizens & K-12 students \$5, Hamline students \$1

Contact: Box Office at 651-523-2905

For a complete list of happenings at Hamline, visit [www.hamline.edu](http://www.hamline.edu).



### First Friday Forum

### Speakers and Seminars

#### First Friday Forum

Come to this month's First Friday Forum and hear Professor Larry Bakken present a lecture on "The Norway Summer Exchange Program: A Comparative Study of Law and Government and Much, Much, More!"

Date: Friday, March 7 at 12 p.m. in Sorin Hall, Rooms A & B

Cost: \$15, includes lunch

Contact: Reservations are required. To RSVP, contact Catherine Price at 651-523-2015

### dialoGues hamline



### "Sustainable Hamline, Sustainable Saint Paul"

Sponsored by the Graduate School of Management and Graduate School of Education, this Hamline Dialogue program will bring together experts to address how communities are managing resources and engage the audience in a dialogue sure to sustain discussion.

Panelists: Chris Coleman, Mayor of Saint Paul; Anne Hunt, environmental policy director for the City of Saint Paul; and Ken Dehkes, director of facilities operations and horticulture services at Hamline.

Date: Thursday, March 20, in the Klas Center, Kay Fredericks Room

Registration and Reception: 3:45-4:15 p.m., program: 4:15-5:45 p.m.

Cost: \$10.

Contact: For more information, contact Kristen Norman-Major at 651-523-2814.



### Fine Arts

#### Keyboard Conversations

Jeffrey Siegel is joined by the Artaria String Quartet to perform the Shostakovich Quintet.

Date: Tuesday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Adults \$17; Seniors & Students \$12

Contact: For tickets, call 651-523-2459.

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