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## Midway Como

# Monitor



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## ASL & Coffee is gathering spot for the deaf community and friends

Story and photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

In the basement of the historic Charles Thompson Hall at 1824 Marshall Ave., a coffee shop staffed by volunteers is serving up coffee and conversation on Fridays from 10am-3pm. The three-story brick building anchors the SW corner of the Fairview and Marshall avenues intersection, with an off-street parking lot and doorway leading to the coffee shop in the rear.

Once inside, it feels like many coffee shops—but with one notable difference. The patrons are all speaking in American Sign Language (ASL).

The board of directors of the Thompson Hall Deaf Club—housed in the same building—originally thought the coffee shop would be open Monday through Friday, but, according to Richard Taylor, ASL & Coffee coordinator, it hasn't quite worked out that way.

"Our original purpose," Taylor said, "was to make a space where ASL students from across the Twin Cities could come and practice their signing with members of the deaf community. And, of course, we wanted to have a place for the deaf community to gather mid-day."

"Since we opened last July," Taylor continued, "we've realized there are a few things working against us. For starters, our building is zoned in a non-commercial district. That means we can't have any traditional signage outside the building or on the street. We want people to know that we're here and that anyone can stop by."

The Thompson Hall Deaf Club is one of the oldest continuously operating deaf clubs in the country. The club celebrated its centennial last month, with four days of festivities. Representatives from Gallaudet University, the world's only liberal arts college for the deaf (located in Washington DC), traveled here for the event; St. Paul Mayor



The Thompson Hall Deaf Club (at 1824 Marshall Ave.) has occupied the building which bears its name for 100 years.



ASL & Coffee guests relaxed on a Friday morning at the coffee shop.

Chris Coleman also attended.

The building was constructed in 1916 with funds donated by Margaret Thompson. She and her husband Charles were both active members of the local deaf community. \$45,000 was given for the construction of Thompson Hall, and an additional \$45,000 was invested in a trust fund to provide for long-term maintenance of the building. Thompson Hall was built by the deaf and for the deaf. Its existence has made possible a permanent home for the deaf community in the Twin Cities.

A plaque in the entryway reads: In loving memory of Charles Thompson, who found pleasure in contributing to the happiness of others.

In 2011, the building received a designation as a national historic landmark. Like any 100-year-old building, the upkeep and care required are considerable. In preparation for the anniversary celebration, Hirschfield Paints donated enough supplies to repaint all of the interior spaces.

The club has a full calendar

every weekend with activities ranging from game night, quilting, planning meetings for camping and snowmobiling, holiday gatherings, Bible study and more.

As 2016 draws to a close, the future of the ASL & Coffee venture remains uncertain. Coordinator Richard Taylor and the Thompson Hall Deaf Club board

of directors plan to give it another six months, to see if word spreads among nearby colleges and community education programs offering ASL classes.

## Pierce Butler extension shelved again

By JANE MCCLURE

The long-awaited, much-debated eastern extension of Pierce Butler Rte. is likely to remain curbed. This month the St. Paul City Council is poised to take away remaining project funds and move the dollars to other street work.

The council is being asked to identify \$7 million in a lapsed federal appropriation and transfer \$2,131,250 in municipal state aid and other dollars.

St. Paul Department of Public Works staff contends that spending money now on other projects is a better approach than trying to amass the millions needed to eventually extend Pierce Butler Rte. from Minnehaha Ave. and Grotto St. to Interstate 35E and the East Side's Pha-

len Blvd. The city's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget Committee agrees and in November recommended that the money be moved.

Pierce Butler Rte. was platted in 1961. It was named for one of St. Paul's native sons who served on the U.S. Supreme Court. During the 1980s and 1990s as what is now Green Line light rail was planned, Pierce Butler Route was initially eyed as a rail route. It was later discussed as a reliever street for east-west motor vehicle traffic through the area, especially truck traffic. Semi-tractor-trailers struggle to make the turns onto and off of University Ave. now that light rail is in. Street lights and even a few building awnings have been taken out by turning vehicles.

The extension was also discussed in the 1990s as an industrial area near Dale St. At that time the extension would have run parallel to the area railroad lines. But later planners made the decision to extend the street through to the south.

Controversy and costs aren't the only factors that have slowed the project. Public Works project manager changes and changes in area district council and community development corporation staff over the years further impacted the project.

Public Works Director Kathy Lantry said extending Pierce Butler won't be dropped as a project from the Public Works to-do list. But given the high \$11 million

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From all of us at the Monitor, wishing you a joyous holiday season.

# The history of Ford dealerships on University Avenue

Brian McMahon, author of "The Ford Century in Minnesota," will give a free Illustrated talk on Mon., Dec. 19, at 7:pm at the Lifetrack Building (formerly the Owens Motor Company), 709 University Ave.

By the mid-1920s, there were three Ford dealerships on University Ave. The Avenue already had a cluster of auto-related businesses and had become nationally known as America's Great Highway. McMahon will give an illustrated talk, using the Owens Motor Company, the W. H. Schmelzel Company, and the Muessel Motor Company, as a starting point to explain the evolution of the dealership system.

Henry Ford not only changed the way cars were made; he changed the way they were sold. Ford realized early on that mass production could not work without mass consumption—a huge number of buyers had to purchase the cars streaming off the assembly line. To convince people to give up their horse and buy a Model T, Ford created the modern distribution system with dealerships in virtually every town with a population over 2,000. He also established a network of over 70,000 authorized service agents. Because cars were expensive to purchase, buyers needed reassurance that their complex machines could be properly maintained and serviced, particularly at a time of unpaved roads.

Other dealerships later located on the Avenue, including Midway Ford and Saxon Ford. These are still in business but have since relocated. Ford's trial and error methods could be hard on those who invested in their automobile franchise, and some were driven out of business by his harsh policies. One causality, M.J. Osborn, lost his dealership at 117 University and invested in another business which had a more successful outcome—Ecolab.

This lecture will explore the business practices and the colorful personalities of those who sold, serviced and maintained Ford cars and trucks, Lincoln automobiles, and Fordson tractors. McMahon, a trained architect, will also explain how the dealership buildings evolved as a new building type for the new sales



Historic photo of Owens Motor Company dealership, 709 University Ave. The building remains, and is now Lifetrack—and where Brian McMahon, author of "The Ford Century in Minnesota," will give a free Illustrated talk on Mon., Dec. 19, at 7:pm.

and services operations. Large storefront windows were featured to showcase new cars, and the dealers utilized several other marketing gimmicks including sponsoring marching bands, nov-

elty vehicles, and sports' teams.

McMahon, who was previously the Executive Director of University UNITED, will have books on hand for sale. For information call 651-399-7221.



University Ave. has a long history over the decades with the Ford Motor Company and their many dealerships.



One of the innovations developed to sell the automobile were dealerships with large show windows and indoor displays of the latest models.



Midway Ford still exists today, but no longer on University Ave.

An old-time newspaper advertisement asking to "Let us deliver a new Ford car to your home Xmas morning."

## Monitor

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At this time of the year, many of us buy a lot of stuff, gifts for family and friends. Some of us also indulge in the practice of buying "one for you and one for me." Do we really need all this stuff? Do we know the true price to our environment, society, and our own personal and financial well-being? Some consumption is necessary for life. But how much stuff is really needed? Do today's Americans need to buy five times as much clothing as we did in 1980?

Let's examine the impact of consumerism on the environment. Everything we purchase comes from our planet: it is farmed or grown, mined or extracted, manufactured or produced from our natural resources. Consider the T-shirt. Cotton is the most pesticide-intensive crop in the world, and the chemicals used to produce the cotton stay in the cloth and are released throughout its life. Making one T-shirt requires approximately 700 gallons of water. Producing and transporting it to the store adds about nine pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. And only 15% of clothing is recycled. Our discards add 10 million tons of waste each year, creating additional greenhouse gases in our landfills and incinerators. Is that new T-shirt worth the true cost?

The social costs are high as well. Much of the stuff we buy is grown or produced in third world countries, often at the cost of their environmental and personal health. Their living standards and life span are often far below ours due to exposure to chemicals, pollution, and unsafe working conditions as well as the diversion of resources needed for a sustainable lifestyle.

Within our country, we've allowed the concept of good citizenship to be redefined as being a good consumer. Our leaders tell us that we can solve world problems by buying stuff.

# Ready and Resilient Hamline Midway

By TRUDY DUNHAM

## Too Much Stuff!



We are so used to the identity of consumer that it has become our go-to strategy. When faced with climate change or other major issues, our reaction is too often "I'll buy Product X instead of Product Y." It doesn't solve the problem.

And then consumerism gets personal: we shop to feel better about ourselves, to deal with depression, to make statements about ourselves and identity. The difficulty is that things don't make us happy, and the new outfit doesn't change our abilities. Next, we bring all this stuff home, and our safe space becomes cluttered. Clutter and keeping stuff organized is a struggle and a major source of home-based stress. Then the bills arrive, along with the realization that

we have spent more than we can afford, more than we want given our real interests and priorities.

Let's step back and think this through: how can we give, consume, spend money, stay within budget, and reduce stress in ways that bring us closer to our family and friends, enhance our world, and build our personal happiness? Here are some ideas:

- 1) **Gift your time and skills.** Create a gift coupon for a home-cooked meal, walking the dog, run errands, shovel the sidewalk. Give home-made salsa, hand-knitted mittens, a poem or painting, dried flowers from your garden, photos from a shared experience.
- 2) **Gift your money, goods and time to those in need.** There are many organizations which accept

donations in honor or memory of someone. So buy the goat or the tree or the winter coat that others need, and indicate it is a gift in honor of your family or friend.

3) **Buy experiences.** Instead of items that add clutter, purchase theater tickets, museum membership, park pass, gift cards at a favorite restaurant. Keep in the mind that the best gifts are when you participate with family or friends—so plan a night out when all can attend.

4) **Borrow, rent, or download instead of purchasing.** Participate in our shared economy.  
5) **Buy less.** Choose well. Make it last. Recognize that the true cost is a ratio of price to use. So buy things that will last, and wear or use them often. Don't throw

away stuff. If it no longer has use or value for you, look for ways to recycle.

And, to upgrade your perspective:

- 1) Recognize your relative affluence and privilege. No matter how little you have, many have much less than you do. Be generous to those in real need. It will make you feel good.
- 2) Recognize that our society continually tells us that we need more and better and newer. We don't. Establish your own fashion sense and life style, and don't believe the marketing pitch that says you need to upgrade or follow the latest trend.
- 3) Express your identity through your spending: the causes and the makers you support. Buy local, and buy sustainable.

There are many benefits of owning fewer possessions: healthier planet, happier people, less to clean and organize, less stress, less debt, and more money and energy for our priorities.

*The Ready & Resilient Hamline Midway project is an initiative of the Hamline Midway Environmental Group (HMEG) to build climate change resiliency in our community.*

### Resources:

- The story of stuff: (2007 video that presents the issues around over-production and consumption of stuff.) <http://storyofstuff.org/>
- Better World Shopper: comprehensive, reliable account of the social and environmental responsibility of every company on the planet in a practical format that individuals can use in their everyday lives. <http://www.betterworldshopper.com/>
- The St. Paul Public Library <http://www.sppl.org/>
- The St. Paul Tool Library <https://www.iooby.org/project/saint-paul-tool-library>

## Pierce Butler Rte.

Continued from page 1

cost of the extension from the east end to Western Ave. versus other street project needs, Pierce Butler again will wait. Lantry said

Public Works will have to look at other sources of funding to get the project done, given the large amount of funding needed.

That echoes concerns raised by Mayor Chris Coleman when he took the project out of the 2016-2017 city capital budget.

That frustrates Ward One

Council Member Dai Thao, who cites the many years community members have waited to see the project done. "People have waited for a long time to see something done," he said. In the Frogtown part of his ward, Pierce Butler's east end dumps traffic into the already-busy Minnehaha Ave. and Dale St. area.

Thao also objects because land purchased for the extension has sat empty. He said the properties are trash-covered and not maintained, and that people are tired of seeing the properties re-

main vacant.

Eight years ago, the City Council was embroiled in a debate with two Frogtown businesses, Daisy Huang's grocery store and bazaar, and Gennadiy Yermolenko's salvage yard. Yermolenko had spent \$1.5 million to redevelop his business near Como and Western avenues. Huang had spent much time and money developing her market. But both businesses were in the way of the street extension.

At that time, plans called for the street extension to start in 2011.

Five years later, the lots remain empty, and the street isn't done. Thao recently described the vacant properties as eyesores during a City Council budget debate.

The Pierce Butler Rte. extension, as planned, would be a four-lane road with a shoulder for bicycle commuters and a separate bike trail. Whether it is a feasible bike route has been a topic for debate among bicyclists, with some saying it provides a fast connection east to west. Others contend that using it as a bike route is dangerous because of truck traffic and vehicular speeds.

The project has long been controversial, with neighborhoods on the east end generally favoring the extension in the past. St. Anthony Park residents and property owners have opposed an extension from Transfer Road to Highway 280 and beyond. In the Midway area, most route-related issues focus on the need for traffic to slow down and make the street safer to cross.

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"An Old Catholic Faith Community"

Efforts to get city-owned parcels into the hands of developers and back onto the property tax rolls are succeeding. Two properties in the area could wind up in the hands of new owner-developers in the future. Council members got a refresher course on HRA property sales, which include a public bid, review and approval process.

St. Paul City Council members, meeting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board Nov. 9 got an update on city-owned commercial, industrial and residentially-zoned sites and their statuses.

Seventeen properties city-wide have developers involved. Seven properties are actively being marketed, including the former Lexington Outreach Library site at 1080 University Ave. The old movie theater building-turned-library served for several years as a meeting site during the development of Green Line light rail. It is zoned for traditional neighborhoods use.

About a dozen more properties are listed as being available for redevelopment with interim uses. These include 621 University Ave. and 1423 University Ave. Both vestiges of University's days as "Auto Row" of motor vehicle dealerships are now used as parking for adjacent uses. The

# Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

## Local city-owned properties eyed for redevelopment

1423 parcel, once part of Midway Chevrolet, is being eyed as part of a larger redevelopment site. But that would require site assembly for commercial development.

### Area projects receive grants

Nine projects that will bring unique projects to St. Paul have received Knight Foundation grants. The grants, of more than \$540,000 total, are meant to improve the city's physical landscape.

Area projects funded include:

- \$70,000 to the Trust for Public Land's work to design a public park on Griggs St. between University and St. Anthony avenues. The park, originally dreamed up by students at Gordon Parks High School, would serve area residents including those at Skyline Tower. The money will be used to

help engage neighbors in park design.

- \$63,000 for MAP for Non-profits to help market the Raymond-University Creative Enterprise Zone.
- \$99,500 for Transit for Livable Communities' Friendly Streets Initiative, with the nonprofit Rondo, Inc. to launch "ReConnectRondo." This new group will work toward a proposed land bridge over Interstate 94, to connect Frogtown and Summit-University neighborhoods.
- \$75,000 for Springboard for the Arts, to support the Can Can Wonderland artist-designed 18-hole mini-golf course that will open soon in the former Silgan factory on N. Prior Ave.

### Last pieces of the Snelling-Selby puzzle

One of the last properties owned

by the old Liberty State Bank is a hive of activity. A former service station site at the southeast corner of Selby and Snelling avenues is becoming a Starbucks coffee house. Construction is continuing this winter and should be completed in several weeks.

The property was used for many years by the nonprofit Youth Express bicycle shop. It was one of several properties at and near Selby and Snelling that the bank acquired over a period of many years. Bank successor Associated Bank has since sold the properties to Ryan Companies for redevelopment. Whole Foods and the Vintage on Selby apartments opened several months ago, and the bank itself is in new quarters. A Primrose child care center has also been developed on former bank property.

Across the street at Snelling and Dayton avenues, area

mixed-use property owner Ed Conley is converting a former gas station-turned auto dealership into a surface parking lot for his businesses.

### West Midway sees more changes

With all types of housing on the drawing boards or under construction in the University and Raymond avenues' Creative Enterprise Zoning, two of the commercial mainstays are celebrating new digs.

Commercial property owner-management veterans Update Companies celebrated the grand opening of its new offices at 661 LaSalle St. Dec. 1. Tenants have been moving into the three-story building since earlier this fall.

Sunrise Banks is opening its new headquarters at 2515 Wabash Ave. near Highway 280 and Interstate 94. Ground was broken for the project this summer. The building is 57,000-square feet in size. It allows the bank to merge space for headquarter employees and for its holding company activities.

Sunrise CEO David Reiling leads the company, which became Sunrise after the merger of Franklin, Park Midway and University banks.

# Monitor In A Minute

Compiled by JANE MCCLURE

### Como Park sculpture to move

Como Park's "Paisley Bench" stone sculpture will be moved, thanks to funds approved Nov. 16 by the St. Paul City Council. The council is using Ward Five Year-Round Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) proceeds to move the piece. Ward Five Council Member Amy Brendmoen sponsored the funding request.

The bench sculpture, also known as the Paisley Perch, was installed about a decade ago near McMurray Fields. It is by artist Peter Morales. It was installed at a time when some other public art sculptures were installed in city parks and open spaces.

Plans call for moving the artwork to Triangle Garden, a filtration garden at Horton, Van Slyke and Churchill. The assistance for the move was sought by the District 10 Como Community Council. The district council and many volunteers have worked to estab-

lish and create the garden.

The Neighborhood STAR Board reviewed the proposal and ranked it for funding earlier in November. The cost of moving the bench is \$2,960.

The City Council waived the Neighborhood STAR guideline that requires a one to one match in funding but did ask a \$75 application fee.

### Union Park District plan

After months of work, Union Park District Council's new district plan was approved unanimously by the St. Paul City Council Nov. 16. The plan covers Desnoyer Park, Iris Park, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, and Lexington-Hamline. University Ave. is the district's northern boundary.

This is the first plan under the Planning District 13 name of Union Park. Previously the Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, and Lexington-Hamline districts all had their own plans. Those plans were all at least ten years

old and will be phased out by the city.

No one appeared at a City Council public hearing to speak against the plan.

District council staff, council members and other neighborhood volunteers worked on the plan, which includes future ideas for housing, parks and open space, transit and transportation and other issues. The plan outlines ways the District 13 neighborhoods could redevelop over the next ten years. It makes suggestions for a more walkable and bike-friendly community, promotes growth and development of neighborhood commercial nodes, and makes dozens of suggestions for neighborhood improvements.

The district plan also brings forward ideas for future neighborhood priorities that could be considered in upcoming Long-Range Capital Improvement

Budget cycles and city infrastructure planning.

Another use for the plan is as a guide to future city decisions on zoning and variances.

### Car2Go is going, going, gone

Car2Go, the car-sharing service and its ubiquitous blue and white little vehicles is suspending its Twin Cities service at the end of 2016. High state motor vehicle rental taxes were blamed in company communications to clients.

Part of the Midway remained in the car sharing service area after a major cut from citywide service over the summer. The service area still included much of the Midway and the downtown area, but lopped off the East Side, West Side, Highland and many other neighborhoods.

Car2Go has been in St. Paul since 2014. The service has

about 400 Twin Cities vehicles serving 29,000 local members and members from other cities who use cars here. It serves nine US cities, as well as almost 20 destinations around the world.

The smart cars were found through a smartphone app. Users chose to pay by the minute, hour or day. Once found and used, the cars were left at their destination.

The company has also announced cuts to service in San Diego and Miami.

The \$35 joiners' fees won't be refunded to local clients, who can still use the vehicles in other cities. The announcement was met with dismay on social media.

The Twin Cities still has other car-sharing services, including Hourcar and Zipcar. Those vehicles have to be returned to a central sharing parking area or hub.

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# Como writer, jokester, 'bearder' amazed at good fortune

Two volumes of Brian Beatty's poetry being published—'Coyotes I Couldn't See' and 'Brazil, Indiana'

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

2016 was a big year for Como poet and performer Brian Beatty. He had two poetry collections accepted for publication, "Coyotes I Couldn't See" and "Brazil, Indiana."

"I'm pretty amazed at my good fortune right now," remarked Beatty.

"At 46 years old, I was late to get something book-length published. This interest in my work motivates me to keep knocking out poems."

## Natural creative outlet

Beatty was writing poems in high school English classes when he should have been reading Mark Twain or F. Scott Fitzgerald. "Initially I was inspired by the song lyrics of my favorite bands, but I quickly realized, with the help of a great teacher, that song lyrics and poetry weren't the same thing—mostly because I was no Bob Dylan," recalled Beatty.

In college, he studied fiction writing because that seemed more practical. "At the time, you could still sell short stories to magazines," stated Beatty. He sold one to Seventeen magazine during his senior year of undergrad.

His first published poem worth anything was about a homeless man who tucked the money he panhandled into his boot. It appeared in a university literary magazine, across the page from a poem by Charles Bukowski. "I was pretty pleased (and smug) about that at the time," said Beatty.

In 1994, he earned a master of fine arts degree in fiction writing from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and then quit writing for about a year.

"I'd pushed too hard too soon," he explained.

He questions university MFA programs, worrying that the university's ownership of literature has done something to poetry and fiction traditions. "Not enough of writing these days is



On his website, Como resident Brian Beatty labels himself as a writer, jokester and "bearder," one who's worn a beard since before its recent popularity. (Photo submitted)

about what happens outside of academia," said Beatty.

When he eventually returned to a computer keyboard, it was with ideas for poems instead of short stories. "I've stayed at it since then because I've never found a creative outlet that feels as natural to me," said Beatty.

## 'Odd, endearing, adored by hipsters and Wobegonians'

Over the last 25 years, Beatty has written for over 20 publications. Among them are *Arts Indiana*, *The Bark*, *City Pages*, *Elephant Journal*, *The Evergreen Review*, *Glasgow Review of Books* (Scotland), *Lake Country Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Quarterly*, *The Rake*, *The Sycamore Review*, *The Writer*, *Urthona* (New Zealand) and *Yankee Pot Roast*.

The bearded jokester has appeared on more than 15 stages, such as the Bedlam Theatre,

Brave New Workshop, MPR's Fitzgerald Theater, 2010 and 2011 Minnesota Fringe Festivals, The Playwrights' Center, The Ritz Theater, The Soap Factory, Trylon Microcinema, The Turf Club, and the Woman's Club of Minneapolis.

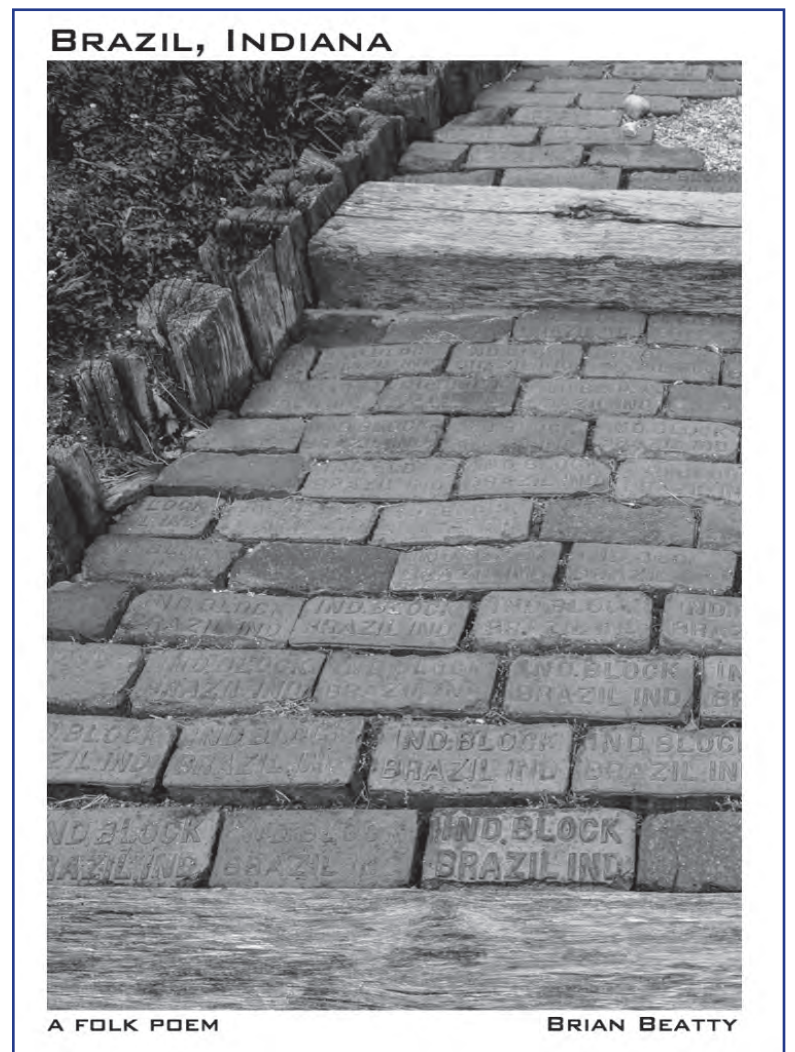
For two years Beatty hosted "You Are Hear," a monthly literary podcast, for mnartists.org, a joint project of the Walker Art Center and the McKnight Foundation.

Comedian Maria Bamford considers Beatty one of her favorite Minneapolis comics. "Odd, endearing, adored by hipsters and Wobegonians alike," she said.

## Read, steal, and avoid cliches

Beatty grew up in Brazil, Indiana and moved to south Minneapolis in 1999. He wound up in St. Paul's Como neighborhood in 2015.

He's a big fan of Lake Como and all that the park offers.



A FOLK POEM

BRIAN BEATTY

"Brazil, Indiana" started as a tribute to the poet's late grandmother, who was his last connection to his hometown until her death last year. (Photo submitted)

"My favorite thing about the Como neighborhood is how residential it is," remarked Beatty. "Neighbors wave across the street and chat in the alley. I love that I don't see cranes when I look toward the horizon."

He has started reading at Barbaric Yawp, Chris Title's monthly reading series at Underground Music Café at Hoyt and Hamline.

Beatty recommends that aspiring poets read as much as they can and steal what they find valuable.

"Read and steal—and be as clear as you can about what

you're trying to communicate without falling into horrible cliché," stated Beatty, who also writes marketing and advertising copy for business clients.

## Comedy and poetry

Beatty's writing process involves plopping down in his living room chair with his laptop and hoping for the best, usually first thing in the morning after the coffee is started. "When nothing's working, I crack open a book and read until I stumble upon something that inspires me," said Beatty.

"I typically start with a single image or phrase and follow that wherever it takes me. Most of the time, I wind up telling tiny stories or jokes in my poems."

His first poetry collection, "DUCK!" was a 100-page humor collection he self-published in 2009.

Ravenna Press in Washington published a small pamphlet-length collection called, "Earliest Bird Calls." It includes a couple of poems that wound up in revised versions in the *Coyotes* collection.

"Coyotes I Couldn't See," was printed recently by St. Paul-based Red Bird Chapbooks (redbirdchapbooks.com). This limited edition collection includes lyric and narrative poems written and published over a two-year period. The chapbook is loosely arranged to chronicle a year's sequence of seasons. Included poems originally appeared in print and digital publications

Continued on page 11

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# Local school joins two others to insure survival and growth

St. Peter Claver Catholic School joins in partnership with two Minneapolis Catholic Schools

By JAN WILLMS

Staff, parents and students at St. Peter Claver Catholic School, 1060 W. Central Ave., will no longer have to worry each year whether the school will continue to stay open.

The school has become a part of the newly formed Ascension Catholic Academy, described as a paradigm for urban Catholic schools in the Twin Cities. The other schools involved are Ascension Catholic School in north Minneapolis and St. John Paul II Catholic Prep School in north-east Minneapolis.

The Academy concept originated with, and was initially funded by, the GHR Foundation, started in 1965 by Gerald and Henrietta Rauenhorst. The Foundation seeks transformational change in education, health, and global development.

"The traditional parish school is led by a pastor, who then hires the principal and oversees the school," said Meg Nodzon, senior program officer for the GHR Foundation. "In this model, the pastors of the three schools have ceded their authority to a board of directors that is made up of both clergy and lay people who will then manage all three schools together, which is a new form of governance for this archdiocese."

Nodzon expressed gratitude to Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Bishop Andrew Cozzens, who partnered with GHR and the schools to adopt this new model.



Photo left: DeMod McGruder, an 8th grader at St. Peter Claver Catholic School, at computer. (Photo submitted)

"There was always the question of whether St. Peter Claver could stay open, and similar concerns with St. John Paul II," Nodzon explained. "We wanted to look at whether there was a model that not only could stabilize the schools fiscally but could

at the same time boost the academics so we could continue to close the achievement gap."

Nodzon said that Ascension Catholic School was doing well both academically and financially. "They had a good basis of support, and a lot of partnerships throughout the community," Nodzon claimed. "The model was based on Ascension being the anchor and helping to disseminate best practices and stability for all three schools."

Patty Stromen, president of Ascension Catholic Academy, said the GHR Foundation had looked at many sites and at what was the cutting edge of how urban Catholic schools were succeeding. She said GHR looked at best practices and discussed what could happen locally.

"That translated to a more focused conversation around a wealth of information about what was working and what wasn't working," Stromen said. "Each situation is unique, so we didn't simply take one model and institute it here, but considered the nuances of this archdiocese and the two cities. We're bridging St. Paul and Minneapolis, and in Minneapolis, bridging north and northeast."

Conversations have been in place for two years, and the project was put into effect Aug. 1.

Therese Shimshock, principal at St. Peter Claver, has been on board since August. She was previously an administrator at Faithful Shepherd in Eagan for

11 years.

"I took some time off and was trying to figure out what I want to do when I grow up," she recalled. "I was at daily Mass, asking God whether I should go to a public school or do consult-

ing. Mass was at 8:30am, and at 8:32 Patty had left me a phone call. I think God was saying He had tried to give me these little subtle hints but I hadn't gotten them, so he was going to hit me over the head with a 2x4."

"Patty asked me if I would be interested in coming in and talking. I told her that I am just a suburban white woman with no urban experience. We talked through that piece of it, and here I am," Shimshock said.

The school originally opened in the 1950s and was closed in the 1980s. After about 20 years, it reopened in 2000. The school has always had an African focus, reflected in the African design on the floors of the hallway. The student population of K-8 is currently 68.

Shimshock said St. Peter Claver is in a reboot stage right now. Out of 10 teachers, eight are new. "Being under the Academy has allowed us to create a culture that is different from our past, not that we are forgetting our African roots. But it has let us start over and give these kids the academics and skills that they need to move forward."

"One of the things Patty did

Continued on page 7



Augustus Young, MS Math/Science teacher at St. Peter Claver, assists a student. (Photo submitted)

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# St. Peter Claver Catholic School

Continued from page 6

was hire a dean of students," Shimshock explained. "Even though we have a very low population in numbers, the kids that come to us have emotional or academic concerns. Andre Knight, our dean of students, is an African American man who brings that piece to it. While I work on the academic needs, he works on the behavioral part, which is phenomenal."

All the schools in the Academy, according to Stromen, have over 70 percent of students in the free or reduced lunch program. Over 90 percent of students are children of color.

"Most of the scholars in all three of our schools come to us at an average of two years behind grade level," she continued. "So it's not only helping them achieve, but closing that achievement gap and progressing them through at a faster rate than students at grade level."

She emphasized that all three schools have individualized learning plans, with a very specific awareness of each scholar's needs, particularly in reading and math.

Stromen said that although it is in early stages, so far the program seems to be going well. "We're looking at how we build structures, how we increase academic success and financial sustainability and how we bring best practices to each and every area of the organization."

"We have a half-time enrollment manager, and half of her time is here in St. Paul, knowing we want to increase enrollment here next year." She said that regarding structure, the Academy had built a comprehensive IT program. "Instead of each school trying to manage on its own, or manage emergencies, we now have a very cohesive way to do that. Whether it's a piece of equipment that needs to be purchased or something that needs to be fixed, everyone knows who to go to. That doesn't sound like a lot, but in a school setting it



Photo left: Elonzo Simmons, Kaleb Carter, and Elijah Simmons, are all 5th grade students at St. Peter Claver. (Photo submitted)

can make a big difference."

Stromen stated that finance, HR, bookkeeping, volunteer and enrollment management, traditional development and raising of funds are all centralized.

"We brought Ascension's best practices for finance, HR, and volunteer management to the other schools as well," she said. "Ascension is also strengthened in the process."

Stromen added that all three schools not only want their scholars to graduate from high school, but to also be post-secondary education ready.

Nodzson said St. Peter Claver is one of the last Catholic schools in an urban setting in St. Paul. "With the Ascension Catholic Academy, we can ensure scholars will have a school in their neighborhood for hopefully many, many years to come."

"A school that educates children successfully, and in this case in a faith setting, brings hope to a neighborhood," added Stromen. "We see our mission as educating any child who comes to us along with a family member who desires to be educated in

a faith setting, regardless of what their faith background is."

"Some people say why are Catholics educating non-Catholics? We say it's because we are

Catholic. It's part of our mission to educate children who deserve strong, positive, successful education, and we welcome anyone who walks in the door."



Elicia Stevens was a 7th grade student at St. Peter Claver. (Photo submitted)

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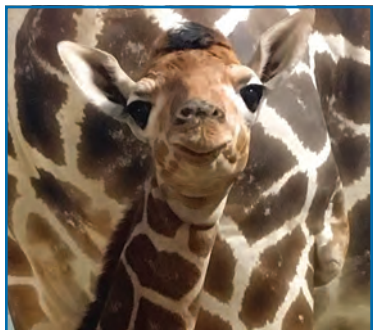
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# In Our Community

## Monitor

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"Prince," Como Zoo's latest addition to their giraffe family. (Photo provided)

## Como welcomes baby giraffe

Como Zoo welcomed a new baby giraffe named "Prince" to its herd. Coming into the world at 6'6" tall and weighing 160 pounds, the baby made her public debut Nov. 17.

The new baby boy, born Nov. 10, is the seventh calf born to mom, Daisy, and the 20th giraffe birth at Como in the last 22 years. Como's current herd consists of Clover, Daisy, Skeeter (Prince's father) and Prince. The honor of naming the new giraffe was given to Como Friends supporters Gretchen and David Cray, who have been the top individual donors on 'Give To The Max Day' for the past three years.

The giraffe is the tallest of all land-living animal species. They can be as tall as 18 feet and have a prehensile (used for grasping) tongue as long as 18 inches. During the first two years of a giraffe's life, it doubles in height, often standing over 12-feet tall. Giraffe gestation lasts between 14 and 15 months, after which a single calf is born. Like human fingerprints, the markings or spots of a giraffe's coat are unique to each. Reticulated giraffes are native to the dry savannahs and open woodlands of sub-Saharan Africa.

## Winter clothing donations sought

Jehovah Lutheran Church is gathering donations to help Congolese refugees and ex-convicts.

Needed are children's sweaters pants, jackets, hats, mittens, snowsuits, children's boots and similar items. Mark donations for CEEDS, the Center for Employment and Education Development Services that helps Congolese refugees escaping years of civil war in that nation. The group has an office in the church.

Winter coats are needed, especially 2X and 3X sizes, backpacks and duffel bags for Crossing Home, a service that helps ex-convicts transition to new lives. Also needed are a dresser and a 10x15-foot carpet. Mark the donation for Crossing Home, which also has an office in the church.

Donations can be left in the

church's donations corner to the left of the Thomas Ave. entry on Sunday mornings, or arrange another drop-off time by calling the church at 651-644-1421. Jehovah Lutheran is at 1566 Thomas. Receipts for tax purposes are available.

## Painters reception scheduled Dec. 10

The Sixth Annual Outdoor Painters of Minnesota show will run from Dec. 10 through Jan. 7 at The FrameWorks, 2022 Ford Pkwy. #A. The gallery wall will be full of beautiful, plein air paintings just in time for holiday gift shopping (or treat yourself).

The opening reception is scheduled for Dec. 10, 7-10pm, and will feature drinks, food, and fun. The show includes works from Laura Frykman, Angie Malin, Richard Abraham, Joshua Cunningham, Diane LaMere, Tom McGregor, Christine Tierney, Philip Alexander Carlton, and Curt Gander.

## Co-ed Drum Circle planned Dec. 23

The Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., will present a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., Dec. 23, at 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm, and freedom of expression will be explored. The cost is \$10 at the door, and all experience levels are welcome. Drums are provided. Info and registration can be found at [www.womensdrumcenter.org](http://www.womensdrumcenter.org).

## Become a mental health advocate

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Minnesota will hold a free legislative training on "How to be an Effective Mental Health Advocate" on Sat., Dec. 10, from 10am-noon, at NAMI Minnesota, 800 Transfer Rd., Suite 31. To register, call 651-645-2948 or go to [namihelps.org](http://namihelps.org).

## Music Under Glass returns Jan. 1

"Music Under Glass" returns to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory starting in January. The Music Under Glass series is renowned for featuring Minnesota's finest musicians in free concerts.

The concerts are held on select Sundays from 4:30-6:30pm inside the comfy confines of the Conservatory. Beer, wine, pop, and light snacks will be available to purchase. (Please, no outside food or beverages in the Conservatory.)

The first concert on Sun., Jan. 1 is The Sudden Lovelies from Nordeast Minneapolis.

They describe their unique and earnest sound as "aggressive folk." Daniel writes and plays guitar, sings, and kicks a vintage red suitcase like a bass drum. Paige also sings, slaps a cymbal with a tambourine, and plays a slew of funky hand percussion. There is a humble passion and honesty in their live show that cannot be denied.

Jan. 8 The Teague Alexy Band's writing is deeply rooted in Americana after touring the country for nearly a decade with brother Ian in their foot-stomping duo Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank. Look for Teague Alexy's newest album, "Circuit Sessions," in early 2017.

On Jan. 15 Javier Matos takes center stage. Tim Sheridan from All Music Guide said that "Every so often a guitar player comes out of nowhere to knock you off your feet...Javier Matos is such a player. He can play bottleneck slide blues like he was born with a National guitar in his hands. He has a confident, solid vocal talent to boot, packing a solid punch behind his fierce guitar attack."

## Hausman named legislator of year

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Minnesota presented St. Paul District 66A Rep. Alice Hausman with a Legislator of the Year Award at its annual conference, held in St. Paul on Nov. 5. The award recognizes a legislator who has been an outspoken advocate for children and adults with mental illness and their families.

"Rep. Hausman is a strong advocate for affordable and supportive housing. She understands that without a home, recovery is difficult. While serving on the Capitol Investment Committee she has strongly advocated that funding for developing housing and addressing homelessness be in the bonding bill," said NAMI's executive director Sue Abderholden. "She was also the key advocate for funding the planning and remodeling of the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter. We know that the buildings there are not designed to be a therapeutic environment and NAMI advocated strongly for that funding. In addition to her interest in housing, she also authored a bill to increase the number of school support personnel to help all children succeed.

"This fall, Rep. Hausman met with NAMI members to hear about their concerns and NAMI's legislative goals for 2017. She has taken what she learned that night to heart and has continually repeated the common theme—the need for everyone to have a place they can call home. We are so fortunate to have her as an advocate for housing and very pleased to call her a friend."

## Hamline Elementary plans drop-in times



While Hamline Elementary is always open to prospective families and community members, they are setting aside daytime hours for interested folks to stop in, without an appointment. You can take a tour of the school and learn more about the community partnerships and programming that make Hamline Elementary outstanding and truly unique in St. Paul Public Schools. Stop by the school, 1599 Englewood Ave., Jan. 5, 1:30-2:15pm, or Jan. 10, 17, or 24 from 9-10:30am for tours, question and answer sessions with staff and current families. And mark your calendars for Hamline Elementary's Annual Winter Warm-Up/Open House event on Thur., Jan. 19, 5-7pm. For questions about any of these events, or to schedule a tour, please call the school at 651-293-8715.

## HM Coalition plans annual meet Dec. 13

Hamline Midway Coalition will hold their annual meeting and open house on Tues., Dec. 13, 6-8pm at Hamline University's East Hall #106. A light meal will be provided. Visit [www.hamlinemidway.org/annualmeeting](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/annualmeeting) for the full agenda.

The meeting will include a report on Coalition activities and plans, as well as the election of 3 members of the Board of Directors. Candidates will address the group from 6:20-6:45pm, and voting is open until 7:30. Election results will be announced at 7:45pm.

In the election, Steve Samuelson, Laura Seuss, and Quinn Doheny are running to fill the seat in Subdistrict A (Transfer Rd. to Snelling Ave.); Andrew Norman is running for the seat from Subdistrict B (between Snelling Ave. and Hamline Ave.); In Subdistrict C (between Hamline Ave. and Lexington Pkwy.) the three candidates for the seat are Nate Blumenshine, Erin Pavlica, and Linda Jackson.

Anyone age 16 or older that resides within, owns property within, or owns a business that is headquartered and principally operates within Hamline Midway is eligible to run AND vote in the board election. If you're interested in working with an informed and engaged group of neighbors, please consider running for the board.

If you are not able to attend the meeting, you can still vote. Please contact Michael Jon at 651-494-7683 or email [michaeljon@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:michaeljon@hamlinemidway.org).

## Santa Claus visits Night Trains Dec. 17

Night Trains season is a special Holidays tradition at the Twin City Model Railroad Museum, 668 Transfer Road, Suite 8. It is

running every Saturday evening from 6-9pm through Feb. 25.

This year Santa will be visiting the Museum on Sat., Dec. 17. He will have a sack of goodies for good girls and boys. Bring your camera and tell Santa about the train you want for Christmas. There's no additional admission to see Santa!

Night Trains season comes to the dozens of model railroad layouts in a magical way; the lights are turned down, the buildings and street lights glow warmly, setting the scene for specially lighted models of vintage passenger trains. The make-believe town of Matlin is buried in a blizzard, and throughout the Museum the layouts are adorned with miniature Christmas lights and decorations.

For more information visit the Museum's web site, [www.tcmrm.org](http://www.tcmrm.org). Admission to this special show is \$15 per person and free for children age four and under. Discounted group rates are also available for groups of four or more (max 10).

## Keystone offers monthly events

The Keystone Senior Center, located in the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave., offers a variety of programs for seniors in the community. Here are a few ongoing events along with others scheduled for the coming weeks. (Unless noted otherwise, these programs meet at the Merriam Park Community Center. Call 651-645-7424 for more information.)

**Health insurance/Medicare counseling.** Free health insurance counseling from certified counselors available by appointment. One-hour appointments are available from 10am-1pm, Thur., Dec. 15. Call 651-645-7424 for an appointment.

**Foot care.** Half-hour ap-

*Continued on page 9*



## In Our Community

Continued from page 8

pointments for foot care are available on the first Monday of every month by appointment (call 651-645-7424). Cost is \$20 per session.

**Blood pressure checks.** Merriam Park Community Center has a blood pressure check station available every workday during office hours. Staff members will assist you if necessary.

**Fit and Fabulous Exercise.** This class is for everyone over age 50, of all abilities. Class includes stretching, warm up, endurance work, cool down, guided relaxation, and fun. Mon., Wed., and Fri., 10:30-11:15am. Cost is \$10 per month or \$25 per year for Silver & Fit members. Call 651-645-7424 for more information or simply drop by.

**Meals on Wheels.** Receive nutritious, delicious meals at your home. Fresh, hot, cold, or frozen meals are available every week-day to all who need nutritious food in their lives. Cost is based on a sliding fee. Call Keystone Community Services at 651-645-7424 for more information or to sign up for meals.

## Hmong Academy plan campus expansion

Hmong College Prep Academy plans to build a classroom and office addition, football field and track, seasonal sports dome, and parking deck adjacent to its existing campus on Brewster St. just east of Snelling Ave. The charter school is purchasing 10 acres of what now are mostly bus and truck barns between the Snelling service road, Brewster, Pascal St., and the railroad right-of-way. The expansion might require removing landscaping and installing sidewalks along Wynne Ave. on the north side of the property. The expansion plan, as proposed,

does not need any zoning variances. More details are available on District 10's website.

## Local NEC office and Mpls. CEE merge

The boards of two Minnesota nonprofits known for community-focused energy efficiency efforts have signaled an intent to merge their organizations for greater reach and mission impact.

Local Neighborhood Energy Connection (NEC), 1754 University Ave. W., has announced its merger with the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) to expand the reach and their mission impact. The combined entity will maintain the name Center for Energy and Environment.

"The NEC and CEE have long shared similar missions and approaches to residential energy efficiency, one home and one neighborhood at a time, making this next step feel like a natural evolution in our work," says long-time NEC board member Tom Garry. "This merger will allow us to build upon each organization's successes, adding efficiencies as we increase our collective reach."

Among their common strengths is an emphasis on local relationships, including longstanding partnerships with regional energy utilities. With a staff of 35, the NEC's recent focus areas have included home energy programs and a robust energy efficiency and home project loan program. In addition to similar financing and residential programs, CEE's staff of 85 complements the NEC's services with engineering services and efficiency programs for commercial buildings and businesses, engagement and educational resources, independent research on air quality and energy-related tech, planning partnerships with utilities and regional governments, and public policy efforts.

## Events planned at Merriam Library

The following upcoming events are scheduled Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.:

• **Open Lab for Writers**, Thursdays, 10:30-noon. No instructor. Just an opportunity to meet, discuss, or work on whatever you're writing. All styles welcome.

• **Storytimes** in English, Fridays, 10:30-11:00am. Spend time sharing stories, songs, and rhymes with your child while building a foundation for reading success. Preschoolers, toddlers, and babies welcome.

• **Tablet/Smartphone Clinic**, Sat., Dec. 10, 3-4pm. The Tablet/Smartphone Help Clinics are for ALL tablets and smartphones. Bring your questions, problems and concerns. If we can't answer the question, we'll find resources or organizations that can! No registration required.

• **Teen Do Down Workshops**, Tues., Dec. 13, 3:30-5:30pm. Drop in to do away fines by recording, editing, and scoring your stop-motion short films and playing with Ozobots. Don't have fines? Still feel free to join in. Ages 12-18.

• **Minnesota Youth Reading Awards**: Meet the Books- Maud Hart, Divisions 1 and 2, Wed., Dec. 28, 2-3:30pm. Meet the books in the running for both Maud Hart Division I (grades 3-5) & Division II (grades 6-8). There are 12 books in each division. Youth will cast a preliminary vote based on a brief introduction to each book. We will tally up the votes for a local sample. The statewide voting occurs in March 2107.

• **Meet the Books** - Star of the North, Fri., Dec. 30, 2-3pm. Meet all ten picture books in the running for the Star of the North Award. Youth will cast a preliminary vote based on a brief introduction to each book.



Members of the new community outreach group, "The Outstanding Men's Society" or T.O.M.S. at Northwest Como Recreation Center. Their goal is to provide enrichment to the community while gaining leadership, teamwork, and service experience. If you have ideas for service projects, community gatherings, or other events that the T.O.M.S. should be a part of, please contact the rec center.

## Recreation Center Activities

Registration for Fall Classes/Activities for Langford, Northwest Como, and North Dale Recreation Centers is now open. Here is what's beginning soon. Check your local recreation center for the whole list of offerings. To register for activities you can: call the center, go to the center; or online at [stpaul.gov/activityregistration](http://stpaul.gov/activityregistration).

### Northwest Como Rec Center 1550 Hamline Ave. N., 651-298-5813

- Artist Workshop for ages 5-12
- Parents Night Out on Feb. 10
- Senior Gamers, weekly on Tues. from 1-3pm
- Babysitting Training for ages 11-17, on Feb. 4
- Family Movie Series on Fridays beginning Feb. 10
- Family Open Gym on Sundays beginning Jan. 8
- Power Up Fitness for ages 7-17
- Men's 35+ Ice & Advil Basketball
- Tae kwon do for ages 6-17
- Creative Movement/Ballet for ages 3-5
- Hip Hop, ages 6-18
- Jazz/Ballet, ages 6-10
- Ice Skating Lessons, ages 3-6
- Archery, ages 9-17
- Women's Basketball 35+ beginning Jan. 8
- Men's Indoor Soccer beginning Jan. 8

### North Dale Rec Center 1414 St. Albans St. N., 651-558-2329

- Men's 35+ Ice & Advil Basketball
- Adult Basketball, Pickleball, Volleyball
- Taekwondo for ages 4-17
- Tap/Ballet/Jazz, ages 5-12
- Music Together, ages 9mo-5
- Preschool Theatre Classes: Beat Goes On, Clowning Around, Land of Fairy Tales
- Creation Of A Storyteller, ages 15-18
- Mask Theatre ages 12-15
- Telling Tales Theatre, ages 6-9
- The Sneetches Theatre, ages 9-12
- Basic Acting for Adults
- Parent/Child Tot Time on M/W/Thur from 9am-noon
- Tumbling, ages 3-5
- Ice Skating Lessons, ages 5-7
- Adult Yoga on Tues./Sat.
- Adult Pilates on Mon./Wed.
- Senior Fitness on Tues./Thur.
- Laughter Yoga, first Thur of the month at noon
- Challenge Square Dance on Mondays from 6:30-9pm

### Langford Rec Center 30 Langford Pk., 651-298-5765

- 3D Minecraft Masterpiece Art, ages 5-12
- Paint on Canvas, ages 5-12
- Ancient Egyptian Art History - Learn and Make, ages 50+
- Ancient Greek Art History - Learn and Make, ages 50+
- Advanced Minecraft Mods, ages 10-14
- Sugar Addiction for Adults on Feb. 2
- Beginning Arabic Language for Adults beginning Feb. 7
- Zumba for Adults
- Men's 35+ Ice & Advil Basketball
- Pilates for Beginners and Intermediate Levels
- Soo Bahk Do, ages 5-adult
- Tot Time on Thursdays from 9-10:30am
- Ice Skating Lessons, ages 6-9

To Register or inquiries on fees, you can call the recreation center, go to the center or online at [stpaul.gov/activityregistration](http://stpaul.gov/activityregistration).

## Influenza (flu): What you need to know

Your child has been home from school for three days with a cough, runny nose, and fever. You've had to miss work to take care of him and are worried that you'll have to miss a couple more days. This is a common situation that families experience during influenza (flu) season because the flu can make people feel miserable for several days or weeks.

Flu is an illness that affects people of all ages, and it is a major health issue around the world. Both children and adults should get a flu vaccine each year to reduce your chance of getting sick or spreading the flu to others.

### What is flu?

Flu is an illness caused by viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. Most people get the flu during the colder months, beginning in October and lasting through the spring. Flu can be spread in the air when people with a virus cough or sneeze, or a person can become infected by touching a surface with the virus on it and then touching their mouth or eyes.

### Who gets flu?

Anybody can get the flu! But,

some people are more likely to become very sick with the flu. Those at highest risk include: young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people who are already sick with diseases like pneumonia, asthma, chronic lung disease, HIV, heart disease, and diabetes.

Flu symptoms include a sore throat, runny nose, and cough. People with the flu also feel very tired and may have a fever, chills, and body aches. Children who have the flu may have different symptoms than adults, like diarrhea and vomiting, in addition to the other symptoms. Flu symptoms usually come on very suddenly.

### How is flu treated?

Most of the time, the flu can be treated at home. It is important to rest and to drink plenty of water. Stay home while you are sick, and for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone, so you do not spread the flu to others. Sometimes flu can be severe. If a person is having trouble breathing, feeling dizzy or confused, or having chest or abdominal pain, they should go to the hospital. In some cases, doctors may also give

medications to help your body fight the virus.

### How can I prevent the flu?

The most important way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated! Everyone 6 months of age and older should get the flu vaccine every year. The flu vaccine reduces the chances of getting sick and now is a great time to get vaccinated! Talk with your doctor about what type of flu vaccine you and your family should get.

Other ways to avoid getting sick are:

- Clean your hands often with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, if possible.
- Stay home from if you are sick.

You can search for a location to get the flu vaccine at [www.mdhflu.com](http://www.mdhflu.com) and click on "Vaccine Clinic Look-Up." This site also includes information on clinics in Minnesota that offer free or low-cost vaccines for children and adults who do not have insurance or whose insurance does not cover immunizations.

• The Como Robotics team, BEASTBot, earned a \$10,000 piece of machinery through an on-line voting campaign. Maslow CNC conducted a three-week Kickstarter Campaign for schools desiring to acquire a high-tech cutting machine. BEASTBot will be able to take the design of their robot and complimentary parts to the next level with this 4'x8' Maslow CNC saw designed to precisely create objects out of wood and other flat materials. The official build season for Robotics begins in January. After a state tournament appearance last school year, an off-season invitational win, and expanding external support, there is a lot of positive momentum in the program.

• Students from Como Park's Student Council and National Honor Society worked together with students from Central High School and the St. Paul Police Department to supply food to the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center in St. Paul on Nov. 15. The students and police officers formed a human chain as they unloaded bags of food from vehicles that transported the food from the schools and police department's collections sites. Como students remarked that it was a powerful, unifying community event that helped fill a need.

Seniors in the National Honor Society are also leading a book drive to support students at Como Park Elementary. Como students have been encouraged to bring in donated books to school, which will be collected and delivered to the younger elementary students.



## News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

### Robotics team receives \$10,000 equipment gift



Como Park Marine Corps JROTC cut the cake in honor of Veterans Day and the 241st birthday of the Marines at the St. Paul Hotel. (Photo provided)

• Over 60 freshmen students in the Academy of Finance (AOF) attended a full-day field trip to Finance Park at Junior Achievement. Students participated in a simulation where they were given a professional profile, salary and a set of bills to pay and manage. Mortgages, insurance

costs, utility bills and a handful of other details and responsibilities provided a sense of what students will eventually need to balance. It was a valuable exercise to gain financial awareness and literacy in preparation for their independent futures.

• The Como Park Choirs will present the annual Pops Concert on Mon., Dec. 12 in the Como Auditorium from 7-8:30pm. The show will feature five choirs performing music ranging from current hits to classics and oldies. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for students and senior citizens.

Como's Chamber Singers will also be singing in a pre-concert performance at Orchestra Hall on Fri., Dec. 9 with members of Washburn High School's choir in Minneapolis.

• The annual Close Up trip to Washington D.C. is slated for the first week of March, but fundraising is already in full swing. Students from AP Government classes will be bagging groceries for customers at the Roseville Cub Foods on Larpenteur from 11am-6pm on Sat., Dec. 17, and during winter break on Fri., Dec. 23 and Fri., Dec. 30. Cub customers generously support the effort of the students with donations that help defray the expense of the educational adventure.

• The fall athletics season concluded in November with state tournament appearances from the Como boys' soccer team and Como cross country runner Innocent Murwanashyaka. The soccer team continued its' remarkable run of section championships, winning for a fifth consecutive year and qualifying for state. Senior Innocent Murwanashyaka won the St. Paul City title, the Section 4AA championship, and finished with a third place medal in the state meet.

Winter sports are heating up with games and meets beginning in basketball (boys and girls), Nordic skiing (boys and girls), wrestling and swimming for boys, and gymnastics for girls. All student-athletes will be working hard to improve throughout the season, build relationships with their teams, and represent Como and the community with class.

# Classifieds

## Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by Dec. 30 for the Jan. 12 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)

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor by Dec. 30 for the Jan. 12 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to [denis@deruyternelson.com](mailto:denis@deruyternelson.com). Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

### AIR CONDITIONERS

Recycling discarded air conditioners. Free pick-up. No charge! Roger 612-210-3529. 12-16

### ATTORNEY

Creative Solutions With a Personal Touch. Legal Services in the areas of: Small Business, Wills and Trusts, Probate, Real Estate, and Family. Kirsten Libby, 855 Rice Street, Suite 100, St. Paul,

MN, 651-487-1208 [www.libby-lawoffice.com](http://www.libby-lawoffice.com). B-16

### AUTO STORAGE

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### BATHROOMS

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### EMPLOYMENT

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### LAWN CARE

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### OFFICE SPACE

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Painting, wallpaper removal. small painting jobs wanted. Jim. 612-202-5514. Lawn mowing. 12-16

### PHARMACY

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## Como writer, Brian Beatty published

Continued from page 5

in the U.S., Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and Scotland, as well as in digital broadsides on the website of the Walker Art Center and in Motionpoems' 2014 "Arrivals and Departures" public art project at Union Depot in downtown St. Paul.

"Brian Beatty's poems conjure complete lives—houses, yards, people, ghosts, dogs, squirrels and invisible coyotes—out of just a few stanzas," praised Minnesota musician Charlie Parr. "This collection reads like music, creating worlds that look like everyday life complete with the terrible

uncertainty, the delicate and wavering balance, the long, long drop into the bottomless."

### Book tribute to grandmother

Beatty's second collection, titled "Brazil, Indiana," will be published in late 2016 or early 2017 by California-based Kelsey Books/Aldrich Press.

The 100-page sequence of short, 12-line lyrics pays tribute to the people and places of the poet's rural, small town childhood years.

"It's one long poem in the manner of John Berryman's Dream Songs," explained Beatty. "The book poured out in a handful of months. It started as a tribute to my late grandmother, who was my last connection to my hometown until

**"For all the jabber about nobody reading poetry these days, I'm fortunate to live in a place where there's an audience for the work I do."**

— Brian Beatty

her death last year."

Excerpts from the sequence first appeared in numerous publications, including Clementine Poetry Journal, Dressing Room Poetry Journal, The Glasgow Review of Books (Scotland), Midwestern Gothic, The Moth

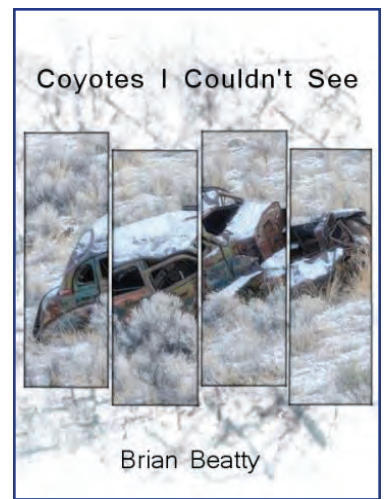
(Ireland), Right Hand Pointing, Third Wednesday and Yellow Chair Review.

Twin Cities-based annual Poetry City, U.S.A. published the first of the Brazil, Indiana excerpts.

"The highlight of my poetry 'career,' such as it is, would have to be publishing six excerpts from the Brazil book in an Irish literary magazine. Otherwise, I sat next to the poet Robert Bly at a local documentary premiere once," said Beatty.

Check Beatty's web site ([brianbeattympls.com](http://brianbeattympls.com)) for book signing events.

"For all the jabber about nobody reading poetry these days, I'm fortunate to live in a place where there's an audience for the work I do," said Beatty. "It means the world to me."



"Brian Beatty's poems conjure complete lives—houses, yards, people, ghosts, dogs, squirrels and invisible coyotes—out of just a few stanzas," praised Minnesota musician Charlie Parr. (Photo submitted)

Mon., Dec. 12 is the deadline to submit nominations to add local individuals or organizations to Saint Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll. The annual, citywide award pays tribute to residents who improve the quality of life in the city. The award typically recognizes members of our community who make a sustained and lasting impact in District 10 or the city as a whole.

To nominate someone: Email us at [district10@district-10comopark.org](mailto:district10@district-10comopark.org). Give us a short description of your nominee's accomplishments or the reasons they should be honored for making Como a better place to live, work, or play. The District 10 Board will evaluate nominees at our Dec. 20 meeting.

See the District 10 website for a list of previous honor roll recipients from our neighborhood.

### Wheelock reconstruction

An information session about the 2017 reconstruction of Wheelock Pkwy. takes place on Wed., Dec. 14 at 5:30pm at the Como Park Streetcar Station, 224 Lexington Pkwy. N.

Saint Paul's Public Works Department will answer questions and explain parkway work scheduled from Victoria and Maryland east to Arlington and Western. Reconstruction includes building another segment of the Saint Paul Grand Round bikeway.

## Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director

### Who deserves extraordinary thanks?

#### Keep using those blue bins (for now)

Big changes are coming to Saint Paul's recycling program in January. Here's a rundown of changes to expect in District 10:

- **Carts.** Eureka Recycling expects to distribute full-size recycling carts (with wheels and lids!) to our neighborhood after the first of the year. The carts will be delivered free to your home. Everybody gets a 64-gallon cart to start with. Beginning in April, you'll be able to trade for a smaller or larger cart to more accurately fit your needs.

- **Recycling day.** District 10's pick-up day will change to Friday, beginning on Jan. 20. Pick-up will switch to the alley (if you've got one). So, between now and then: blue bins at the curb. Beginning Jan. 20: wheeled carts in the alley.

- **Your bins.** Keep your blue bin if you'd like to. But if you want to get rid of the bin, the city will set up drop-off sites in January where bins will be collected and recycled.

- **Apartments.** Recycling will be available to all apartments beginning Jan. 20. Not all will participate, but the option will be there.

#### New Board members

Community members have elected four directors to fill vacancies on the District 10 board:

- **Erin Dooley**, elected to represent Sub-District 2 through April 2018. (Dooley previously was an At-Large member of the board.)

- **Darius DeBoer Massoudi**, elected to represent Sub-District 4 through April 2018.

- **Adina Florea Weseman**, elected as an At-Large member to fill a term that expires in April 2017.

- **Maggie Zimmerman**, elected to represent Sub-District 2 through April 2017.

#### If you're shopping on Amazon anyway...

You can now donate 0.5 per-

cent of your online Amazon purchases to the District 10 Como Community Council—if you make your purchases through the AmazonSmile program, instead of through the regular Amazon website. This is the link to get you started: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1304811>.

#### Upcoming meetings

- District 10 Como Community Council – monthly community and board meeting, Tues., Dec. 20, 7pm.

- District 10 Environment Committee, Wed., Dec. 28, 7pm.

All meetings take place at the Como Park Streetcar Station, at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton. Community members are always welcome to attend and participate.

## News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

### Storytimes, yoga, science, choral music, movie, book clubs all await

The Hamline Midway Library, 1558 West Minnehaha Ave., has a full upcoming schedule of arts and learning activities. Stop by to stock up on books, CDs, and DVDs to enjoy as the weather turns wintry!

Preschool Storytimes in English take place on Fridays, 10:30-11am, Dec. 9, 16 and Jan. 6 and 13. The storytimes feature songs, stories, puppets, and more, and children of all activity levels are welcome. The Evening/Pajama Storytimes will resume in January starting on Tues., Jan. 10, 6:30-7pm.

The Hamline Midway Elders host Chair Yoga with Nancy Giguere is on Thursdays from 10:30-11:30am in the library auditorium. Upcoming class is Dec. 15.

Science Saturday happens on Dec. 10, 1:30-3pm and the theme is Toys. Make a toy to take home and see how different toys work. On Sat., Jan. 14, 1:30-3pm, the theme will be Patterns and Puzzles. Science Saturdays are for school age kids and their families.

The Teen Book Club meets Sat., Dec. 10, 3-4pm, to read and discuss graphic novels, Battle of the Books competitors, Read Brave, and more. For grades 9 and up; new members always welcome.

The world-renowned choral group, The Rose Ensemble, will grace the library on Tues., Dec. 13, 7-8:30pm for a lecture and demonstration, "A Rose in Winter." The rose, a symbol of the Virgin Mary and the Christ child, inspires the Ensemble's latest program of Medieval and Renaissance music. Join Artistic Director Jordan Sramek for a look at the history behind the program and enjoy samples performed by members of the ensemble.

The Baby Boomers and Better Book Club meets Sat., Dec. 17, 1-2pm to discuss "Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" by Helen Simonson. Presented in partnership with Hamline Midway Elders.

All St. Paul library locations will be closed Dec. 23-26 for the Christmas holiday and January 1 and 2 for New Year's Day.

Jody's Documentary Film Series continues on Wed., Dec. 28, 1-3pm, with "Iris," directed by Albert Maysles. This PBS POV documentary focuses on the eccentric, unstoppable, 93-year-old Iris, a bigger-than-life figure in the world of style.

Thur., Dec. 29, 5:30-7pm, the library hosts Winter Maker Break: Science Exploration for school-aged children and their families. Play with kinetic sand, learn about DNA and chromo-

somes and explore basic microbes with 1980s microscopes.

Enjoy wintry crafting fun with Make-a-Flake on Fri., Dec. 30, 11am-noon. Design a fabulous paper snowflake and experience the science of snow. For school-age children and their families.

The Saints and Sinners Book Club meets Sat., Jan. 7, 1-2pm to discuss good mysteries. Contact G. Balter for the book list or more information: [gerribalter@gmail.com](mailto:gerribalter@gmail.com) or 651-224-5570.

The library hosts Device Help on Sat., Jan. 7, 2:30-4:30pm. Are you struggling with a phone, tablet, or e-reader? Want to learn how to check out electronic library books, music, magazines, and audiobooks? Having trouble texting a picture or downloading an app? Stop by the library and get help from staff and local teens.

On Mon., Jan. 9, 1-2:30pm, the library presents Dementia Friends, a workshop teaching five key messages about dementia and what it's like to live with dementia. As a Dementia Friend, you turn your new understanding of dementia into a practical action to help someone living with dementia in your community. Call the library at 651-642-0293 to register.

## Find Your Next Career:

Care Planners Inc. is a PCA company looking to hire!

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# TakeAction Minnesota new member meeting overflowed

Story and photos  
by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Executive director Dan McGrath reached out to interested supporters of TakeAction Minnesota the day after the election, inviting them to roll up their progressive sleeves and get involved.

Two weeks later, on Nov. 21, more than 150 people showed up at the organization's Hamline-Midway headquarters. They came in response to McGrath's call to action, charged up and hoping to find a place in the recently changed political landscape. The meeting had to be moved next door to Avalon High School, a larger space that could hold the overflow crowd.

TakeAction Minnesota is a broad network of people working to realize racial and economic equity across the state. Their initiatives connect people and organizations to each other: turning someone's individual desire for change—to pass a more progressive policy or law, to improve an institution, or to influence a harmful idea or perception—into public action.

Chris Conry, strategic campaigns director, said, "We were caught off guard by the turnout. We haven't done an impromptu style of meeting like this before—one that required only two emails and very little planning."

"The organization's priorities," according to Conry, "are fighting for positive change in health care, climate-related issues, criminal justice reform, and economic policies such as minimum wage and paid sick time."

TakeAction Minnesota offers opportunities to learn greater effectiveness as an individual citizen and as part of a progressive group. "There will be an opportunity shortly to attend a hearing about climate change at the legislature," Conry said. "We'll also be sponsoring a training series



Executive director Dan McGrath asked for a show of hands of audience members new to TakeAction Minnesota. The overflow crowd of 150+ people had to be moved to Avalon High School to accommodate everyone.



Board chair Mai Ching Xiong addressed the crowd.



Prospective new members answered questions that helped them clarify their own reactions to the election.

about the new face of local and national government."

To learn more about the ongoing work of this organization

visit [www.takeactionminnesota.org](http://www.takeactionminnesota.org). Their office is located at 705 Raymond Ave., Suite #100, just south of University Ave.

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