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Midway
Como
North End

Monitor



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By JAN WILLMS

You might say that volunteering and helping others is in his blood. And it is through his blood donations that Robert Kippels, fire and paramedic captain with the St. Paul Fire Department, has been recognized with the 2013 American Red Cross Firefighter Award.

The award is presented to a recipient who has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Kippels, who is a graduate of St. Bernard's High School and a long-time North End resident, started donating blood even before he joined the Fire Department 21 years ago.

He has donated blood to the Red Cross through a process called apheresis, a method of giving platelets rather than whole blood.

"It's a more personal way to give," Kippels said.

According to the Red Cross, during a platelet donation, a small portion of the donor's blood is drawn and passed through a sophisticated cell-separating machine. The machine collects the platelets and safely returns the remaining blood components, along with some saline, back to the donor.

"You lie in a chair and use both arms," Kippels explained. "The blood is drawn through one arm and recycles back into the other arm. With this process, you can donate more often than through a regular blood donation—every seven days."

In 1987, after registering with the National Bone Marrow Registry, Kippels became a match for a young girl with leukemia who needed a bone marrow transplant. The procedure was successful, and she remains cancer-free to this day, according to Kippels.

"I had to stop donating two years ago," he said. "For some unknown reason I developed blood clots on my lungs, and the Red Cross won't take blood from any-

North End resident and St. Paul firefighter honored by American Red Cross



In 1987, after registering with the National Bone Marrow Registry, St. Paul Fire Department Captain Bob Kippels became a match for a young girl with leukemia who needed a bone marrow transplant. The procedure was successful, and she remains cancer-free to this day. Kippels continues to serve and volunteer for a number of organizations.

one who is on blood thinners. I was very disappointed."

The disappointment was evident in his voice, as he recalled that he had been contacted for another match during this time and could not donate his blood.

However, Kippels continues to serve and volunteer in other ways. He organizes the Bell Ringers from the Fire Department for the Salvation Army every year. Since he took over that task in 2000, the firefighters have raised \$180,000 in donations.

He said the Salvation Army provides food and drink for the firefighters when they are fighting a fire, and the two agencies have a great partnership.

This year the St. Paul Fire Foundation had a net profit from

calendar sales of \$35,000. The calendar, which features St. Paul's finest firefighter hunks, is a huge seller. Kippels said that money goes to fund grade schools, rec centers, ambulance devices and heart and cancer screenings.

the 1997 Grand Forks flood cleanup, and in 2008 the successful search and rescue effort for an autistic young man.

Going to grade schools and talking about fire prevention is also a task Kippels enjoys.

"I think that once I started donating blood, it became ingrained in me how easy it is to help out someone," he said.

Kippels followed in his father-in-law's footsteps by joining the fire department. "He was a firefighter for 38 years," Kippels said. "I had been working for Montgomery Wards for 12 years and had gotten laid off. I decided to take the test and was lucky enough to pass."

He said that as a firefighter, one never knows what to expect.

"You go out on medical runs and fires in places with lightweight construction, and you could fall through a floor. There is always an inherent danger to the job, but that's what you sign up for," Kippels said.

"And it's the best job anybody could ever have."

"Most people don't know of the many volunteer efforts the Fire Department is involved in."

- Fire and paramedic captain Robert Kippels

"Most people don't know of the many volunteer efforts the Fire Department is involved in," Kippels said. "There are national disasters, search and rescue."

Kippels has received several Certificates of Recognition for various volunteer efforts, including

Since he was promoted to captain in 2000, Kippels has spoken to every recruit class about the importance of being a blood donor. He has held several bone marrow drives, with over 130 names being added to the Bone Marrow Registry as a result.

If you aren't a Monitor Facebook friend, you might have missed this last month:



New play at Stepping Stone Theater • "Study of Islam" lectures • Metro Transit Open House on Snelling Bus Rotes • New Chair Yoga Series with Midway Elders • Dist 10 Environmental Committee meeting • Como Park Neighborhood Garden Tour • Dist 66 DFL potluck picnic • YMCA Teaching Growing Gardens program • Local Councilmember Stark holds community hearing on city budget • All Hamline Midway Ice Cream Social • Magician Matt Dunn appears at Hamline Midway Library • Como Fest activities • 2 area residents on stage with Lake Country Chorus • Como Parkinsons monthly support group meeting • The 13th annual Rein in Sarcoma "Party in the Park" • Toddler and Preschool Storytimes at the Library • Area scouts and master attend National Boy Scout Jamboree • Sing Along with Vivaldi at Jehovah Lutheran • Glowing Clothing (LED lights) with Janet Groenert • Lutheran Church of the Redeemer annual block party • Snapdragon Seeds Summer Reading Event • Central Corridor tests first light rail vehicle on its own power • Rice Street Festival Activities • 2-day street closure at Hoyt and Snelling • Date set for St. Bernard's All School Reunion



And it is through his blood donations that Robert Kippels, fire and paramedic captain with the St. Paul Fire Department, has been recognized with the 2013 American Red Cross Firefighter Award. The award is presented to a recipient who has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

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1885 University Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-645-7045

Publishers:

Calvin deRuyter, Tim Nelson

Managing Editor:

Denis Woulfe

Advertising:

Denis Woulfe (651-917-4183)

Photographer:

Stefanie Berres

Production/Illustrations:

Bob Wasiluk

Contributing Writers:

Deborah Brotz, Jane McClure,
Jan Willms, Tessa M. Christensen,
Jon Knox, Kyle Mianulli

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Como Community Council Corner

JON KNOX, BOARD CHAIR OF THE DISTRICT 10 COMO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Thinking about Como's other park facilities

When we think about the Como Park neighborhood, many of us naturally think a lot about Como Regional Park. It occupies a significant portion of land in the neighborhood, serves as a hub of activities, and attracts people from across the state. Yet, it is not the only St Paul Parks & Recreation facility in the neighborhood. In this column, I'd like to highlight our other park facilities and encourage you to share your thoughts on neighborhood parks with the District 10 Como Community Council.

Tilden Park, located in the western part of the neighborhood on Arona between Como Avenue and Midway Parkway, is one of St. Paul's many small, block-sized neighborhood parks. Featuring a play area, picnic tables, and green space, Tilden Park provides an important gathering spot and recreation area for neighborhood residents. In recent years, Tilden Park



neighbors have worked to improve the park's facilities and enhance safety for everyone.

Northwest Como Recreation Center, located on the Chelsea Heights School campus at the corner of Hamline and Hoyt, is a busy place all year. Soccer and baseball teams provide neighborhood youth with active outdoor

recreation, but a wide variety of other programs are available throughout the year. Recently, years of hard work by an active group of parents and neighbors culminated in the grand opening of a brand new playground at Northwest Como.

On the eastern side of the neighborhood, at Dale and Arlington, North Dale Recreation Center is one of St Paul's newest rec centers, offering a broad range of individual and team activities throughout the year. Baseball and hockey take place outdoors, and the range of indoor facilities include a large gym and walking/running track.

District 10 is very interested in hearing your feedback on current parks and recreational amenities in our neighborhood and your vision for the future. As our district planning committee continues its work on developing a comprehensive, strategic neighborhood plan, they will be turning their focus to parks in the next phase of their work. Como Park



District 10's three unique recreation areas, combined with the amenities of Como Regional Park, offer all neighborhood residents a broad range of activities, sports facilities, green space, and even a level of natural beauty unique in an urban area like Como Park. Above and to the left, Como Park participated in a Garden Tour as part of Como Fest which drew crowds of visitors to check out the greenery in Como Park homes.

neighbors are invited to join the committee for an interactive community meeting on Monday, September 9th at 7p.m. at North Dale Rec Center (1414 St Albans Street North). We'll be using a map exercise and small group breakouts to ensure that everyone attending has an opportunity to share their thoughts about parks in the neighborhood. The information collected at this meeting will be incorporated into the District's neighborhood land use plan, which will eventually be adopted by the St Paul City Council. Refreshments will be provided, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Our neighborhood's three unique recreation areas, combined with the amenities of Como Regional Park, offer all neighborhood residents a broad range of activities, sports facilities, green space, and even a level of natural beauty unique in an urban area like ours. With your input and participation, we can help ensure that we can build on this solid foundation for the future.



Northwest Como Recreation Center, located on the Chelsea Heights School campus at the corner of Hamline and Hoyt, is a busy place all year. Soccer and baseball teams provide neighborhood youth with active outdoor recreation, but a wide variety of other programs are available throughout the year.

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Monitor In A Minute

County tax levy won't increase in 2014-2015

Ramsey County's property tax levy won't increase in 2014 and 2015, thanks to increases in state and federal funding. The Ramsey County Board got its first look at the budget July 23. County Manager Julie Kleinschmidt describes the budget as having a "level levy."

It's the first time in more than 20 years that the county had held its levy flat for two years in a row. The levy increased 1.7 percent in 2012 and 2.7 percent in 2013.

The county operates on a two-year budget cycle, with the first year focused on finances and programs and more of a policy focus the second year.

The proposed 2014 budget is \$601,211,390. Of that amount 45 percent or \$270.4 million comes from property taxes, with 27.7 percent or \$165.6 million from federal and state sources and another 19.1 percent or \$115.6 million from charges for services. The rest comes from other revenues and taxes, use of money, property and sales, and fund balance.

The proposed 2015 budget is \$608.8 million, due to increases in charges for services, intergovernmental revenue and a slight increase in use of fund balance.

The 2013 adopted budget is \$588.7 million. Kleinschmidt told the County Board that \$20.1 million in additional spending in 2014 will be largely covered by additional state and federal funding, along with department fees.

In the 2014 proposed budget 45.4 percent or \$272.7 million would go to health and human services. Kleinschmidt said that the largest portion of the budget. Public safety and justice has \$172.6 million or 28.7 percent earmarked.

Tax is on the way

Motor vehicle owners in Ramsey County will start paying a \$10 per-vehicle wheelage tax in 2014. Commissioners approved the tax July 16. Advocates contend the tax is needed to rebuild crumbling county roads and that it could be looked at as a user fee. But opponents believe the tax is just another hit to county residents and business owners. Commissioners said that once the tax is imposed, it will be a permanent cost to vehicle owners.

Ramsey County officials estimate the tax will bring in about \$3.8 million per year for the county's roads. The 2013 Minnesota Legislature gave all 87 of Minnesota's counties the ability to collect wheelage taxes. Previously only the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area could assess the taxes, which are paid when motor vehicle tabs are purchased or renewed. The taxes can be used for various transportation infrastructure improvements, including road and bridge construction and repair and construction of light-rail lines.

State lawmakers also agreed to raise the tax from \$5 to \$10 per vehicle. The wheelage tax can increase to \$20 per vehicle in 2018.

The Ramsey County vote was 5-2, with commissioners Rafael Ortega, Toni Carter, Victoria Reinhardt, Mary Jo McGuire and Jim McDonough for, and Janice Rettman and Blake Huffman against.

Two more STAR projects approved

Closed out balances and unspent funds allowed the St. Paul City Council to approve two additional 2013 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) projects July 10. With about \$400,000 in

additional funds the council and Mayor Chris Coleman added funding for an East Side economic development center and the Frogtown Park and Farm.

The Neighborhood STAR Board in May recommended 17 projects be funded, for \$2.2 million in total loan and grant funds. The board initially received 48 applications totaling \$7,297,962. The added funds allowed two other projects to be brought forward.

Area projects funded include Frogtown Curling Club, Mosaic on a Stick, Urban Growler and Garden Fresh Urban Farm.

Khaliq is interim council member

There's a changing of the guard in St. Paul's Ward One Council office. Longtime community activist, firefighter and NAACP leader Nathaniel Khaliq was sworn in July 10 as interim Ward One council member. He will serve until after the November election.

Khaliq was chosen from a field of 13 candidates for the interim seat. He replaces Melvin Carter III, who is taking a post with the Minnesota Department of Education's Office of Early Learning.

Because Carter was council vice president, Ward Three Council Member Chris Tolbert was chosen to replace him.

Carter was first elected in 2007 and re-elected in 2011. His last day in office was July 5. Before his first election he had worked for Mayor Chris Coleman.

Carter said his farewells to the City Council June 26, with his family on hand for the event. He told council colleagues he would continue to live in Ward One. He remarked, "I contend that because Ward 1

is the only ward that doesn't touch any other city, Ward 1 is the true heart of the city."

Council members told Carter he would be missed. They praised him for his work on Central Corridor light rail, on the Promise Neighborhoods initiative and on the formation of the city's Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Department.

Citizen participation funding changes

Some St. Paul neighborhoods could feel the impacts of shifts in citizen participation and crime prevention funding if a proposal by Mayor Chris Coleman becomes part of the 2014 city budget. The proposal, which was released July 9, would increase funding for eight councils including North End/South Como. It reduces funding to four district councils including Frogtown and Union Park. Como Park, St. Anthony Park and Hamline-Midway would be held harmless, even though Como is expanding to take in South Como neighborhood.

It would also take away annual crime prevention funding allocations to about half a dozen groups including Lexington-Hamline Community Council (LHCC), Youth Express and Ramsey Hill Association. Another change is that separate allocations for crime prevention and citizen participation would be eliminated and merged into one lump sum, dubbed "community engagement" funding.

Nancy Homans, Coleman's senior policy advisor, said the revised funding amounts are based largely on changes the district councils themselves adopted in 2004. Concerned about what they saw as inequities in citizen participation funding, the coun-

cils held several meetings with city staff that year and came up with a district council funding formula. The change was meant to help larger district councils with challenges in covering greater areas and in reaching out to populations of non-English speakers. That issue was what led to the merger of the three councils that had represented neighborhoods in District 13 Union Park.

The 2010 U.S. Census was to bring about implementation of the formula, in budget year 2013. But last year Coleman chose to not make changes. One concern was negative financial impact on neighborhoods where there have been high rates of foreclosure and population losses, such as Frogtown.

Study is ready for release

Bringing good-paying jobs to St. Paul, doing more to train workers and revitalizing outdated and polluted industrial sites are focuses of the long-awaited West Midway industry Strategy. After a three-year community process, a St. Paul Planning Commission task force made its final changes to the report July 22. The report goes to the St. Paul Planning Commission for a public hearing in October, with adoption by the St. Paul City Council by year's end.

"We need to get the region to understand the importance of this area and to understand the assets we have," said Allen Lovejoy, a planner for St. Paul's Department of Public Works and Planning and Economic Development (PED).

The irregularly shaped area studied is roughly bounded by Interstate 94, the west city limits,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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The business of running a neighborhood newspaper is a challenging one these days. With the digital age, folks are getting their information from an ever widening array of news sources. But in the end, neighbors still want to know what's happening at places like the Rice Street Library, the Como Conservatory, Jehovah Lutheran Church, Hamline University, or at Keystone Community Services. People still want to find out what's happening down the road from where they live. And many people still get that information from the pages of the *Midway Como North End Monitor*, a trusted news source for over 35 years.

Since our appearance in the North End neighborhood back in April of 2007 we have enjoyed working with the institutions and community organizations of the North End. Just prior to our arrival in the North End, we had been invited to expand our readership boundaries to serve the North End territory after the long-



Editor's Column

BY DENIS WOULFE

Monitor announces last issue in the North End neighborhood

standing *North End News* made the difficult decision to close down their operation. Through representatives of the North End Business Association and District 6, we were encouraged to look at expanding our service area and start distributing in the North End.

Now I always knew that the transition to serving the North End would be a difficult one because residents and business owners develop a personal relationship with their neighborhood newspaper. I also had firsthand knowledge of the North End after my first journalism internship working for *North End News* edi-

tor Lee Svitak Dean back in the mid 70s. I had come to learn that North Enders took great pride in their neighborhood newspaper. Not unique, necessarily, to the North End, but just an example of the mutuality that exists between a neighborhood and its neighborhood newspaper.

I am sorry to report that with this issue, our own chapter in the North End neighborhood will come to an end. Today we are announcing that following the distribution of the August issue of the *Monitor* we will no longer be serving the North End neighborhood. While we have enjoyed working with the institutions and

stakeholders of the North End, we unfortunately have not been able to secure the kind of advertising support from the business community that we need to continue a presence in the neighborhood. While the newspaper business is an exciting, dynamic and vital part of a vibrant neighborhood, in the end it still has to operate as a business. For us it had come to

the realization that distributing the *Monitor* in the North End neighborhood was no longer economically viable.

I have already received questions about our coverage going forward. At the top of the list is the story covered in this very issue of the *Monitor*: The boundary change between District 10 and District 6, which will dramatically impact both organizations. To the extent that this issue will continue to impact Como District 10, readers can rest assured that it will be something we will continue to follow and report on in the months ahead. Thanks for continuing to support the *Monitor* and never hesitate to call or email with thoughts about our coverage.

Monitor in a minute

Continued from page 3

Highway 280, Energy Park Drive, Como Avenue, Snelling Avenue, Pierce Butler Route, Prior Avenue, Minnehaha Avenue and Fairview Avenue. It includes the light rail station areas for Fairview, Raymond and Westgate in its boundaries. But Lovejoy said because those areas have already been studied as part of light rail land use planning, they weren't studied again. Those areas contain recommendations and zoning that accommodates mixed uses.

Task force members hope that the study can be not only a catalyst to preserve industrial land and promote job growth; it can also tie into efforts to develop a regional economic development strategy. Task force co-chair Jon Commers, a for-

mer Planning Commission chairman who is now on the Metropolitan Council, said that should be an outcome for the study. Promoting regional economic development is a priority for the council, which is the region's governing body on issues including land use.

Recommendations include developing a West Midway Industrial Partnership among local industrial business leaders, developers/leasing companies, the Port Authority and the city; and promotion of area-wide physical improvements through business improvement districts. Promotion of environmental stewardship in development and creation of a "Good Neighbor" strategy which defines common ground with surrounding neighborhoods is another idea. Another is to support efforts to retain stable work spaces for small-scale, small-batch manufacturing, artisan and creative enterprises.

- Compiled by Jane McClure

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What do you think about a Streetcar on Rice Street? Should Rice Street be priority one for the City regarding Streetcars? District

6 is hosting a Public Meeting on Tuesday September 3rd beginning at 6:30 p.m. at 301 Hatch Avenue during our Board of Directors meeting to hear from our residents on this topic (or anything else you may want to discuss). Our meetings are open to everyone and there is public comment on every agenda so attend and let District 6 know your opinion.

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Computers from the Asian Penguins go to Community School of Excellence families that are getting free or reduced lunches and don't currently have a computer at home. Last year, 7 computers were given away. About 30% of the families at CSE don't have a computer or internet access.

Helping the needy get nerdy

Students at North End's Community School of Excellence recycle computers and donate them to families without one

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

Helping the needy get nerdy. That's the motto of the Asian Penguin club at the Community School of Excellence, a charter school at 170 Rose Ave. W. in St. Paul.

When school ended in June, the Asian Penguins had given away seven computers to families that didn't have one.

About 30% of the families that send children to school at the Community School of Excellence don't have a computer or internet access at home, noted Asian Penguin faculty adviser Stuart Keroff.

He oversees the program, along with fellow teacher Jeff Carter.

"The club was created to give kids the opportunity to do something fun and different with computers," said Keroff. "Right now, Linux is used on only 2% of desktop PCs, so none of the kids in the club had ever used it before."

KIDS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Students feel like they're making a difference in their community. "It's real nice that I'm helping the community and the world and changing it little by little," one student told Carter. Another commented, "It is fun to help people."

Another sees it as a larger mission: "We're trying to change the world."

"The kids use words like 'fun' and 'awesome' to describe what we do," said Keroff.

The motto he shares with the students to describe their community service effort is a quote from Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple: "The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do."

The first family to receive a computer had only been out of the refugee camp in Thailand a couple of months.

Computers go to families with children at the School of Excellence who receive free or reduced lunch. The school's Hmong and Karenni community liaisons help the Asian Penguins find eligible families.

STUDENTS RECYCLE COMPUTERS

The program began in the spring of 2012 with a small group of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Members of the Asian Penguins are "helping the needy get nerdy." About 30% of the families that send children to school at the Community School of Excellence don't have a computer or internet access at home.

Charter school under investigation

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

The Community School of Excellence (CSE) in St. Paul is being investigated by its authorizer Concordia University.

In mid-July, the Department of Education directed Concordia to investigate allegations that the school has misused federal funds, mishandled board elections, and improperly handled maltreatment complaints.

The complaint about how CSE uses free- and reduced-price lunch funds, including having students punch in for meals they do not consume, is not a new one. CSE was recently required to repay over \$200,000 of misused food and nutrition (FNS) funds for similar issues.

Numerous complainants allege a persistent pattern of poor employment practices by the director of the school, wrote Lisa Needham of the Department of Education in a three-page letter to Concordia. Allegations include that the director threatens staff for disagreeing with her, reported a teacher to the Board of Teaching after the teacher resigned her position with CSE, and failed to provide teachers with paid time off and QComp funds that they had already earned.

The Department of Education is also concerned that school personnel are discouraged from reporting maltreatment and that the investigations are being interfered with by the director.

Mo Chang, a longtime education who served as a charter school liaison for the St. Paul Public Schools, founded and directs the Community School of Excellence. The K-8 Hmong Language & Culture and IB World School is housed in the former home of St. Bernard's Catholic school.

CSE opened in 2007 with 176 students, and since has seen its population grow to more than 830 students, according to its website.

These complaints raise a number of serious issues that CSE must address immediately, wrote Needham.

The Department of Education directed Concordia to provide training on proper fiscal reporting as regards federal funds and investigate whether the school's staff is continuing to require students to request reimbursement for meals they do not eat. Concordia must provide training on maltreatment reporting duties to staff, teachers, and the administration of the school. Concordia must also provide training on how elections are to be conducted moving forward, as well as on the Open Meeting law.

Concordia was also directed to address the numerous employment-related concerns raised by staff, and to undertake a general investigation into the school's finances to ensure that funds are not being mis-spent. The university was given until Aug. 9 to address the issues.



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By DEBORAH BROTZ

While people are already buzzing about the 47 new foods offered at this month's 2013 Minnesota State Fair, most people don't realize some State Fair vendors are not in it for themselves, but all about raising funds for our neighborhood's best charities.

One of these groups is the Midway Men's Club, which gave a \$16,000 donation to the City of St. Paul to be used for youth activities around the city. The group raised the money at its concession stand at the State Fair on 1354 Underwood St., where they sell sweet rolls, donuts, hot dogs, hamburgers, Polish sausages, bratwurst, hot dago sandwiches, beer, pop, coffee, milk, and orange juice.

The Midway Men's Club has had a food stand at the fair since 1960.

"Before that, it was the St. Columba Men's Club that had that stand," said Matt Stark, Midway Men's Club membership secretary.

"The parish on Hamline Avenue got a new priest in 1959. The new priest didn't like the idea of them selling beer at the State Fair. So, they broke off a secular men's club. We spun off the St. Columba Men's Club."

The menu at the club's stand has not changed very much over the years.

"We've always done burgers, hot dogs, and brats," said Stark. "The major change is we started selling Summit Beer. Summit is local. A lot of patrons at the fair kept asking for it. We wanted to keep our customers happy."

The bulk of the money raised by the Men's Club goes to youth activities in the neighborhood. The club has given tens of thousands of dollars for children's activities.

"We support Little League teams and other sports like hockey and basketball," said Stark. "We also support Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the Midway YMCA, and do some after school reading pro-



One Midway organization, Hamline Church United Methodist, has had a dining place at the State Fair for 116 years. Above, Elaine Christiansen, Ken Feulner, Monell Jakel, Marge Feulner, and Chef Erik Hendrickson, take a break from the rush of food service at the Fair.



The Hamline Church United Methodist Dining Hall has had a dining place at the Minnesota State Fair for 116 years. Currently the dining hall is at 1667 Dan Patch Avenue.



Above, the work crew for the Hamline Church United Methodist Dining Hall takes a break for a photo, 1935. The dining hall was established across the street from this location. The dining hall was located in an old wood structure without electricity and dishes were washed by hand.

grams. We support a number of programs at local rec centers, Hancock and Griggs."

The city parks department

will use the \$16,000 Men's Club donation for athletic equipment, field trips, special events and classes at seven neighborhood rec cen-

ters and two city-wide programs. The group also donates fair proceeds to other city park and rec programs that support sports, as well as the Hamline Branch Library.

Stark says they give to local recreation centers to help neighborhood children.

"It's just a way for us to make sure our kids have stuff to do outside of school," he said. "We encourage kids to go outside and play. This makes a big difference to the health of the neighborhood. It's a way to keep the community and neighborhood strong."

Being at the State Fair is important to the Men's Club because it's their main fund-raiser for the year.

While the club is always looking for new members, Stark's hopes for the club at the State Fair are the same every year.

"We hope for good weather, plenty of big crowds, and plenty of customers," he said.

Another Midway organization, Hamline Church United Methodist, has had a dining place at the State Fair for 116 years. Their dining hall is at 1667 Dan Patch Ave.

"It's been in operation since 1897," said Jan Bajuniemi, a member of the church's dining hall committee. "We're the longest continuously operating vendor. There have been a number of different locations. We moved on to the property where we are now in 1944."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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The Hamline Church United Methodist Dining Hall raises funds that go back to the church. Each year the dining hall turns over \$40,000 to \$45,000 to the church budget. Above, Elena and Annelise Purcell lend a hand in the operation.

Local nonprofits

Continued from page 6

That historical vendor experience was different from now.

"In the very beginning, sandwiches were made at church and taken over to the State Fair in a horse cart to sell," said Bajuniemi. "The State Fair was such an agricultural event. Most farm people brought their own lunches."

The church serves much the same thing every year at the fair.

"We have sit-down, hot dinners, hamburgers, wrapped sandwiches, salads, desserts, and a full range of beverages," said Bajuniemi. "Last year, we added Izzy's Ice Cream."

The highest priced menu item, the \$9.95 dinners, include

an entree of Swedish meatballs, baked chicken, or ham loaf; two sides; and a bread choice. The lowest priced item is a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

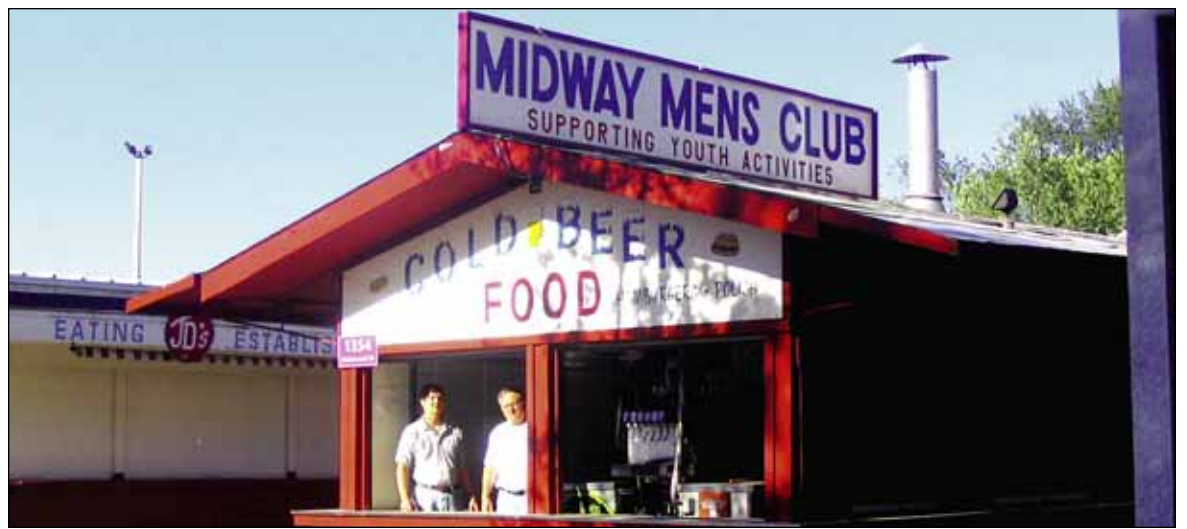
"Families like it, because they can come in and sit down together," said Bajuniemi. "The thing that's been there the longest is ham loaf. People come in and look for that every year."

Bajuniemi says their dining hall has survived when others have failed because they've got the support of church members.

"They understand the value of doing the project," she said. "It does bring income to the church budget, but it also provides interactive multi-age groups that you can't create anywhere in church."

The money made at the dining hall goes back to the church budget.

"There are significant costs in operating the dining hall," said Bajuniemi. "We turn over \$40,000



One of the groups that has a presence at the State Fair is the Midway Men's Club, which gave a \$16,000 donation to the City of St. Paul this past April to be used for youth activities around the city. The group raised the money at its concession stand at the State Fair on 1354 Underwood St., where they sell sweet rolls, donuts, hot dogs, hamburgers, Polish sausages, bratwurst, hot dago sandwiches, beer, pop, coffee, milk, and orange juice.

to \$45,000 to the church budget. It goes into the operating budget of the church. It becomes part of

the programs and events the church can do."

Bajuniemi hopes more peo-

ple and new people find them at this year's fair, Aug. 22-Labor Day, Sept. 2.

Helping the needy

Continued from page 5

technology-oriented students that wanted to learn more about the desktop computers Keroff uses in his classroom.

Keroff needed some desktop PCs for paperless quizzes for history, and was given some through a grant from Free Geek Twin Cities (www.freegeektwincities.org). They recycle computers and use Ubuntu Linux as the operating system.

"Once the machines were there, some of the students got very interested in something that was different from Microsoft Windows, so I started to teach them how to use and install the software," said Keroff, who was already a Linux user.

When the 2012-2013 school year began, Keroff and students started a case study experiment to determine if Ubuntu Linux was a suitable replacement for Microsoft Windows on student laptop computers.

"From there, we decided to go beyond just using Linux ourselves, but using Linux and open source software to help people in our community," said Keroff. "We obtained computers to recycle, and then the students installed all of the software and got the computers ready to give away."

He added, "We've been lucky in that the computers we've worked with so far have all had working components, just no software."

When the school year ended, there were about 30 members in the Asian Penguins, spanning grades six to eight.

Teams of two to three students follow a multi-step checklist to get a computer ready.

"We start by checking for proper operation of all parts of the computer, we then do a thorough clean-up of the computer both inside and out. We then install the Unbuntu operating system and selected applications (Office Suite, Web Browser, Typing and Math tutor programs, Karenni and Hmong to English dictionaries), test all aspects of system for proper operation, assign a local serial number and finally set up user accounts on the computer," said Carter.

The last touch is when the



Teams of two to three students follow a multi-step checklist to get a computer ready. When the school year ended, there were about 30 members in the Asian Penguins, spanning grades six to eight.

kids put the "Asian Penguins" sticker on the outside, certifying that the computer was prepared by the Penguins. The whole process can 90 minutes or more and takes one to two days. Stu-

dents work before, during and after school.

During Asian Club meetings, which are student-run, members discuss "upcoming 'missions' (what the kids call taking a com-

puter to a family) and have a debriefing about past missions," noted Carter. They also learn something new about the software, if time permits.

BIG PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Next year, the Asian Penguins intend to donate at least 15 computers.

They plan to partner with the Linux Professional Institute to start offering students a Linux Essentials certification, an entry-level professional certification.

"As demand for Linux in industry grows, it feels good to know our students will leave 8th grade with a certificate that can open employment doors for them," remarked Keroff.

They will also be starting tech support clinics for community members who are having computer problems.

REWARDING WORK


"In all of my years of teaching, this is the most rewarding thing I have ever done," said Keroff.

Carter agreed. "This is one of the more satisfying things I have participated in as a teacher. The students are so engaged in helping their community and learning new things."

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Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary the product of years of dedicated community collaboration

By JANE MCCLURE

In the future, those who enjoy the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary will see a day lighted stream, restored vegetation, open space and trails. And they will have a dedicated band of neighbors to thank.

The 42-acre park was dedicated in June by city, county and state officials. The dedication marked more than two decades of debate over how the once-industrial area should be redeveloped. The park area is near the Maryland-Jackson intersection and is bordered on the east by Interstate 35E.

The Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary and Regional Trail will open in spring 2015. It will connect the Gateway, Bruce Vento and Trout Brook regional trails and will be a place for biking, hiking and outdoor education. It will be the second-largest natural area in the city.

The firm of HR Green will design the nature sanctuary. The city has sought bids for about \$3 million in improvements. Area residents should watch for changes as the old Jackson Auto business and other longtime land uses go away.

The nature preserve will have restrooms and other amenities for visitors but the focus will be on the outdoors. The area's historic Trout Brook Creek will be day lighted after decades of flowing

underground in a storm sewer.

The North End has parks and playgrounds, but neighbors wanted more natural spaces. They had long eyed the area east of their homes. Part of the Trout Brook park area was owned by the prominent Rice family, whose name is on Rice Street and downtown's Rice Park. That prompted jokes among Tri-Area Block Club members that the name "Rice Park" was already taken. But the Rice estate later became part of a larger industrial area.

"We could write a book about all of the battles we had over how the site should be redeveloped," said longtime North End resident Linda Jungwirth. She, her husband John and many others in the Tri-Area Block Club worked with elected officials and District 6 Planning Council to keep out less-than-desirable uses and have the area preserved as park land.

Ward Five Council Member Amy Brendmoen, who described the June event as a "reverse groundbreaking," said that while she and other elected official have helped, the credit for making Trout Brook happen should go to the neighbors. "This is a result of their efforts."

The block club worked with numerous elected and appointed officials, including three mayors and four Ward Five City Council members, to get the project done.



Members of the Tri-Area Block Club had long eyed the area east of their homes to earmark for a natural space in the North End. Part of the Trout Brook park area was owned by the prominent Rice family, whose name is on Rice Street and downtown's Rice Park. But the Rice estate later became part of a larger industrial area.

County Commission Janice Rettman is the only local elected official to see the project from start to finish. She credits neighbors with its success, calling them the "Triumph Trillium Troubadours."

The property was long known as the Trillium site, named by a former land owner. Although the trillium is a flower, parts of the site needed extensive pollution cleanup so that flowers and native plants could grow there again. Much of it was a railroad yard.

Many developers eyed the site over the past 25 years. One

proposal would have placed a bus barn there and sent hundreds of buses rumbling along neighborhood streets. Another idea was for a business that would stockpile and clean contaminated soil, raising fears about pollution. Time and again, the neighborhood organized and held to its vision for a nature preserve.

One argument against development was the peat soils on part of the site. Neighbors can tell visitors that one natural-looking sinkhole on the property is actually a spot where someone years ago tried to put up a large bill-

board post. The peat wouldn't cooperate and only the hole remained.

Jungwirth and Rettman noted that it has been a group of about two dozen Tri-Area Block Club volunteers who worked to redevelop the site. One person missed at the groundbreaking was the late Verna Gilson, a longtime North End activist whose quiet determination served as a role model for others.

"I wish she were here to see it happen," said Jungwirth. "She was my mentor."

For years the club took its cause to the City Hall/Courthouse and the State Capitol. They worked with four St. Paul City Council members alone. Former Ward Five Council Member Lee Helgen kept maps of the area on his wall all during his years in office, as a reminder to keep the project going. He worked on the land negotiations and efforts to fund the park.

The Tri-Area Block Club wouldn't let him and others forget. They showed up at Planning Commission meetings to oppose redevelopment and made their case for funding to other groups.

Now that the park is becoming a reality, all agree that the long effort was worth it. "This is the story of neighbors working together and how they can achieve success," said District 6 Executive Director Kerry Antrim.



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In Our Community

Monitor

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Hamline Midway Library Love 3K

Join us Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 to 10 a.m.; registration at 8 a.m.: Walk, run, or stroll Minnehaha Avenue from the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., to Lexington and Minnehaha streets and back, and support your neighborhood library. Early bird event registration of \$20 adults, \$10 kids or \$25 and \$15 day-of-event registration, which opens at 8 a.m.

Get your Library Love T-shirt with registration at <https://librarylove3k.webconnex.com/2013> or call Jean at 651-771-8421. Or register on site at the library at 8 am day of event.

Let My People Go: A Spiritual Journey Along the Underground Railroad

On Saturday, May 10, 2014, 7:30 p.m., Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. join us for Donald McCullough's Let My People Go, a moving 75-minute work that hauntingly explores the history of the Underground Railroad and its connection to music of the African-American spiritual, blending storytelling, lyrics, and sound. As part of OSM's Viva Coro youth involvement program, the Minneapolis South High School Concert Choir will perform with us.

The Oratorio Society of Minnesota is an auditioned 80-voice choral ensemble based in the Twin Cities. Celebrating its 34th year, OSM challenges and delights its audiences through dynamic and diverse choral music performed with skill and passion. Society members are of all ages and from all walks of life and have considerable choral singing experience. Its civic engagement and educational programs foster lifelong choral singing.

Tickets for all concerts are available at <http://oratorio.org> or by calling 866-811-4111.

For more information, call 612-624-1511 or email: oratorio_soc_mn@yahoo.com

Drum set workshop August 16 at Center

Women's Drum Center announces Let's Rock: a drum set workshop. Let's Rock sessions include stick technique instruction and playing along to popular music. Some drum set experience required. Drums and sticks provided. Friday, August 16, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. 2242 University Ave W. \$15. Register at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

Questions for your pharmacist Aug. 19

On Monday, August 19th, 11 a.m. – noon, Pharmacist John Hoeschen, from the St. Paul Corner Drugstore at Snelling Ave. and St. Clair Ave., has volunteered to spend an hour with us. He will review the drugs most prescribed to the older adult and field questions you might have about your own prescriptions. Free. Call 651-645-7424 to register.

Beginning Line Dance begins September 16

Beginning Line Dance Classes will start on Monday, September 16th at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Avenue, for 8 consecutive Mondays. The cost is \$6 per class or \$48 for the 8 weeks. To register call 651-645-7424.

Flat Needle Felting

Flat Needle Felting (for beginner or experienced needle felters) will be held on Tuesdays, October 15 & 22nd at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Avenue, from 1 – 2 p.m. Marie, a local felter, will instruct this fun and unique form. Cost is \$3. To register call 651-645-7424.

Matter of Balance program offered

Matter of Balance is an 8 week program beginning on Thursdays at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Avenue, from Sept. 26 – November 14th. It is designed to reduce the fear of falling and to increase the activity levels of older adults. To register call 651-645-7424.

55 Alive Driving Class

55 Alive Refresher Driving Class will be on September 19th from 5 – 9 p.m. at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Avenue. Cost of \$15. To register call Keystone Community Services Senior Program at 651-645-7424.

Pickleball offered for beginners Sept. 3

Pickleball for beginners will begin on Tuesday, September 3rd from 9 – 11 a.m., \$2.00. Call Keystone Community Services Senior Program (651-645-7424) at the Merriam Park Community Center which is located at 2000 St. Anthony Avenue, with any questions or to register. If you want to request a copy of our recent Senior Hi-Lites newsletter please call 651-645-7424.

Beginning Chess at Keystone August 13

Beginning Chess Classes on Tuesdays, August 13, 20th from 11 a.m. – noon, at Keystone Community Services Senior Program (651-645-7424) at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Avenue. Cost of \$2.

Breastfeeding discussed Sept 10

The Advantages of Breastfeeding is the topic of the meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group on Tuesday, September 10. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Central Lutheran installs 'Walk of Faith Path' on Lexington

Education and faith are a journey spanning generations. To emphasize this point, Central Lutheran School has recently installed its "Walk of Faith Path" along the front of its building on Lexington Avenue. With labor generously donated by Bolander Construction, the pathway contains inscribed bricks that honor students and teachers and classes of years past, and recognize current students

for their achievements. The brick pavers are also a way to support the operations of the school and engraved pavers can be purchased by contacting the school office at 651-646-8649.

Washington High Reunion September 7

Washington High School 50+ Club Annual Reunion on Saturday, September 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Prom Center, 484 Inwood Avenue, Oakdale.

Open to anyone who attended Washington High School from 1929 thru 1963. If you went to Washington High School during these years, contact: Carol Blilie-Larson 651-998-0360 or John Buehler at jhbuehler@charter.net

'Sleep Issues' discussed August 13

"Sleep Issues as We Age" will be the topic for the Tuesday, August 13 luncheon sponsored by Hamline Midway Elders. Staff from the Sleep Institute of United Hospital will discuss the importance of sleep and the problems that seniors sometimes face regarding sleep. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m., and free blood pressure checks are also provided. Free transportation can be provided to seniors in the Hamline Midway neighborhood. For more information, please call 651-209-6542.

Discount book for local businesses

A discount book with great deals from participating local businesses is available from Hamline Midway Elders. Discounts may be used multiple times and are good through May 31, 2014. The cost for the discount book is \$15 and all proceeds benefit Hamline Midway Elders. Participating businesses offering discounts are Black Sea Restaurant, Eden Pizza, Eva Tangen (Realtor), Flamingo Restaurant, Fusion Salon, Ginkgo Coffeehouse, Grand Paws Pet Grooming, Groundswell Coffee, Hamline Cleaners, Hamline Hardware Hank, Hartland Shoe Repair, Jon's Barber Stylist, Lloyd's Pharmacy, Metro Automotive, and Peak Printing. For more information, please contact Tom Fitzpatrick at tom@hmelders.org or (651) 209-6542. You can also purchase a book by mailing a check for \$15 per book to Hamline Midway Elders, 1514 Englewood Ave.

Islam is subject of church bible study

Islam continues as the subject of a 12-session Bible study at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas at Snelling. The sessions, in the air-conditioned church lounge at 10:45 a.m. Sundays, features DVD lectures by John Esposito of Georgetown University, covering Islam from its origins to the present. Discussion will be led by Jehovah Lutheran Pastor Bob Benke and others. It's free and snacks are available.

Sing along with Vivaldi

Jehovah Lutheran Church will host an all-singers-welcome performance of classical composer Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria" at the 9:30 a.m. service Sunday, Aug. 18. No auditions required. Final rehearsals are at 4-5:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11, and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 14. The church is at 1566 Thomas, on Snelling. To confirm your participation, e-mail Libby Wegner at ewegner@clssp.org.

Tech dump Sept. 7

Save those old or unwanted electronics or appliances until September 7th. Two senior high school Girl Scout troops will be hosting a tech dump at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, located on 2561 Victoria St. N., Roseville, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bring your unwanted cell phones, small appliances or anything with a cord or battery and the Girl Scouts and the recycling company will do the rest. The only charge is for computer monitors, tube television, refrigerator or anything containing freon (\$10 charge for those). The rest of your items are free to donate.



This month Rice Street Library starts to undergo a facility upgrade that will provide more community space for visitors. The library is hoping to reopen in early October.

Rice Street Library to undergo upgrades

Starting August 12, Rice Street Library will close to begin facility upgrades that will include creating more community space by redesigning the customer service desk area and installing an automated materials handling system. The Library is hoping to reopen in early October.

During the renovation, library customers can visit surrounding Saint Paul Public Library locations including the Arlington Hills Library, 1105 Greenbrier St, or the Rondo Library, 461 North Dale St.

The Rice Street Library is located at 1011 Rice Street between Lawson and Hatch.

For more information about the Rice Street Library or for information about additional Saint Paul Public Library locations, please call 651-266-7000 or visit <http://www.sppl.org>.

City Council recognizes 100-year-old Clausen as legend of Rice Street

By JANE MCCLURE

A lady who is considered a legend on Rice Street turned 100 years old this summer, so the St. Paul City Council and her community wanted to give her recognition.

Vivian Clausen was honored July 10 with a St. Paul City Council resolution, brought forward by Ward Five Council Member Amy Brendmoen. Several of her friends attended the event to see the resolution presented and read.

Clausen was honored for her years of dedication, volunteerism and commitment to the North End neighborhood as she approached her 100th birthday last month. She is often heard to say, "I love my Rice Street!"

Clausen has lived in an apartment overlooking Rice Street for many years. The petite, white-haired lady is described as a force, a legend and a community asset. She has countless friends who see her as an inspiration and as a mentor. She has always urged



Vivian Clausen was honored July 10 with a St. Paul City Council resolution, brought forward by Ward Five Council Member Amy Brendmoen. Several of her friends attended the event to see the resolution presented and read.

others to get involved in their communities.

She is a past recipient of the St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll Award for District 6.

When given the council resolution Clausen said she was very pleased and honored. The resolution stated, "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Saint

Paul City Council recognizes Mrs. Vivian Clausen and commends and thanks Mrs. Clausen for being an inspiration and treasured asset of the North End Community and her beloved Rice Street."

But Clausen wasn't always a North End resident. She was once a West Sider. Clausen start-

ed working at the age of 14 at the Minnesota Macaroni Company on the West Side where she met her lifelong friend, the mother of St. Paul Police Chief Tom Smith. Her friendship with the Smith family continues today.

Many years ago Clausen came to Rice Street to work for Dr. Wenzel, one of the founders of the Rice Street Clinic, and for Dr. Peter Belgea, a dentist who officed at Rice and Manitoba. She hasn't left the neighborhood since.

She met her husband Andrew and was married in 1939. After they married the Clausens moved to an apartment on Rice Street where she still resides. Her husband has passed away.

Clausen keeps an eye on Rice Street, businesspeople and residents say. She is very generous with her time and the resources she has. She has raised funds to pay for the veterinary costs for one resident's dog, when he could not afford to do so.

She has been active with

crime and community watch programs for decades, keeping an eye on the community and reporting suspicious activity. She regularly attends the Central District Police Team community meetings and reports what she has seen on Rice Street. She has worked closely with many District 6 Planning Council volunteers and staff.

Several years ago, when a criminal snatched and stole the gold necklace her husband had given her right off of her neck, community members rallied to help find the culprit and help her get the necklace back.

In the 1990s she successfully lobbied Metro Transit to place a bus shelter at the corner of Rice Street and Milford Street, in consideration of her friends with disabilities who reside at Lewis Park Apartments. Before then people had to wait for the bus in the elements. She keeps the shelter clean and free of trash and can be seen sweeping it out with her own broom.

City of Saint Paul hosts first same sex wedding at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory

The City of Saint Paul and the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory hosted the wedding of Paul Nolle and Reid Bordson at midnight on August 1. Their August 1 wedding was one of the first legal same sex weddings celebrated in the State of Minnesota and kicked off a record setting day for the number of weddings taking place in Saint Paul.

Paul Nolle, a native of Green Bay Wisconsin, and Reid Bordson, a native from Duluth, have been together for 13 years. Ten years ago the couple held a commitment ceremony, but their wedding on August 1 marks the first day their marriage is legally recognized by the

state of Minnesota.

"This is the most beautiful place for a wedding we have ever seen," Bordson said. "It is also thrilling to have been married in the very city, the capital, where all the political action occurred just a few months ago."

Immediately following the ceremony, a private reception was held in the Covered Porch of the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Visitor Center where Lancer Catering provided the couple with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and Betty Crocker donated the wedding cake.

In celebration of the Freedom to Marry Act, the City of Saint Paul waived rental fees for

anyone wishing to get married and offered expanded hours on August 1 at its most popular wedding facilities including the Sunken Gardens, North Garden and Excedra at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory as well as Irvine Park. A total of 11 couples took advantage of the waived fees at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory while three couples booked at Irvine Park.

Additionally, the photo permit requirements for Mears and Rice Park were also waived on August 1 for anyone wanting to take photographs at these popular wedding photography locations.



The City of Saint Paul and the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory hosted the wedding of Paul Nolle and Reid Bordson at midnight on August 1. Their August 1 wedding was one of the first legal same sex weddings celebrated in the State of Minnesota and kicked off a record setting day for the number of weddings taking place in Saint Paul.

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AND, DON'T MISS The Eco Experience at the Fair. Hamline's Center for Global Environmental Education is proud to be a part of this for the sixth year in a row.

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Location: Education Building

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Smiles from the 2013 Rice Street Fest



The Rice Street Festival, at 103 years, was a busy place the past few weeks with the multitude of events and other activities for community members. The Rice Street Festival is the second oldest parade in St. Paul and draws folks out from near and far. For North Enders, it's about keeping the tradition alive. (Photos by Leanne Martens)

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be in the Monitor before August 30 for the September 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

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 pre-paid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Want ads must be in the Monitor before August 30 for the September 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 9-12

AIR CONDITIONERS

Recycling discarded air conditioners. Free pick-up. No charge! Roger 612-210-3529. 8-13

ANTIQUES

For Sale: Vintage 1900-1949 lights, house hardware, doors, tubs, radiators, etc. Also furniture hardware. 651-644-9270. 20% off with ad. B-13

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WANTED - Old Stereo, HiFi Equipment, HAM, and Cameras. Andy 651-329-0515. 2-14

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Como District 10 appeals to the City for additional funds

By JAN WILLMS

How do you provide services for more people with less funding?

That, in a nutshell, is the quandary facing District 10 as the City enacts a boundary change between Districts 6 and 10. As a result of that change, District 10's population will increase from about 11,900 to 15,800.

The boundaries will stretch from Snelling to Dale and Larpenteur to the southern-most BNSF Railway tracks (south of Energy Park/Front).

"The level of change and the number of people involved is unprecedented," said Jon Knox, board chair of District 10.

The District Councils were established in 1975 to provide citizens a role in spending federal urban renewal dollars, debating community issues and getting the word out on issues such as crime and development. Up until now there has been only one important district boundary change. That was in 1982 when some West 7th Street residents opted to leave Highland for the West Seventh district.

The major change in boundaries between Districts 6 and 10 followed public meetings in which groups of South Como residents requested they be redistricted from 6 to 10. These residents claimed they fit better geographically in the Como district, where they could participate in local issues of concern to them.

Many cited a wish to have a voice closer to home about parking, traffic and other issues related to living next to Como Regional Park.

At an earlier meeting held to discuss the potential change, one District 6 resident seemed to sum it all up when she said, "My daily life is more impacted by Como Park than by Rice Street."

Ward 5 Councilmember Amy Brendmoen said she had heard the request for a boundary change from an overwhelming majority of South Como constituents.

The boundary change is scheduled to take place on Jan. 1, 2014.

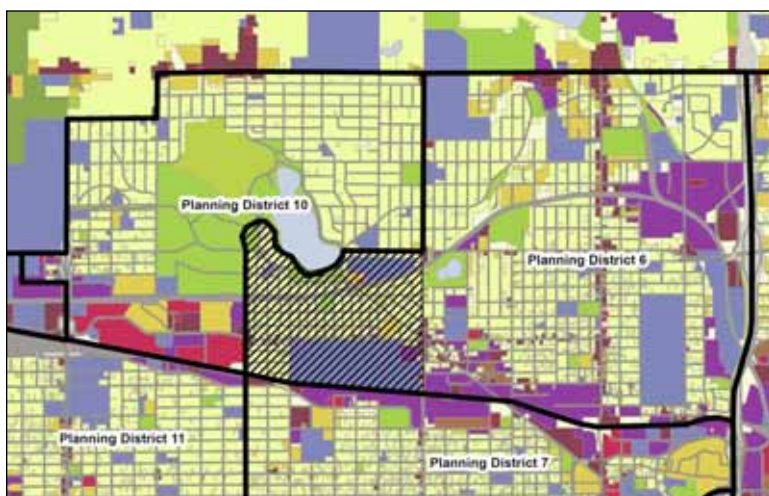
It will not result in any more funding for District 10. And therein lies a major concern.

It has been reported that when the change takes place, District 6, which has a population of about 25,000 and an annual budget of \$85,000, will lose 3,500 residents and \$3,800 in funding. District 10, with a population of about 11,900 and an annual budget of \$55,000, will gain residents but no funding because its population will not increase above the city's minimum funding threshold.

In a letter addressed to Mayor Chris Coleman, Knox expressed his disappointment that the budget proposal for the districts does not reflect the challenges facing the Como Park neighborhood.

"This outcome leaves our neighborhood in a precarious position," Knox wrote. "It reduces the funding per resident in District 10 by 25% from \$4.35 to \$3.29 in one fell swoop."

Knox explained that District 10 is concerned that significant cuts will have to be made in planning work, environmental improvement programs, community



As a result of a boundary change, District 10's population will increase from about 11,900 to 15,800. The boundaries will stretch from Snelling to Dale and Larpenteur to the southern-most BNSF Railway tracks.

engagement activities and crime prevention efforts.

In his letter, he notes that the Mayor's budget proposal phases in funding cuts for district councils

facing a population loss over a three-year period.

"I am asking that you consider placing us in a similar category and consider our proposal to ad-

just District 10's funding over three years in order to maintain equity among district councils, allow time for us to adjust our work to the new reality and to seek alternative funding sources for our work," Knox wrote.

"The City agencies recognize that this has not been a very smooth way to do this boundary change," Knox said. The City has placed a moratorium on any further boundary changes until the issue can be more fully studied. However, that moratorium does not apply to the changes between Districts 6 and 10.

But the large numbers of District 6 residents requesting a boundary change had an impact, and that change will take place.

Knox said he was also disappointed "that the district was not provided with an opportunity to provide input on this proposal before it was finalized and publicly presented."

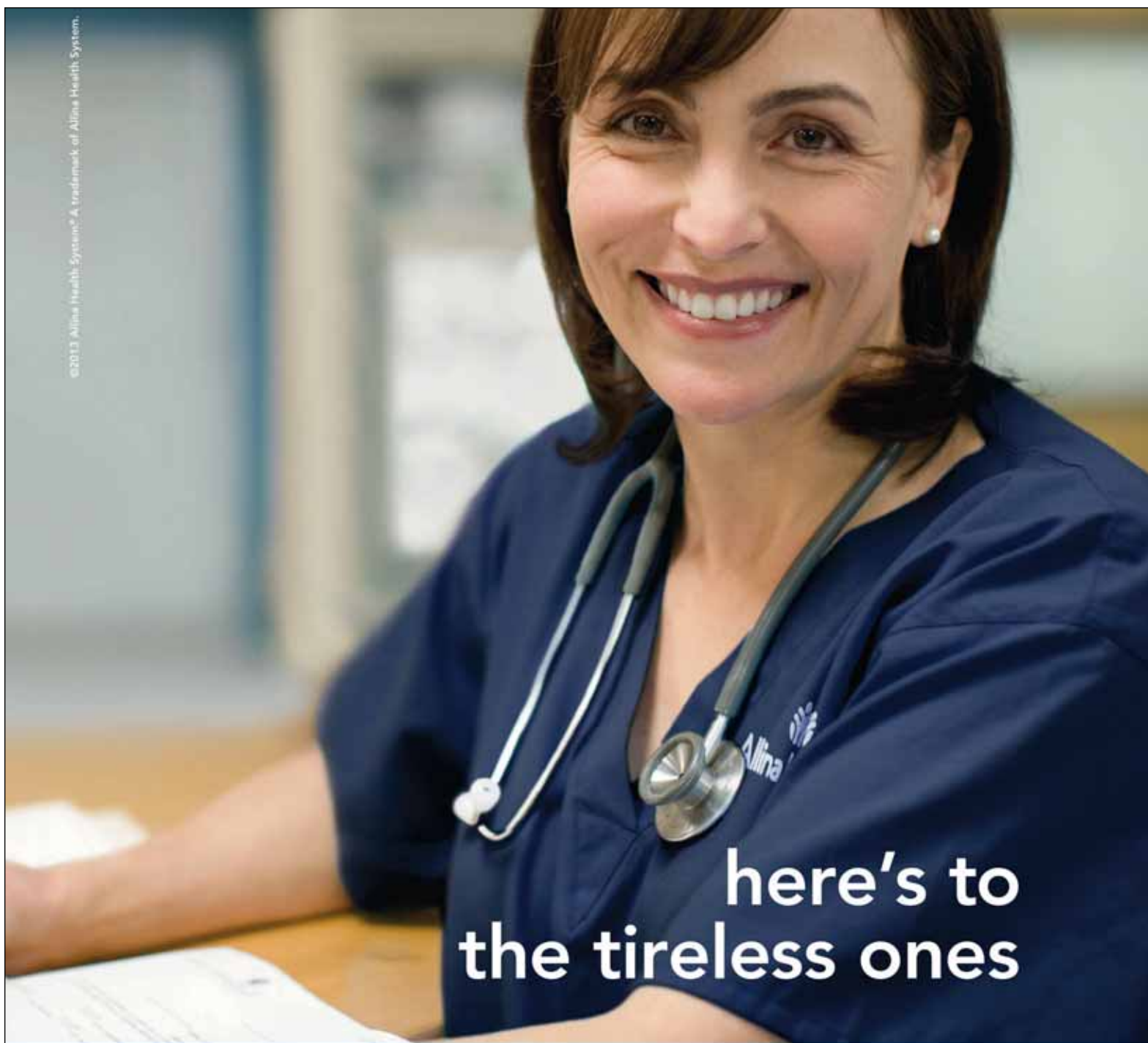
"Our letter is almost a compromise," he added. "We're not going to win any argument, but just request a phasing process. I feel our proposal is legitimate and very reasonable."

District 10 is requesting that it be funded by the city at a rate of \$3.90 per resident in 2014, \$3.70 per resident in 2015 and \$3.55 per resident in 2016. The amount of \$3.90 represents the average per resident funding rate of all district councils.

He said District 10 council members plan to meet with Nancy Homans from the Mayor's office to further discuss the funding.

"There are a lot of things we have to do," he explained. "We have to change the bylaws and do remapping and reconfiguring."

Public meetings will be scheduled as these changes take place and additional board members and new volunteers are recruited.



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