



Cutting-edge tech company makes University Ave. home

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ComoFest brings people together; builds community

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Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell celebrates 100 years

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## Midway Como

# Monitor



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## Bread ministry reaches well beyond the walls of the church

*Community oven is 'on' at Hamline United Methodist; community pizza parties planned in July and August*

Story and photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

There's a new addition to the Hamline United Methodist Church at 1514 Englewood Ave.: a robust, brick community oven that was completed last year with the help of more than 100 volunteers. According to church member and oven spokesperson Mark Ireland, "The football team from Hamline University helped haul concrete, church members and plenty of neighbors who didn't belong to the Church rolled up their sleeves and pitched in. There were people working on site 5-6 days a week last May and June. Then it took the bread ministry team the rest of the summer to figure out how to operate the thing."

The oven is in full swing now. It's the one and only community oven in St. Paul, and there are just a handful of them in Minneapolis. Sharing a community oven was a common practice across Europe until the late century, and it's still the way bread is baked in many parts of the Middle East and North Africa.

"We got to wondering," Ireland said, "what it would be like to build a community oven in this space, in this time when everyone seems to feel so hurried? Feeding people by baking in a brick oven is SLOW; there's nothing instantly gratifying about it. We need to haul 3-4 wheelbarrows of wood for starters; then we have to stoke the fire for 10-12 hours to get the oven to baking temperature."

Hamline United Methodist Church received a grant from the White Bear Lake United Methodist Church to build their oven. Bryce Johnson, a long-time pastor at the White Bear Lake church, had an oven built some years ago for his congregation. The oven was so successful as a tool for community building that the White Bear Lake church created a grant, which any Methodist church in Minnesota could apply for.

Ireland explained, "We won primarily because of our unique relationship with Hamline University, our active inner-city neighborhood and the close proximity of neighborhood elementary schools. "We literally have the chance to impact thousands of people with this project," he said.

There are two events coming up this summer to taste what the



The handsome community oven at Hamline United Methodist Church takes 10-12 hours to rise to its baking temperature of 900+ degrees. Made of high-temperature concrete, clay bricks and wool insulation, the traditional design keeps the high heat on the inside. On the outside, it's barely even warm to the touch.

community oven can do, and to savor the company of neighbors. On Wed., July 20, free wood-fired pizza will be served at 6pm with the movie "The Love Bug" showing at dusk. On Wed., Aug. 17, free wood-fired pizza will be served at 6pm with the movie

"Shaun the Sheep" showing at dusk. Bring your own blanket, lawn chairs, salads and sides.

"For a pizza party," Ireland said, "we heat the oven to almost 1,000 degrees, and it stays warm for 3-4 days afterward. It only takes 90 seconds to bake a

pizza, but it takes a long time to get to that baking point. As the oven cools, it's possible to bake other lower-temperature breads. The first to go in are the ciabatta or other artisanal loaves, then the sweet breads. We can bake 30-40 loaves of bread at a time."

If you're interested in learning how to build your own portable oven, David S. Cargo (one of the founding members of the St. Paul Bread Club) will offer a class at HUMC on Sat., Aug. 20, from 9am-3:30pm. The fee for the class is \$80. The class covers choosing an outdoor oven site, preparing the ground, and all of the skills needed to construct an oven. Each student will receive plans for three different sizes of ovens, a materials list, and bread recipes to use with their wood-fired oven. For more information or to register, contact David S. Cargo at [escargo@skypoint.com](mailto:escargo@skypoint.com).

For more information on baking events or to learn about baking your own bread in the community oven, email the church office at [hamlinechurchum@gmail.com](mailto:hamlinechurchum@gmail.com) with the subject line "bread oven request."

Ireland concluded, "The



Lifelong Hamline Midway resident and bread baker Mark Ireland with his daughter Kathleen. He said, "The real community building happens when people are hauling and throwing wood together, or standing around waiting for the bread to come out of the oven."

community oven is not an outreach to increase our church membership. It's a way to bring people together in the neighborhood who might not otherwise get to know each other."



By JANE MCCLURE

It's a new day at Galtier Elementary School, as parents and supporters work to increase enrollment. The school community plans a public celebration 5:30-7:30pm on Thur., July 21 at the school, 1317 Charles Ave. The school community wants to thank everyone who helped during the battle to keep the school open. There will be free activities, as well as some food for purchase to support the school. They're also welcoming families interested in the school as an option for their children.

## Neighborhood elementary school to remain open

On a 4-3 vote on June 21, the St. Paul School Board voted to keep Galtier open. Superintendent Valeria Silva had proposed that the school close in 2017. Silva had argued that the improvements needed to keep Galtier open would increase Galtier's budget from \$1.259 million to \$1.96 million. Silva said that students could be sent to Hamline Elementary starting in fall 2017.

But Galtier parents rallied, with dozens attending School Board meetings to make the case for the school. Many contended that the school district hasn't given Galtier the resources it needs to survive and thrive and that closing the school would hurt its families.

Galtier was a citywide magnet school before it became a neighborhood school under Silva's Strong Schools, Strong Communities program. Enrollment dropped to 158 in 2015-16 and is projected at 144 this fall. Supporters contend that the school district hasn't done enough to help promote the

school and that allowing Hamline Midway families to have children bused out of the neighborhood has hurt Galtier.

In the weeks up to the Galtier vote, parents speculated that it could be a 4-3 split to either close or save the school. They cheered when the vote went their way.

School Board Member John Brodrick was the most vocal about saving Galtier, saying that district officials were pulling the rug out from under the school and not giving parents time to boost enrollment. He was joined by Steve Marchese, Zuki Ellis, and Chue Vue, who turned out to be the swing vote. John Schumacher, Mary Vanderwert, and Jean O'Connell voted for the closing.

The 4-3 vote was part of a lengthy and contentious School Board meeting in which Silva's tenure as superintendent was ended and School Board Member Jean O'Connell resigned in protest. O'Connell is done effective June 30. Silva will stay on for a time as

a district consultant. The School Board also voted to close a projected \$15.1 million budget gap.

Galtier parent Clayton Howatt said the vote to keep the school open signals a new day as parents, teachers and other school supporters focus on increasing enrollment. Galtier parents, students and school officials hosted an open house June 29, which was attended by several prospective families.

"School Board members have told us they want to see Galtier not just thrive but survive," Howatt said. Ideas for how Glitter engages parents could be tried at other struggling neighborhood schools.

As they work on other ways to boost enrollment, parents are also reaching out to area colleges to see if they can partner with Galtier.

"We're moving on and trying to increase enrollment," Howatt said. School supporters recently changed the Facebook page Save Galtier into Grow Galtier. They'll use the page and other means to promote the school.



# Five performances of 'Frame Works' slated during Fringe

By JAN WILLMS

Dance has been a part of Chloe Sekhran's life since she was three. Raised in Como, and now a junior at the University of Iowa, Sekhran is performing in a Fringe presentation choreographed by her former dance teacher, Margaret Marinoff.

Five performances of the dance presentation, called Frame Works, will be offered during the Fringe Festival, which takes place Aug. 4-14 at various venues in the Twin Cities.

Sekhran is using the performance to hone her skills in dance and marketing, as she is also working on the publicity for the Fringe show. She is majoring in dance and marketing at the University of Iowa, one of few schools that allow students to do a double major. "It's one of the reasons I picked Iowa," she said.

Sekhran said she has been dancing all her life at the Midwest Youth Dance Theatre (MYDT), where she met Marinoff, who continues to teach there. It started out in Falcon Heights and has now relocated to Roseville.

"I have done ballet, modern, tap, jazz and musical theater dancing," Sekhran said. "In Iowa, I am focusing on ballet and modern. I am drawn to the contemporary ballet style."

"I knew I wanted to dance in college," she continued, "but I wanted to also major in something else to supplement it. I chose marketing, because some day I want to be a fashion buyer."

This will be her second time performing a production for Fringe, and for Marinoff it will be the third.

Marinoff, from Arden Hills, can trace her beginnings in dance back to the Como area, also.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota with a BFA in dance, she said she first started dancing at the Davis School of Dance, which was in a little green house by Como Park. "I remember there were lion statues outside the front doors of the house," she recalled.

Marinoff teaches ballet, pointe and combos at MYDT. In Frame Works, she works with a cast of six, some of whom attended the St. Paul Conservatory of Performing Arts and trained at the St. Paul Ballet (655 Fairview Ave. N. and a location on Grand Ave.).

Frame Works is described as



Photo left: Chloe Sekhran and Margaret Marinoff strike a dance pose. (Photo by Jan Willms) Photo right: Poster of Frame Works shows various dance moves in their Fringe performance. (Photo submitted)

an art-in-motion piece with dances that explore the beautiful hues and themes found on canvas, and inspired by artists past and present.

"I was influenced strongly by art work done by Henry Asencio, who paints figures of women," Marinoff said. She said that his work is the basis for the opening piece, which is done to Cuban guitar music.

The second part of the performance reflects seascapes that are painted by Ran Ortner. And the final dance pays homage to Vincent Van Gogh and his sunflower paintings.

"The first part of the performance has a little bit of ballroom style, the second is more contemporary and the last is more classical," Marinoff explained.

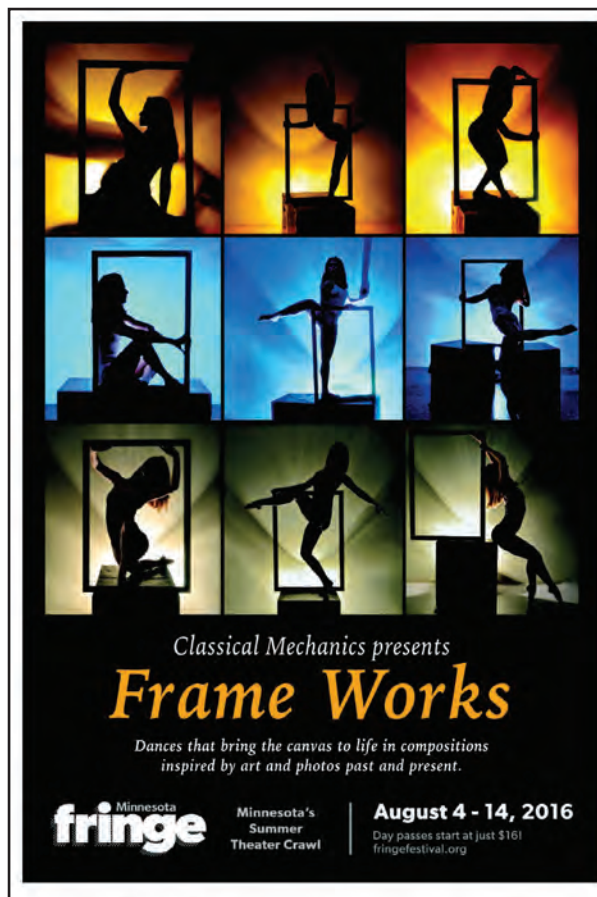
She and Sekhran have kept in touch through the years. "Some students I have bonded with more because of their interest in ballet," Marinoff stated. "Chloe is a strong dancer in ballet and modern and musical theater. When someone is that well rounded, you want to keep in touch with them so you can uti-

lize their skills."

She added that marketing is one of her biggest challenges, so she thinks it is wonderful to have Sekhran here to work on that aspect, also. "With this experience, she can see how it goes if she someday wants to start her own company."

Sekhran agrees that she is grateful for the experience to use both her dancing and marketing skills this summer.

"Dancing has always been my primary activity," she noted. "When I was in elementary school, I tried other sports like softball and basketball, but I wasn't too good. And I liked dance more than anything else. I knew that was what I was supposed to be doing."



months.

Marinoff also puts together the costumes. "I rely on Marshall's, Discount Dance Supply and those darling little discount shops on Facebook," she said.

During preparation for the Fringe, Marinoff said it takes priority over everything else. "My house and car show it," she said with a laugh. "And I also work at another job, and I tell my co-workers they are all a part of Fringe, too, because I rely on them for support."

The most challenging aspect of putting on a Fringe performance is the short time frame and working with everyone's schedules, according to Marinoff. Sekhran said she doesn't mind the short time allotted. "You have to work hard, that's for sure, but it doesn't hinder the process."

For her, the fact that the shows can be any time of day, in the morning or at 10pm, makes it interesting. "People can be in different moods at different times of the day," she said.

As far as audiences, Sekhran said dance shows tend to attract people familiar with dance. "Family and friends come to support you, too," she added. "But then as the show goes on, word of mouth gets out, and other people come."

"Dance is probably one of the least understood art forms," Marinoff said. "It takes a specific type of person to be attracted to dance because there isn't dialogue that goes along with it like in normal theater. Some dance forms are a little less clear on what they are trying to say, and doesn't translate as well."

All genres will be covered in the 169 live performances offered by Fringe this year. Audiences will have an opportunity to see Frame Works at 4pm on Aug. 6, 8:30pm on Aug. 7, 10pm on Aug. 8, 8:30pm on Aug. 11 and 1pm on Aug. 14.

For more information on schedules and venues, visit the Fringe website at [www.fringefestival.org](http://www.fringefestival.org).

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Recycling your food scraps and other household organic waste just got easier. District 10's new organics recycling site in Como Park is now open, on Beulah Lane just north of the Humane Society.



The District 10 site is closer and more convenient than most county yard waste sites: in fact, it's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The site is free for all Ramsey County residents.

A community drop-off is a great option for those who don't have space or time to maintain their own backyard compost pile. A typical household that recycles organic waste can cut its trash volume by one-third.

Because the waste goes to a

## Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA

### Organics recycling site opens in Como Park

commercial processing center, the District 10 site can take items you can't compost in your backyard. Acceptable items include:

- Food scraps (including fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, bones, eggs, and dairy);
- Coffee grounds and tea bags;
- Paper towels, paper napkins, paper tissues, and delivery pizza boxes.

For a detailed list of acceptable items, go to the Organics Waste page at [ramseyrecycles.com](http://ramseyrecycles.com).

To get started: Set up a food scrap bin in your kitchen. Line

it with a compostable bag, and place food scraps in the bin every day. When the bin is full, deposit your scraps at the organics recycling site. Compostable bags are available at the District 10 office; a limited supply of bins and starter kits will be available at the Ice Cream Social on July 15, and at the District 10 office while supplies last.

The Como Park site is an initiative of District 10's Como Composts campaign, with the cooperation and support of Ramsey County, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, and the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board.

#### Ice Cream Social July 15

District 10's annual Ice Cream Social takes place Fri., July 15 from 5-8pm at the Historic Streetcar Station (1224 Lexington Pkwy. N.). It's a night of free ice cream—courtesy of Kemp's and Mission Orthodox Presbyterian Church—plenty of lawn games, live music, and hanging out with the best neighbors in the city.



The entire neighborhood is invited.

On top of that, we'll have a small ceremony honoring the refurbished pedestrian bridge. Plus, you can catch up with representatives from Eureka Recycling, the Humphrey Job Corps Center, the Como Park Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program, and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation.

The Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton. Nearby parking is limited, especially because of road construction. So, please consider walking, biking, carpooling, or taking public transit. We'll have extra bike racks on hand, and even a mechanic from

My Bike Project to do minor repairs.

The Ice Cream Social is part of ComoFest, which brings fun every weekend in July to different parts of the Como neighborhood.

#### Pick up a recycling bin any Sunday

The Como Park Streetcar Station is open from noon-4pm every Sunday between now and the end of September. We'll have a District 10 board member on hand to distribute recycling bins, organics composting bags, or just take your comments and suggestions. The Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

#### Get D10 news every week

Didn't know about the latest update with the Sholom Home property? Wonder what's going on at the State Fairgrounds? Need to keep track of music and other activities at the Como Lake Pavilion? Surprised by closed bridges or other road construction?

Then you probably haven't been reading District 10's free weekly email newsletter. It's the best way to keep up with neighborhood events. We send it to your inbox every Friday. To sign up: go to [www.district10como-park.org](http://www.district10como-park.org), then click the newsletter icon in the right column.



A girls 16-and-under soccer team from the Blackhawks youth soccer club in the Midway Como area will carry memories of a late teammate at the USA Cup on July 19-23.

Fischer Anderson, a St. Paul Central student and a defender for the Blackhawks U16 girls team, passed away in January. Blackhawks U16 players will wear a patch with Anderson's No. 23 patched on their jerseys at the upcoming tournament.

"Fischer was a headstrong player, tough defender and an invaluable asset to this team," Blackhawks coach Rebecca Scott said.

Some the players also attended Central with Anderson last school year. Blackhawks U16 players Natalie Ierien said her grew in pulling through the tragic loss of a

## Prep Sports Notebook

By MATTHEW DAVIS

### Blackhawks soccer club head to USA Cup

teammate.

"I describe my team in a lot of ways, but the one description that I think is the most important is strong," Ierien said.

The Blackhawks went 6-4 this season and will play in its third USA Cup with this group of players. Most recently, they took part in the 2014 tournament, but they went overseas to play in the Gothia

Cup in Gothenburg, Sweden last year.

"That was sort of the USA Schwan's Cup of Sweden," Ierien said.

In its 32nd year, the USA Cup at the National Sports Center in Blaine has the western hemisphere's biggest soccer tournament for youth. Teams from all over the world come to play in the tour-

ney, which begins with an Olympic-style opening ceremony.

"The first year my team and I went, we were able to meet and take photos with a lot of foreign teams," Ierien said. "That was very fun, and I hope we can do that again this year."

The Blackhawks first play the teams in their respective pool before entering a tournament bracket, similar to the World Cup's format.

The Blackhawks have a solid

goalkeeper in Liz Wirt. They also are strong in midfield play with Abigail Moseman at center mid-

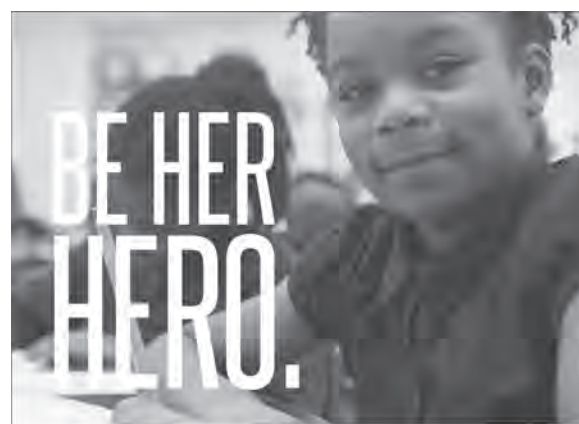
field. "Her performance technically and as a team leader was very helpful both offensively and defensively throughout the season," Scott said.

Moseman played for the Central girls varsity team last fall, and Wirt played for Cretin-Derham Hall. Other Blackhawks players will look to crack respective varsity lineups this coming autumn.

For now, they will look to make the most of the upcoming USA Cup. Scott wants her team to do well but have fun too.

"It is important for this team to enjoy their last bit of soccer together before the age group changes," Scott said.

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Apartment projects are again popping up in neighborhoods along Green Line light rail. Here's an overview of what's coming to a vacant lot near you:

### Thomas Ave. site in play again

1500 Thomas Ave. is again being considered for redevelopment. MWF Properties has been working with St. Paul Planning and Economic Development (PED) to develop a four-story, 51-unit affordable rental building.

The property at the southwest corner of Thomas and Simpson St. was once part of the Samaritan Hospital complex. It was a sculpture garden for several years, but it has been locked up and inaccessible in recent years.

The developers are seeking up to \$1.3 million in financial support from the city in federal HOME funding and are applying to the Metropolitan Council for transit-oriented development funding. Funding decisions are expected later this summer and in the fall.

The project as outlined would have underground parking, a patio by the building, a fitness center, storage and laundry facilities.

### Lexington lot could house two buildings, 243 housing units

A long-vacant Lexington Pkwy. property could become home to 243 units of affordable housing. The Michaels Organization, a national housing developer/owner, and Minneapolis-based CPM Companies would like to break ground for the \$38.9 million Lexington Station Apartments project in spring 2017, with completion of construction in fall 2018 and full occupancy by December 2018.

# Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

## Building projects explode around light rail line

The apartments would be built on a 2.05-acre site at 411-417 Lexington Pkwy., just south of White Castle and TCF Bank. The site is owned by Wilder Foundation, which has its headquarters west of the property.

This is CPM's first foray into affordable housing. Michaels is a veteran developer/operator of affordable housing, with more than 55,000 units throughout the nation.

The project would consist of two six-story ell-shaped buildings. It would have a mix of 106 studios, 1-6 one-bedroom units, and 31 two-bedroom units, with some units designed as walk-ups along Lexington. Some units would have balconies. Of the units, 24 would be set aside for homeless military veterans and 11 would be supportive housing for people with disabilities. The developers are looking at working with Wilder to provide supportive services for residents.

The building would include some energy-efficiency features including a rooftop solar array and an energy-efficient design in construction. The rooftop would also include raised garden beds for residents. The grounds would feature a children's playground, bike racks, and a bike fix-it station.

Because of the site's transit-oriented zoning and its prox-

imity to Green Line light rail, the buildings wouldn't be required to have any off-street parking. It will have 82 spaces, 23 apiece on two surface lots and 36 below-grade. Parking could also be shared with Wilder Foundation, which has a ramp to the west.

Fuller Ave. would be extended east through the site as a bikeway/pedestrian walkway, and would connect to a planned city park along Griggs St.

### Micro-apartments planned

Developers of the Carleton Artists' Lofts at University and Hampden avenues will be adding a new four-story apartment building with rooftop patio to that area. The project has met no public opposition. St. Anthony Park Community Council supports the project.

The project by the Johnson family will create smaller "micro apartments" adjacent to new construction and converted liquor warehouses they have developed into apartments and artists' lofts. The site is at 2326 Territorial Rd., and the building will be called the Raymond at Carleton Place.

The building will have 79 market-rate apartments. Between 70 to 80 percent will be micro-units of about 350 to 400 square feet. Rents will be \$800 to \$1,000.

The apartment building will occupy what is now an industrial/warehouse property. The property was rezoned several years ago as part of a larger rezoning tied to the Green Line light rail project.

### Menards buys, demolishes property

The former American Paper Recycling building at 601 N. Prior Ave. has been demolished after it was purchased by Menards. The paper recycling company is moving to another St. Paul location.

Menards, which paid more than \$2 million in 2015 for the property north of its Midway retail store, hasn't announced what it will do with the parcel.

No request for city assistance for the project has been made and as of *Monitor* deadline, no plans nor zoning requests had been submitted for the site.

### Midway Center shop will move

Midway Tobacco and Vapor is leaving Midway Center thanks to a variance granted June 20 by the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). The shop, which is also known as Midway Smokes, is moving from 1464 University Ave. to 1475 University Ave. The shop's owner, Khader Safi, said he wasn't able to get a new lease from Midway Center owner RK

Midway.

The 34.5-acre Midway Center is eyed for redevelopment as part of a plan to build a Major League Soccer stadium.

Safi said that while he'd like to be part of the new development, a new lease wasn't offered.

The shop was granted a variance from the city's minimum one-half mile separation requirement between tobacco product shops. The regulation has been in place since 2010 and is meant to prevent too many shops from being located in one area.

Midway Tobacco and Vapor and a Midway Marketplace shop, Midway Tobacco Outlet Plus, opened their doors almost 20 years ago and predate the distance requirement. Both are grandfathered in if they stay at their current locations, but are affected by the distance requirement if they must move.

The relocated Midway Center shop will be 528 feet from Midway Tobacco Outlet Plus at 1418 University Ave. That requires a 2,112-foot variance from the half-mile or 2,640-foot distance between stores. It does meet the distance requirement from a Midway e-cigarette shop, Vape Pros, at 681 N. Snelling Ave.

It's rare for the BZA to grant a distance requirement variance between tobacco shops. BZA staff recommended against the Midway variance, saying that Safi's inability to find a distance-compliant new location doesn't meet all of the findings needed for a variance. But the board approved the request, 5-1. Some BZA members said that the pending shopping center redevelopment is a unique circumstance that is beyond Safi's control. They asked that the findings be rewritten for approval.

Due to a confluence of circumstances, Hamline Midway Coalition will be entering a low-power state for the indefinite future. Kyle Mianulli, who currently serves as the director of communications and engagement for the coalition, will be leaving HMC to pursue a career opportunity with Hennepin County Public Works. Unfortunately, this opportunity comes at an inopportune time for HMC, as Executive Director Michael Jon Olson will be taking an indefinite medical leave starting in the coming weeks.

Due to diminished staff capacity, HMC will be decreasing regular functions for the time being. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors are currently working with staff to develop a transition plan, which will allow the organization to maintain very basic operational activities, while more permanent solutions are found.

The organization's 11-person board made up of Hamline Midway neighbors, business owners, and community members will continue to steer the Coalition, recognizing that with times of transition can also come great opportunity. If you have immediate questions regarding the transition, contact Board President Steve Samuelson at [ssamuelson11@comcast.net](mailto:ssamuelson11@comcast.net) or 651-226-8897.

### Friendly Front Yards workshop and training

Join the Friendly Front Yard movement in St. Paul on Thur., July 21, 6:30-8pm, at the Midway YMCA, 1761 University Ave.

# News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

## Hamline Midway Coalition entering low-power state

W. Learn how you can transform your yard into a place that builds community, creates connections, and makes you feel great in front of your home. Hosted by the Musicant Group, Hamline Midway, and Union Park District Councils, this free interactive training and workshop will focus on how you can achieve this using the free and easy Friendly Front Yard Toolkit being developed and rolled out this summer.

The Front Yard Placemaking Toolkit will inspire and guide you

and your neighbors on how to turn your front yards into places where you serendipitously meet one another; where children play; where food is grown, prepared and eaten; where social capital is built; and where civic issues are debated. In short, a place you truly care about and feel attached to.

The workshop and training are open to any and all residents of St. Paul. All participants should download the Front Yard Placemaking Toolkit before the event. More info on the project

and the toolkit are available at [www.friendlyfronts.com](http://www.friendlyfronts.com).

### Join Community Sing

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# Midway soccer stadium project delayed, waiting for state to act

As plans and approvals continue forward, June construction start date passes waiting for tax bill

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans for a Major League Soccer stadium and redeveloped Midway Center are set to go to the St. Paul City Council for a public hearing at 5:30pm, Wed., Aug. 3 at City Hall. The ambitious projects are moving ahead on paper while a property tax exemption hangs in the balance.

The plans won Planning Commission approval July 8.

About 50 people attended a June 10 St. Paul Planning Commission public hearing on the stadium, site plan and master plan for the block bounded by Pascal St. and St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues. Almost 150 people attended a June 7 open house at Concordia University.

City staff recommended approval of the plans, with some measures to mitigate traffic, parking, noise and other issues. The mitigation measures will also be shaped by an Areawide Urban Alternatives Review or AUAR, which outlines steps to deal with potential impacts. Comments on

the AUAR were due July 6, with city staff responses and a final report expected by July 18.

On July 13 the Metropolitan Council was expected to act on \$1.25 million pollution cleanup grant for the former bus garage site and RK Midway-owned property to the east.

Planning Commission members have continued to review the plans, but they and others have asked what will happen if the Minnesota Legislature doesn't have a special session and approve the property tax exemption for the stadium site. That was included in the tax bill that Gov. Mark Dayton recently pocket-vetoed. Dayton and state lawmakers have discussed the possibility of a special legislative session but haven't been able to agree.

Minnesota United officials have been mum since the regular session ended. Minnesota United FC owner Bill McGuire told the Planning Commission in June that he is confident that there will be a special session.

Stadium construction was

supposed to start in June but without an adopted tax bill, nothing will start.

Many citizens, members of the Snelling-Midway Community Advisory Committee and area district council members say that more details are needed on both plans and that the fast pace of development means a lack of access to needed information. "This represents incredible risks and opportunities for our city and our neighborhoods," said Snelling Midway Community Advisory Committee Co-chairman Eric Molho. The task force wrapped up its review of the site plan and master plan in May. While the group generally supports the plans, "the reality is, we know very few of the critical details." Molho also said the advisory group had "significant concerns and frustrations" about the process and believes that more public engagement is needed.

"This has been a huge and very fast-moving project," he said. Union Park District Council is forming its own task force to

monitor stadium and shopping center planning. Hamline Midway Coalition broadly favors the ideas presented so far but wants more input on issues including open space, pedestrian safety, density and site design. Coalition representative Nathan Roisen said that his neighborhood is just as, if not more, affected by the project than Union Park is. Capital Region Watershed District also weighed in, asking for more attention to storm water management.

Many citizens also spoke at the Planning Commission and community meetings, raising worries about traffic, spillover parking, game time noise and disruption to an area that has been through years of Green Line light rail, Snelling Bridge, and Snelling Ave. reconstruction.

One new issue to emerge is that of whether the redeveloped site should have some type of water feature, possibly as part of a storm water management plan. Some Planning Commission members would like to see

that added. But McGuire said he'd rather see green space and reminded the Planning Commission that maintaining a water feature can have a high cost.

Merriam Park resident Danelle Lincoln described herself as "one of the little people" who has been following the plans. She lives near I-94 and said neighbors could face years of construction noise and disruption, followed by noise and spillover parking. While people want to see redevelopment, "we don't want to be stepped on in the process."

"Neighborhood parking is already being used by people using the Green Line," said Hamline-Midway resident Yvonne Schneider. She and others worried that soccer fans would use neighborhood streets for parking. But Schneider and others also said they would be pleased to see the area redeveloped with amenities such as green space and new businesses. She described the current conditions as "a pit."

# Officials laud new A Line for economic and business benefits

First Twin Cities Bus Rapid Transit line expected to help riders get to school and work faster

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

A Line buses are rolling between the 46th St. light rail station in Minneapolis and Snelling Ave. in St. Paul, offering residents a quicker, more convenient ride.

The Twin Cities' first arterial bus rapid transit (BRT) line officially opened on Saturday, June 11, 2016 with a ribbon-cutting and free bus rides.

The A Line offers a new kind of bus service that cuts the journey from the 46th St. station to Rosedale Mall from 48 minutes to 35 minutes.

Midway Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Ted Davis has seen the area transformed by the Green Line. He is excited by what the A Line means for businesses.

"Investments like this mean jobs and economic development," said Davis. "The cities that thrive are the cities that have safe, comfortable, affordable, reliable transit that makes it easier for employers to hire the people



Midway Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Ted Davis and St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman take one of the first rides on the newly opened Bus Rapid Transit A Line. The path of the new A Line travels down Snelling Ave. from Rosedale Mall to Highland Park and over to the 46th St. Station along Hiawatha in Minneapolis. Along the way it links Rosedale Mall to both of the Twin Cities light rail lines, the planned soccer stadium near University, and future redevelopment at the decommissioned Ford Plant. (Photo by Tessa M. Christensen)

they need."

The new BRT line pulls together four communities: Min-

neapolis, St. Paul, Falcon Heights and Roseville.

The path travels down Snelling Ave. from Rosedale Mall to Highland Park and over to the 46th St. Station along Hiawatha in Minneapolis. Along the way

it links Rosedale Mall to both of the Twin Cities light rail lines, the planned soccer stadium near University, and future redevelopment at the decommissioned Ford Plant. It passes several colleges, offering students a quicker way to travel. Seventy-five percent of the people who ride the bus use it to get to school or work, noted Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb during a press conference in Highland Park on June 10.

Hamline University President Dr. Fayneese Miller views the A Line as a vital new resource for Hamline students and pointed out that it will not only help students get to campus but enable them to be active in the local community.

"Not only will you have our service, but you will also have our brain power," promised Miller.

**Designed by and for customers**  
"This is a unique service because it really was designed by and for our customers," point-

**"Investments like this mean jobs and economic development. The cities that thrive are the cities that have safe, comfortable, affordable, reliable transit that makes it easier for employers to hire the people they need."**

**— Ted Davis  
Midway Chamber of  
Commerce**

ed out Lamb.

Customers said they wanted faster speeds and better amenities with more predictability. The A Line has 40-foot Gillig model buses with low floors, wider bus doors and boarding from any door.

Real-time NexTrip displays tell customers just how long a wait to expect. Other amenities include heated shelters, security cameras, bike racks and WiFi.

Customers pay their fares at ticket vending machines before boarding the bus, and can transfer easily between regular bus routes and light rail.

Buses remain in the right

Continued on page 12

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• Cadets from Como Park's Marine Corps JROTC began their summer with a week of activity and training in Wisconsin. The Cadet Leadership Course was held at Fort McCoy from June 13-17. Participants spent time hiking, rappelling, and competing in obstacle course challenges. They also gained experience in a leaders' reaction course and a land survival skills course instructed by a certified professional guide. The 37 cadets concluded their trip with a fun-filled day at a waterpark in Wisconsin Dells.

• The Page Education Foundation announced its 2016 Page Scholars who will receive financial support as they pursue post-secondary education. In return for their awards, the recipients will help develop positive attitudes about education among elementary and middle-school children by volunteering as tutors and mentors in their communities.

Page Scholars from Como's class of 2016 are Rosa Chautla Suastegui, Ebisa Gelatta, Israel Guzman Castillo, Zahro Hashi, Hser Htoo, Civastina Kyewaa, Khun Myo, Beatrice Owuso, Isabella Rosa, Jahel Salazar Barrientos, CharDay Vincal, Abaynhe Worku and Pa Houa Yang.

• Boys and girls from the Como Soccer teams are volunteering their time and energy this summer coaching and leading young players in the community through the Northwest Como Rec Center "Soccer Stars" program. Soccer Stars is held on Tuesday nights at the Como Park Picnic Grounds. There are over 30 participants in the 4-6-year-old age group, and over 20 par-

# News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

## MCJROTC takes leadership course at Fort McCoy



Como MCJROTC students attended a Cadet Leadership Course at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin from June 13-17. (Photo submitted)

Participants in the 7-11-year-old session which follows.

Coaches Jonah Fields and Kyle Johnson work with Como Park High School players to create fun activities that help young players get comfortable with the soccer ball, develop skills and build relationships through the game. Service is an essential component of Como Soccer, and giving back to the community is rewarding for the dozens of high school players that provide it.

• Como AP Government, AP Macroeconomics, and ELL History teacher Eric Erickson was selected to attend the Foreign Policy Association Teacher Training Institute in New York City. In sessions led by prominent policy experts, 36 teachers from the U.S., Mexico and Canada discussed Middle East Realignment, Migration, the Korean Peninsula, U.S.-Cuba relations, NAFTA,

the United Nations, and Climate Change.

Presenters included ambassadors from Canada and South Korea, Mexico's representative to the U.N., and journalists featuring David Sanger of the New York Times, and Jonathon Alter of NBC and long time senior editor of Newsweek. The culminating event of the week was the Statesman Dinner at the St. Regis Hotel honoring Ernesto Zedillo, the President of Mexico from 1994-2000, for his leadership and commitment to global diplomacy.

The Foreign Policy Association was established in 1918 to promote citizen education of global affairs. The Teacher Training Institute prepares teachers to tackle complicated global issues with their students and expand their educational networks.

• Ten Como Park teachers spent



Como teacher Eric Erickson met Ernest Zedillo, former President of Mexico, at a Foreign Policy Association event to honor Zedillo in New York City. (Photo submitted)

the first week of their summer developing new resources at the AVID training held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, and is a strong support system for many

Como Park students taking rigorous coursework.

Como teachers use AVID techniques across all grade levels to incorporate and integrate skills that help students become college ready. AVID's researched based study strategies help students analyze and interpret key concepts, and also organize essential information.

Teachers at the training attended sessions in their content areas and specialized in strands most applicable to their students. Participants included Allison Hartzell, Liz Paone, Shelly Storelee, Robyn Asher, Erica Boulay-Ali, Donna Norberg, Kia Thao, Suzanne Susens, Deb Hansmeier and Cindy Fischer.

• Members of the Como Robotics Team represented Como at the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival in June and made some positive community connections. Additionally, members of Como's National Honor Society helped young visitors with the creation of arts and crafts in the children's area of the festival.

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# Cutting-edge technology company calls University Ave. home

By JAN WILLMS

When Robert Jorgenson was 16, he wandered into an Ax-Man store, a place he liked to explore to see all the gadgets. He saw a sheet of glass that was black and had all kinds of wires on it. He asked what it was for. The store clerk told him that when sunlight hit the glass, it made electricity.

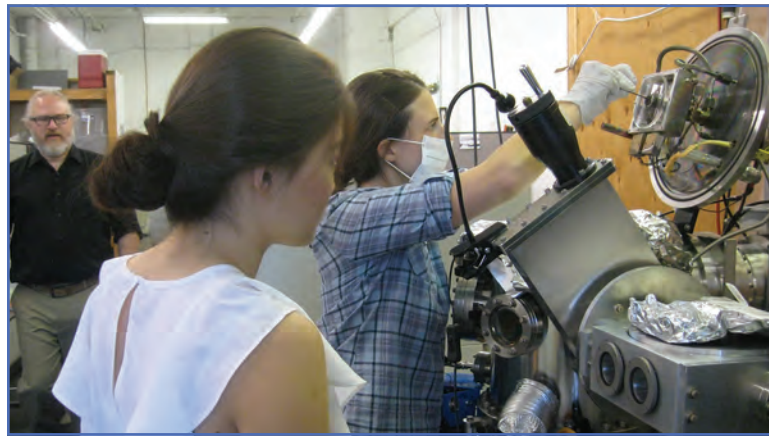
"I said okay. I was hooked. From that day forward, I knew what I wanted to do," said Jorgenson, now the CEO of Lightwave Photonics, Inc., (LPI) located in a massive old art building at 2500 University Ave.

"I knew when I was young that I wanted to work with semiconductors, and I wanted to do something that would help cut carbon emissions," recalled Jorgenson. He attended the University of Minnesota, picking up two bachelor's degrees, one in chemical engineering and another in material science.

Jorgenson said he initially wanted to work in solar cells, but he found himself working with light emitters. "Emitters are a really good way of reducing carbon emissions," he said.

"LED light bulbs cut carbon emissions by 5%, and we are trying to cut them by another 5%," Jorgenson explained, as he described the goal of his company. "The efficiency of LED bulbs is somewhere around 30%," he continued. "We are looking to more than double that efficiency." Jorgenson said that currently 70% of the energy in the LED bulb is energy wasted as heat. He wants to make the bulb 70% efficient, so that only 30% of the energy is going to heat and the rest for light.

Jorgenson said that growing up in Minnesota he was exposed to a lot of technology with companies that were here. "It's sort of a little-known secret, but Minnesota is a hotbed for crys-



Robert Jorgenson looks on as engineers Stephanie Tandean and Sara Rothwell work with wafers in their University Ave. lab. His company, LPI, was established in 2007 to commercialize advanced LED technology. (Photo by Jan Willms)

tal growth," he noted. "And that doesn't get the attention it deserves. Crystal growth is the foundation of all modern technology." Jorgenson explained that the University and all the colleges around here are not focused on that, even though there is so much industry in the Twin Cities.

LPI was established in 2007 to commercialize advanced LED technology. LPI provides the only commercially available conductive, reflective, and lattice matched templates for the subsequent epitaxial growth of Gallium Nitride based LEDs and Lasers.

Put more simply, LPI is growing crystalline round semiconductor wafers that will make LEDs more efficient. "The current state of the art templates for subsequent LED crystal growth are basically transparent," Jorgenson said. "Our wafers are highly reflective and ideal for crystal growth of LED materials. If you want green LEDs, you can now grow on top of highly reflective green wafers. If you want blue LEDs, you can grow on top of blue wafers, and blue LEDs power the phosphors in white LEDs used in light bulbs."

Jorgenson went on to explain that by coupling LED light emission to a mirror positioned precisely by crystal growth, you create more efficient and powerful light emission. "We now have materials to allow that to happen, and we are talking to a lot of different companies. There are about 40 companies around the world to target, and we have generated a lot of purchase orders."

The beginnings of the company that is creating these major technological changes from its small space on University Ave go back to when Jorgenson first met his wife in Minnesota.

"She wanted to get out of the snow, so she went to Arizona, and I followed along," Jorgenson explained. "I was doing consulting, so I could be anywhere, and I was able to hang out with my girlfriend Lynn, who is my wife now."

Originally, he was looking at similar technologies to license from a university in Arizona for a different application. "The metal did not have all the properties they said it had," Jorgenson said. He started getting deeper and deeper into the phys-

ics of his research, and something clicked. Jorgenson and his now wife moved to San Diego, where Jorgenson started his employee-owned company in 2007. "I had filed a patent a year before that using the law services here in Minnesota. The best lawyers I could find who could understand the technology were here in Minnesota," he said.

There was also so much opportunity in the Twin Cities with crystal growth that the company returned to Minnesota. "We were only supposed to be here six months and then move back to San Diego," Jorgenson recalled. "We had put everything in storage. But everything went so well here, we decided to stay. We recently purchased a house, and now we are here and plan to stay here."

The Jorgensons have been back in the state for four years, and the company has been located in the University Ave. artists' building for nearly three years. LPI is surrounded by potters, a record store, a tattoo artist, and painters.

"Now we can produce the materials we need, but the problem we're running into is making modifications to our equipment for higher throughput. We have put a lot of hard work into it, and from this point on, it is easier," he said.

They have recently won a Department of Energy (DOE) grant. "It is a small grant, but it has really helped us take off," added Jason McGrath, marketing director for LPI. "We're anticipating winning a Phase II DOE grant in 2017 and are looking for small investors to help us get there."

The company is also in competition for the annual MN Cup, sponsored by the University Of Minnesota Carlson School Of Business.

"This competition has been helpful," McGrath said. He noted that as a part of the competition, mentoring services are offered by Carlson as well as the Department of Energy. "They're helping us build a pretty solid business

and commercialization plan," he commented. "The competition kicked off a couple of weeks ago and goes until September."

As well as cutting carbon emissions by another 5% in LED bulbs, LPI is helping enable projectors in persons' cell phones called pico-projectors and better laser-powered headlights. "BMW is developing laser-powered headlights," Jorgenson said. "The type of laser we enable is superior to the lasers currently available."

Jorgenson said some of the companies LPI is talking to have crystal growth facilities the size of football fields. "If you can just imagine, there are these enormous buildings with 100 to 1,000 crystal growth systems," he described. "We are looking to sell wafers to demo what they can do, then license to those companies. We have patented the technology, and they can take the final product while it also cuts the cost of production."

The wafers sell between \$1,000 and \$3,000 each. "We are looking at making six of them a day from this small facility here," Jorgenson continued. "We estimate each company will buy about 400 demo wafers before they start production and the final licensing agreements."

Quite an amazing undertaking from a company with seven employees working from a small lab, with a CEO who was influenced by an Ax-Man gadget.

Jorgenson also cites his training at Webster Magnet School. "I really benefited from that science program," he said. His training at the U of M and working with a laser program at 3M were also helpful in his path towards technology.

"Some of the larger companies with crystal growth are still around, but not many of the little ones," he said. Jorgenson said he is working with some of the colleges, such as the U of M with its Nano facilities that can be rented out, and St. Paul College. "We're working with them to create an incubator, and we get some interns from there."

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# ComoFest shapes neighborhood identity, brings people together

Community partners share what they appreciate most about the seven-year-old festival of family-friendly activities

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

How has ComoFest developed from a small ice cream social with a few hundred people to a month-long event drawing in thousands?

Ask the organizers and they'll point to how the festival strengthens the community while pulling in neighborhood partners. Plus, it's fun.

"ComoFest has an established reputation of building the community through family-fun events," stated Lyngblomsten Director of Lifelong Learning and the Arts Andrea Lewandoski. In 2012, Lyngblomsten integrated its annual "Mid-Summer Festival" into ComoFest.

"The events allow for an open, friendly atmosphere, the opportunity for community members to meet and speak with local artists, hear live music from local bands and musicians, and provide the chance for community members to visit local businesses and restaurants," said Lewandoski. "Fine food and a variety of arts and wellness activities add to the festive fun during the entire month of July."

"When folks think about Como Park, they typically think of the park and zoo, which is a huge draw and major asset to this neighborhood," remarked AndreaLynn Johnson. "But ComoFest is giving families throughout the Twin Cities and surrounding area another reason to visit the neighborhood—for



ComoFest brings the community together for a wide range of activities throughout the entire month of July. (Photo submitted)

the food, the music, the arts, to explore new events, and meet new people in Como that they didn't know. It is a way to highlight what the people of the community have to offer the greater Twin Cities community."

Johnson has been part of the festival since the beginning when she coordinated the first art crawl. That year, five artists opened up their studios and homes, including Johnson. Over the years, the art crawl has evolved into an art fair that she continues to organize.

What's kept her involved

over the years?

"I love finding unique ways to promote the arts, and doing so in this non-juried art fair has been a wonderful way to high-

light local artists," said Johnson. "I have enjoyed not only seeing the community come together for one unified event or focus, but getting to know my fellow

community members and business even better."

"The willingness to volunteer time and genuine love for the neighborhood shown by the community is unmatched," Johnson said.

"This has strengthened our working bonds for sure," said Darcy Rivers, St. Paul Parks and Recreation Director of Programming. "Having the opportunity to work with District 10, Lyngblomsten and others is a no-brainer. We all service the same people, combine our resources, learn from each other, receive new contacts and develop friendships."

One thing that sets ComoFest apart is that each event operates independently. "There's no grand planning committee," explained Michael Kuchta, District 10 Executive Director. "But we do collaborate, we do support each other, and we do coordinate as much as we can on things like logis-

Continued on page 9



Artist AndreaLynn Johnson (at right) has helped organize the art fair since its inception. "I love finding unique ways to promote the arts, and doing so in this non-juried art fair has been a wonderful way to highlight local artists," said Johnson. "I have enjoyed not only seeing the community come together for one unified event or focus but getting to know my fellow community members and business even better." (Photo submitted)

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# ComoFest

Continued from page 8

tics, advertising, and publicity.” District 10 serves as the hub for ComoFest and hosts the web page and Facebook page. It also handles the finances and contributes its own event, the Ice Cream Social.

This year’s partners include Lyngblomsten, St. Paul Parks and Recreation, Topline Federal Credit Union, The Underground Music Cafe, Honest-1 Auto Care, Como Dockside Lakeside Pavilion, and Como Park - Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program. Humphrey Job Corps Center supplies volunteers.

## From a weekend to a month

Instead of cramming everything into one weekend, this year there will be eight events spread out over four weekends. “We’re hoping that gives neighbors a chance to sample activities in a way that fits their schedules,” explained



Movie Night and Camp Out from 2013 included wide-ranging activities. This year the event was July 8 as the Monitor was going to press. (Photo submitted)

Kuchta. “If they happen to be out of town one weekend, or already booked solid for one weekend, they’ve still got a chance to check out a half-dozen other events.”

The festival started with the North Dale Movie Night on July 8 and the ComoFest Art Fair on July 9.

Next up:

- District 10 Ice Cream Social on July 15;
- ComoFest 5K Walk/Run for Everyone on July 17;
- Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival: A Celebration of Arts & Lifelong Learning on July 22;
- Community Appreciation Pic-

nic on July 23;

- Northwest Como Campout on July 29; and
- the Block Party at UMC on July 30-31.

“Don’t miss any of it,” urged Rivers. “Each event brings a new flavor of activity that is representative of the neighborhood.”

“The evolution of ComoFest from one small event to a month-long series of events has been due to our want to include more partners within and outside of District 10, wanting to include a wider variety of activities and by spreading the activities out over a month, giving families a better opportunity to attend more of the ComoFest events,” said Johnson.

## Work in progress

ComoFest is a continual work in progress with new ideas and community members, observed Rivers.

River remembers the meeting in 2010 that gave birth to ComoFest. She and then-District 10 Community Council Coordinator Rhonda DeBough recognized that people couldn’t afford to travel because of the recession, and they decided to offer the District 10 Staycation. They combined the Northwest Como Movie Night with District 10’s Art Crawl, Garden Tour, and Bike Ride, along with the Chelsea Heights PTO Flea Market and Coffee Grounds Music Festival on one weekend.

The festival also offered residents a way to discover a little bit more about their neighborhood.

“In that way, nothing’s changed,” remarked Kuchta. “You can still experience ComoFest without spending a dime. It’s still family oriented, and it features a variety of very simple, very low-key, but enjoyable events that expose you to some of what’s available right in your own backyard.”

Some events come and go, he noted, but the essence is still the same.

“It’s not a big festival that shuts down streets and disrupts people’s lives for a couple of days. We’ve got enough high-impact activity in our neighborhood. ComoFest is actually the opposite of that.”

## Spreading through Como

Kuchta is excited to see the event growing to include more than just the intersection of Hamline and Hoyt, where things were centered at the beginning. “For the first time this year, we’ve got something going on east of the lake—with North Dale’s movie

**“It sounds cliché, but anything that gets us out from behind our own fences helps build community.”**

**— Michael Kuchta,  
District 10 Community  
Council**

night—and something going on in South Como—with TopLine’s cookout. I’m hoping we can build on that, so we really do tie in the whole neighborhood,” he stated.

Como Park - Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program initially got involved with ComoFest by invitation from District 10. The community non-profit began with an information table at the ice cream social and that morphed into sponsoring a 5K run/walk around Como Lake last year.

“It turned out better than we thought,” recalled Executive Director Jody McCardle. “And we loved meeting neighbors who were glad to learn about how we help seniors remain in their homes safely. We even had a few runners become volunteers for our program.”

“Many of the seniors we work with talk about their love of Como Lake and their everyday walks around Como Lake with family and friends—so in a way it is a continuum of celebrating our seniors in our community and the natural resources of District 10 that we treasure,” McCardle added.

## All part of Como Park

The Como area is in high demand from people all over the state and visitors, pointed out Rivers. While the community cherishes the Como resources and shares them, residents also value their neighborhoods. ComoFest helps with community identity, strengthens the neighborhood and takes back the space.

“It sounds cliché, but anything that gets us out from behind our own fences helps build community,” said Kuchta. “Something like ComoFest can eliminate, in small ways, the physical barriers that separate parts of our neighborhood: Which side of the park you are on, which side of the tracks you are on, are you in a home or an apartment? Doesn’t matter—you’re still part of Como Park.”

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# St. Paul Public Schools embarks on five-year renovation plan

By MARIA HERD

Interactive classroom projectors, security cameras, a remodeled cafeteria and a new artificial turf field are a few of the improvements public schools in the Hamline Midway and Como neighborhoods will see in the next few years.

Construction will begin this month for the Saint Paul Public School's (SPPS) five-year facilities master plan. This is after two years of gathering data on 72 schools and facilities and 465 acres of land that belong to SPPS, in addition to collecting input from over 1,000 people who work and study there.

"Most of the work we're doing this summer is maintenance, bread and butter stuff," said Tom Parent, the Facilities Director at SPPS, with the exception of Johnson High School in the Payne-Phalen neighborhood.

The district has always had long-range maintenance plans, said Parent. But making improvements has been a technical expert focused process in the past. This is the first time that there has been a strategic five-year plan laid out for students and parents.

"This is a change in focus for us as a district to look at things more holistically," he explained.

According to Parent, security cameras and improving classroom technology were two of the main needs identified across the district. Every school is getting some work related to those areas. Classroom technology includes interactive projectors and distributed sound for better classroom instruction.

"Both of those initiatives are to get every school in the district to a baseline of service for those systems," he said.

## The process

The Facilities Department developed the plan through four phases. The first phase analyzed key data such as demographic trends, student enrollment and building capacities.

Phase two analyzed costs and the district's project priorities. One of the biggest challenges in this part of the process was establishing consistency in priorities with such a diverse set of schools built across many decades. Over 90 percent of the buildings are between 30 and 115 years old.

The next step involved taking those priorities and tailoring them to each school.

"How do we take district level aspiration and articulate it at each one of our schools?" said Parent.

Phase three worked to answer that question, and community involvement was a key part.

"This was a process in which we were able to engage the community in having an active voice in how the buildings needed to change in the coming years," said Parent.

At first, Parent said he thought that they would hold meetings for the community to give input and "whoever comes, comes, and it will be great." However, it was quickly realized that "by doing that we're over-representing some perspectives over others," he said.

SPPS then put together diverse 20 person committees made up of students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators to identify each school's needs.

"We were very intentional about having a diverse set of perspectives," said Parent. "This works



Hundreds of SPPS parents, students, teachers, staff and administrators worked with engineers and architects in Saturday morning workshops to identify and prioritize upgrades for each school in the district. (Photo courtesy of St. Paul Public Schools)

best when it's built on empathy and multiple perspectives from the community."

Then, SPPS held Saturday morning workshops in which committees worked alongside engineers and architects to decide which improvements were most needed at their schools. Over 800 people participated.

"We don't need a lot of perspective in the roof being replaced, but educationally and civility — we need those perspectives," he said.

Another diverse 65 person committee — that included students, parents, SPPS administrators and District Council and Parks and Rec representatives from across the city — helped throughout the entire process. This committee also helped to prioritize what needs were most important in phase four.

This committee "represented the stakeholders we have here in Saint Paul," and "really spoke to the breadth of service and need that we have in the district," said Parent.

To help prioritize needs in phase four, SPPS developed criteria. One of the top priorities listed is to address temporary structures. If a program in a portable building has been successful, said Parent, it's important to find a permanent space for it.

The criteria also lists enrollment growth, classroom quality, main building entries, building conditions, size and quality of core spaces like gyms and cafeterias. Additional information about prioritization criteria is available online at the SPPS Facilities website.

## Athletics

Parent says that the majority of phone calls he receives are requests for upgrades to athletics and that there is enormous pressure to improve those facilities.

"There is a hunger for better athletic facilities throughout St. Paul," he said. Space poses a challenge for SPPS in this area. Saint Paul high schools have about a fifth of the space compared to suburban high schools, said Parent.

"Not every school needs everything," he said. "But, let's find a way to share the resources we have so that we really see efficiency at the face."

SPPS analyzed sport participation data and the balance of physical space for competition athletics

and physical activity for all.

"We were able to identify inequities and opportunities to in-

crease participation," said Parent.

Two other high schools in addition Como Park Senior High

School will be getting turf fields for the first time. Furthermore, four schools will have their turf replaced in the next five years.

"Our space is so incredibly valuable and utilized so heavily," said Parent. Turf fields will help utilize that space for as much of the season and as many hours a day as possible.

## Funding

According to Parent, SPPS has been receiving the same dollar amount for building improvement and maintenance from the state legislature since 1994.

"We have lost 38 cents of each dollar just in inflation," he said.

By law, that funding must be used for building improvement only. The funds make up four percent of the district's overall budget. The 2015-16 building construction fund stands at \$27.4 million, according to the Facilities website.

For more information, go to <http://www.spps.org/Page/22595>.

## Loeb Lake Family Fishing



Tuesday, August 9, 2016 | 6:00-8:00 pm  
Loeb Lake, Saint Paul

Located in Marydale Park  
Meet near the dock off of Mackubin Street

Bring the family out for a night of fishing and clean water education at your neighborhood lake! You'll learn the basics of fishing, cast a few lines and maybe catch some fish! Fishing equipment provided. Presented by CRWD and MinnAqua.

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# In Our Community

## Monitor

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

### HMHM schedules August talk

The Hamline Midway Health Movement invites Midway residents to attend its next Monthly Health Event on Thur., Aug. 4, at 6pm at the Hamline Church United Methodist (1514 Englewood Ave.). The speaker will be a Caregiver Consultant from the Amherst Wilder Foundation's Caregiver Services Program. The topic is "Caregiving and the Sandwich Generation." If you are a parent who also cares for an aging relative, or can foresee yourself fulfilling that role in the future, this program will provide information on issues and concerns facing caregivers, as well as services available in our community. Enjoy a healthy meal prepared by Chef Erik Hendrickson and sponsored by Hamline Midway Elders. Free will donations appreciated. RSVP for the August event at [hamlinemidwayhealth@gmail.com](mailto:hamlinemidwayhealth@gmail.com) or call Kathy at 651-645-1235.

HMHM is a grassroots group of Midway residents (sponsored by the Vital Aging Network) who are striving to improve the wellness of the Hamline Midway community by engaging residents in healthy activities and educational discussions.

Watch the *Monitor* for upcoming events or visit our Facebook page at Hamline-Midway Health Movement.

### Como resident in "110 in the Shade"

The Bethel University theatre department will perform the musical "110 in the Shade" for eight shows in July. A cast of eight, including Como resident Jeff Berryhill, will perform the production on July 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 at 7:30pm, and July 17 and 24 at 2:30pm in the Bethel Theatre on the Bethel University campus at 3900 Bethel Dr.

"110 in the Shade" is based on the romantic comedy, "The Rainmaker," by N. Richard Nash with lyrics by Tom Jones, and music by Harvey Schmidt.

Tickets are \$14 for general admission; \$10 for students; and \$12 for seniors or groups of 10 or more. For tickets, call 651-638-6333 or order online at [tickets.bethel.edu](http://tickets.bethel.edu).

### National Night Out at Jehovah Lutheran

Jehovah Lutheran Church will host its annual National Night Out celebration Tue., Aug. 2, with music, food and activities. The event will be in the church parking lot, weather permitting, and will include a giveaway of clothing and household items, all free.

### Midway YMCA club shines in national

The kids of the Midway YMCA Handball Club had a great showing at this year's National Handball Tournament in June. In the 15-years-and-under division, Isaac GebbenGreen took 3rd place, and Jose Flores took 4th place. Joseph Lallier took first place in the 13-and-under youth division; Isaac Alberg took 3rd, and Antonio Flores took 4th. In the 11-and-under division, Daniel Rame-ro took 3rd place, and Lydia GebbenGreen took 4th place.



Youth Handball started about three years ago at the Midway YMCA because the Director Dave Dominic saw the value of keeping kids active and allowed Mitchell Lallier to develop a club at the YMCA. Soon after starting the program Phil GebbenGreen stepped up to help out. There currently are about 30 young players and 11 youth come from the Eastside of St. Paul that car pool every Saturday to play handball at the University of Minnesota.

GebbenGreen says, "Handball teaches discipline, honesty, friendship, and fun. Playing handball is a fantastic way for young people to gain confidence, ball skills, leadership, and the ability to learn to win and lose with maturity."

At the National Tournament, local youth played against competition from Mankato, Iowa, Montana, Arizona, and even Ireland. With Lallier's 1st place, he joins Ray Miller and Steve Johnson, who took 1st place this year in the 45-year-old doubles-- both were National Champions for the Midway YMCA when they were growing up.

After the Midway YMCA was rebuilt, the program moved to the U of M, where the program has enough space to teach kids that want to learn to play handball. The Youth Handball is at the University Recreation Center on Saturday afternoon from 1-3pm starting September 10. Most Saturdays, the club has 20-30 players. Participation is free, and equipment is provided to everyone. Newcomers are always welcome.

"Handball is a sport you can enjoy your whole life long!" adds Lallier. "It is an excellent cardiovascular and coordination workout that improves your skills for every other sport."

The church is at 1566 Thomas Ave.

### Elementary night scheduled July 14

Get connected this summer at a new, relaxed get-together of Hamline Elementary parents and kids one night each month at Hancock Rec Center, attached to Hamline Elementary at Hubbard and Snelling. The next Hamline Elementary Night at Hancock Rec Center is Thur., July 14, from 5:30-7:30pm with food, games, and activities, and a chance to see old friends and meet new ones. This is a free event--all current and incoming Hamline families, as well as families who'd like to know more about Hamline, are welcome to attend. Please contact [hamlineelementarypta@gmail.com](mailto:hamlineelementarypta@gmail.com) for more information. Hope to see you there!

### Cookie 5K run planned Aug. 13

Fun Run 5K, the "Cookie 5K," is scheduled at Como Lake on Sat., Aug. 13, 9-10:30am. This is a fundraiser for Herosearch.org,

a nonprofit that connects people with items to donate and local charities that need them. Cookie Cart, a nonprofit youth organization, will supply cookies for all participants. Children will also receive hero capes with registration.

In addition to the race, there will be a collection of donation items for area homeless youth from 8-11am that day. Anyone can donate items whether registered or not.

Pre-registration ends on July 31, and the price is \$25, with \$5 discount for bringing a donation. Register and find the list of needed donations @ [www.herosearch.org](http://www.herosearch.org) or <https://runsignup.com/Race/MN/SaintPaul/CookieFun5>.

### AFSA receives program grant

The Academy for Sciences & Agriculture (AFSA) Middle School, 1435 Midway Pkwy., recently received a \$3,000 grant from the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). The grant will assist AFSA Middle School in its FIRST Robotics educational programs by funding the purchase of equipment for use by more

than 80 AFSA middle-grade science students and the school's robotics team.

FIRST Robotics inspires young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in mentor-based, research and robotics programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, inspires innovation, and fosters well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership. FIRST Robotics is transforming our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people become science and technology leaders, as well as well-rounded contributors to society.

AFSA High School & Middle School is the only public charter school of its kind in the state of Minnesota where students from grades 5-12 learn about the many science and agriculture careers.

### Sounds of Hope to perform in July

The 25-year-old Songs of Hope project is showcasing the talents of 65 young performers from 15 countries worldwide while taking audiences of all, ages on a musical tour of the world. Live music by this outstanding ensemble of local musicians will take place Sat., July 30, 7:30pm at the E.M. Pearson Theatre (312 Hamline Ave. N.) on the campus of Concordia University St. Paul. More than a choir, Songs of Hope features singing, dance, costumes, and more. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for youth and seniors. For more information, you can go to [www.soundsofhope.org](http://www.soundsofhope.org).

### Vacation Bible School scheduled

Como Park Lutheran, 1376 Hoyt Ave. W., is putting on their annual Vacation Bible School for children who have completed preschool to 5th grade, July 25-29, 9am-12pm. The theme for this year is Deep Sea Discovery. Your children can join in for a week of fun, singing, laughing and making new friends. Children will participate in a community service project as well as learn about God through the mysteries of the sea. The fee is \$30/child (\$75 max/family).

### La Leche Group scheduled Aug. 9

The next meetings of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tue., Aug. 9. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers to discuss breastfeeding and mothering issues. Call Heidi

at 651-659-9527 for more information.

### Co-ed Drum Circle planned July 22

The Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., will present a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., July 22, 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm, and freedom of expression will be explored. The cost is \$10 at the door all experience levels are welcome. Drums are provided. Info and registration can be found at [www.womensdrumcenter.org](http://www.womensdrumcenter.org).

### Programs planned at Merriam Park Center

The Keystone Senior Center, located at 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!)

Foot care is available the first Monday of the month, scheduled in ½ hour appointments for \$20. Call 651-645-7424 for an appointment.

Bring your art supplies and join your fellow crafters every Tuesday from 1-3pm. Coffee, tea, and conversation, too.

Join other players for a great afternoon to play Mexican Train Dominoes. Come and learn the game. They meet every second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 1-2:30pm.

Free health insurance and Medicare counseling is available by appointment, noon to 1pm on the third Thursday (July 21) of the month. Call 651-645-7424 for an appointment.

Fit and Fabulous Exercise group meets Mon., Wed., and Fri. mornings from 10:30-11:30am starting Aug. 1. Classes include stretching and warm up, endurance, cool down, guided relaxation and fun! Sponsored by Keystone Senior Services. Cost is \$10 per month or \$25 per year for Silver & Fit members.

Robert Newby from HealthEast will talk about health care directives on Wed., Aug. 3, 11:15am-12:30pm. Bring your questions and update your own health care directive. Please call 651-645-7424 to register for this event.

Keri Huber, a Minnesota State Fair archivist, will bring the history of the Fair--since its origin in 1855--to life with stories and images, Mon., Aug. 8, 11:15am-1pm. Please register for this event by calling 651-645-7424.



## A Line Opening

Continued from page 5

driving lane as they board passengers to save time, thanks to extended curbs at stations, although this feature has some local residents concerned about impacts on traffic.

The A Line buses will stop at fewer red lights courtesy of transit signal priority at 19 of the 34 signals along the line.

The Metro Transit system pulled together the best of what other cities offer, and tailored it to fit the needs of Minnesotans, according to Metro Transit BRT Project Manager Katie Roth.

"This is going to show how when we, as Legislators, embrace the leadership of local communities, we can do well by them," remarked State Senator Scott Dibble, who chairs the Transportation and Public Safety Committee.

### Great regions need great transportation systems

The Twin Cities area is expected to grow by 80,000 people in the next few decades, Dibble pointed out. "We have to provide choices and options, and deliver the quality of life to make this a viable, vibrant, competitive metropolitan area," Dibble said.

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman agreed that great regions need great transportation systems. Development opportunities, such as the 20,000-seat Midway soccer stadium and 34.5-acre mixed-use development, are possible because of the investments already made in transportation infrastructure.

"This area will fully devel-

**"Not only will you have our service, but you will also have our brain power."**

**— Dr. Fayneese Miller  
Hamline University  
President**

op because we have transportation investments like the A Line," stated Coleman.

"The A Line is going to make commuting more convenient for thousands of people," stated Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith. She expects to see the line support jobs and economic development in the region.

### A Line helps fill in the transportation web

While only a small portion of the \$27 million A Line operates within the city of Minneapolis, "the impacts of this line are anything but small for this region," stated Peter Wagenius of Mayor Betsy Hodges' office.

"The connectivity to St. Paul for South Minneapolis residents will be much enhanced," remarked Hennepin County District 4 Commissioner Peter McLaughlin.

McLaughlin pointed out St. Paul residents will be able to get to the airport without driving, lessening the traffic and pollution load. And Minneapolis residents can use the A Line to shop in Highland Park, as well as to connect with the Green Line on their way to downtown St. Paul.

The BRT system is helping to fill in the transportation web in the Twin Cities and making it a fuller system, McLaughlin ob-

served. "We're starting one line at a time, building the system out."

McLaughlin added, "The more connections you have that are reliable and affordable, the more riders you will have."

The A Line is the first of 15 routes that will travel along high-use corridors. The next planned is the C Line, which will link Brooklyn Center to downtown Minneapolis down Penn Ave. The C Line, initially set to start construction next year, was pushed back to 2018 due to a \$15 million funding gap.

### Predictable route will attract more riders

When Minnesota Department of Transportation Commissioner Charlie Zelle went to high school, he knew every curb cut along Snelling during his daily bus ride. He told those gathered on June 10 that he can't think of a more fitting roadway than Snelling Ave. for the start of the state's Bus Rapid Transit system. Zelle believes that the predictability of the route will attract more riders.

The 10-mile A Line is now the primary bus route serving Snelling Ave. and Ford Pkwy. with increased service in evenings and on weekends, substantially replacing much of Route 84.

The span of service is very similar to the old Route 84 schedule, with trips beginning at approximately 4am and continuing until approximately 1:30am.

The A Line operates every 10 minutes along the 9.7-mile-long route during rush hours, midday, evenings, and weekends, with less frequent service in the early morning and late at night.

In the first week of opera-

tion, the A Line provided 30,308 rides. Combined with the still existing 84 route, there were 36,205 rides given in the first

week, a 36% increase from the 84 route before the A Line went in.

## Recreation Centers open for summer fun

Register now for these upcoming summer camps and classes at [stpaul.gov/activityregistration](http://stpaul.gov/activityregistration). The numbers in parenthesis after the event is the activity number to sign up for.

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

- Art: Lego Star Wars Art Camp, ages 4-9 (#10508)
- Computer: Java Minecraft Mod Development, ages 10-15 (#16867)
- Engineering: Out of This World, ages 7-14 (#3563)
- Engineering: Space Pioneers, ages 4-6 (#12462)
- Disc Golf Camp, ages 8-15 (#17983)
- Soccer Camp, ages 5-12 (#4414)

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

- Asian Art/Wine/Cheese at the Underground Café for adults (#17928)
- Engineering: Camp Kelvin, ages 4-6 (#17954)
- Mini Hawk Camp, ages 4-7 (#12238)
- Art: Mess Mania PJ Party, ages 3-6 (#17061)
- Flag Football Camp, ages 6-12 (#3578)
- Tie-Dye Class, ages 7-14 (#16650)
- Engineering: Medieval Mayhem, ages 7-14 (#17956)
- Art: Glow In The Dark Millennium Falcon Art Class, ages 5-12 (#14763)
- Singing In The Summer, ages 11-15 (#17934)
- Basketball Camp, ages 7-12 (#12137)
- Volleyball Camp, ages 9-14 (#12138)
- Art: Clay To Go, ages 6-9 & 10-15
- Badminton Camp, ages 9-15 (#14813)

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

- Intro to Yoga & Mindfulness, ages 9-12 (#18065)
- Yogis to Be, ages 5-8 (#18066)
- Robotics: Star Wars Droid Builder Camp, ages 6-10 (#10224)
- Game On Camp, ages 4-6 (#17947)
- Nature Super Hero's Camp, ages 4-6 (#17962)
- Secret Agent Camp, ages 7-12 (#16921)
- Ultimate Frisbee Camp, ages 10-15 (#17953)
- Red Cross Babysitting Class, ages 11-17 (#14160)

For questions or help with registration call the individual Recreation Center.

## Rice Street Festival 2016

### Sat., July 23

- 12-3pm - Royalty Car Wash, Advance Auto Parts, 1111 Rice St. Serving hot dogs and pop @ \$2

### Thur., July 28

- 5-7pm - SPPD Safe Summer Nights, Rice Street Rec Center, 1021 Marion St.

### Fri., July 29

- 6pm - Opening of the Rice Street Festivities: Old Timers Game - Kamps vs. Stasny's at Rice and Lawson Fields. Stop by Tin Cups (1220 Rice St.) after the game!

### Sat., July 30

- 8am - Kickball Tournament, Rice and Lawson Fields. Register @ Dar's Double Scoop Ice Cream. 1048 Rice St.
- 12pm - Car Show, Rice St. between Lawson and Jessamine
- 1pm - High Heel Race. Check-in 12:30pm; Race at 1pm. Check in in front of Dar's Double Scoop, 1048 Rice St.

### Sun., July 31

- 1pm - Rice Street Parade
- 2pm - Free Family Fun Night, Rice St. Rec Center, 1021 Marion St. Rock climbing wall, pony rides, dunk tank, jump castles, carnival games and more!
- 3pm - Queen Coronation, Washington Magnet School, 1495 Rice St. RSF Button required for admission.

## Groovin' In The Garden series continues at Como Park

The free concert series, "Groovin' In The Garden," returns to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory.

While the grownups get their groove on with some of the Twin Cities best bands, the kids will be entertained by a climbing wall, bouncy house, and lawn games. Pack the dancing shoes and spread out a blanket for these free outdoor concerts and activities on the Visitor Center lawn every Wednesday from June 15 through Aug. 3 from 6pm-8pm. Food, ice cream treats, beer, and wine will be available to purchase.

On July 13, The Morning Kings will perform. The Morning Kings are known throughout the region for having a layered, energetic, full band sound with influences of funk, rock, and organized jam. TMK pushes the envelope to create and innovate music that can get a crowd moving while invoking a true connection to the music.

On July 20, Groovin' In The Garden presents Jaedyn James & The Hunger, a ten-piece, raw funk,

rock n roll, soul band who burst onto the Minneapolis music scene in the fall of 2014. The Hunger brings the heat; Jaedyn James, a fiery sparkplug- ignites her band and audiences. It's obvious when seen live, JJ&TH takes their fun very seriously. In fact, you are expected to dance at a Hunger show. Self-expression is encouraged, laughing is inevitable, standing still and staring at your phone is not an option.

On July 27, The Auctioneers will take the stage. The Auctioneers are a swingin' combo of five local guys with 18 years of experience in the Twin Cities music scene. They play a crazy wide range of country twanged music from Hank Williams and Johnny Cash to Steve Earle and The Bottle Rockets. A

delightful cacophony of guitars, drums, harmonica and horn will fill the air with a good time groove and a few laughs.

Aug. 3, the scheduled band had to cancel, so just show up and be surprised!



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The Hamline Midway Library at 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. is your go-to place this July and August for hands-on activities and arts and education events for people of all ages. It's a maker space, a community gathering space, and a source of great books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs, just waiting for you to explore.

Summer Spark (formerly known as the Summer Reading Program) is in full swing at the library in July and August. Kids and teens can pick up an activity log at the library and track their reading hours and check off activities they've tried this summer, such as trying a new fruit or vegetable or making a collage. When they complete ten activities and/or ten hours of reading, they can stop by the library with their activity log to pick up a free book. Ten more hours of activities and reading earns kids a special journal.

The library is featuring Activity Wednesdays this summer, offering craft activities and supplies to help kids, teens, and their families explore their creative side. Kids and teens can also work toward completing a Summer Spark activity log to earn a free book or journal. On Wed., July 20, 5:30-6:30pm, kids can try their hand at creating their own one-of-a-kind musical instru-

## News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

### The library is your 'go-to place' for hands-on activities

ment out of found items at Make Music! On Wed., July 27, 5:30-6:30pm, you can create a Tower of Hanoi set, a simple logic game that gets trickier the more pieces you add.

On Wed., August 10, 1:30-2:30pm, the library is offering Peaceful Explorations: Exploring Our World Through Music, Movement, and Storytelling. In this program, families with children ages preschool through second grade will have a chance to learn about the seasons and peaceful living through music, movement, and stories.

Preschool Storytimes in English happen on Fridays at 10:30-11:30am, with upcoming storytimes on July 15, 22, and 29 and Aug. 5, 12, 19, and 26. Storytimes feature stories, songs, puppets, and fingerplays and are a fabulous way to build vocabulary and number and letter recognition and foster listening and so-

cial skills that lay the foundation for school success. They're also a great way for children and their caregivers to bond! Children of all activity levels are welcome at storytimes.

Prepare for a cuteness overload on Sat., July 16, 1-2pm when Half Pint Horses visits the library. Participants will learn about horses, read a story about a miniature horse, and then have the opportunity to meet a live miniature horse up close.

The library is featuring a couple of events especially for teens this month, as well. On Thur., July 21, 5:30-7:45pm, the library will host Teen Movie Night, showing director Guillermo del Toro's cult favorite Pacific Rim. Robots, giant sea monsters, and popcorn equal a fun evening out for teens and their friends.

On Sat., July 23, 3-4pm, the library hosts Teens Reading Bravely, a book discussion group

for grades 9 and up. The group talks about books that fall under the "Read Brave" category of edgy, innovative, thought-provoking young adult books.

Jody's Documentary Films Series continues on Wed., July 27, 1-3pm. This year, the series is featuring documentaries from PBS's POV series via a special arrangement with PBS. This month's film is StoryCorps Shorts, directed by Rauch Brothers Animation. The film is a compilation of animated shorts based on true-life stories collected as part of the StoryCorps oral history project. These movie events are a collaboration between the library and Hamline Midway Elders.

Evening Pajama Storytimes in English return on Tuesdays in August after a break in July. Upcoming storytimes are on Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, all from 6:30-7pm. Pajamas, blankets, and

stuffed animals are all welcome at these fun family events.

Summer Power kicks off in August with appearances every Thursday morning by award-winning Minnesota picture book authors. On Thur., Aug. 4, 10:30-11am, Sarah Warren, author of "Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers," leads kids in an activity to discover the superheroes in themselves. Thur., Aug. 11, 10:30-11am, Cheryl Blackford presents her picture book "Hungry Coyote" and leads kids in a coyote mask-making activity. Come celebrate one of Minnesota's most exciting resources, its rich children's literature scene! This series is a collaboration between the library and the Hamline Midway Library Association.

Sat., Aug. 6 is a day for book clubs at the library. The Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club gathers that day from 1-3pm to discuss good mysteries. Contact Geraldine Balter at 651-224-5570 or gerribalter@gmail.com for information about the latest titles under discussion. The Kids' Book Clubs meet in two age groups that day to share books they love and enjoy activities, games, and snacks. Ages 8-11 meet 1:30-2:15pm, and ages 12-14 meet 2:30-3:15pm. New members are always welcome!

## Monitor In A Minute

Compiled by JANE MCCLURE

### Recycling to change

St. Paul's residential curbside recycling program will see changes next year, including wheeled, lidded carts and additional materials that can be recycled at curbside. One thing that will remain the same is that the Neighborhood Recycling Corporation, doing business as Eureka Recycling, will continue as the residential service provider for single-family homes and apartment buildings with fewer than 12 units. The new contract, which was awarded June 24, starts Jan. 1, 2017. Eureka will be responsible for recycling collection as well as processing materials.

Eureka has provided St. Paul's curbside recycling service for 15 years, after it split off from the longtime organization Neighborhood Energy Consortium. The company topped a field of four companies vying for the contract. A decision affecting

larger apartment buildings will be made in the future.

The carts, which can be picked up in residential alleys, have long been sought by St. Paul residents. Homes and smaller multi-family buildings currently use the familiar blue recycling bins that have to be hauled to the curb each week. Residents whose homes don't have alleys can just wheel the carts to the curb.

The carts will roll in at a cost of about \$4.2 million citywide, or \$45 to \$50 apiece. Ramsey County is paying half of the cost through its solid waste funding, and the city will pay half. Part of the city's share will come from a \$500,000 grant the city is pursuing. More costs would be covered by a small increase in the fee home and multi-family building owners pay for recycling. Ellen Biales of Public Works said the amount isn't known, but it could go up \$1 or \$2 from the current

rate of \$53.42 for a single-family home.

As for the blue bins, Public Works and Eureka will set up a few collection sites around St. Paul next year to gather them. Or people can opt to keep their bins after the wheeled carts go into service. "They do make great garden baskets," Biales said.

### City Council delays accessory unit decision

The St. Paul City Council hasn't closed the door on a proposal to add housing density in neighborhoods along Green Line light rail. But more time is needed to review building code issues and to let some neighborhoods weigh in. In June the council laid over the accessory dwelling unit plan, which would allow stand-alone backyard houses, "carriage house" style apartments above garages or smaller units built into a larger home regulatory ques-

tions. It will be brought back for more public comment July 20.

The proposal, which was recommended for approval in April by the city's Planning Commission, would allow accessory dwelling units in residential neighborhoods one-half mile north and south of University Ave. It includes parts of Summit-University, Frogtown, Lexington-Hamline, Snelling-Hamline, Hamline-Midway, Merriam Park and St. Anthony Park.

Council President Russ Stark, who represents several of the affected neighborhoods, said the city already allows accessory dwelling units in some circumstances. Many are traditional carriage houses or "alley houses" which predate the current zoning code. He said the Green Line proposal could be viewed as an experiment.

The proposal stemmed from 2010-2011 studies of land use along the light rail line, said City Planner Jamie Radel. It is meant to increase housing density along a major transit corridor, provide affordable housing options and allow people to "age in place." Properties would have to be within one-half mile north or south of University, from Marion St. to Emerald St. That is meant to include an area that is within a 10-minute walk to a light rail station.

Properties where a unit would be added must be zoned for residential use and be at least 5,000 square feet in size. Units could be 300 to 800 square feet in size.

The properties would have to be owner-occupied, and the occupants have to meet the city's definition of a family. That includes up to four unrelated people living in one dwelling unit as well as families related by blood or marriage.

There would be a process through which property owners

would register their dwellings, to prove owner occupancy. Some regulations would govern height and floor area of new units, access, utility service and other details.

St. Paul city officials have heard about three dozen comments about the proposal, with a fairly even split between opponents and proponents.

### Auto detailing business OK'd

A longtime construction business storage and workshop facility will be the home for Pristine Detailing, thanks to a change in nonconforming use approved June 10 by the St. Paul Planning Commission. Mylan Slets will open the business at 743 N. Snelling Ave., a building long used by Iver Carlson's company.

Slets told the Planning Commission Zoning Committee June 2 that he plans to work on no more than six vehicles per day, with all washing and cleaning taking place inside the building. The business will be open seven days a week.

The property is zoned for traditional neighborhood use. Its construction predates the zoning code, and it has always been used for a commercial purpose. In 1947 it was used for auto sales. In 1975 it was zoned for general business use and rezoned in 2015.

No one opposed the change in use and Hamline-Midway Coalition made no recommendation. The Planning Commission recommended that up to eight vehicles could be detailed each day, but customer cars must be parked inside. The increased number was to provide flexibility.

The project also has to go through site plan review to ensure that use of Snelling as an exit is approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

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Climate change means we are experiencing more extreme weather. In the summer, we will experience more days that are hotter than average, and more nights that don't cool down. Those of us without air conditioning, and those of us who usually work and play outdoors, are likely to suffer. We will need to adapt our behavior (limit strenuous activity during the hottest days) and adopt practices to keep cooler and healthy.

Heat can be deadly. You likely know that heat stroke and heat exhaustion are a result of the body overheating (to 105° F). But you may not realize how quickly overheating can damage the brain and other internal organs. Call 911, but cooling within 30 minutes is essential to maximize survival. Many summer sports training and events now provide an ice bath to immediately immerse an athlete in case of an emergency.

Anyone who spends time outdoors in strenuous activity is at risk. This includes runners, sports teams, youth engaged in outdoor activities, construction workers, farmers, gardeners, and homeless people. Small children and pets depend on your ability to recognize when they are heat stressed.

Older adults are especially vulnerable to extreme heat as they may be less likely to sense and respond to changes in temperature. They may have a chronic medical condition that changes normal body responses to heat.

# Ready and Resilient Hamline Midway

By TRUDY DUNHAM

## Hot time in the city!



The Drifless Organics harvest team takes a well-deserved break to rest, hydrate and cool down; they deliver CSA boxes to the Hamline Midway area and local co-ops.

And, some prescription medication reduces the body's ability to regulate its temperature or inhibit perspiration.

Acclimating, or getting used to heat stress, is a key factor. Most serious health problems and deaths due to heat occur within the first few days of starting strenuous work or exercise in the sun. Your body needs about two weeks to acclimate to extreme heat. Factor this into your schedule. Start with shorter periods of activity and allow lots of breaks to rest and cool off. You can gradually

increase the duration and strenuousness of activity each day as your body gets used to the stress.

Staying hydrated is vital. When it is hot, you will be sweating even if you aren't aware of it. For every 1% loss in body mass, your body temperature will increase by a half degree Fahrenheit. You want to minimize the loss of fluids during exercise to reduce the risk of heat stroke.

We often hear the heat index as a measure of extreme heat, but remember that it is calculated for shady areas. If you work

or exercise in the direct sun, consider using the standard used by the military and OSHA: the Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT). It measures heat stress in direct sunlight and offers guidelines for the number and length of breaks (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=wbgt>).

So how can we cope?

- If you have one, use your air conditioner. Make sure it works before you need it. Many of the people who have died during extreme heat events had air conditioners but failed to use them due to cost concerns, or because they are broken. Your life and health are worth the cost!
- If you don't have an air conditioner, find an accessible place that does. Libraries, stores, and movie theaters are good options.
- On the hottest days limit the use of your oven or stove, which will only make your house hotter.
- Wear loose, lightweight clothing.
- Take cool showers or baths, or wrap a wet towel or scarf around your neck to cool down.
- Drink more water than usual:

throughout the day and before, during and after exercise. Don't wait until you are thirsty to drink. Carry a water bottle with you and use it. Limit the intake of alcohol and caffeine.

- Don't rush. Assume tasks will take longer because you are building in more and longer breaks.
- Schedule more strenuous outdoor tasks for early morning or evening when it is cooler.
- Take your breaks in the shade or inside: this is time for your body to cool down, as well as to rest.
- Don't forget that pets suffer from heat—bring them inside where it is air-conditioned, provide shade for them, schedule walks in early morning or evening when it is cooler, and provide lots of water.
- Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are characterized by confusion, dizziness, and collapse. You may not realize how hot or ill you are. So on those extreme heat days, have someone check on you! And do the same for others!

More health and safety tips and resources to deal with extreme heat can be found at [www.ready.gov/heat](http://www.ready.gov/heat) and [emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heat\\_guide.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heat_guide.asp).

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

# Classifieds

## Monitor

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

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By JANE MCCLURE

One hundred years' service to the community is an accomplishment for any locally-owned business. Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Homes and Cremation Services will mark its centennial 2-4pm on Sat., July 23, at its Midway funeral home, 536 N. Snelling Ave. Community members are invited in to help celebrate the anniversary, meet the staff, learn about the home's history and its current services, and enjoy refreshments.

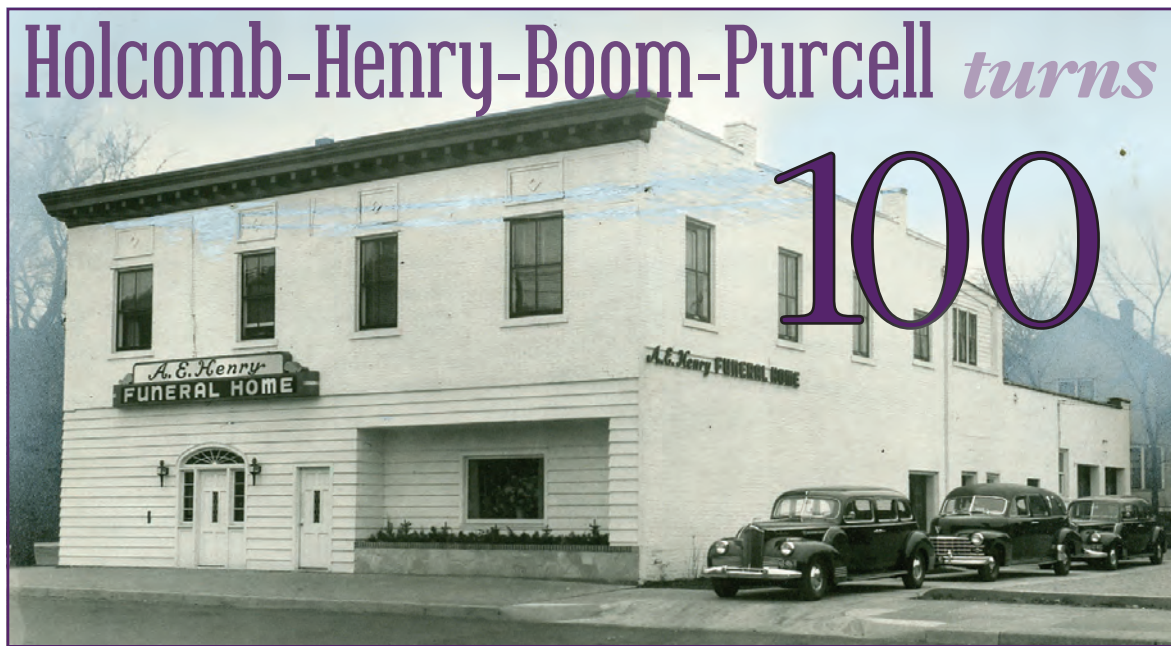
"We've been proud to carry on a long legacy of community service," said Richard Purcell. He and his wife Sharon came to work at the funeral home in 1982 and later became the fourth owners of the business.

The firm, through its St. Paul and Shoreview locations, serves 300 to 400 families per year.

"We consider it a great honor to have cared for so many families over the years," said Purcell. "We take our responsibilities very seriously, as we walk with families in their time of sorrow."

"When you own and operate a business like ours, you're open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to serve people," said Purcell. "We have a long tradition of dedicated staff that has continued through our family owners. It has been a privilege to be called on to help people."

"We're honored to have served our community for 100 years," said longtime owner Dennis Boom. "We feel we are very



The funeral home when it was the A.E. Henry Funeral Home. (Photo submitted)

much a part of the Midway."

Albert E. Henry and his wife, Vena were the first funeral home owner-operators in 1916. It was at a time when St. Paul had a few dozen small, family-owned and operated funeral homes throughout its neighborhoods. Almost a dozen funeral homes have operated up and down Snelling Ave. alone.

The Henrys raised their family in the funeral home at a time when many area residents still didn't have phone service. The building was never locked, and people could come in 24 hours a day for assistance.

"It was very standard for families to have wakes or visitations in their homes," said Purcell. When funeral homes started to open their doors, families often opted to have two evenings of visitation, with the funeral on the following day.

When Albert Henry retired in 1948, St. Paul resident and mortician Earl Holcomb and two partners bought the Henry Funeral Home. Holcomb, whose family members still live in the area, also raised his family in the funeral

home's upstairs living quarters.

In 1963, Dennis Boom began his career as a funeral director with the firm. In 1981, he and his wife, Elaine purchased the business and the property from the Holcomb family. Dennis and Elaine Boom built a second chapel in Shoreview and made their home above the chapel. The Booms grew up in St. Paul and furnished their Shoreview home with a collection of antique furniture, some of which came from their childhood homes. Elaine Boom passed away in 2015.

Dennis Boom grew up in the area and still attends Hamline Church United Methodist. Last year he was honored at the Minnesota State Fair as a 50-year volunteer at the Hamline Church Dining Hall. Visitors might find him serving up coffee to the breakfast crowd.

"We've always believed in community service and being part of the greater community," Boom said. "That's part of our tradition."

Richard Purcell notes that funeral home directors have collectively had a long record of

community service, including the Midway Area Chamber of Commerce, Shriners, churches, St. Paul Winter Carnival and other organizations.

In 1982, Richard Purcell was hired and in 1995 his wife, Sharon, also a licensed funeral director, joined the staff. The Purcell's purchased the business in 1999 and in 2003 they purchased the properties.

Purcell noted that much has changed in the way people care for their deceased loved ones. Visitations are the same day or the

day before. Cremation is a much more popular option. "We also have the opportunity to host receptions, with a range of food options, which we weren't able to do before."

Despite the changes, Purcell said the tradition of offering personalized, caring service at a reasonable cost remains the same. "The clients we serve are not numbers, they are family to us."

Purcell is a native of Forest City, Iowa. As a young man, his family suffered an unexpected death. "Seeing how the funeral director helped our family in our time of loss, and how he helped us get through a very tough time, made a strong impression on me. That service, commitment and ministry to my family was so important."

When Purcell was assigned a high school paper on career choices, he wrote about being a funeral director. He also worked at his hometown funeral home, doing general maintenance and other chores, as a teenager.

"That left the impression on me that we want families to be comfortable, to be treated with respect and dignity. And that is what we strive for."

Learn more about Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Homes and Cremation Services at <http://www.holcombhenryboom.com>.

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(L to R) Dennis Boom, Roswitha Holcomb, and Sharon and Richard Purcell. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

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Saturday 8:30am - 6:00pm  
Sunday 9:00am - 1:00pm





Photos by  
MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

It's a flutter fest at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, where the popular "Blooming Butterflies" exhibit opened in June. Hundreds of butterflies from Africa, Asia, and the Americas are flying freely in an indoor garden environment filled with tropical plants. Up to 400 butterflies will be released each week. Every day at noon guests are invited to pay \$1 to release their own personal butterfly. The free exhibit is open every day from 10am to 6pm, through Sept. 5.

Blooming Butterflies offers visitors a total immersion experience for the young and old. The 2,500 square foot greenhouse features a thriving butterfly habitat that, over the course of the summer, becomes home to over



100 species of butterflies from around the world.

As many as 6,400 butterfly pupae (chrysalis) are being sent to Como throughout the sum-

mer. The chrysalis is unpacked, inspected for any sign of disease or parasitoids, then pinned to foam boards and placed into the emergence chamber. They

emerge anywhere from two days to several weeks and then are placed in the exhibit.

Blooming Butterflies introduces visitors to the wonders of

metamorphosis. This seasonal exhibit showcases countless beautifully colored butterflies sipping nectar and taking flight, offering guests the opportunity to better understand and appreciate the life cycle of the creatures and their importance to the ecosystem. Inside the exhibit, you can chat with volunteers and ask questions, or simply relax and enjoy the garden while butterflies flit and fly about.

While a few of the butterflies exhibited in Blooming Butterflies are found in Minnesota, the bulk of them are not native. Como holds special permits to exhibit these non-native butterflies. Most of the butterfly species featured at Como are short-lived with an average life span of two to four weeks.



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