



Midway Como monitor

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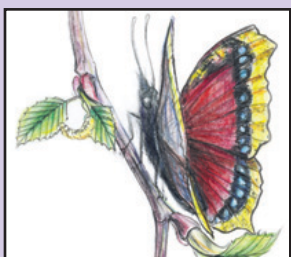
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Light rail funding delights supporters, bedevils others

By JAN WILLMS

It's another notch on the belt of supporters of the Central Corridor transit system, as the legislature and governor agreed March 30 to provide \$5.25 million for planning for buses or light rail along University Avenue, to be matched by federal funds.

"This project has been at some level of planning for the past six or seven years," said Rick Beeson, chair of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce and president of the Park Midway Bank. "I'm delighted with the decision of the Legislature and governor to provide us with money that will eventually lead to funding construction of the transit system."

Beeson said the success of the Hiawatha Line and its ridership level that has beaten all expectations gave a go-ahead signal for the second rail line.

Whether the Central Corridor will offer light rail or bus transit is yet to be determined by the Metropolitan Council.

"It's clearly the preference of the Central Corridor Partnership to lean towards light rail," Beeson said.

However, not everyone along University Avenue is pleased with the movement towards light rail travel.

"Eighty per cent of the businesses along the Midway have not been asked our opinion by the light rail authorities," said Tom Krebsbach Jr., owner of Midway Chevrolet, a business that has been in operation for 84 years.

"The only ones who want it are the bureaucrats and real estate developers," he said. Krebsbach said that although he runs one of the larger, more stable businesses along University Ave., he is still worried about the disruptive effects of light rail's construction period. "And if I am worried, you can imagine how the smaller businesses feel," he said.

"Buses are fine," he commented. "You don't lose parking with buses. But how many people using an auto body shop or wanting car repair are going to take the bus? We don't have 100 per cent ridership on the buses. They don't need to spend \$400 million to disrupt us and put us out of business."

Krebsbach said that he worries that six months of blocking the street off for construction will

cause problems, and he is concerned that there are no left turn signals by his business and on-street parking will be gone. "We're not being heard at all, by anybody," he said.

Beeson said he thinks as the process gets underway and as opportunities for input are made available and people get a real chance to get their concerns heard, more support for light rail will be evident.

"Education and good solid planning during the construction period is important," he said. "Construction concerns can be

support it."

Krebsbach reiterated that if the light rail plan along University is not killed, he will make sure he follows the process carefully and determines that any concerns are addressed.

Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County commissioner and chair of the county's regional rail authority, is someone else who is pleased with the state's match with federal funds.

"This helps put us in the preliminary engineering phase," he said. "We have a model and now are providing the Federal Transit

pedestrians, there is room for bikes, and it is a much better bridge," he said. "And we did it by working with the community. During two and a half years of construction, we did not lose one business."

Addressing any concerns is a major point for Janice Rettman, Ramsey County Commissioner. She has been holding meetings in the neighborhood to gather input on the process of light rail along the Central Corridor.

"Many are working on getting the money," she said. "I am trying to meet with the people who live,



The Minnesota Legislature and Governor Tim Pawlenty recently agreed to provide \$5.25 million for planning for buses or light rail along University Avenue, to be matched by federal funds. (Image courtesy of the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority.)

handled by planning. There have been lessons learned from the Hiawatha Line."

Beeson added that the corridor is wide enough that traffic will never stop on the avenue. He said each business needs to be handled on a different level.

"The discussion is not when, but how light rail will happen," he said. "It involves getting energized and participating."

Krebsbach said he would be at the table, if there is no way he can prevent light rail from happening. He said LRT could go along frontage roads or the side of Highway 94. "People are not going to ride it to do business on University Avenue," he claimed. "It's just going to be a boondoggle, and hopefully the governor will get rid of it. If not, there will be hell to pay. There will be a political lynching of the politicians who

Administration with all the statistical data it needs for the next phase."

Ortega said he is looking at having very good community input into the process. "To me, that's the most important piece," he said.

Ortega said he believes the reactions to light rail have been a mixed bag. "We need to try and take away the myths," he noted.

He said that when he first became commissioner, the Ford Bridge became unsafe. "There were lots of problems, and we closed it for repairs," he said. "There are about 200 businesses along Ford Parkway." The process of repairing the bridge brought great concerns to those businesses and whether they could stay in operation.

Ortega said he recently helped celebrate the opening of the new bridge. "It is wider for

breathe and work in the area. How will these plans affect them?"

The issues of parking, turn lanes and crossings are issues that need to be addressed, according to Rettman. She said she is concerned that both the businesses and residents in the area have their voices heard. "These are impassioned discussions," she noted.

She said she is encouraging people to listen, gather information, think about it, and come up with solutions for problems that may affect them. She also stressed the importance of being able to articulate real concerns and trying to avoid many of the rumors that circulate about the light rail process.

Rettman said her goal is for both residents and businesses to thrive and make sure they continue to be successful through the construction as well as once light rail may be in effect.

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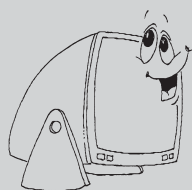
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Midway Como in a Minute

Hearing on State Fair vendors April 22

More than 20 years ago, Como neighbors wrangled over yards-turned-parking lots during the Minnesota State Fair. Now there is controversy over yards-turned-sale areas. Proposed regulations for these vendors will be the topic of a public hearing before the St. Paul Planning Commission at 8:30 a.m. Friday, April 22 at City Hall. Any Planning Commission recommendation will be forwarded to the St. Paul City Council for final approval, most likely before the 2005 fair takes place.

Anyone may come address the Planning Commission. To get a complete copy of the regulations or to ask about submitting written testimony, contact planner Patricia James at 651-266-6639. Questions can be directed to Jeff Hawkins of the City's Office of License, Inspections and Environmental Protection (LIEP) at 651-266-9083.

Two years ago controversy flared when city inspection staff cracked down on small children selling canned sodas near the fairgrounds. That action was ridiculed around the nation and the two little girls at the center of the controversy were invited to appear on Ellen Degeneres' television talk show. It also resulted in the City Council creating a license for sales of such beverages on a temporary basis. The council priced the license at \$5 so kids could apply.

But the bigger complaint is the size and hours of some yard

businesses, the sometimes aggressive behavior of vendors and the types of merchandise sold. Some of the merchandise has included T-shirts with inappropriate slogans, low-level tasers and knives. Unlicensed vendors in the area are also a problem. Neighborhood residents have been frustrated by what they see as a lack of enforcement by the city. One complaint is that the city doesn't enforce its ordinance on so-called "gypsy vendors" who attend events and sell items without licenses.

Como Community Council (District 10) has met with neighborhood residents and city staff to discuss the vendor issues and seek possible solutions. The intent is to seek a balance between the desire to use property for sales and to not let the sales get out of hand, said Como Community Council Community Organizer Sue McCall.

One argument for allowing vendors is that groups like Holy Childhood School and the Sholom and Lyngblomsten auxiliaries raise funds through booths during State Fair time. Also, renting one's yard as a vendor space does provide income for home owners.

Proposed is a State Fair Overlay Vending Subdistrict. It will be part of the State Fair Parking District, which was established in 1989 to settle the yard parking disputes. The parking district is in the area east of the fairgrounds and west of Como Park. It allows area residents to use required front and side yards for temporary parking if they have adjoining property owners' permission.

The proposed changes identify an area along the east side of

Snelling Avenue, between Canfield and Hoyt avenues. The district is one-half block wide except at Midway Parkway, where it extends to Arona.

Persons using their yards as sale areas would have to seek permits from the city, at least 30 days prior to the start of each year's state fair. Cost of the permit is \$100.

Items prohibited from sales include lottery tickets, pull tabs or other forms of gambling or gambling devices; tobacco products; intoxicating or malt liquor; fireworks; firearms or any weapons prohibited under the city's legislative code; obscene materials or performances; currency exchanges; adult uses; materials or performances, permanent tattooing; body piercing; pawn shops or live animals. the number of vendors, hours of operation, setup and teardown and encroachments on public right-of-way would also be restricted.

Area projects receive boost from bonding

Area projects met a mixed fate in the 2005 Minnesota Legislature's bonding bill, which was signed by Governor Tim Pawlenty in early April. Central Corridor got some long-awaited planning money, in the form of \$5.25 million. Backers of the proposed transit corridor, which will either be light rail transit or a dedicated busway along University Avenue, hope to use the state funds to obtain a federal match and continue planning the transit project.

A group out of the Desnoyer Park neighborhood, which has

been seeking funds to create a Mississippi River park at the old Meeker Island lock and dam site, got \$388,000. They had made several requests for the funding in the past.

Bioscience backers also had something to cheer about as they will split \$7 million for bioscience business development. St. Paul will share those dollars with Minneapolis and Rochester. The West Midway is the home of the city's proposed bioscience corridor, with a bioscience incubator opening near Highway 280 last year.

St. Paul had sought \$20 million for its own bioscience corridor needs.

But requests for Como Zoo, extension of Pierce Butler Route and demolition of the Ford Building on University Avenue weren't funded. St. Paul Parks and Recreation sought \$300,000 for planning of what is hoped to be a renovation of the entire zoo. That work itself would cost about \$15 million. Public Works sought \$10 million for the long-discussed and delayed reconstruction and extension of Pierce Butler Route. That proposal calls for extending Pierce Butler east of Dale to connect it with the East Side's new Phalen Boulevard.

The Ford building funding is more controversial. The landmark building used to house a state bookstore, but has been slated for demolition. Preservationists want to save the property and will be glad to know its fate is still uncertain. State officials sought \$1.3 million to tear the building down.

-Compiled by Jane McClure

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Dickerman Park receives long-delayed attention



Kent Dickerman, great-grandson of Charles Edwin Dickerman, and his wife Ariel, were honored by Ward 4 City Councilmember Jay Benanav for their contributions to the revitalization of Dickerman Park.

By JANE MCCLURE

After years of neglect, one of the Midway area's virtually forgotten parks is getting some welcomed attention. Dickerman Park is the focus of a newly launched redesign project. That's in part thanks to members of the Dickerman family and their \$45,000 contribution to the effort.

But credit for preserving and improving this unique park also goes to neighborhood residents who raised awareness of the 2.5 acres site's status as a park. "I think a lot of people didn't even know the park was there," said Friends of the Parks and Trails Executive Director Peggy Lynch. She credits residents of the adjacent Hamline-Midway and Merriam Park neighbors with drawing attention to the park three years ago. The Midway YMCA was considering expansion at that time and area residents were concerned that park property would be lost.

The park is located on the north side of University Avenue, between Fairview and Aldine. Part of the park near the Griggs Midway Building was paved over years ago, in an agreement with the city. Other parts of the park serve as green space for the Midway YMCA, Avalon Charter school and Marsden Building Maintenance. Many people assume the space is part of the front yards of the adjacent properties. Even Ward Four City Council Member Jay Benanav admits that when he was first elected to the council, he wasn't sure where Dickerman Park was.

Nor were the local Dickerman family members aware of the park. Kent and Ariel Dickerman, who live in Summit Hill neighborhood, are part of the family that raised the \$45,000. They only recently became aware of the park, but are pleased with efforts to revive it.

But the Dickerman family descendants also weren't aware of the park or their family's donation of the land to the city until reading news accounts about efforts to save the park. Ariel Dick-

erman noted that the deed for the park land indicates that if the city doesn't use the property as a park, it reverts to the Dickerman family.

"But I'm not sure what we'd do with it," she said.

Kent Dickerman's great-grandfather, Charles Edwin Dickerman, planned the donation but passed away before the land transaction could be completed. His sons, Charles and Gilbert, finalized the donation.

The park was finally donated to the city in 1909 by the Dickerman Investment Company and Griggs, Cooper and Company. Griggs, Cooper and Company operated one of its food manufacturing and packaging businesses out of what is now the Griggs Midway Building. Part of the Griggs Midway Building's front parking lot is on Dickerman Park property.

The City Council honored Dickerman family members March 16 for their contributions to the revitalization of the park. Benanav has contributed \$25,000 in city funds toward the effort. The park is also a candidate for funding in the city's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget

(CIB) process for 2006-2007. Dickerman Park redevelopment has a total cost estimate of \$1.475 million. Parks and Recreation submitted the request to rebuild the park. New walks, lighting, public art, trees, landscaping and signs would be added.

That doesn't include a second effort, recently identified in a study of future economic development projects, to provide more off-street parking for the Griggs Midway Building.

Architect Shane Coen of Coen Partners and photographer Wing Young Huie are working with St. Paul Parks and Recreation and University UNITED on plans to redesign the long, narrow park. Coen and Huie said they are looking forward to working with the city and community on the park. One unique aspect of their plans is to incorporate photography into the public art elements of the project.

Coen noted the park could eventually tie into plans to build the Central Corridor, a light rail or busway, along University Avenue. "We're really excited about the possibilities of the project," he said.



Architect Shane Coen of Coen Partners and photographer Wing Young Huie are working with St. Paul Parks and Recreation and University UNITED on plans to redesign the long, narrow park.



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Viewpoints

Come and join your neighbors at the HMC Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 12th, at 6:30pm located in the Hamline Park Playground, between Thomas and Lafond on Snelling Avenue. HM resident Pop Wagner will provide music and entertainment. There will be prize drawings, a plant swap (bring one of your plants, take home someone else's plant), bicycle decorating and bike parade and food and beverages. Call Dave Gagne at 651-646-1986 for more information.

HMC board election!

Don't forget to vote for your favorite HMC Board candidate. Contact HMC for the slate of candidates from your area. Call Dave at 651-646-1986.

Mark your calendars!

Andy's Garage on the corner of Fairview and University will celebrate its 5th anniversary on Saturday, June 4th with daylong activities and its annual Family Street Dance.

Spring crime – Nip it in the bud!

As the weather warms up, so does criminal activity. Once an area is known to be an easy target for criminals, it only attracts more problems. Graffiti is the perfect example—it is taken as a sign that no one cares about the area. In

Hamline Midway Coalition

BY THE STAFF OF HAMLINE MIDWAY COALITION

HMC annual gathering on May 12th!

March, graffiti vandals sprayed part of the Griggs Recreational Center. No one notified the police the first time it happened – and the next night, the vandals came back to “complete” their work. Had the police been notified, they would have patrolled the area and had a good chance of catching them.

It is crucial that YOU take charge and report criminal behavior, and do not assume your neighbor or block club coordinator is doing this. If you are uncertain of what you are seeing – call, and let the police decide what to do. Better safe than sorry. If it is a non-emergency, call 651-291-1111, and if it is an emergency or crime-in-progress, call 911.

Informational session on Leadership in Support of Neighborhood

The Leadership in Support of Neighborhood (LISN) program provides people who are committed to the Hamline Midway neighborhood the opportunity to develop leadership skills while working on community projects that contribute to the health and vitality of the neighborhood. Come to an LISN Information Session on April 18 from

6:30-8 p.m. at HMC, 1564 Lafond. For more information, contact Jun-Li Wang at 651-646-1986.

National Night Out planning workshop

Learn how to block off your street, how to request the presence of a fire truck, invite police officers or the canine unit, get Child Identification kits, and more! This is a Networking with Neighbors session organized by the Macalester Groveland Community Council. All interested are welcome. The workshop is on April 21st, 7-8:30 p.m. at Macalester College, Carnegie Hall (90 Macalester St., at Lincoln Ave), Room 105. Please RSVP by April 20th to Caitlin at 651-695-4000.

Get ready for the third annual Hamline Midway Community Yard Sale

Are you thinking of having a yard sale this summer? Have it during the 3rd annual Hamline Midway Community Yard Sale on June 24th, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and June 25th from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. We had more than 65 sales last year, including a few block club and group sales. This year we will have bigger and better advertising and more informative maps. Stop by HMC to fill out a registration form and submit the \$4 fee (cash or check to Krista Finstad Hanson) by Friday, June 17th.

Questions or offers of help, contact Krista at 646-0632 or finstad.hanson@worldnet.att.net.

The spring season brings life back to the outdoor world. We have warm rains fostering new growth instead of the snow blanket which covered the sleeping earth for so many months. Use of the word spring carries a tone of energy—we talk of springing into action, springing up into the air. Even our clocks spring ahead as we herald the beginning of daylight savings time.

Longer hours of daylight and a gentler climate spur people, as well as plants, into a more active state. You may find yourself with more energy than during the winter, and an eagerness to take on new projects or activities. However, if you feel that you are facing spring with decreased energy and diminished ambition it is time to ask yourself why.

Many medical conditions can cause people to feel more tired than usual. Common causes of fatigue include low hemoglobin (low iron), diabetes, psychological stress, sleep apnea, depression, and thyroid problems.

Your thyroid is a gland in your neck. It releases a hormone (called thyroid hormone) which controls many of the metabolic activities of your body (heart rate, temperature control, growth). Usually your body does a good job of regulating how much thyroid hormone is produced. But sometimes people have either too much (hyperthyroid) or too little (hypothyroid) thyroid hormone. If you don't have enough thyroid hormone you might feel tired and sad. Other symptoms include dry skin, muscle aches, feeling cold, constipation, thinning hair, weight gain, elevated cholesterol levels, a hoarse voice, a pale or puffy face, heavy or irregular menstrual periods, difficulty thinking well, and memory problems.

Symptoms often occur slowly over time so it can take a while before you realize that you just don't feel as energetic or enthusiastic as in the past. Women, especially over the age of 40, are prone to developing hypothyroidism.

Cares and Cures

By JANE KILIAN, M.D.

Spring is in the air: Is it in your step?

Hypothyroidism can also develop following a pregnancy. There is a familial tendency, so if someone in your family has a thyroid condition, you might also develop problems. The good news is that hypothyroidism is very easy to

“Many medical conditions can cause people to feel more tired than usual. Common causes of fatigue include low hemoglobin (low iron), diabetes, psychological stress, sleep apnea, depression, and thyroid problems.”

diagnose and treat. Usually within a short time of starting treatment, you begin to feel much better.

Diagnosis is done with a blood test. Your doctor will check your blood for a messenger hormone sent from your brain to your thyroid. This hormone is called thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH). It is released from an area in your

brain called the pituitary. The messenger hormone tells your thyroid how much thyroid hormone it needs to make in order to keep your body's metabolism working well. If your TSH is high, it means your brain is needing to send a loud message to your thyroid to pump up production of thyroid hormone. Because your TSH reflects the level of your messenger

hormone, not the level of your thyroid hormone, this test result can be confusing to understand. A high TSH means that you have low amounts of thyroid hormone. So a high TSH means that you are hypothyroid.

If you are diagnosed with hypothyroidism, your doctor will prescribe thyroid replacement medicine (levothyroxine). It is a safe and inexpensive medicine, and you will likely need to take it for the rest of your life. Finding the right dose for you will require blood tests every six or eight weeks initially, and then once or twice a year after your hormones have become adjusted.

I hope you are able to welcome spring with enthusiasm. If you feel less energetic than usual, make an appointment to see your doctor. A few simple tests could discover a problem that is simple to fix. Diagnosing and treating hypothyroidism can literally put the spring back into your step.

Have fun. Stay happy and healthy.

(Dr. Kilian is a family practice physician who lives and works in the Midway Como community. She believes that good medicine means caring for people as well as curing diseases. We want to address your health concerns so please let us know what topics you would like to see in future columns. If you have suggestions or questions, write to the Monitor c/o 1885 University Avenue West, #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Or e-mail denisw@aplacetoremember.com.)

Do the Write Thing!

For more information on submitting letters or news announcements to the Monitor call Denis Woulfe at 651-645-7045.

The Food Snob says:

Men are different from women and the Bachelor is different from other men. So, when the Cheapskate and I wanted a masculine opinion of the cute new coffee shop called Cupcake, we had to bring in another XY-equipped expert. Our guest (let's call him 'Steve') is a talented artist, an outdoorsman, a sensitive husband and father, and a cupcake connoisseur.

In other words, he's the anti-Bachelor.

Steve proved a courteous dining companion, brushing crumbs off the front of my sweater (where two-thirds of every meal ends up) and fetching me new silverware when my fork repeatedly tumbled onto the floor (a design flaw in the plates).

He took his cupcake analysis seriously, studying the vanilla frosting intently, rolling a bit of it between his fingers (to assess graininess) and finally taking a small bite. He was much less interested in the chocolate cake base, stating emphatically that it was only a delivery mechanism for the frosting. Steve's final pronouncement: an exceptional product, although the frosting could be a bit lighter.

Cupcake offers several alternatives to the frosting that Steve sampled. There is a meringue topping, a pastry-cream-whipped-cream combo and a cream cheese frosting. In addition to the sturdy chocolate cake, there is a delicious vanilla, plus carrot, pumpkin, and more. Cupcake also offers breakfast-type pastries (including the best croissant I've had since returning from France) and some fancier desserts (too expensive at more than \$3 apiece).

After the cupcake analysis, we settled in for lunch—a Greek salad with chicken breast for Steve; a mandarin salad for me; and a half sandwich and cup of soup for Cheapy. Steve wasn't thrilled and neither was I. My not-quite-fresh greens were garnished with canned orange slices and chow mein noodles, with an odd, sweet dressing. The dressing for the Greek salad was packed with dried herbs and too sharp with vinegar, and the chicken had been



Without Reservations

Cupcake Cafe a 'cute' University addition

precooked and reheated in the microwave.

Too bad, because Cupcake is darling, with giant whisks for door handles, a wall of glass and a promising patio space. The baked goods are displayed attractively,

doilies at "Emasculated House-husbands R Us"? No thanks.

Yet inevitably, I found myself in the place. Recently I accidentally called the Snob 'mom', and it may be that I'm losing my ability to say no to my two matriarchal

fresh carrot-ginger puree, a hearty chicken enchilada soup, and a creamy coconut curry.

Don't bother with an entire bowl of soup. The \$3.25 cup of soup comes in a chubby little coffee cup that is bigger than it looks. It comes with a slice of fresh bread, and to eat more would be an injustice to the dessert course.

Ah, dessert. My favorite cupcake so far—at least among the daily standards—is the Red Velvet with light cream cheese frosting. Yes, \$1.75 to \$2.50 seems like a lot for a cupcake, but they're really good. Also, I offer a Cheapskate salute to the mini-cupcakes for 95 cents, allowing you to taste two or three kinds without breaking the bank.

Cupcake has some wrinkles to iron out, hopefully before patio weather arrives. The counter service is unpolished and sometimes disorganized, and we ended up making several trips to our table before we finally had everything

Cupcake is darling, with giant whisks for door handles, a wall of glass and a promising patio space.

with rows of fresh bread and ranks of pastries, including the signature cupcakes. In spite of the humdrum salad, I'll be back often for coffee, croissants, and more attention from Steve.

The Bachelor

Can you say "high maintenance"? Yes, your precious Food Snob is the type of woman who'd fawn and coo at a rabid wolverine if it agreed with whatever half-baked pontification she happened to be making. Maybe this "Steve" is just a wolverine in sheep's clothing. Hmm.

With that off my chest, I have one other word for you: "Cupcake." That's all I said to the Snob and Cheapy when they said they wanted to review this "cute" new café. I mean, they actually expected me to casually saunter through the door—my face uncovered and visible to the public, mind you—of an establishment called...Cupcake. It would be one thing if I were on a date, trying to show my sensitive side to the future Mrs. Bachelor, but when I'm flying solo, well, let's just say that this sort of experimentation is a slippery slope. What's next, shopping for

partners. Could it be that I'm becoming weak, compliant, and almost Steve-like?

I made the best of my defeat by devouring a tuna salad sandwich in less than 30 seconds, and fending off the Snob's cupcake-probing fork. Skip those mini cupcakes—they go down so quickly that 'mouthful' is a gross exaggeration. Will I return to Cupcake? Not willingly, but the way things are going, I may be led there by the metaphorical ring in my nose. I guess a tea room is next—doilies and all.

The Cheapskate

I never gave too much thought to cupcakes. That was before I went to Cupcake. Now I am forever ruined for those supermarket sponges with Crisco on top.

I am your best guide to Cupcake because I grasped immediately that this is not a place to order entrées. You hope for a decent cup of soup to get that pesky nutrition out of the way, and then you dive into the desserts.

And in fact, the soup is excellent at Cupcake. So far I've sampled three different flavors and each one was far above average—a

collected. You'll be frustrated if you're short on time. But the staff makes up for it in friendliness and spirit, in my opinion.

Regarding on-site entertainment, who needs a folk singer when you have the Bachelor slinking around trying not to be seen with a cupcake, and the Food Snob conducting a full methodological inquiry on each icing represented in the bakery case? Oblivious to the line of hungry customers growing ever longer and surlier behind her, the Snob gradually embroiled the entire counter personnel and kitchen staff into a huddled conference in front of the glass case. It was priceless.

As for me, I just sipped my excellent soup and contemplated the three mini-cupcakes lined up before me—and looming behind them, a seven-layer bar that had my name written all over it.

This month's survey: Who has the best pizza?

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Midway septuagenarians make Friends' Plant Sale a labor of love

By DEBORAH BROTZ

You might think that Midway septuagenarians Ralph and Kay Hilgendorf might not be the most able-bodied folks to be hauling supplies for the annual Friends School Plant Sale, but in truth, the Hilgendorfs probably do the work of 10 people half their ages.

But it all started with a bunch of strawberry boxes.

When Midway resident Ralph Hilgendorf, 73, and his wife Kay, 72, noticed that a few people had strawberry boxes at the Friends School of Minnesota Annual Plant Sale six years ago, they thought it would be a good idea if everybody could have a box. So, they decided to go to grocery stores and collect strawberry boxes. From March until the Friends School Plant Sale on Mother's Day weekend in May, they work every day making two stops at local grocery stores, one in the morning and one in the evening.

"Because they had a few boxes, it seemed like a good idea to have some more," said Kay. "People would have something to carry plants in. Old-timers had wagons and garden carts, but newer customers had nothing to put plants in. They would have to make several trips to their car or come back later with something



Kay and Ralph Hilgendorf collect strawberry boxes from Cub and Rainbow Foods for the Friends School Plant Sale. Last year they collected 5,000 boxes and went through almost all of them. (Photo by Terry Faust)

to put their plants in."

The Hilgendorfs volunteered to collect the boxes because they saw a need they could fulfill.

"The strawberry boxes are 16 inches long and 12 or 14 inches wide," said Ralph. "They make a nice sturdy tray to put plants in and carry to their car. It makes the whole thing convenient and people can buy more plants."

Starting in March, the Hilgendorfs go to Cub and Rain-

bow grocery stores to collect the strawberry boxes. Even though four years ago, they collected 3,000 boxes, the Plant Sale ran out of boxes. A couple years ago, they collected 4,000 boxes and had about a hundred left over. But, last year, they collected about 5,000 boxes and went through almost all of them.

"We can get 160 in the truck at a time," said Ralph. "We do two or three truckloads a day. In a

week's time, we get quite a lot."

The Hilgendorfs have become friends with many stockers at Cub and Rainbow over the years.

"We've met a lot of nice produce people," said Kay. "They try to see how many boxes they can have for us. When there are strawberry sales, there are a lot. They're happy not to crush them. We're hoping to get going soon and hit the nearer stores. The higher gas goes, we would like to get as many as we can get without going so far. Our famous truck is not as energy efficient as we would like."

Consistency is very important in collecting the boxes.

"Once we've started on a round, we do it every day so the produce people know what to expect," said Kay. "They want to be consistent in whatever they give us. As storage space gets full, we have to cut off getting boxes until the Plant Sale gets on. A couple years ago, we ran out during the Plant Sale. We really needed to have enough."

Finding places to store the boxes can be challenging.

"The big thing is to find storage for them," said Ralph. "We fill our garage and other people's garages from the school. We haul them to the sale. We have to get over on a regular basis so they can use them. It's fun to know you're doing something that can help

the cause. If we had to buy them, we would have to pay \$1 a box. We're saving the school \$5,000."

People have been very generous in helping the Hilgendorfs with storage space for the boxes.

"People have been so helpful," said Kay. "They are underappreciated people who open up their garage. They give us their garage key and let us pile boxes into their garage in the middle of the night. Some people have put them in their basement so we have more room."

What makes Ralph's volunteering so significant is the fact that he's blind. Growing up on a farm down in Martin County west of Fairmont, he lost his eyesight in a plane crash at age 17 on the last day of September 1950.

Ralph spent five weeks in the hospital at Mayo Clinic that winter convalescing.

"Life starts over," he said. "It forces a person to do a little thinking."

Moving to the Twin Cities for rehab and taking Adjustment to Blindness in 1951, Ralph met Kay, who was a sign language interpreter. A student in social work at the U of M., she was a senior lifeguard who was doing volunteer work with the Society for the Blind in a service program.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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University Avenue merchants discuss doing business in Midway

By JAN WILLMS

St. Paul Police Officer Tom Smith had good news last month for Midway area merchants.

Smith, commander for the Western Police District, said that crime in the Midway has decreased in the past five years, much like the city overall.

The concern, however, remains that the University Avenue retail corridor from Snelling to Lexington continues to be a hotspot for criminal activity, outpacing other areas of the city.

Smith was addressing a small group of merchants who recently attended an organizational meeting called by University UNITED, a coalition of businesses and citizens along University Avenue, to create a University Avenue Merchants Association.

The meeting grew out of a retail survey conducted by University UNITED about a month ago, seeking input from the public and business community on issues facing the University Avenue shopping centers.

"Security was the number one issue for everybody," said Brian McMahon, executive director of University UNITED, who invited Smith when he realized that merchants were making security a number one priority.

"I was absolutely impressed with the commitment the police are making to the community," he said, saying that the St. Paul Police Department have expressed a willingness to work with merchants on safety and security issues.

"Smith talked about elements

regarding crime issues in the Midway and talked about pro-active steps we can take to improve the statistics," McMahon noted. "He has already gotten preliminary approval from Rick Birdoff, Midway Center owner, to locate a police substation within that shopping center."

According to McMahon, the Midway Center would provide the space at no cost, and the police department would provide the staff and any needed equipment.

McMahon said that although the crime statistics are not insignificant, data shows the rate of crime has decreased. "However, it is still not acceptable for people who need to feel they are in a secure area," he noted.

McMahon cited the reality and the perception of crime along the Midway, and stated the perception greatly exceeds the reality.

"If a neighborhood is dirty and appears uncared for, this gives people the perception of a high crime rate," he said.

Going along with the large police visibility in the shopping center is a plan to have trash cans available that will be picked up on a regular basis.

"The merchants spoke very directly," he said. "There is flying trash, some areas are not real clean, and we will look into the garbage can possibility. It may be a private sanitation deal."

McMahon said he brought information to the meeting about merchants associations from Grand Avenue, White Bear Avenue and Lake Street. "The things we

talked about, both a police presence and cleaning up trash, are very traditionally done in all major shopping centers," he said.

McMahon advised the businesses that University UNITED has low-interest loans available for them to fix up signage, add security, lights or storefront improvement. Merchants can call Russ Stark at 651-647-6711 for further information on these loans. He said there might be grant money available, as well. The services of an architect may also be used.

he noted. "Money will go directly into programs and specific projects."

He said that University UNITED is providing \$5,000 for the merchants to use to hire a part-time consultant. He added that community participation, sparked by the public survey University UNITED did a couple months ago, is on hold until the merchants get organized.

Walgreen's, Midway Chevrolet, Midway Used and Rare Books, Borders and Midway Pro-Bowl,

University UNITED," he said. "Brian is very pro light rail, and most merchants are not. I'm not sure how we can co-exist. Philosophically, we are light years apart. But if he can offer funding to provide a person to help us, that's great. I think we all left the meeting thinking, why not?"

Tom Stransky, owner of Midway Used and Rare Books, agreed that the merchants' gathering was a start.

"Our biggest problem is parking and crime," he said, relating to his business. "The crime emanates from the bus stop in front of my business, and I have talked to Metro Transit about moving the bus stop. The merchants said they would look into it, and I am pleased with that."

Stransky said he remembered the days when there was a cop on the beat, who would stop by and talk with business people and keep a watch on problems. He said any signs of customers being harassed were quickly taken care of.

"So I think it's a great idea to have a police substation," he added. "A police presence will alleviate some of the criminal activity."

Stransky said he also hopes that more merchants become involved.

"Some of us smaller owners spend 60-80 hours a week working at our business," he said, stressing the fact that little time is left for merchants to participate in outside activities. He added that he is pleased, however, to see some of the University Avenue issues being addressed.

"Our biggest problem is parking and crime."

— Tom Stransky, Midway Used and Rare Books

McMahon emphasized that the new group is a merchants association, not a business association.

"There was some discussion 10 or 12 years ago about organizing merchants, and no one ever did. We're picking up on that now," he noted.

"The Midway Chamber is more of a networking and promotional entity," McMahon said. "It's a totally different membership. Most of their members are not located on University, and we have a really different focus altogether. But we hope to continue working with the Chamber."

He said the Merchants Association would not have fees. "We're able to leverage our participation,"

were in attendance at the meeting.

"Although there was not a large group in attendance, there is some interest in starting a business group," reported Tom Krebsbach Jr., the owner of Midway Chevrolet.

Krebsbach agreed that the crime rate has decreased over the past five years. He said that he had attended a meeting with Mayor Randy Kelly, and the mayor had stated that St. Paul's crime rate is the lowest of any city its size. "This is a big secret, and it should be announced more publicly," Krebsbach said.

He said the merchants had not yet made a decision on hiring a part-time consultant. "I'm not sure we have the same agenda as

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Passion for watercolor stirs Como resident's 'palette'

By DEBORAH BROTZ

Although Midway resident Marian Wolters first painted in watercolor while she was in college in the late '50s, she was not free to pursue painting as a hobby until she retired from 3M in 1996. Painting seriously with watercolors for 20 years, she will have 30 paintings for sale at Northstar Watercolor Society Third Annual Art on a Line sale, held at the State Fairgrounds in the Fine Arts Building, on May 13.

Wolters decided to take up painting because she had enjoyed it as an art major at Clarke College, in Dubuque, Iowa.

"It's a fun hobby," she said. "It helps you meet lots of interesting people, and you can express your feelings with painting. I've traveled with the arts and meeting people with the same interests as I do makes for a stimulating life."

Involved with art for many years, Wolters taught high school in the '60s. After she left teaching, she worked at 3M in product development for gift wrapping, where she worked with Sasheen Brand Ribbon and adhesive tape.

After working in a corporate atmosphere for 30 years, painting offers just what Wolters needed.

"It relaxes me and makes me less tense," she said. "I can think while I'm painting and solve problems. You can communicate your feelings with your paintings."

A member of Northstar Watercolor Society for most of its 25-year existence, Wolters joined the organization for its camaraderie.

"It's good to hang around with like-minded people," she said. "I've developed good friendships because we have common interests. Northstar is dedicated to promoting the arts and teaching about watercolor."

"Our group is especially conducive to expanding our knowledge of painting," said Wolters.



Painting seriously with watercolors for 20 years, Como resident Marian Wolters will have 30 paintings for sale at Northstar Watercolor Society Third Annual Art on a Line sale, held at the State Fairgrounds in the Fine Arts Building, on May 13. (Photo by Terry Faust)

"At most meetings, somebody demonstrates their painting technique. We learn how they use the medium."

For \$25 a year, Northstar Watercolor Society members get newsletters and many opportunities to be around other artists. In addition to monthly meetings from September to May, the Society gives members many chances to paint as a group and to show their work at shows held for members.

"We show paintings at our meetings of what we're working on," said Wolters. "We sponsor workshops with nationally-known artists. We learn something that

way. We get to build enthusiasm for the medium."

The Society offers many opportunities for its members to learn from famous painters and each other.

"We hold two workshops a year with nationally-known artists that are usually a week long," said Wolters. "We have a members' show every fall and Paint Outs, where we paint outside in the summer at different locations. Sometimes, members open their homes or yards in neighborhoods."

At the Fall Members' Show, the Society members' paintings are judged.

"We get a judge to critique the work, and members pick the ones they like the best," said Wolters. "Everyone at the meeting is invited to vote whether they're a beginning, intermediate or advanced painter. There is an award for the paintings that get the most votes. We continually inspire each other to improve and learn more."

For Art on a Line, there are a lot of paintings on a clothesline to sell.

"It's a big show and sale," said Wolters. "All members are eligible to participate. Each member can bring five framed paintings."

At the sale, there will be 500

framed watercolor pictures and 3,000 watercolor pictures without frames, which are on mat board and wrapped in cellophane.

"All paintings are done by people in our group," said Wolters. "We have about 350 people in the Society. We expect a little over 100 to participate in this event."

Club members will demonstrate their painting at the sale. Wolters will be demonstrating her Impressionistic style on May 13, at 11 a.m.

"There is a recognizable subject in most of my painting," she said. "Most painting is your own impression. It may not be classical like Monet. We interpret the subject in our own way."

Wolters chose this style because of the type of person she is. "I like to project my feeling onto something," she said. "The medium helps me do that."

The price of watercolors is not the attraction of it.

"The way it looks and way it is to work with is the certain thing about it that attracts a person," said Wolters. "It's the texture on watercolor paper. It's such an individual thing. The nice thing about art is that it's a real personal expression."

Wolters looks forward to the Art on a Line sale.

"It gives me a chance to show my work in a public setting, and to generate sales and enough enthusiasm to keep painting," she said. "It's uplifting to have someone purchase your work and display it in their house. It's really fun to work with all members of the group and get to know them better. When you have the whole group work together on a project, that's a lot of fun."

Wolters wants to do more painting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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With every passing day, the sun gains strength as it climbs a higher arc in the April sky. The frozen ground grudgingly yields to spring, the sap rises in the trees, and they break bud. Nothing makes my heart sing like the first tender-green leaves of spring. Many trees also flower early in the growing season—especially trees that depend on the wind to aid pollination.

With the exception of a few hardy insects that overwinter as adults, like mourning cloak butterflies, there just aren't enough insects around in early spring to serve as pollinators so trees like the birches use the wind.

Long yellow and brown male birch catkins quiver in the slightest breeze, releasing pollen that drifts over to the less conspicuous female flowers nearby. Birch trees flower before their leaves are totally unfurled because mature leaves would just get in the way of all their casual, wind-blown sex.

Because mourning cloak butterflies (*Nymphalis antiopa*) emerge from hiding long before there is an ample supply of nectar-rich flowers for sipping, these butterflies are commonly seen feeding instead on sap that flows from wounded birch or maple trees.

The butterflies stretch out their dark brown wings to absorb the heat of the sun as if driving the winter cold from their bodies so they can get on with their spring nuptials. And chasing each other is part of mourning cloak mating behavior.

On one April bike ride, an agitated mourning cloak butterfly adamantly pursued my husband Matt. Matt was wearing a short-sleeve burgundy sweatshirt with a long-sleeve yellow tee shirt underneath (reddish brown and yellow are the dominant colors of the mourning cloak butterflies' wings). We stopped our bikes so the butterfly could get a closer look at Matt. The amorous mourning cloak soon realized his mistake and flew away disappointed.



Neighborhood Naturalist

By DEB ROBINSON

Humble beauties of early spring

According to Donald Stokes, the nature field guide author, mourning cloak males defend ter-

ritories of 300 square yards or more. It is possible that the butterfly that chased Matt thought he

was a rival mourning cloak (and not a potential mate). Either way, the butterfly's display was impressive.

After the Mourning cloaks mate, the female lays her eggs in masses on birch, willow, or cottonwood twigs. After the eggs hatch, the caterpillars feed together on the tree's leaves until the siblings reach maturity. When the spiny, black caterpillars are ready to change into butterflies, they leave their host tree and head for cover where they can pupate in safety.

I once witnessed one of these miniature migrations on June 27, 2000. The District 10 Environment Committee was weeding the native flower garden by the Como Lakeside Pavilion parking lot. Just as I pulled up on my bike to lend a hand, I looked down and saw first one black caterpillar, then two, then dozens racing as fast as their little legs and prolegs could carry them across the busy parking lot.

All the caterpillars were crawling west towards the Hamm Falls area from the lakeside trees. Some

of these two-inch long caterpillars had trouble climbing over the parking curbs, and many were being stepped on by unaware pedestrians as well as run over by cars. I gathered up all the wandering mourning cloak butterfly larvae I could find and carried them to the other side of the parking lot, but I discovered their dilemma too late to save many.

Later, I walked over to the trees that I thought had been the hosts for all those caterpillars. I couldn't find any obvious damage to the trees' leaves. Even though mourning cloak caterpillars feed on several different species of trees, their munching seems to be little more than a nuisance to the trees.

Mourning cloaks are common across North America; yet, few people notice these large brown and yellow butterflies. And even fewer people notice their black, spiny larval stage.

A mourning cloak caterpillar is, by most people's standards, too ugly and small to be worth sidestepping let alone worth bending down to wonder over. Nevertheless, the larval stage is the humble beginning of even the most beautiful butterflies. So, after the long grey winter, take a little time to revel in the modest spring beauty of quivering catkins, unfurling leaves, and reawakening butterflies.

Endnotes: *Help! Spring Park Clean-up Day, April 16 with the Dist. 10 Environment Committee - 9 a.m. at the Como Pool parking lot (on Horton Ave. just west of Lexington Ave.). For more info: 651-644-3889. *Tree Trek returns! We'll meet on May 21 at 10 a.m. at the Como Lakeside Pavilion for this free two hour tour of Como Park trees with plant pathologist and tree enthusiast Chet Mirocha. Contact: 651-646-4226. *The Festival of Trees, May 7: Minnesota Tree Climbing Competition at 7:30 a.m. with music and arbor education starting at 10 a.m. This free event is held at the Como Park Picnic Pavilion. *To contact writer: dmrobinson@bitstream.net



Illustration by Deb Robinson

"Nothing makes my heart sing like the first tender-green leaves of spring."



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In Our Community

Como Park Neighborhood Garage Sale May 21

District 10 Como Community Council will again sponsor a neighborhood wide garage sale May 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you'd like to sign up please call the District 10 office at 651-644-3889 or email district10@comopark.org. All we need is your address and an optional description of your sale. Sign up deadline is May 17, 8 p.m. Participation and advertising is free. Garage sale maps will be available at our web site, www.comopark.org, at 779 W. Wheelock Parkway and Midway Parkway and Hamline.

Annual University Avenue Clean Up April 30

Join other Midway businesses and neighbors at the 7th Annual Great University Avenue Spring Clean Up annual event Saturday, April 30. We are looking for volunteers, groups or individuals, to pick up trash along University Avenue. This is a great way to give back to the community that supports your business. Consider sending clean up teams from your business/organization adorned in company colors/aparel.

Volunteers will meet at 8:30 a.m. on the front lawn of Marsden Building Maintenance at 1717 University Avenue. Coffee, juice and breakfast will be provided. All necessary equipment/supplies will be provided and shuttle vans will be available.

Please say yes to "Building a Stronger Midway" by participating in this important event. For more information or to volunteer, call the Midway Chamber at 651-646-2636.

Chelsea Heights, Linder's partner for fundraiser

Chelsea Heights and Linder's Greenhouse are partnering up for the Spring Flower Power Fundraiser. If you go to Linder's on May 5, 6, 7 and mention Chelsea Heights 15% if your purchase will go back to the PTA. Also, if you buy gift certificates, 15% goes to the PTA as well. Gift certificates are still available at the school office.

Storytimes continue at Hamline Midway Library

Spring storytimes at the Hamline Midway Branch of the St. Paul Public Library continue on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings, through April. Bed-time storytimes are offered for preschool and early elementary age children on Tuesdays, April 19 and 26, at 7:00 p.m. All chil-

Celebrate music April 17 at Hamline United Methodist Church

The Hamline United Methodist Church (HUMC) will celebrate its long tradition of music at its 9:30 a.m. worship service on April 17th. With the glorious stained glass windows bringing to life the Te Deum Laudamus, an early Christian chant, voices, organ and bells will lead the congregation in praising and thanking God for its 125 years of ministry in the Hamline neighborhood. Rev. Greg Renstrom will preach.

Annette (DeCourcy) Towler, a graduate of Hamline University and a student of long-time HUMC organist Mary Fellows (1931-1967), will be at the Casavant organ. Her prelude will feature both the chancel and antiphonal organs. The chancel choir will sing under the direction of Annette Peterson, and the bell choir will ring in honor of musicians who have performed in the sanctuary.

The tradition of welcoming famous organ recitalists (including George Fairclough, Andre Marchal,



Annette (DeCourcy) Towler, a graduate of Hamline University and a student of long-time HUMC organist Mary Fellows (1931-1967), will be at the Casavant organ.

Robert Baker, and others) continued. Fellows, who served HUMC as music director and on the Hamline University faculty, exemplifies the HUMC tradition of excellence. She is one of the few organists to have been honored with a life membership in the American Guild of Organists.

A new gallery antiphonal organ was installed in 1972, followed by a new Casavant chancel organ in 1974. Composers Gerald Near and Russell Harris were among those who wrote music especially for the church and choir.

Details about other events in Hamline Church's anniversary year can be found at www.hamlinechurch.org.

dren are encouraged to wear their pajamas and bring a favorite bear or blanket to storytime.

The toddler and preschool storytimes are offered on Wednesdays, April 20 and 27, at 10:30 a.m. Parents with babies are welcome. Both storytimes include storytelling, flannel boards, songs, fingerplays, movies, and much more.

Pre-registration is requested, but not required. The library is located at 1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue. For more information or to register, please contact the Hamline Midway Branch Library at 651-642-0293; information is also available on the Library's Website at www.sppl.org.

World-renowned pianist to coach Hamline students

World-renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman will visit Hamline University on April 23 to coach Hamline students on Romantic concerti. Bronfman's lessons will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Klas Center, Kay Fredericks Room, located at 1537 Taylor Ave on Hamline's St. Paul campus. The public is invited to attend to watch the lessons free of charge. For more information, please call 651-523-2332.

Boy Scout Troop 13 Spaghetti Dinner April 23

The Boy Scouts of Troop 13 are selling tickets for their annual spaghetti dinner to be held on Sat. April 23. Adults- \$5.50/children under 12- \$3.50. Please help support our scouts by purchasing

tickets. Where else can you get all the spaghetti you can eat with all the fixings for such a great price.

Eureka Recycling launches weekly collection

Starting on Earth Day (April 22) Eureka Recycling will collect recycling in Saint Paul every week. In most of the collection days in the city will stay the same, except in the Summit Hill and Frogtown neighborhoods. Weekly collection, combined with the new sorting system and the addition of plastic bottles, is part of a series of changes designed to significantly increase the amount of materials that residents recycle.

Eureka Recycling, a non-profit, community organization that has partnered with the City of Saint Paul for nearly two decades, has been redesigning Saint Paul's program to make it one of the most innovative in the country. In October 2004, they introduced Saint Paul to a new sorting system, along with plastic bottle recycling. Pop and beer box recycling returned to the program in January.

For more information about Saint Paul's recycling program or any of these changes, you can call the staffed recycling hotline at 651-222-7678, Monday - Friday, 8-5 p.m.

Living at Home program for elders May 10

Mike Cheverette, Metro Area Disability Linkage Line Coordinator from the Metro Center for Independent Center for

Independent Living, will speak at a luncheon for seniors on Tuesday, May 10 at the Hamline Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood. The topic will be "Making Your Life Easier with Adapted Equipment." The event begins at 11:30 and is sponsored by the HM Living at Home Program/ Block Nurse Program. Please call 651-209-6542 to respond or request free transportation.

Fourth Annual Spring Clean Up April 23

The Living at Home Program has organized an yard clean up day for HM elders on Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Elders who want their yards raked for free and interested volunteers are asked to call 651-209-6542. Volunteer rakers may be assigned a time that is convenient for them if they can't work on April 23.

Writing exercise held at Ginkgo April 18

Imaginative minds are wanted to test Write Now!™, a fun, creative writing exercise.

The events will be at the Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 Snelling Avenue North, Monday, April 18th, starting at 8 p.m., and Black Bear Crossing at the Como Lake Pavillion, 1360 North Lexington Pkwy, Monday April 25 starting at 5 p.m.

Whether you are new to writing, or experienced, this exercise will give you the fundamental elements needed to produce a story. Bring friends and discover how to write a short work in thirty min-

utes. Then charm your fellow writers by reading your work aloud.

Write Now!™ is being developed as an entertaining exercise for creative writing instructors. A one page questionnaire will be handed out at the exercise's conclusion. For more information, call Terry Faust at: 612-722-4354.

Adult Bible Class at Jehovah Lutheran Church

Dr. Martin Marty, foremost church historian of our day, will be featured in 15 minute video clips each morning for six weeks at the Adult Bible Class of Jehovah Lutheran Church, Snelling at Thomas Avenues. His presentation will be enhanced by local scholars, members of Jehovah Lutheran Church, in discussion and enhancement each Sunday from April 17 to May 22 starting at 9:15 a.m. in the church library/lounge.

The schedule is as follows: April 17: "What's Your Story?" moderated by Dr. Mark Schuler April 24: "The Thousand Year Primacy of Rome" moderated by Dr. David Lumppp May 1: "Re-forming the Churches..." by Dr. Fred Bartling May 8: "The Coming of Christianity to the New World" by Dr. Fred Bartling May 15: "The Challenge of Science and Reason" led by Dr. Ed Will May 22: "The Christian Story Goes Global" led by Dr. Shirley Miske.

The community is invited to attend these sessions. The six weeks course will give perspective to the movement of Christianity from its earliest days until today.

St. Paul coffee shop to host peace benefit

On May 3, The Coffee Grounds, 1579 Hamline Avenue N., will host an evening of music, coffee, and talk to benefit the Nonviolent Peaceforce, a Twin Cities based international non-governmental organization whose mission is to build an unarmed civilian peace-keeping agency.

The Nonviolent Peaceforce is operating a pilot project in Sri Lanka and exploring a second project in several other conflict areas. Executive Director Mel Duncan, a St. Paul resident, lives in the neighborhood where The Coffee Grounds is located. Duncan will speak about the Nonviolent Peaceforce at the "Cuppa Peace" event on May 3.

The Cuppa Peace evening features music by songwriter Rachel Nelson, who has been compared to Joan Baez. Nonviolent Peaceforce mugs will be on sale at the event. For further details, contact Natalie Brenner at 612-871-0005.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

My son is a rugged outdoorsman. Though he is still a little guy, I can tell he is going to be the quintessential Minnesotan: ice fishing, kayaking, camping, hockey, skiing and all other sorts of winter sports—these are what I imagine him enjoying.

Last summer we spent outdoors most of our waking moments; at parks, on trails, around Lake Como—if it was outdoors we did it. Our backyard (and the neighbors) held many surprises to explore: the ants by the garage, the cardinals in the feeder, the squirrels raiding our garbage cans.

It is harder to stay connected with our natural surroundings as these Minnesota winter months drag on. But our son is still pretty demanding about getting some outdoors time. We try to get him outside every day—even on the coldest days—for just a quick gulp of fresh air—toss a few snowballs and then dash back in. Our neighbors think we are crazy. Our indoor time is then often spent watching the crows and squirrels out the windows or watching the Como School kids trudge to and from class.

I would like to say we are

In Our Community

Continued from page 10

Cafesjian's Carousel seeks volunteers

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

Volunteers operate the carousel, sell tickets, and sell merchandise at the gift shop. They work 3- or 4-hour shifts, two or more times each month. New volunteers are encouraged to apply individually, in pairs or as groups. Training is provided for all positions, and free parking is available. For information about volunteers opportunities, contact Cafesjian's Carousel at 651-489-4628 or volunteer@ourfaircarousel.org, or visit our website at www.ourfaircarousel.org.

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

Annual Rummage Sale Saturday, April 23

The youth of Zion Lutheran Church are holding a Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale will be held in the church basement at 1697 Lafond at Aldine. A large variety of household items, clothing, toys, books and much more will be offered for sale at bargain prices. Lunch and snacks will be served. Proceeds from the sale will be used to support the activities of the Zion Youth.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



New to the Neighborhood

By NATE HAMILTON

A budding Minnesotan

consciously raising an environmentally attentive child. But really it has been all his own doing. He loves all things nature: animals, snow, leaves, water, fresh air. My biggest question is how to continue to foster that love of the outdoors, the respect for our great Minnesota environment? How do we encourage environmental responsibility in children? Is it just awareness and education? Or does there have to be a deeper connection?

So we recently found ourselves at the new Visitor Center at

the Como Zoo and Conservatory. The building is a tremendous elegant glass construction. It currently houses a café, gift shop, education rooms, and visitor services area. Later this year, it will also house a Tropical Encounters Exhibit. I talked a bit with the staff about the grand opening on February 12th and the ongoing construction. We stopped in the café and then bought a couple postcards in the gift shop. We tried to take it all in.

Then we strolled over to the

Conservatory. We were awed by the rainbow of pansies and azaleas in the Sunken Garden. We wondered at the balmy climate of the Palm Dome and North Garden. We looked out at the snow from our warm, lush environment. We chatted with the other parents and kids taking it all in. We tossed a few coins in the fountains. We closed our eyes, made a wish. We felt, for a few moments, a part of nature's beauty and diversity.

So we vowed to try to do this more often. To experience the

wonder and awe of the life around us. We didn't make it to the zoo this time, though we know they are open and have awesome programs and classes all throughout the year. Next trip.

I am just happy for a place to take our son that reminds us of our natural connection to the Earth. Not just our great Minnesota landscape, but also in the broader sense. Because children's experiences in nature provide them with an expanded sense of being—that sense of belonging to something larger than themselves.

(Editor's note: For more information on The Como Zoo, Conservatory and new Visitor Center, visit www.comozooconservatory.org. Nate Hamilton is a stay at home parent and former high school teacher living in the Lake Como area. To contact him, email: nate@mdah.org.)



The Midway Como Monitor is typically published the second Thursday-Friday of each month (except January). If you're not receiving a timely delivery call 651-645-7045

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In Our Community

Continued from page 11

Heritage Sunday April 24 at Hamline Methodist

The Hamline United Methodist Church (HUMC) will celebrate Heritage Sunday at its 9:30 a.m. worship service on April 24th, in recognition of its 125 years of ministry in the Hamline Midway neighborhood.

The Rev. Wm. Mc Kinley, in the person of Rev. Thomas D. Brennan, will return and present a message for the ages. Rev. Mc Kinley was Hamline Church's first resident pastor, receiving his appointment in 1886. He reports in his book A Story of Minnesota Methodism:

After leaving Hamline Church in 1891, Rev. Mc Kinley served as Presiding Elder as well as pastor in various churches in Minnesota. Rev. Brennan is a retired elder, former District Superintendent and trustee of Hamline University. He appeared as Bishop Hamline during the Hamline University 150th Celebration.

Details about other events in Hamline Church's anniversary year can be found at www.hamlinechurch.org.

Holy Childhood holds rummage sale May 12

Holy Childhood parish holds their rummage sale on May 12th, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 13th, 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The address is 1435 Midway Parkway in St. Paul.

Como-Midway La Leche League meets May 10

The Advantages of Breastfeeding is the topic of the next meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche League, to be held on Tuesday, May 10, at 7 p.m.

Mothers-to-be, mothers, babies and toddlers are invited to attend. La Leche League meetings provide breastfeeding information and support on an informal, mother-to-mother basis.

A lending library on a wide variety of related topics is also available. For meeting location or more information, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

Como Park holds 3rd Annual Carnival

Como Park Elementary School's 3rd Annual Carnival will be held on Thursday May 12, 2005 - 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Como Elementary. (780 Wheelock Pky) Join us for food, games, raffle, dunk tank, bingo and the whopper hopper!

April news from MMSA School

Registration for 2005-06 is now open for all grades at Maternity of Mary-St. Andrew School. There is a third session of preschool still open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 12:15-2:45 p.m. We offer the core classes as well as specialists in music, art, computer, library, physical education and Spanish. Financial help is available.

Confirmation—the eighth graders will be confirmed on Thursday, April 21, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul.

Spring Sing Concert—The K-2 choir and 3-5 choir and Middle School Choir will be presenting

an evening of song and merriment on Thursday, April 28, at 7 p.m. in O'Donnell Hall. The choirs are under the direction of music specialist Mrs. Lindsay Kennedy and Mrs. Laureen Sherman.

The seventh graders will be attending the Festival of Nations on Thursday, April 21.

Como hockey boys from MMSA receive awards

Congratulations to Colin O'Brien who recently received the Playmaker Award from USA Hockey for having three assists in a single game. Adam Crowley also received this award as well as the Hat Trick Award for scoring three goals in a single game. USA Hockey is the national governing body for hockey in the United States. Colin and Adam played on the Como Area B PeeWee team in the 2004-2005 season. Way to go Colin and Adam!

Teens perform in St. Agnes spring musical

The following St. Agnes Students; Julie Rufenacht, Mario Perez, Kyleen Finagan and Nick Posinelli, are just a few young residents of the Como Area that will be part of a cast of 187, performing in the very energetic, tap-dancing Broadway musical called "Crazy for You" at St. Agnes High School. This unforgettable music was written by the famous song writer George Gershwin.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays April 22, 23, 29 and 30 at 7:30 pm and Sundays April 24 at 2:00 pm and May 1st at 3pm. Admission is only \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Come support your Como teens and enjoy some great family entertainment! St. Agnes is located 1/2 mile North

of I-94, in St. Paul. Take Dale street exit to 530 Lafond Ave. For further information call 651-228-1161

Victory Toastmasters meets Mondays

Members are wanted and needed at Victory Toastmasters. We meet every Monday (unless holiday falls on Monday); we meet from 6:30-7:00 p.m. We are located behind the Capitol at 559 Capitol Boulevard. For more information, call Cynthia at 651-231-6997.

Como Gold Men's Club holds meeting

The Como Gold Men's Club is open to new members ages 18 to 90. The men's club offers one of the finest weekend programs of competitive play anywhere in MN. Membership application forms can be picked up at the Como Club House 651-488-9673, during business hours. Or, leave your name and phone number, attention John Magnuson, and you will be contacted. The spring organizational meeting is April 22 at the Como Club House, 1432 No. Lexington Ave, from 6:30 to 8:30. Prospective members welcome. New members can get help to find others to play with. Present handicaps range from -2 to 36. Membership costs \$100 for the 2005 season.

Como Area hockey team ends season undefeated

The Como Area B PeeWee Hockey Team ended their regular season undefeated with a 19-0-1 record. They also competed in two out-state tournaments and brought home second and third place trophies. Their first place standing

earned them a number one seed at the Twin City District Playoffs. They then moved on to Regional Playoffs where they lost to Chaska and then Rogers in two very tough, competitive games. Congratulations to team members Adam Ayotte, Adam Crowley, Billy Darwitz, Ben Dutcher, Mike Eng, Andrew Gajeski, Peter Kolias, Travis Kurth, Adam Kusterman, Luke Matschina, Jake Melchior, Peter Odney, Colin O'Brien, Matthew Overton, Jake Wallner and coaches John Larkin, Paul Kolias, and Tim Crowley on a great season.

Auction at St. Timothy Lutheran Church April 24

The neighborhood is invited to a combination live and silent auction at St. Timothy Lutheran Church 1465 Victoria St. N. at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 24th. Come bid on a variety of items or opportunities, some of which include; a 7 day ocean-side stay in Maui, Hawaii; a weekend of fly fishing lessons, original artwork, a week stay at a northern MN cabin, lawn services, and much more. Entire families are welcome. Food and other activities for young children will be provided.

Money raised will help send 26 senior high youth to Puerto Rico on a service trip in July. For more information call the church office at 651-489-0336.

St. Andrew's holds rummage sale April 22

St Andrew's Church, 1051 Como Avenue, will be having their Rummage Sale on Friday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to noon in Carroll Hall in the church basement. The church is handicapped accessible (elevator on east side of church).



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Adult entertainment zoning regulations could bring businesses to West Midway

By JANE MCCLURE

The West Midway area would be home to many of the city's future adult entertainment business, if proposed adult entertainment zoning regulations are adopted.

The Planning Commission's Zoning Committee will consider the regulations at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14 at City Hall. The full Planning Commission could vote as early as April 22, and send the regulations on the City Council for final approval in May. The City Council needs to have new regulations adopted and published in a legal newspaper before mid-July, when a one-year moratorium on new adult businesses expires.

The single biggest question before the Planning Commission and City Council is where new adult businesses should be located, said Planning Administrator Larry Soderholm. "While adult entertainment businesses are unpopular with their neighbors, legally they must be allowed to locate in St. Paul," he said.

City staff are recommending that the city continue to use the amount of floor space devoted to "explicit" materials as a way to define what is and is not an adult business. Any store with more than 15 percent and/or 300 square feet of space would be an adult-oriented business. Eight businesses meet this definition. All would be considered non-conforming uses when new regulations are passed and would be

grandfathered in.

While the floor space area requirement wouldn't change from the city's current regulations, what would change are distance requirements. The separation between adult businesses would be 1,000 to 500 feet, depending on the type of business or industrial zoning for the area. There would be a 500-foot distance between residences and protected uses such as churches, day care centers and schools. The current ordinance has varying distances set out, depending on the type of zoning.

Areas that would be potential sites for new adult business include industrial property along Highway 280 and West Midway industrial areas, south of the state fairgrounds and in the North End, Frogtown, Payne-Phalen and West Side industrial area.

Soderholm said that is because the Midway has more industrially zoned land than any other part of the city, with those industrial sites being farther away from homes and protected uses.

Although the Ford Motor Company plant in Highland and Xcel Energy's High Bridge Plant area industrial properties that would meet the distance requirements, Soderholm said it's "very doubtful" that either industry would provide any of its space for an adult business to locate there.

After new regulations are adopted, existing businesses would become nonconforming

uses and could remain in operations. But city review and approval would be required if a business wanted to expand or relocate.

New regulations on adult business locations are meant to prevent the concentration of businesses in certain areas, to avoid a repeat of the problems of the 1970s and 1980s. That's when adult businesses were congregated around University and Dale, and on North Wabasha Street downtown. "Those created huge neighborhood problems," Soderholm said. The city bought out many of those businesses on the condition they not relocate in St. Paul.

Six people addressed the Planning Commission at a March 25 public hearing, including the attorney for the city's lone X-rated bookstore. More than two dozen people attended the hearing.

Four speakers said they are concerned that the ordinance may not be restrictive enough and that it has the potential to put too many businesses in the Midway area. One landlord said the ordinance could drive out his tenant, a University Avenue video store that rents out some adult videos. The sixth speaker is the attorney for R & R Books, St. Paul's oldest X-rated bookstore. That store, which is on University west of Dale Street, may have to relocate to make way for a commercial-residential redevelopment project.

"I thought the adult entertainment and zoning issues had

been put to bed," said Hamline-Midway resident and former Ward Four City Council member Kiki Sonnen. "But just like Dracula it rears its ugly head."

Sonnen, a leader in the fight to clean up University and Dale, has been active in recent picketing and protests against the Love Doctor, 1607 University Av. She believes adult businesses bring down property values, increase crime rates and make neighborhoods less safe.

If the city uses floor space and sales area as its method of defining adult business, "monitoring and enforcement are key," said Sonnen. She argued that the Love Doctor should be considered an adult business, claiming more than 15 percent of its floor space is used for explicit merchandise from time to time.

Sonnen and another Hamline-Midway resident, Carol Hill, also raised that concern, saying that the city isn't enforcing the floor area ratios now and questioned how other ordinances would be enforced.

One suggestion Sonnen made is that the city use gross sales receipts of products to determine whether or not a business is an adult use. That is done to determine whether a restaurant with a liquor license is in compliance with conditions

Geraldine Thompson, a 57-year resident of Hamline-Midway and a longtime member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Merri-

am Park, said she is "absolutely sick" at the idea of having to fight adult businesses again. Her church is just one block south of the Love Doctor.

But Randall Tighe, an attorney representing R & R books at University and St. Albans, disputed Sonnen's claims that adult businesses cause property value decline, increased crime and spread of urban blight. He called those claims "pure mythology" and said that the claims of secondary effects are about as truthful as claims that there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Tighe quoted a 1978 St. Paul study, which showed that while bars caused neighborhood deterioration, adult entertainment businesses did not. He said the city doesn't study secondary effects because "it is scared of what it will find."

He questioned changing the city's regulations. "The ordinance was working fine until the Love Doctor opened," he said.

The last Planning Commission study of adult-oriented businesses was in 1995. The City Council made changes to proposed regulations after holding a public hearing. The changes were challenged in Ramsey County District Court by Tighe and R & R Books and thrown out in 1999 for procedural reasons. The City Council didn't hold a second public hearing after changing the regulations.

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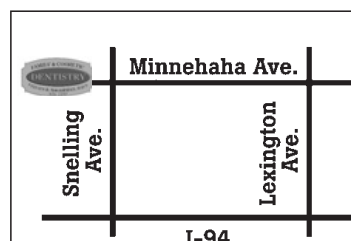
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TCF Bank gets OK for two-story at Lexington and University

By JANE MCCLURE

Despite the objections of area residents and community groups, TCF Bank can build a two-story brick building on Lexington Parkway south of White Castle. The St. Paul Planning Commission recommended approval of the building's site plan April 8. Planning Commission approval is final unless there is an appeal to the City Council. Any appeal would not be heard by the City Council until May at the earliest.

More than two dozen people packed a March 31 Planning Commission Zoning Committee public hearing on the plan. A coalition of community groups has been studying design issues at the corner for several months. Recent community meetings about the corner have drawn more than 150 people.

The TCF Bank is the latest piece of Lexington Park, a pro-

posed commercial-office-residential development at the southwest corner of Lexington and University. A strip mall that stood on the property for many years was recently demolished. Last year the City Council approved a site plan for an Aldi grocery store on University west of White Castle. Other plans on the drawing board include a possible commercial-office building to house Wilder Foundation, a parking ramp and 50 low-income senior citizens' housing units. The senior housing would be built by Episcopal Homes.

City staff recommended approval of the cite plan, which has been reviewed by other city departments. Because the Parks and Recreation Department wants to maintain Lexington Parkway, a 25-foot setback with plantings is proposed at the front of the bank building. Public Works is involved to address potential traffic issues

One limitation on TCF's site is that an existing mall driveway cannot be relocated.

Much of the disagreement with property owner and lead Lexington Park developer Wellington Management centers on the decision to develop the property on a piece-by-piece basis and to not use transit-oriented development principles in the redevelopment. City staff and the developers contend they have taken steps to make the development more pedestrian-friendly, but note that there are no specific city requirements to do so.

Lexington and University, and Snelling and University, were recently studied by a community-Planning Commission task force. The group's recommendation call for more dense, mixed-use development at both intersections. The recommendations were adopted by the Planning Commission and City Council more than a year ago.

Yet many community members contend that the city has done little to implement those plans.

Jolene Mason, staff member at Community Stabilization Project and a member of the Lexington Coalition, said there continue to be concerns about piecemeal development of the Lexington and University corner. "We're not exactly sure what else is going to happen at the property," she said.

University UNITED Executive Director Brian McMahon said there is a "systemic failure" to bring transit-oriented development to University Avenue. He cited the CVS Pharmacy at University and Snelling, along with the planned Aldi store, as cases where the city failed to follow its own transit-oriented development guidelines. These developments and TCF fail to meet transit-oriented development standards for density and jobs creation. For example, a transit-oriented development should create about 100 jobs per acre. But the current projects only generated about 20 to 25 new jobs on average.

"We have a gap between policy, planning and the projects," McMahon said. He asked for a moratorium on new development along University "until we can get our act together."

Splitting the Lexington and University property into several development sites means "it never will be put together as one large development site again," said McMahon. He and others considered the property to be one of the most important redevelopment sites in St. Paul.

Mason and McMahon were two of four people who spoke against the site plan March 31. Both said community groups appreciate what TCF is doing to address transit-oriented development goals. But there is still frustration with the city and Wellington.

Two people, Lori Fritts of the Midway Chamber of Commerce, and Hamline-Midway resident Susan Pilon spoke for the TCF site plan. Fritts said Wellington Management had tried very hard to meet the needs of the community and has participated in many planning meetings.

Rather than looking at the redevelopment as a piecemeal project, Pilon said Lexington Park should be looked at as a series of steps. "This development has to be done piecemeal because that's what seems to be working here."

Mike Kraft, the architect for TCF, said the bank appreciates the issues raised by the community. TCF has worked hard to address those concerns, by planning a two-story bank that would have a job training program on its second floor. The bank is considering a partnership with Goodwill Industries to provide a training program.

The two-story building plan was developed by TCF in response to community complaints that a one-story bank with a drive-through area doesn't conform with goals for transit-oriented development. The floor space of the building is doubled to 8,000 square feet. Adding the second story meant eliminating one of the bank's planned five drive-through lanes.




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Watercolorist

Continued from page 8

"It's very therapeutic," she said. "It helps me surpass everyday worries of the world. I can forget my troubles, look at beauty, and think about beauty. Your own creative process can make a difference. Drawing is very important. That gives you a skeleton on which you can create."

Wolters says so many people are doing watercolor and exploring different ways to make their technique unique. Miles Batt, a nationally-known watercolor painter from Florida who was at one of their workshops, uses a lot of symbolism in his painting.

"He abstracts symbols," she said. "One of the techniques he used was to put narrow tape down and paint over the masking tape. I'm using masking tape as one way to keep color from going all over. Sometimes, it makes for a beautiful design."

Wolters hopes many people will come to the sale to see the work.

"Even if they aren't interested in buying anything, it's interesting to see so many paintings in one place," she said. "They can revel in the creativity of the other person. Many people that come are thinking of a special room. There is something so joyful in works of art. They can't help but take something with them. It's a wonderful way of communicating our joyful interpretation. It's really great to share our view of the world."

Other Midway Como Northstar Watercolor Society members with works for sale are: Robin Butler Edgerton, Helen Bond, Lynn Middleton-Koller, Marjorie Moody, and Jacqueline Page Sutliff. *Monitor* co-publisher Calvin deRuyter, who is also a group member, has won Best of Show at the Fall Members' Show for two years. He will demonstrate his painting at Art on a Line sale on May 14, at 5 p.m.

The sale will run May 13 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; May 14, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and May 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



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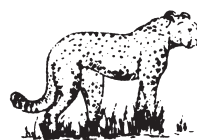
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Hilgendorfs

Continued from page 6

"I heard about this blonde lifeguard," he said. "She did an awful lot for me. She helped me finish my GED because I missed my last year of high school. We got married in July 1956."

Ralph's loss of sight never slowed him down. In 1955, he got a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology. Starting on a master's degree in social work, he finished it in rehabilitation and counseling in 1972. In addition to working in his profession, he has done auto mechanic work, plumbing and building.

Ralph had a pretty much classic reaction of dealing with loss after his accident.

"You can't believe it's going to be true," he said. "You deny reality. Your mind doesn't want it to be true. As time goes on, you can't deny it and slowly start to accept it with a little bit of successes as a blind person."

Having four biological children and adopting a deaf child, the Hilgendorfs have had over 40 foster children through their house, most of who were deaf.

"Kay went through graduate school in social work at the U," said Ralph. "She had a strong desire to help people. She could take on foster kids, which allowed her to use her professional skills, too. A lot of foster kids were deaf. She had the signing skills. There was a shortage of families who could do foster care of deaf kids. Our own kids learned sign language, too."

Raquel Wood, a longtime friend of 30 years who was the



Kay and Ralph Hilgendorf volunteered to collect the boxes because they saw a need they could fulfill. (Photo by Terry Faust)

first head of Friends School, says one of the reasons she got to know them so well is because they worked together on the early stages of Friends School.

"They're very warm, very friendly, outgoing, and very interested in new ideas and innovations," she said. "They're pretty energetic, but like me, they do not have as much energy as we used to have. Ralph is a very inspiring person to know. He has accomplished a great deal in life. For anybody else, being blind would be a physical handicap, but not for him. He's a very independent spirited person. Both Kay and Ralph are very motivated by their religious beliefs. I admire them for that and share that with them."

The Hilgendorfs are valued volunteers for Friends School.

"They really believe in it,"

said Wood. "They give a lot of time and energy to things they believe in partly because of family connections. The Hilgendorfs feel very committed to the school because two of their children have been very committed. Kristin served on the organizing committee that started the school and David works at the school now."

Being Friends School volunteers is very important to the Hilgendorfs' life.

"We feel the school with its philosophy of helping children to grow up with the ability to resolve conflicts in a healthy way, respond to each other and care for each other is very important," said Ralph. "We wish every kid in the world had that philosophy. They like to get a full diversity. It seems to me their philosophy is right. The Plant Sale is a big boost to them. We do what we can to make sure it's a success."

Kay hopes the Plant Sale makes lots of money.

"That's one of the main purposes of the Plant Sale," she said. "It's important because one of the big things the school does is to use it for scholarships. They want a student body to represent the whole world."

Ralph would like to see the Plant Sale, which is the school's main fund-raiser, clear \$100,000. Over 300 volunteers work on this.

"This brings parents of kids in school together as a community," he said. "It brings them into the life of the school. It gives them ownership in their child's education and the institution. The pride that they walk away with is enormous."

Friends School Plant Sale blooms into big event

By DEBORAH BROTZ

The Friends School of Minnesota Plant Sale has consistently grown since it began 16 years ago. When the School held its first plant sale in 1989 at the Twin Cities Friends Meeting house on Grand Avenue in St. Paul, there was a one-page catalogue with 14 plants varieties. For its 16th Annual Friends School Plant Sale the full color plant sale catalogue is 44 pages with over 1,700 plant varieties.

Last year, over \$225,000 worth of plants were sold.

"One of our biggest sellers is the hanging pot," said Wendy Lutter, development and public relations director for Friends School.

This year the sale will move from Friends School to the State Fairgrounds Grandstand to make shopping for plants a more pleasant experience.

"This year's move to the Grandstand at the Minnesota State Fair will ensure dry weather and no more shopping for plants in the dark, cold, rain and gale force winds," said Lutter.

There will be many unique plants that people can't find anywhere else.

"We're going to have a whole bunch of Peonies that are rare and hard to find," said Lutter. "There's a whole insert of rare plants like Fern-Leaf Peony, Yellow Lady's Slipper, Epstein's Barrenwort, and Showy Orchid, which is native to our area."

Most plants for the Plant Sale come from local growers, which helps support the Minnesota/Wisconsin economy and

keeps prices low.

Over 1,000 new plants will be available at the Plant Sale. More perennials than ever will be offered at very reasonable prices.

"A lot of perennials are only \$1," said Lutter. "That's what is unbelievable."

A lot of new interesting plants will be available at the Sale.

"There's new Amaranthus," said Henry Fieldseth, Plant Sale coordinator. "The flower almost doesn't look like a flower. There are a bunch of new varieties of Canna Lilies. Normally, it's a sun plant. It's rare because people are able to find some that grow in shade."

There will also be new Annual Flowers.

"We'll have exciting new Fancy Leaf Geraniums and new varieties of old-fashioned annuals like Pansies," said Fieldseth.

Rare plants offered include Rue Double Anemone; three kinds of Lady's Slippers, Fragrant Lady's Tresses, Marsh Helleborine, and Showy Orchid; and Bartzella, the most expensive Peony at \$250.

The Plant Sale has changed a lot since the School began in 1988, when they had 11 students. The first year of the Plant Sale the School had 22 students.

Last year, the Plant Sale had a \$95,000 profit after expenses that was able to go to scholarships for Friends School students.

The Plant Sale will be held May 6, from 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; May 7, from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; and May 8, noon-4 p.m., at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Grandstand Building.

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

Upcoming Events

Prospect Park Players

The Soldier's Tale with Bill Holm and theatre and dance students from the Perpich Center for the Performing Arts

Date: Sunday, April 17

Time: 3 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Contact: For tickets and information, 651-331-8345

Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel

Featuring music by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff

Date: Tuesday, April 19

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Contact: For tickets and information, 651-523-2459

Civic Engagement

Part of the Hamline Dialogue series "Challenges and Innovations: An Examination of Issues that Affect Our Communities." For more information and to register, please call 651-523-2814.

Date: Thursday, April 21

Time: 4-6 p.m.

Location: Klas Center,

Kay Fredericks Room

Cost: \$25, includes refreshments

Contact: Kris Norman-Major, 651-523-2814 or www.hamline.edu/gsm



Cloud 9

Dates: April 22-23, 28-30

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Anne Simley Theatre

Contact: Theater Box Office, 651-523-2905 or tickets@hamline.edu

Senior recital

Featuring Annette Peterson

Date: Saturday, April 23

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: 651-523-2459

The Musical Offering

Music by Carl Nielsen, Wolf, Turina, and Spohr

Date: Sunday, April 24

Time: 3 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

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Senior recital

Featuring Mary Mazzocchi and John Mule

Date: Saturday, April 30

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

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Hamline A Cappella Choir Spring Concert

Date: Sunday, May 1

Time: 4 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: 651-523-2459

Hamline Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert

Date: Thursday, May 5

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: 651-523-2459



"Space Weather: Storms from the Sun"

Fourteenth Annual Kay Malmstrom Lecture in Physics

Speaker: Dr. Ramon Lopez, Florida Institute of Technology

Date: Friday, May 6

Time: 12:40 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

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Contact: Christine Berg, 651-523-2426 or cberg@hamline.edu

The Oratorio Society Spring Concert

Date: Saturday, May 7

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Contact: For tickets and information,

Ticket Works, 651-209-6689

Hamline Orchestra Concert

Date: Sunday, May 8

Time: 4 p.m.

Location: Sundin Music Hall

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: 651-523-2459