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Midway Como

Monitor



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Mighty fine studio sale

The annual tradition at a local pottery studio will feature 14 artists in multiple mediums

Gary Crawford modifying one of his pots. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Passing the green facade of 1708 University Ave. W., you would never know there's a thriving pottery studio inside. There are no signs, nothing to draw your attention. But this building, owned for years by potter Gary Crawford, will house one heck of a studio sale on Fri., Dec. 12 from 4-9pm and Sat., Dec. 13, from 10am-5pm.

This annual sale is something Crawford and fellow resident potter Mike Norman have been hosting together since 1993. Customers can easily find parking along Aldine and Herschel streets. Substantial refreshments, including what Norman called, "A feast of hors d'oeuvres," will be served in the "Hospitality Room," and the working studios will be turned into galleries.

Crawford and Norman have invited several of their artist friends to join them, including Jan Davies (specializing in old beads from around the world), painters Beth Joslyn, Hjordis Olson and Elizabeth Clay, weaver

Julie Arthur, printmaker John Clay, paper artists Bridget O'Malley and Amanda Deginer, and fellow potters Willem Gebbon, Monica Redquist, Colleen Riley, Donovan Palmquist and Kelsey Rudolph.

This type of studio sale has been a long-standing tradition in our state. Warren MacKenzie, an internationally celebrated potter who has made Minnesota his home for more than half a century, greatly influenced both Crawford and Norman. MacKenzie had a tradition of an annual sale at his studio near Stillwater, featuring his work and that of his friends. Many of his former pottery students, like Crawford and Norman, continue to conduct business in this collaborative way.

Crawford started making pots in 1972 when he was a young attorney. He owned a farm near Cannon Falls and created his first pottery studio in the barn there. Crawford's most frequent studio visitors in those

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Como Dockside selected to manage Como Lakeside Pavilion

New operators to take over Jan. 5, re-open in late spring

Mayor Chris Coleman and Councilmember Amy Brendmoen announced last week that Como Dockside has been selected as the new management partner for the Como Lakeside Pavilion – with plans to open a newly renovated venue as soon as the spring of 2015. The tentative agreement will head to the St. Paul City Council for final approval on Dec. 17.

"Como Regional Park is one of the state's most popular destinations," said Mayor Coleman. "This proposed new venue will not only take full advantage of the unique space situated on the edge of Como Lake, but it will al-

so offer services, food and recreation activities that will make it a vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike."

Following a lengthy competitive bidding process and community-based evaluation, the selected proposal reflects significant public input and includes a full-service restaurant, catering services, outdoor summer recreation options on the lake, a summer concession stand with direct access from the adjacent walking trails and at least 100 events at a newly renovated outdoor promenade performance area and stage overlooking the lake.

"The Como Lakeside Pavilion is a beautiful and beloved public facility," said Councilmember Amy Brendmoen. "Launching off the feedback of nearly 1,500 community members, these proven St. Paul proprietors bring the business acumen, creativity and positive energy that will help bring these visions to life."

Under the tentative agreement, Como Dockside – whose owners also operate Amsterdam Bar in St. Paul and the 331 Club in Minneapolis – will be responsible for operations and day-to-day maintenance costs. Como

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Recent background

The City of St. Paul settled in August with the current operators of the Pavilion site, co-owners David (pictured) and Pamela Glass of Black Bear Crossings, after the City lost a legal fight over a breach of contract dispute. The litigation costs of the lawsuit to the City are unknown, but the settlement was the 3rd largest in the City of St. Paul's history, coming in at \$800,000. The Council voted for the settlement, despite being unhappy about it, because they feared additional litigation where the couple would seek actual damages on the breach of contract, as well as the possibility of a defamation suit. The judge in the original case had criticized the city's handling of the case, and found that the city had caused "irreparable harm."

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News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Neighbors organize rain garden planting initiative in Hamline Midway

Hamline Midway residents are joining together to organize a community-wide rain garden project. Neighbor Mike Rauch is heading the effort to coordinate multiple rain garden plantings throughout the neighborhood.

Rain gardens can help add vibrant green space that enlivens the neighborhood while serving a vital environmental purpose by preventing polluted storm water runoff from entering valued wa-

ter resources such as the Mississippi River.

Boulevard rain gardens often require a curb cut for water from the street to drain, instead of ending up in the sewer system which fast tracks the contaminated water to the river and other natural waterways. Boulevard rain gardens are built in the space between the sidewalk and the street and have a curb opening on the street side to allow

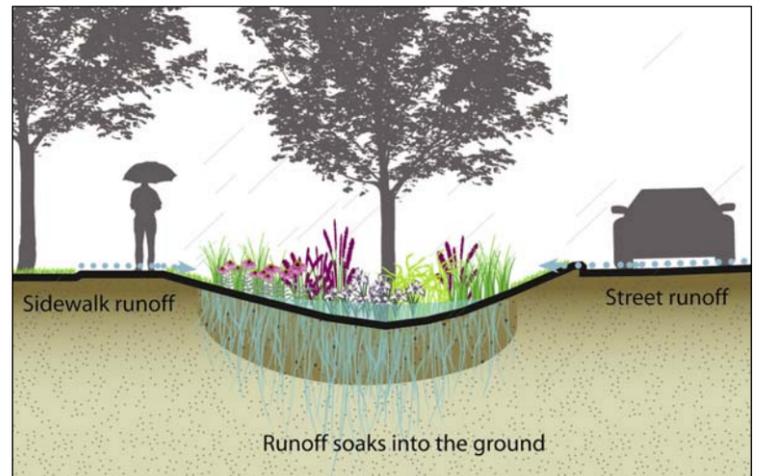
water to enter the garden. To minimize the cost of hiring a contractor to make the curb cuts, Rauch is hoping to organize neighbors interested in planting a rain garden in their boulevard, so all the work can be done together.

Grants are available for neighborhood rain garden plantings from the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD). Not every boulevard is a good fit for a rain garden, depending on factors like soil type, presence of underground utilities, degree of slope and size of the drainage area. To help you plan the most effective rain garden, CRWD will provide a free site inspection and help you design a rain garden plan.

Plants native to Minnesota are a natural fit for boulevard rain gardens. They are adapted to local soil and light conditions and need less maintenance and little supplemental watering once they are established. Native plant rain gardens can also attract wide varieties of birds and butterflies, and can provide vital habitat for some vital species of pollinator



Plants native to Minnesota are a natural fit for boulevard rain gardens. They are adapted to local soil and light conditions and need less maintenance and little supplemental watering once they are established.



Boulevard rain gardens are built in the space between the sidewalk and the street and have a curb opening on the street side to allow water to enter the garden.

Nominate a neighbor

Nominations are now open for the Neighborhood Honor Roll in St. Paul. We are looking for nominations from the Hamline Midway community to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the neighborhood at a special citywide event in January.

Honorees will be treated to a special dinner along with other outstanding community members from neighborhoods across St. Paul. Their names will then join neighborhood honorees from past years on a plaque hung in City Hall.

Do you know someone who regularly goes above and beyond in service of the Hamline Midway Community? Let us know by sending their name and a 75-word description of their work and contributions to the neighborhood to kyle@hamline-midway.org. You can nominate up to three residents or Hamline Midway business people.

insects like monarch butterflies.

If you're interested in planting a rain garden on your boulevard, and would like to join this neighborhood effort, please contact Mike Rauch at 651-645-8359 for more information.

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Korean immersion school opens in St. Paul

Goal of Sejong Academy is to create responsible and culturally-understanding global students and citizens

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Sixty-two students in grades kindergarten to sixth are immersed in Korean language and culture at the new Sejong Academy at 1330 Blair Ave. N.

Executive Director Brad Tipka, who was hired in September, knows that not all of the students at Sejong Academy will use Korean language professionally, "but I believe immersion education goes well beyond the potential use of the target language."

He added, "I dream that our students will be responsible and culturally understanding global citizens. We have a very diverse student body and staff, and I believe being able to work in a diverse environment is a critical life skill for all students."

Tipka grew up in a small Minnesota farming town and then headed overseas for eight years. He met and married his wife in Indonesia. "Without a desire to understand people from diverse backgrounds, none of this would have been possible for me," observed Tipka.

During his time overseas, Tipka lived and taught in Korea for five years and developed a strong love for the language and culture. He said, "I believe that Korea as a country and Korean as a language represent strong opportunities for students in Minnesota."

"What I saw in Korea and what stands out for me about Korean people is a dedication to family, education, hard work and persistence - these are all great qualities to instill in our students!"

CHALLENGES FOR IMMERSION SCHOOLS

A public, tuition-free, Korean immersion charter school, Sejong Academy plans to add seventh grade classes in next year and eighth grade classes in 2016.

After opening in September 2014, Sejong scaled back its immersion program from full to partial. "As a startup immersion school, our upper grade level students do not have the Korean language fluency to comprehend grade level content in Korean," Tipka noted. "Ideally, as we mature we will have large groups of students whose Korean language proficiency will allow them to



Sejong Academy balances the immersion needs of students depending on their skill level. "Some parents want more Korean instruction while some other parents are concerned about their students getting grade level instruction in English," remarked Sejong Academy Executive Director Brad Tipka. "I believe this is a challenge that will continue and we will work to make sure students are learning content in English and Korean." (Photo provided by Sejong Academy)

study higher level grade level content in Korean." He added that this is a common problem with immersion programs.

"Some parents want more Korean instruction while some other parents are concerned about their students getting grade level instruction in English," remarked Tipka. "I believe this is a challenge that will continue and we will work to make sure students are learning content in English and Korean."

Through the Sejong Home Connect program, staff works to make sure all families have home access to the internet and online school programs, including break or gap programs that offer extended learning time.

KAREN STUDENTS LEARNING KOREAN

The school did receive some criticism in September for the large number of Karen students enrolled there. The Karen (pronounced Ka-REN) are an ethnic group from the mountainous border regions of Burma (Myanmar) and Thailand, where they are the second largest ethnic group in each country. There are approximately 6,500 Karen living in Minnesota with an additional 500 refugees from other ethnic groups in Burma. St. Paul currently has the largest and fastest-

growing Karen populations in the U.S. The Karen people speak a variety of languages, none of which include Korean.

Tipka noted that the Karen immigrants are being taught intensive English at the school along with Korean language classes.

Sejong Academy is also offering Saturday enrichment courses, and has provided home-based instruction because the need for more English is strong, according to Tipka. "While we do have a few new-to-country Karen students who speak very little English, many of our Karen students are approaching fluency in English, as well," Tipka pointed out.

"There is a huge range and differentiation in the classroom is one of our critical professional development topics this academic year."

STUDENTS ENJOY CLOSE COMMUNITY

Overall, Tipka says that comments from parents about what their children are learning at Sejong has been extremely positive. The school hosted a Chuseok Festival (a Korean holiday similar to Thanksgiving) after only being open for three weeks. Students gave short speeches in Korean and sang Korean songs, impressing their parents.

Grace Lee, a second-generation Korean American born and raised in Texas, serves as Sejong Academy board chair. Her third grader and sixth grader attend Sejong. "They enjoy the close school community, because they get to make friends with everyone," Lee observed. "They also enjoy learning Korean. Lastly, through some of the blended learning opportunities, they are able to progress at an accelerated rate."

She added, "My dream is that this school will partner with the community and families to provide our students with a top-notch education, exposing them to the beautiful diversity and opportunities in our world; so that each student would dream big - not only for his/herself, but for his/her family, community and the world. I hope that our school would equip each student to realize these dreams and that each student would become so-

cially responsible global citizens in the process."

Lee pointed out that South Korea is Minnesota's sixth-largest export market, up from 14th just one decade ago. South Korea, which offers economic opportunities for Minnesota manufactured goods and for agriculture and service exporters, is a source of growing demand and was the location of the first trade mission of Governor Dayton's in 2011. South Korea will host the 2018 Winter Olympics.

"I know firsthand how many opportunities there are for students who can speak Korean to work professionally with Korea," noted Tipka. "Also, there are many opportunities in Minnesota, such as studying Korean at the U of M, or even testing out of having to take a foreign language in university, that will benefit our students."

The school recently started a Futsal League (a version of soccer) with the Friends School.

"We are committed to doing whatever it takes to help our students, and their families, achieve their dreams," said Tipka. "Whether that includes visiting homes to show families how to access the local library, providing home computers for families, adding Saturday school enrichment programs and maximizing our daily classroom instruction, we are confident that the school is moving forward with a great educational program and building solid connections to the community."

Learn more at <http://www.sejongacademy.org>.



"Some parents want more Korean instruction while some other parents are concerned about their students getting grade level instruction in English. I believe this is a challenge that will continue, and we will work to make sure students are learning content in English and Korean."

- Sejong Academy Executive Director Brad Tipka



A local police officer visited the third and fourth grade class as they learned about people in the community. (Photo provided by Sejong Academy)

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Liquor at Midway Target?

Target's quest for an off-sale liquor license for its Midway SuperTarget location (1300 University Ave.) faces more scrutiny to determine whether a store can legally open there. The Land Use Committee of UPDC (Union Park District Council) discussed the issue this fall, but the full district council is postponing any action until January at the earliest.

The city's Department of Safety and Inspections and city Attorney's Office staff are trying to determine if the proposed store is at least one-half mile from Big Top Liquors (1574 University Ave.), the distance needed. The city has been unable to determine the exact measurement and has asked Target officials to survey the distance, noting that it needs to be one-half mile or more from the corner of Big Top to the corner of the proposed Target space.

If the distance is less than half a mile Target won't be able to get the license. If it meets distance guidelines, the application can move ahead. Target would then need a distance variance from the HeadStart program, located at 450 Griggs St., since there are distance requirements between liquor stores and uses including schools,

Monitor In A Minute

child care centers and places of worship. These distance requirements can be waived with a variance.

Target officials would like to remove the café in the store and replace it with a separate liquor store area. The liquor store would have its own entry points and cashiers, to comply with state law.

Target has only one other liquor store within a store in Minnesota—in Otsego.

UPDC's Land Use Committee voted in October to recommend approval of the license but also asked for a legislative hearing before the City Council legislative hearing officer. The full district council tabled those recommendations in November so that the distance issues could be sorted out.

Snow preparedness

In winter 2013-2014, St. Paul had eight snow emergencies and 32 snow events with smaller amounts of snow. The winter brought bitter

colds and 68.9 inches of snow. Trying to better prepare for winter 2014-2015 has been a focus for the City Council over the past several weeks. On Dec. 3 the council adopted procedural changes that will make it easier to declare street parking bans, either by street, area or the entire city. With those bans will come procedural changes for tagging and towing.

Last winter city officials had to declare a parking ban on one side of the street throughout St. Paul. That caused problems procedurally because there was no method in place to take such action. The mayor had to declare an emergency and then the City Council had to vote on the measure.

The changes adopted allow the St. Paul Department of Public Works to work with elected officials to make such declarations without the added process. That will help neighborhoods where snow piles make travel and parking difficult.

Council members said they support the changes but urged Public Works and the mayor's office to work closely on communicating when and where future parking bans are declared.

City officials are also working with Civic Consulting MN, a firm that is doing a pro bono review of city operations. The consultants made other suggestions last month regarding snow removal and will be bringing forward more ideas as the winter goes on.

No money for wheeled carts

Despite support from several district councils including Hamline Midway Coalition and St. Anthony Park Community Council, St. Paul won't be providing residents with wheeled recycling carts in 2015. City officials said it would cost too much to institute the program. Instead they are looking at adding the promised carts in 2017, when the city will have a new resi-

dential recycling contract in place.

Merriam Park resident and longtime neighborhood activist Roger Meyer said he is disappointed that none of the seven City Council members saw fit to include the carts in the budget in 2015, and that it shows a lack of leadership. He noted the city was to implement the carts next year in a recycling program timeline. That timeline, announced in 2013, calls for other recycling changes including alley pickup.

Some changes have been implemented, including single-sort recycling and drop-off of organic waste at county compost sites. The changes are meant to help the city meet state-mandated recycling goals.

But city officials questioned the practicality of the resolution. The 2015 city budget will be adopted in mid-December. The maximum property tax levy was set by Sept. 15. Adding anything to the budget after that date means finding additional funding, or cutting another budget line item.

Residents already face a 2.4 percent property tax increase and other fee and utility service increases next year.

Compiled by Jane McClure

Theatre meets xtreme sports

Theatre Unbound tests the limits of the art Jan. 10 at Hamline University

On Sat., Jan. 10, Theatre Unbound will unleash its annual "24:00:00 Xtreme Theatre Smackdown," a raucous evening of chance, challenge, wins and wipeouts. Central to the Smackdown are the more than 40 Twin Cities theatre artists who create and perform 6 new short plays in the span of 24 hours.

"The Smackdown has turned into its own category of theatre," says Stacey Poirier, Theatre Unbound Artistic Director. "There's really nothing else like it. The energy and excitement of the crowd is palpable – screaming, cheering, waving foam fan fingers. It feels more like a wrestling match or monster truck rally. It inspires some truly intense and amazing performances by the actors. Sometimes it's brilliant and sometimes

it's a disaster of devastating proportion. The Smackdown is like the Xtreme Sport of theatre."

"Everyone jumps in with both feet," says comedienne Ahna Brandvik, past participant. "They make broader, braver choices. And the audience – oh, they're along for the ride!"

Audiences will experience a (lighthearted) competitive atmosphere, including referees equipped with whistles, impromptu challenge matches between playwrights and directors, and audience participation wars.

How it works

In November, the general public suggested script ingredients via the Theatre Unbound Facebook page. In December, they are invit-

ed visit the website www.theatreunbound.com and vote among 50 finalists in the categories of: a line of dialog, an emotion, a prop, or something random. The winning ingredients must be included in each Smackdown script. On the evening of Fri., Jan. 9, the winning ingredients will be revealed to six teams of two playwrights, who will write through the evening. At 5am on Sat., Jan. 10, all the scripts are gathered up – ready or not! – and assigned to a director and a cast. Rehearsals are conducted throughout the day, with technical rehearsals skidding to a halt just in time for the performance at 8pm.

Crushinator the Corset Buster, the madcap Smackdown-Champion host, retired in the middle of last year's event. Will she pull a



"Brett Favre move" and find her way back to the Smackdown arena? Or will the new mystery host make a bigger splash with audiences? It's anyone's guess....

In keeping with Theatre Unbound's mission, 24:00:00 Xtreme Theatre Smackdown offers opportunities to dozens of women theatre artists. Theatre Unbound is one of a dozen or so women's theatre companies across the nation

working to shrink the gender gap on America's stages.

"24:00:00 Xtreme Theatre Smackdown" will take the stage at the Hamline University Anne Simley Theatre, 1536 Hewitt Ave., for one night only on Jan. 10, 8pm. General admission ticket prices are \$18-\$20, and reservations can be made by calling 612-721-1186 or ordering online at www.theatreunbound.com.



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Annual holiday concert set Dec. 21

The Lex-Ham Community Band will host its annual free holiday concert at 7pm, Sun., Dec. 21, at Buetow Auditorium in the Music/Fine Arts Building at Concordia University-Saint Paul, 310 N. Hamline Ave.

The event will feature music of the season with some sing-alongs, so come prepared to sing. There will likely also be treats to eat.

In January, the band will start work on new music, so that would be a great time to join the band. Anyone who can play at the high school level is welcome to join. See www.LexHamArts.org/band for all the details.

Co-op remains optimistic despite financial challenges

The great recession, road construction on both University and Raymond, contribute to struggle

By JAN WILLMS

Although the first consumer cooperative was founded in 1844 on Toad Lane in Rochdale, England, its code of principles are still followed today by most co-ops. Hampden Park Co-op at 938 Raymond Ave. is no exception.

Voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, member economic participation, autonomy and independence, co-operation among cooperatives, concern for community and education, training and information are still the principles that govern the Hampden Park Co-op.

And following these guidelines has continued to make the Co-op stand out in the neighborhood, even as mainstream groceries are beginning to go organic.

"We listen to our members, and we adhere to our values," General Manager Greg Junge explained. Junge took over his position in August of this year, at a time when Hampden Park Co-op has been struggling financially.

The recession, followed by light-rail construction on University and additional construction work on Raymond Avenue have all been contributing factors to the economic struggles of the store, but drawing on its strengths as a co-op is helping to turn Hampden Park Co-op around.

"We have seen a 6.5 per cent sales increase since mid-October," Junge said. "We have had a very good response from the community, and our sales are growing."

The store has been asking its members to voluntarily donate their discounts, and the 15 per cent senior discount is being con-

sidered for possible restructure.

"We have spread the word to our membership base," Junge said, "telling our situation and what we need to do. We're restructuring and listening to the voice of the community as to the direction we should take."

"The community is responding; they truly want us to be here," Junge said.

He said that co-ops continue to be a strong presence in their communities based on their history and values.

"As conventional stores step into the role of organics, I think that's actually helping the co-op through exposure to these products," he noted. He said he believes people have learned how buying locally helps sustain the local farming community.

Junge said the Hampden Park Co-op has also combined its efforts with those of local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms. For many years, CSAs have been a popular way for consumers to buy local seasonal food directly from a farmer.

"We see CSAs as an advantage, and we support them," Junge said. "We're a drop-off unit for five CSAs right here in the Co-op. We put them in the front."

Junge said a co-op relies on collective efforts.

"We conduct our business through the relationships we're making," he said. He emphasized the importance of the products the store buys and the joint action it takes. The store has started carrying items created by Soluppa Soups and Fred's Bread, both local suppliers.



In 1979, the nonprofit St. Anthony Park Foods (SAP) acquired Green Grass Grocery, located at the 938 Raymond site. Green Grass was renamed SAP TOO and then became Hampden Park Foods in 1990. In June 1993 Hampden Park Co-op was legally formed and in 2009, the Co-op purchased the building it had been renting since 1978.

"We've always been a green institution," Junge added. "We're not just putting a fresh tomato in a salad to make it better—that's always the way we have operated."

The Hampden Co-op has two kitchens. One is more of a deli operation, where volunteers gather to learn and perform tasks such as cutting cheese. The other kitchen is a produce kitchen, where in-house soups are created.

"We serve as a source for a lot of local chefs," Junge continued. He said the Co-op puts a guarantee behind the products it sells.

The roots of the Hampden Park Co-op began with St. Anthony Park Foods (SAP), a nonprofit that opened in 1972, across from the St. Paul campus at the University of Minnesota. In 1979, SAP acquired Green Grass Grocery, located at the 938 Raymond site. Green Grass was renamed SAP TOO and then became Hampden Park Foods in 1990. In June 1993 Hampden Park Co-op was legally formed and in 2009, the co-op purchased the building it had been renting since 1978.

Junge said the Co-op currently has three full-time employees and 20 part-time staff. There are 200 participating volunteers, and a membership base of 4,000.

Becoming a member requires purchasing a share of stock at a cost of \$30. A member can volun-



Greg Junge, general manager of Hampden Park Co-op since August, said that the Co-op currently has three full-time employees and 20 part-time staff. There are 200 participating volunteers, and a membership base of 4000. (Photo by Jan Willms)

teer or participate in the governance of the co-op and share in the distribution of allocated profits at the end of the fiscal year.

"The Co-op is a culture we have created," Junge said. "People feel at home."

He said the Co-op is considering better ways to open up the building and use it, possibly looking at adding a café. There is also room for office space and meetings.

"We want to become more of

a community asset," Junge noted. "We are leveraging ourselves to become a better steward of the area."

He added that Hampden Co-op is exploring ways to create and grow, add to its product offerings and make people aware of its existence.

"We are still the small engine that could," Junge said. "We have been here a long time and will continue to be. People truly believe in what we are doing."



(l to r) Volunteers Alex Newby, Mikaila Dahlseng and Mel Seeland spend an evening at the Co-op cutting cheese. (Photo by Jan Willms)

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CHOIR CANTATA
SUNDAY DEC 21 | 10AM

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP
WED DEC 24 | 5PM

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
WED DEC 24 | 10PM

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In Our Community

Monitor

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Board opening on Dist. 10 Council

The District 10 Como Community Council is now accepting applications for an available District 10 Board Member position for Subdistrict 1. To apply please submit an application, which can be found on the District 10 website at www.district10comopark.org under Board & Committees / The Council / Board Candidate Profile. Please contact District 10 by phone at 651-644-3889 or by email at district10@district10comopark.org if you have any questions.

Free after school homework help

Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute (MOI), 2388 University Ave. W., is a non-profit that offers homework help to students K-12 in all subjects. MOI offers free of charge homework help, extra-curricular reading practice, and creative writing prompts to enhance critical thinking skills and confidence. Volunteer tutors are background checked and trained in the standards set by Saint Paul Public School Foundation. High school students can receive help from 3-4:30pm Mon.-Thur., and K-8 students can receive help Mon.-Fri. from 4:30-6pm. To register go to <http://tinyurl.com/moistudent>, or email volunteer@oi-msp.org, or call 612-367-7827.

Northwest Como opens class registration

Registration for January classes for

Northwest Como Recreation Center opened Dec. 8. Upcoming January activities include: Tae Kwon Do for ages 6 and up; Ice Skating Lessons for ages 3-12; Archery ages 9-15; Skating Party on Fri., Jan. 30, from 6-8pm; Horse Drawing ages 5-12; Board Game Time; and Power Up ages 6-17. Go to www.stpaul.com/parks to register for classes.

La Leche Group sets Jan. 13 meeting

The next meeting of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tue., Jan. 13. All expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers to discuss breastfeeding and mothering issues. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527 for more information.

Dec. 22 screening of "Wonderful Life"

Ancient Mysteries, Ancient Wisdom, a local branch of the international Theosophical Society, offers a free screening of the Christmas classic "It's a Wonderful Life" (130 min. Paramount, 1946) at 7pm on Mon., Dec. 22, inside the Spirit United Interfaith Church, 3204 Como Ave. SE, Minneapolis. This is the new color collector's edition of the movie, with Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed, about an angel who grants a wish on Christmas Eve. Free refreshments and parking in the lot east of the church. \$5 suggested donation. 651-235-6645.

Annual sale now through December

Nettie and Friends 11th Annual Sale of the Season, is open daily through December from breakfast through 2pm at Egg and I, 2550 University Ave. W. (University and Hwy. 280). The sale features creative, hand-crafted gifts, with the benefits going to benefit Maxwell School.

Drum Circle planned Dec. 26

The Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., will conduct a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., Dec. 26, 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored, and all levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. \$10 at the door and drums provided. Info and registration can be found at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

HU athletics to add lacrosse

Hamline University announced that the game known as 'America's first sport' will be the newest women's athletics offering at Minnesota's first university. Women's lacrosse at Hamline will begin in the spring of 2016.

"Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports in the nation, so this new endeavor will open up many new and exciting opportunities for student athletes," Hamline Athletics Director Jason Verdugo said. "We are pleased to be able to build on the strength and depth of Hamline Athletics with a sport that has such a rich history and bright future with a new generation of athletes."

Lacrosse is currently offered as a club sport at Hamline, but as part of Division III the new Pipers team will uphold National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) standards and regulations and will compete as an NCAA independent during their first year of competition.

The search for a head coach is currently underway.

24/7 Reindeer Cam up through holidays

Instead of huddling around the television watching football, watch Como Zoo's reindeer! Now through the holiday season you can see the daily details of their lives through Animal Planet LIVE's 24/7 cam. Viewers are invited to get to know Como Zoo's two resident reindeer on the exciting Reindeer Cam. Reindeer brings viewers a glimpse of the behaviors of Como's hooved animals as they feed, navigate their habitat, and manage social relationships. Santa will personally



St. Paul Hockey Club now in fifth year

Boys and girls born in 2002 or later who are interested in learning and playing hockey with little cost and time commitment are invited to join the Saint Paul Hockey Club at the North Dale Rec Center. The Club is now in its fifth year providing a program for girls and boys in St. Paul to learn hockey skills and safety. Kids learn skills with qualified coaches and divide into small teams to play games. There is a \$50 USA Hockey registration fee and players will need skates, a stick, and a helmet with mask. The USA Hockey registration is free for kids born in 2008 or later, and some equipment available for borrowing. Players may join at any time throughout the season.

The club skates two evenings per week and Saturday mornings during the outdoor ice season. Special events are planned for 2015 on Jan. 17 at the St. Paul Winter Classic; on Jan. 24 at the downtown WinterSkate rink; and to end the season in March.

Details, schedule, and registration information are available at stpaulhockey.com.

check in and help feed his best friends (the ones with hooves, not pointy shoes) on Dec. 19, 22 and 23.

"We've noticed that people really seem to have an affinity for reindeer this time of year, and now we have a great opportunity to show everyone that there are so many reasons to be fascinated by their behavior and adaptations. They're more than just Santa's helpers," said Michelle Furrer, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory's Director. "They're amazing animals, and we're excited to share them with the world through Animal Planet LIVE."

Reindeer Cam is a great alternative to the yule log on the big screen at your holiday parties...although we hear the reindeer may be otherwise occupied around Dec. 24. Check it, and more than 20 addictive animal cams, out at APL.TV on desktop and mobile devices, as well as select Samsung Smart TVs.

Reindeer Cam is at <http://www.apl.tv/reindeer.htm>.

Sponsoring Como's reindeer makes a great gift! Call 651-487-8229 for sponsorship package information. Because Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is open 365 days a year, you are able to visit the reindeer every day in person!

NAMI sponsors free support groups

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota sponsors free support groups for families who have a relative with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets in St. Paul from 6:30-8:30pm, at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., Room 123, on fourth Tuesday of the month. For information, call Jennifer at 507-254-5524 or 651-645-2948.

School pageant scheduled Dec. 18

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., will host Central Lutheran School's annual Christmas pageant at 6:30pm on Thurs., Dec. 18. All the St. Paul school's 89 students participate. A free-will offering will be gathered. Information is available by calling the school at 651-645-8649.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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In Our Community

Continued from page 6

McGough chosen as Midway Y contractor

The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities (YGTC), a leading nonprofit dedicated to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, has chosen McGough, a Twin Cities-based general contractor with six generations of experience, as the general contractor for the new St. Paul Midway YMCA.

According to YGTC, McGough brings to the project extensive experience building community and wellness centers, including The Wellstone Center, the White Bear Area YMCA, the Maplewood Community Center and the Minneapolis Jewish Community Center.

"McGough is a preeminent contractor in this region with a great reputation not only for working collaboratively to deliver notable projects on time and on budget, but for being a strong supporter of our community," said Glen Gunderson, CEO of the YGTC.

This project builds on McGough's long standing relationship with community-centered nonprofits in the Midway area, including the headquarters for Twin Cities Habit for Humanity and Goodwill Easter Seals.

The Y will reveal the architectural plan for the new Midway Y (scheduled to open in early 2016) after the design development phase of the project is completed.

Volunteers needed for youth support

Rediscover the joys of learning by volunteering with PPL's (Project for Pride in Living) afterschool youth programs in St. Paul. PPL strives to empower students from low-income communities to achieve success in school and in life through academic support and hands on enrichment opportunities. Volunteers work with elementary aged students on literacy activities, homework help, and relationship building. One-on-one support makes all the difference in helping students achieve their goals! Tutoring takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7:30pm. For more information contact Anna at anna.preus@ppl-inc.org or by calling 612-455-5108.

Music Under Glass resumes Dec. 28

The free concert series, "Music Under Glass," returns to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park, featuring some of the Twin Cities' finest musicians, beginning Dec. 28. From 4:30-6:30pm you can listen to live local music and beat the winter weather blahs inside the comfy confines of the Conservatory. Beer, wine, pop, and light snacks will be available to purchase. (Please, no outside food or beverages.)

Upcoming performances include:

— Dec. 28, Dean Magraw, a guitar wizard who can span genres from

jazz to rock, Celtic to Indian;

— Jan. 4, Parisota Hot Club plays in the vein of Django Reinhardt/Stéphane Grappelli music (Hot Club, Gypsy Jazz, String Swing, take your pick...) mixed with '60s Pop tunes and noir style movie themes;

— Jan. 11, Jake Jones was born and raised on the frozen plains of Minnesota, where he spent endless winter nights picking his guitar and crafting solemn songs about love, life, and the in-between; and

— Jan. 18, Dan Israel, writing and performing great songs for the last 15 years, is easily one of the Twin Cities' un-anointed poet laureates, steadfastly making his way into the ranks of local singer/songwriter legends. Whether it's with a full band or as a solo act, his work contains elements of intimacy and, as he again demonstrates on his (2011 release), "Crosstown Traveler," an engaging simplicity that makes his deep music accessible to any audience. His performances showcase these same qualities." (Minneapolis + St. Paul / Secrets of the City)

Murray students present rain garden proposal

On Nov. 19, 20 students from the Environmental Inquiry Immersion class at Murray Middle School presented their proposal for a rain garden on the school property. Students analyzed water collection, soil types, percolation test data, and took account of curb appeal, as well as type of plants that would be native to the area and beneficial to desirable insects and birds. District consultants and St. Paul Public Schools facilities staff are very interested in working with the students and the neighborhood Transition Town Team to bring more sustainable and environmentally friendly landscape projects to Murray. Timothy Chase, science instructor at Murray, hopes to follow up with all represented groups on the panel to discuss grant writing and ways to work with an already proposed resurfacing of the parking lot project, tentatively scheduled for summer 2015.



getting to know Dr. Laura Suurmeyer

I am an: *internal medicine doctor.*

Most people don't know: *I played the piano and trumpet in high school and sang in college choir. I love going to hear live music.*

If I wasn't a doctor, I would be: *a travel writer. I love visiting new places and was an English major in college.*

One of the challenges of this career I enjoy is: *finding the best way to teach my patients about their health. Everyone has their own style of learning and communicating.*

My personal health challenge is: *finding ways to get more activity into my daily life. I skip the elevator and take the stairs!*

The best thing health advice is: *regular exercise is very important for health and stress reduction. Pick an exercise you enjoy and can share with a friend. I love to bike and cross country ski.*



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Packing up Leonardo's Basement

One-of-a-kind learning program leaves Midway after losing its lease

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Leonardo's Basement, a one-of-a-kind learning environment for "kids" of all ages, is packing up and leaving the Griggs Recreation Center at 1188 Hubbard Ave. They have offered classes and workshops there for the past five years in all areas of hands-on engineering, art and technology. Effective mid-January, the space will be leased to a new tenant by the City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department.

In 2009, the City of St. Paul embarked on an experiment, repartnering some of their park buildings because it was too expensive to maintain them all. Non-profit organizations were able to apply to use existing park buildings for their own purposes at reasonable rents.

According to Brad Meyer, Public Service Manager for Parks and Recreation, "Similar to other facility agreements, we didn't contractually address performance measurements with Leonardo's

Basement to ensure that community needs were being met. We focused more on eliminating some of the budget pressures we were facing at the time."

Steve Jevning, founder and executive director of Leonardo's Basement explained that "the experience with Parks and Rec has not been without problems." In his view, the lack of a transparent leasing process has worked to everyone's disadvantage. Neighbors were unhappy that his non-profit charged a fee for their programs (despite the fact they gave away more than 100 scholarships annually). Jevning and his supporters were frustrated that Parks and Rec changed the terms of their lease and the leasing process.

In a nutshell, Jevning said, "We learned last spring that Leonardo's Basement would have to submit a proposal to have our lease re-considered, along with any other interested non-profits. The rent at the Griggs Recreation Center would have increased to a



Founder and executive director Steve Jevning in front of the emptied out piano cubby. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

point where we couldn't afford it. We opted to not file a proposal for the site, hoping that no one else would either - and that the original terms of our lease would stay the same."

From Meyer's perspective, "We opened up every facility with existing agreements to give interested non-profits an equal opportunity to apply. Included in the application would be a statement of their ability to meet minimum performance measurements. Unfortunately, even after multiple attempts to get Leonardo's Basement to submit an application stating their interest, they declined. Therefore they could not be considered based on public procurement and bidding laws."

Leonardo's Basement took a bet, and lost.

So what comes next?

"Since we started running classes 16 years ago, our program has tried to be all things to all people," Jevning said. This move from St. Paul will bring us back to operating out of one workshop, our Minneapolis site at 4301 Nicollet Ave. It's okay that we're leaving Griggs. The move will encourage



An instructor assists a student in completing a plexi-glass project of the student's design. (Photo courtesy of Leonardo's Basement)

us to re-define our focus, and to concentrate on strengthening our relationships with school partners."

The non-profit has cultivated strong relationships with several schools in St. Paul, including College Prep Elementary, Maxfield Elementary, LEAP High School and Gordon Parks High School. They hope that some of those connections, especially Maxfield Elementary where the teachers really value kinesthetic learning, will continue despite the move.

Leonardo's Basement is an unusual name, and one that was chosen for several reasons. Leonar-

do Da Vinci remains one of the very best examples of a curious and observing mind—a mind capable of integrating engineering, art and technology. The basement is where tinkering occurs that leads to creative discovery and experimentation of an informal nature. Instructors with this program are partners with students, helping them learn *by doing* while developing personal and technical skills. The methods of instruction used in classes and workshops respect all learning styles.

There are a lot of materials to pack up in the next few weeks: art supplies, electronic parts, tools and all the stuff needed to make an organization work.

When everything is said and done, Jevning would like to thank those who made it possible for Leonardo's Basement to come to St. Paul in the first place. "We couldn't have done it without significant help from Philanthropy Partners, formerly the St. Paul Foundation," he said. "Their contributions were crucial to getting us up and running. The Midway Men's Club was fantastic. They have a beer and burger stand at the State Fair every summer, and give all the proceeds to support kids programs in the neighborhood. They donated to us so generously that we were able to create a substantial scholarship fund. A grant from the City of St. Paul's Neighborhood STAR Program enabled us to host three major neighborhood festivals, which we thought really brought people together."

According to Jevning, the new tenant, as of mid-January, will be the offices of the St. Paul Urban Tennis Program.



A student uses design and construction skills to help with a summer festival project. (Photo courtesy of Leonardo's Basement)



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1850 University Ave West • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104



Bethel Lutheran sponsors living nativity Dec. 20

Bethel Lutheran Church, 670 W. Wheelock Pkwy., will host a living nativity (a re-enactment of the Christmas story) on Sat., Dec. 20, beginning at 6pm. The event will blend scripture reading, actors portraying the biblical account, and live farm animals (cow, sheep, goats). Live shows will last 15-minutes beginning at 6pm, 6:30pm, 7pm, and 7:30pm. Following the enactment, children are welcome to approach the animals as part of a petting zoo, and all guests are welcome to enjoy hot coffee, cocoa and cider, as well as cookies and treats. The event is free and open to the public (no tickets required). 670 W. Wheelock Pkwy. is on the corner of Maywood and Wheelock, with the parking lot on St. Albans St. (on west side of church).



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Friends School names new head

Friends School of Minnesota (FSM) has announced that Dr. Latrisha Chattin will become the school's fourth Head of School, effective July 1, 2015. Her appointment results from an intensive process to identify a successor to Lili Herbert, who announced in December 2013 that she would be retiring at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Latrisha Chattin resonates strongly with the school's mission—her philosophy of education and commitment to Quaker values are a great fit with FSM's academic program and culture. With advanced graduate work in special education and extensive classroom experience, Chattin brings considerable expertise in working with students with diverse learning needs. She is enthused about working with the school on FSM's diversity goals and leading in deepening FSM's

community relationships.

"Friends School of Minnesota's commitment to educate the whole child and instill Quaker values reflects my personal upbringing and professional priorities," she said. "As a product of a Quaker school education, I am honored by this opportunity to carry on this legacy and lead a community of nurturing, forward-thinking peacekeepers who believe education is intellectual, emotional and spiritual."

Chattin is currently teaching and providing administrative coverage at Wyncote Elementary School in Pennsylvania. Previously, she was the Site Director for two nonprofits. Chattin has an Ed.D. from Arcadia University and an M.S. from St. Joseph's University. She is a graduate of Grinnell College and William Penn Charter School in Pennsylvania, the oldest Quaker high

school in the country. Chattin is an attendee at Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting in Philadelphia.

The School Committee's decision to appoint Chattin was based upon the unanimous recommendation of the Head of School Search Committee, which carried out an eleven-month, nation-wide search. The Head Search Committee's final discernment process was evidence-driven, spiritually led, and informed by feedback from FSM students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and Quakers in the community.

Latrisha will lead the school in its 27th year, taking over from Lili Herbert, whose leadership guided and improved FSM during her nine years as Head of School. Herbert increased the school's enrollment and doubled its endowment. She oversaw and raised funds for two major building and grounds projects that

strengthened FSM's academic program by beautifying and improving the functionality of its space. She collaborated with faculty to further develop FSM's strong academic program, deepening FSM's commitment to Quaker values and progressive education. Through her service on the Friends Council on Education's Board of Directors, Herbert connected Friends School of Minnesota to the nationwide network of Friends schools. Herbert moves on to pursue a research and writing project and earn a Masters of Divinity at Earlham School of Religion.

FSM is an independent K-8 Quaker school in the heart of St. Paul's Midway neighborhood. In the tradition of more than 80 Friends Schools across the United States, FSM meets children's intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs in an environment



Dr. Latrisha Chattin will become Friends School of Minnesota's Head of School, the fourth in its history. She will take the leadership position effective July 1, 2015.

that nurtures social consciousness. FSM is committed to the Quaker values of peace, justice, simplicity and integrity.

Meet Dr. Jennifer Peoples

Hometown: Minneapolis

Specialty: Obstetrics and gynecology

Best part of my work: Sharing the excitement and joy of welcoming a new baby into the world. I also enjoy helping women to resume their lives quickly and with less pain by providing minimally invasive gynecological surgeries.

Why I became a physician: I chose obstetrics and gynecology because I wanted to help women become more knowledgeable about their bodies.

What I tell my friends and family: Don't smoke. It's incredibly damaging to your health.

How I spend my free time: Letting my dog take me for a walk, antiques, gardening, canning and spending time with my husband and friends.

What patients say about me: Patients often say that I am easy to talk to and that I make exams comfortable.



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HM Elders plan monthly activities

The popular "Chair Yoga" class led by Nancy Giguere returns for an 8 week series on Thursday mornings beginning Jan. 8 from 10:30-11:30am. This free class is moving to a new location—the auditorium at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. Chair yoga focuses on range of movement, alignment, stretching, strengthening, awareness, breathing and relaxation. All movement is done while seated or standing using the chair for balance.

The Caregiver Support Group is open to anyone caring for older adults or persons of any age with special needs. This group is facilitated by Monica Gallagher and trained volunteers. The group will meet on Thur., Jan. 8 from 6:30-8 pm (and meets regularly on the second Thursday of each month) at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. There is no cost and new attendees are always welcome.

Dr. Steve Vincent, from People's Center Health Services in Minneapolis, will make a presentation on "Elder Health Care" at the Hamline Midway Elders monthly luncheon on Tues., Jan. 13, from 11:30am to 1pm. Free blood pressure checks will be provided and transportation for neighborhood seniors can be arranged with advance notice. Second Tuesday monthly luncheons are held at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave.

HME are excited to be partnering with the Hamline Midway Library again for the upcoming winter series that will be held at the library and feature guest speakers on a wide variety of topics. Programs will be held on Wednesdays, 1-3pm. New York Times bestselling author William Kent Krueger kicks off the series on Jan. 14 – and folks of all ages are invited to attend any/all programs. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information on any of the above programs, please contact Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or info@hmelders.org.

Midway rezoning plan moves to public hearing

Hamline Midway neighborhood's new study of mixed-use corridors and potential zoning changes is set for a Planning Commission public hearing on Feb. 13. The St. Paul Planning Commission set the date Dec. 5, on recommendation of its Neighborhoods Committee.

A zoning change for a property doesn't mean its current use would have to cease. People could continue to live in their homes and businesses could continue to operate. Zoning would affect longer-term redevelopment or major changes in the use of a property.

The plan looks at zoning on University Ave. and Pierce Butler Route. It also includes blocks with frontage on Thomas and Minnehaha avenues between Hamline and Snelling avenues. The blocks currently have a range of types of residential and commercial zoning and many different commercial, residential and institutional uses. The study area includes churches, schools and the old Samaritan Hospital property.

Along Snelling, most parcels

Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

recommended for rezoning fall between Thomas and Englewood avenues, although Hamline Park isn't recommended for any change.

The study does recommend Hamline University-owned land west of Snelling and north of Englewood, be considered for the zoning change.

Also recommended for a change in zoning is the former Knox Presbyterian Church. Hamline Midway Library would also be rezoned, but only to create a contiguous parcel—the Planning Commission report makes it clear that the library use will remain in place.

Changes in zoning are also recommended for the former hospital/sculpture park property including the current office building, townhouses and parking ramp, and apartment and commercial properties along Asbury between Thomas and University.

On Hamline Ave., properties

centered on Thomas and Minnehaha intersections could be rezoned, as could the Dreamland Arts building, and St. Columba and its former school.

The study is called a "40-acre study" because that is the minimum size needed for a community-wide look at zoning. Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC) began work on the plan a year ago. The HMC district plan calls for looking at whether zoning in the district should be changed to traditional neighborhood-mixed-use. That is seen as making redevelopment easier in the future and promoting a more walkable, pedestrian, and transit-friendly neighborhood.

The Planning commission held a public hearing on the plan in May and notified property owners again in September. The city and district councils have heard few responses from property owners.

Two projects win \$2.1M in grants

Two area projects along the Green Line light rail route were among seven sharing in Metropolitan Council grants in November. The Metropolitan Council announced \$6.5 million in grants to encourage development along rail lines in the twin Cities. All are near current or future transit hubs.

One project submitted by the City of St. Paul is Vandalia Towers. This project at 550 Vandalia Ave. is near the Raymond Ave. light rail station. The project was awarded a \$650,000 grant for uses including benches, pedestrian walkways, bike paths, lighting, utilities, drainage improvements, civil engineering, bike storage, landscaping and design. The project will create a 30,000 square foot plaza.

Partial demolition of the old PraxAir building and part of an-

other structure currently on the site are covered by the grant.

Vandalia Tower is a \$4.9 million project. Plans call for rehabilitating seven old industrial buildings and reconfiguring them around a large plaza. The plaza's anchor is a former water tower, thus the name Vandalia Tower. The plaza will contain water features and extensive landscaping. The goal is to link to pedestrian routes being created along Wabash, Vandalia and Montgomery.

The other Green Line project is in Prospect Park in Minneapolis. The council awarded \$1.445 million to nonprofit developer Aeon for the project that will create 65 units of affordable housing one block from the light rail line and adjacent to the university of Minnesota Transitway. The project has a total of cost \$15.8 million and is a project of the Prospect Park North Partnership.

The grant will help pay for acquisition of property, demolition, and design of storm water management.

The grants awarded total \$6.5 million. The grant to Aeon is the largest.

Both basketball teams at St. Paul Central will need young teams to gel this winter in order to make return trips to their respective state tournaments in March.

For the Minutemen boys team, they return Abdi Muse, Jakobi Jackson, Garrett Gardner, Charles Smith and Sam Gubbrud from last season's 20-7 squad. The Minutemen won their section and reached state, but bowed out in the quarterfinals by losing to eventual champion DeLaSalle.

Central coach Scott Howell said the "players will be young, but experienced from lots of playing time on last year's team."

Gubbrud has the top returning scoring average with 13.2 points per game. Gardner, Smith, Muse and Jackson all averaged between 4.5 and 7.7 points per night. They will need to help alleviate the graduation of top scorers Rayeon Williams (18.8)



Prep Sports Notebook:

By MATTHEW DAVIS

Challenges await young Central basketball teams

and Kalu Aboji (11.4).

Gardner stepped up with 13 points, and Smith added nine in the Minutemen's opener against Hill-Murray on Nov. 25, but Central came up shy in the 57-54 non-conference loss. The Minutemen have a competitive non-conference schedule with Wayzata on Dec. 16, Minnehaha Academy on Jan. 13, Minneapolis South on Jan. 19 and Roseville on Feb. 6.

Central will have to contend with St. Paul Johnson again as the main opposition for winning a St. Paul City Conference title

and later the section title. The Minutemen and Governors meet on Jan. 6 at Central and Jan. 30 at Johnson.

For the Minutemaids girls basketball team, star guard Chelcie Kizart returns from a 24-6 team that won the St. Paul City Conference and reached the state tournament. The Minutemaids bowed out in the quarterfinals to eventual champion Eastview. Kizart averaged 12.5 points, 5.1 rebounds and four steals per game last season.

Aleeya Curtis-Evans, Anika Gardner, Kennedy Gay and Hay-

jah Richards will be needed to step up to fill voids left by key graduated seniors. Top scorer Rayna Sherow (12.9 points per game), Lyric Williams (4.7 steals per game), Asiya Smith (six rebounds per game) and Jada Jones (3.6 assists and 2.7 steals per game) will all be missed.

The Minutemaids went 0-2 at the Hamline University Thanksgiving weekend tournament to start the season, but they showed signs of promise. In an 80-76 loss to a high-scoring Waconia team, the Minutemaids had 16-points and 14-point ef-

forts from Curtis-Evans and Gardner respectively in addition to Kizart's 24.

The Minutemaids also had a 51-49 loss to White Bear Lake in a rematch of last season's Section 4 championship game. Central will have an even more challenging non-conference slate from December through February.

The defending section champs host Osseo on Dec. 20 and Cretin-Derham Hall on Jan. 10. The Minutemaids also visit Hopkins on Jan. 17 and host East Ridge on Feb. 7. That's all in addition to playing Park of Cottage Grove, Centennial, Chanhassen, Hill-Murray and Woodbury in early December. Certainly, the Minutemaids will be well-tested in time for March.

Central will be favorites to win another St. Paul City Conference title. No city team came closer than 27 points of the Minutemaids last season.

Next deadline: Jan. 5



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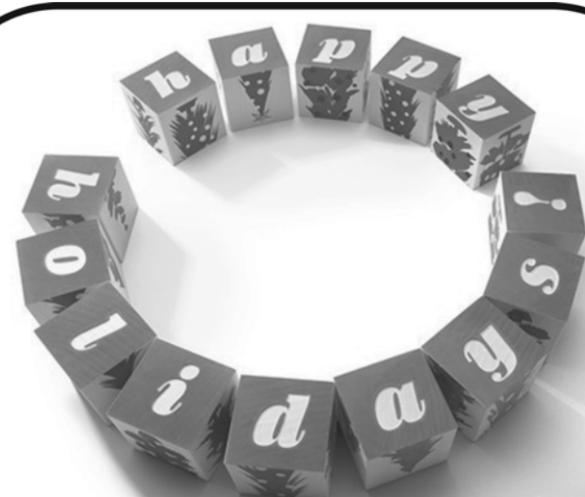
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By JANE MCCLURE

We may be approaching the height of winter, but on the drawing boards at Como Park, a centennial garden is blooming. The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2015 and part of the celebration will include the planting of a centennial garden.

Michelle Furrer, manager of the Como Campus, said the garden is one aspect of the celebration being planned. "It's an exciting event for us," she said.

The city's Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed garden plans over the past several months, not just for the Centennial Garden but for other gardens as well. City staff has worked to secure grants to improve the gardens.

The goal is to have the centennial Garden completed by June 2015. That is when St. Paul is hosting the American Public Gardens Association conference.

The association has been involved with cities including St. Paul for many years. It was founded in 1940 as the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta. Its name was changed in 2006.

The association is considered to be the premiere association for public gardens in North America, with more than 500 members spread across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and seven other countries. Individual members live in every state, the District of Columbia, Canada, and 24 other countries. The association is dedicated to increasing

Como Conservatory to celebrate 100th anniversary



What is now called the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory opened its doors to the public as the Como Park Conservatory on Nov. 7, 1915. It was built as a "show house" where visitors could come in all seasons to enjoy tropical and semi-tropical splendors, and a shelter for the many plants the park displays in its indoor and outdoor gardens.

the knowledge of public garden professionals throughout North America, and it shares information, provides professional development and networking opportunities, conducts research and raises public awareness of what its members do.

Como Park Zoo and Conser-

vatory is a focal point of the group's visit, especially the conservatory and its many gardens and features. While there are plans for visitors to explore other areas of the park, the gardens will be a focal point.

What is now called the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory

opened its doors to the public as the Como Park Conservatory on Nov. 7, 1915. It was built as a "show house" where visitors could come in all seasons to enjoy tropical and semi-tropical splendors, and a shelter for the many plants the park displays in its indoor and outdoor gardens. It is

one of the few remaining original Victorian style glasshouses in North America and is about two acres in size. It has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974. That means changes to the structure and its grounds require review and approval by the St. Paul heritage Preservation Commission.

It was renamed in 2002 in memory of the late Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park, after her family made a contribution in her honor.

Garden improvements are part of the park and conservatory's ongoing master plan, said Furrer. Plans call for redeveloping the park's Forecourt Gardens, which will include the new Centennial Garden. "The garden will serve as a focal point of the centennial celebration for the conservatory, which interpretive messages about the volunteers and visionaries who created the conservatory. It will also provide an outdoor setting for regular visitors as well as after-hour events. As part of a phased plan to create a more managed landscape in front of the visitor center, it will be designed in a way to improve the flow of pedestrians. It is also envisioned as a natural gathering spot for people waiting for the Como facilities to open, or a meeting place for families and friends.

The Centennial Garden is to be the first garden area completed. It would complement a circle garden and English gardens, as well as the planned renovation of the Lily Pond.

Winter at the Hamline Midway Library offers plenty of reasons not to hibernate, with activities for all ages and all interests

Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., will feature Toddler and Preschool Storytimes on Fridays from 10:30-11am on Dec. 12, 19, 26 and Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

On Sat., Dec. 13, from 1:30-3pm, the Saturday Club theme is Lego Tiny Town. Participants can view a miniature city made of LEGO pieces and learn advanced LEGO construction techniques, as well as making a paper cityscape to take home. The activity is free and available on a drop-in basis.

The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library present the silent comedy "Spite Marriage" on Wed., Dec. 17, 7-8:30pm. Starring Buster Keaton and featuring a live, original score by local duo Dreamland Faces, the comedy

finds Keaton so smitten by a stage actress that he accidentally joins the cast of her latest production. The fun really begins when she marries Keaton on a whim to get even with an old flame.

All St. Paul library locations will be closed for the holidays on Dec. 24 and 25. Most libraries close at 5:30pm on Dec. 31, with Dayton's Bluff closing at 4pm. All locations will be closed on New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Day on Mon., Jan. 19.

Sat., Jan. 3 is a busy day for book lovers of all ages. The Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club meets that day from 1-3pm to discuss good mysteries. The title for January is "The Chocolate Snowman Murders" by JoAnna



Carl. Contact Geraldine Balter for more information at gerribalter@gmail.com or 651-224-5570.

Also on Jan. 3 is Kids Book

Club for book fans ages 8-12, meeting 1:30-2:30pm, and Teen Book Club for readers ages 12-18, meeting 2:30-3:30pm.

Mon., Jan. 5, 7-9pm, the li-

brary launches a new three-part series for adults, Maker Monday Incubator, featuring the theme Gizmos and Gadgets. How do we encourage children to see themselves as creative problem solvers and engaged learners? Adults can start by doing it themselves. Participants will use LEGO gears, pulleys, and levers to make whimsical mechanical gadgets that spin, whirl, and wiggle. Pre-registration encouraged. The series is led by Peter Hoh, a science instructor based in St. Paul. The series continues on Mon., Jan. 12 with Paper Engineering and Mon., Jan. 26 with At Home and At School.

Thur., Jan. 8, 10:30-11:30am, the Hamline Midway Elders present a class on Chair Yoga with Nancy Giguere, with gentle exercises focusing on range of movement, alignment, stretching, strengthening, and relaxation—all while seated or using a chair for balance. The class will continue on Jan. 15, 22, and 29.

The Second Saturday Science Club for Kids on Sat., Jan. 10 meets in the auditorium 1:30-3pm for experiments and art projects with ice. Led by Peter Hoh and Jackie Lannin, the activities are designed for kids ages 6 and up and their families. Pre-registration encouraged.

The Wednesdays at 1:00 @ Hamline series re-launches in 2015 with renowned local author William Kent Krueger on "Why Books Matter."

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After 120 years, Episcopal Homes on cutting edge of senior living

New apartments almost filled; anticipation builds for first Greenhouse model of care in Minnesota to open next month

By JAN WILLMS

A major project is taking place on the campus of Episcopal Homes at 1850 University Ave. A seven-story building that is being constructed in three phases has already opened to residents and should be completed by January 2015.

"An important reason we looked at this is that it allows people to age in place," said Deborah Veit, the director of community relations who has been with Episcopal Homes for the past eight years.

"We broke ground for this project in May 2013," she said, with the land being purchased about a year earlier. But conversations began long before that about bringing a Greenhouse model of care to the campus.

The Greenhouse model, called the Gardens, opens the second week in January, the first to be offered in the state of Minnesota in a skilled nursing setting. "We'll have home-based care, with six households, one on each floor," Veit explained. "Our new building is a seven-story building, so there will be one house per floor, starting with the second floor. And each house, just like in your home, will have a living room, dining room, kitchen, four-season porch and reading nook. There will be 10 residents per house, and all will have their own private room and bath. They will be lovely nice-sized rooms where they can bring in their belongings and make it very homey."

The first phase of the project opened Nov. 1. The Terrace at Iris Park features catered living apartments. "This is a model for folks who are independent seniors all the way through seniors who need home health services," Veit explained. "We will cater to whatever the needs of the residents are, so that they can stay in their homes and not have to move to a different level of care." These apartments have nearly all been filled.

Dave Girard, 91, is one of those individuals who have just moved into Terrace at Iris Park. A former Marine officer who worked at IBM for 20 years, he moved to Minnesota in 1972 to install an air traffic control system. He has been living in Iris Park Commons but decided to move into the new complex.

"I really like it so far," he said recently, after eating dinner out at one of the local restaurants. "It's small, but cozy." Girard has several volumes in his apartment of a family history he has completed.

Another new resident at the Terrace at Iris Park is Wade Tobin, 91, who moved in after recently selling his home. He was able to choose an apartment that is in a corner and right under a rooftop garden.

"I'm still unpacking," he said, "but I like it."

Ken and Kay Kistler recently moved to the Terrace after selling their home of 42 years. "The snow just kept getting deeper every year," Ken joked.

Kay said she had never realized how much work was involved in selling a house and its



Wade Tobin takes time out from unpacking to pose with Deborah Veit, director of community relations at Episcopal Homes. (Photo by Jan Willms)

belongings, and she is happy to be settling in at their new location.

"We are where we should be," Ken said. Although it is different going from a house to a three-room apartment, the Kistlers said they were impressed by their surroundings. And both are looking for an exercise group to join at Episcopal Homes.

The second phase, which opened Nov. 28, is called Midway Pointe and is affordable housing, independent living. "Those are 50 independent living apartments, and seniors pay

based on their incomes," Veit said.

She said the \$45 million project has three completely separate buildings under one roof. "We're basically building three separate entities, which is unique," Veit stated.

She said a project of this nature has involved a lot of researching of the models that are being brought into Episcopal Homes. "It means training a lot of staff," she noted. "The majority of staff will be in the Gardens, and an extensive amount of training goes into bringing the

Greenhouse model on campus."

She said there has been hiring of new staff, training, the actual construction and the planning and implementing of programs.

"We want to make sure we are developing new programs that will benefit our residents," Veit explained. "We looked nationwide to research ideas and top-of-the-line models of care."

Episcopal Homes, which first began offering senior living options 120 years ago, has been at the University Avenue site since 1916. Its campus already offers independent living, independent living affordable housing, assisted living, assisted living memory care, nursing home care and transitional care for short-term rehab.

"We will now have two independent living, affordable housing on campus and two offsite," Veit said. "And we will have a second nursing home building."

"When our new building is done, we will have seven separate entities on campus," Veit said. "It is so beautiful, and it is fun to see people moving in and enjoying life. Lots of community is very important for seniors, and there are dangers to being isolated."

She said she enjoys watching people making new friends. They can also hop on a campus bus and go to the store or a theater.

"Being on the light rail is good, too," she added. "Many have made the decision to move here based on our excellent reputation, but also based on the light rail being right outside the door. It offers a lot of independence and freedom without having to drive a car."

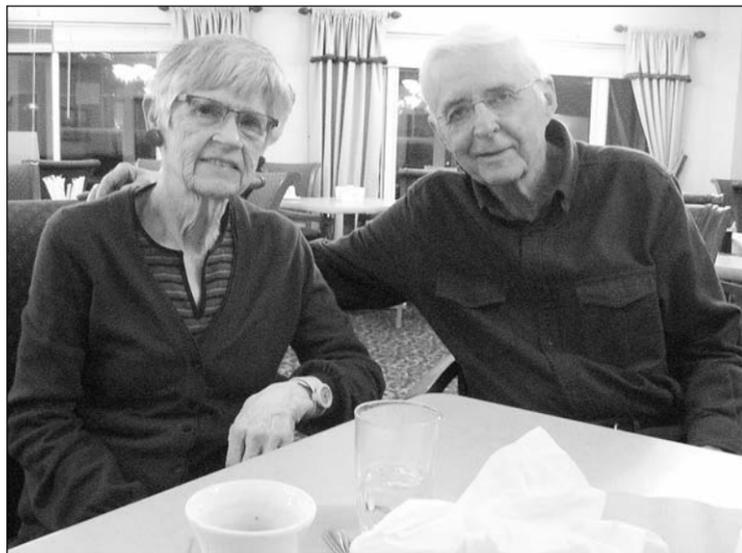
She said the current 350 residents on the campus will increase to 500 when the rest of the new building project is completed, and there will be 350 employees.

"We're looking at a progression of things we have already done," she said. "The catered living is a progression from our assisted living model. And we are looking to provide a level of care that is higher than assisted living if folks require it, so they can stay in their homes and not have to move to another building or level of care. We have already provided top-of-the line model of care, but this is just taking it up a notch."

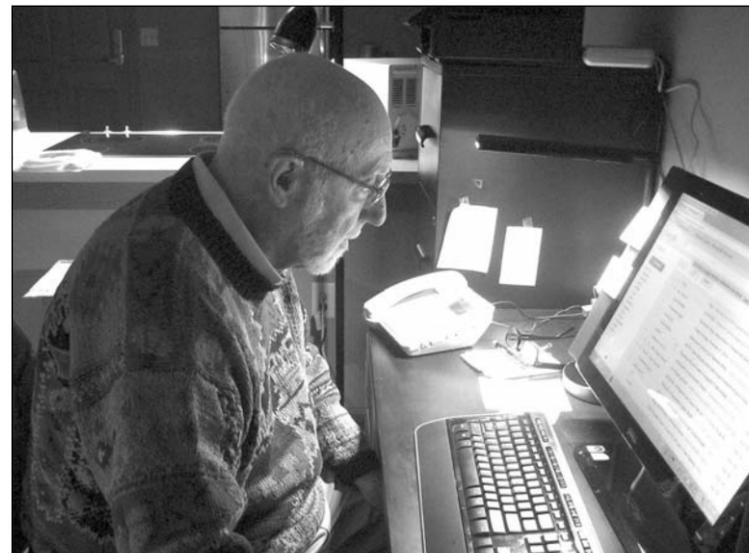
She said that people appreciate that.

"When people make a move like this, it's a big change. Many have lived in their homes for 45 years before they decide to downsize from a large home to an apartment, and to be in a community where there are other seniors and social activities," Veit said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Kay and Ken Kistler recently moved to The Terrace at Iris Park after selling their home of 42 years. "We are where we should be," Ken said. (Photo by Jan Willms)



Dave Girard checks his email as he settles in to his new apartment. He had been already living in Iris Park Commons, but decided to move into the new complex. (Photo by Jan Willms)

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Como Math teacher Barb Schmidt received an Award of Excellence from the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development. Schmidt (Mathematics Education, B.S., '85) was recognized for her tireless dedication to the students of St. Paul and her mentorship of countless new math teachers in the district throughout her nearly 30 year career in education. The Alumni Society's Award of Excellence is given each year to two individuals.

The Como Concert Choir recently attended a choir clinic sponsored by VocalEssence at Johnson High School with Francisco Nunez and the Young People Chorus of New York City.

The Como Chamber Singers performed in a concert celebrating community at the American

News from Como Park High

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Choral Director's Association of MN fall convention in November. This project began in October with Melanie DeMore, an expert on music of the Gullah people, from southeastern U.S. coastal islands. Como's singers joined with singers from One Voice Mixed Chorus, Park Center High School, and Washburn High School in songs from the Underground Railroad, a composition by DeMore that included Gullah stick pounding. Check out the Como Park Senior High Choir Facebook fan page to hear excerpts of this ex-

traordinary event.

The five choirs from Como will join in song at the annual Pops Concert on Mon., Dec. 15, at 7pm in the Como Auditorium. Songs from *Frozen*, a medley of popular dance music, a recap of some of the fall musical's tunes, and *Waka Waka* will round out an evening that is sure to be fun. Tickets are \$1 for students and seniors, \$2 for adults.

34 Como students who have gone above and beyond with community service projects qualified to attend the WE Day celebration in November at the Xcel

Energy Center. Speakers and performers included Magic Johnson, Martin Sheen, Colbie Caillat and The Band Perry.

The Como Park Quiz Bowl Team competed in its first tournament of the season at Roseville High School, winning all four rounds of competition against teams from Hill-Murray, SPA, De La Salle and Mounds View. The team answers questions across a range of subjects including literature, science, and history. Como Quiz Bowl Team members are Seniors Celia Commers, Ellen Purdy, Anton Knoiczny and

freshman Andrei Konieczny. Their next tournament is Dec. 18.

20 Como AP Government students are actively fund-raising to support their participation in the national Close Up program in Washington D.C. Students will be bagging groceries for donations at the Midway Cub Foods Dec. 21-23 during Winter Break. The students will fly out to D.C. for the first week of March and an action packed schedule of events.

Como will be offering tours for prospective students and families on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in January and February at 8am and 12:30pm. Shadowing will begin in January. Call Sandy Kestner at 651-744-3997 or email sandy.kestner@spps.org to set up your visit.

Como Dockside

Continued from page 1

Dockside will also make capital investments totaling \$200,000 by June 1, 2015, meet or exceed a series of performance expectations established by the city, and guarantee a minimum \$500,000 commission to the city through 2020 - with conservative commission projections surpassing \$780,000. With the capital investment and the commission projections combined, the City

stands to gain more than \$1 million over five years.

"This venue offers incredible potential, and the city successfully negotiated a solid deal in a competitive marketplace," said Vice President/General Manager of the Saint Paul River-Centre Jim Ibister, who was asked by the City to review the key tenets of the deal. "There are always two sides to every agreement, and the city has structured the agreement in a way that should allow both Como Dockside and the city to be successful."

Deal highlights

The following are basic deal points that take effect following an initial start-up period:

- Initial capital investment of \$200,000 by June 1, 2015
- Monthly revenue commission payments to city totaling nine percent of monthly gross revenue, with guaranteed minimum annual revenue payments of \$100,000
- Responsibility by Como Dockside for all day-to-day interior maintenance costs of facility (City retains responsibility for all exterior maintenance)
- A capital investment fund that receives three percent of monthly gross revenue above \$150,000

during peak summer months

- Full evaluation of Como Dockside's performance by the city prior to any potential agreement renewal
- Expanded minimum hours
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner options
- Enhanced focus on community amenities and public access
- New recreational amenities - including bocce ball courts, rental equipment and picnic tables
- A summer concession stand with direct access from the adjacent walking trails
- At least 100 events at a newly renovated outdoor promenade performance area and stage overlooking the lake

Therese Kelly, a former Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commissioner and member of the 14 person review committee who helped select Como Dockside added, "We have seen the venues like Tin Fish and Sandcastle take off in Minneapolis and to really become destinations. As a community member, I am excited to see a similarly dynamic entity take hold in this unique setting."

Como Dockside will take over the facility beginning Jan. 5, 2015, with its grand opening tentatively scheduled for late spring of 2015. Como Dockside will announce plans in the near future for how new event bookings can be made starting in 2015.

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be in the *Monitor* before January 5 for the January 15 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the *Monitor's* website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com.

Monitor Want Ads are now \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to *Monitor* Classifieds, Iris Park Place, 1885 University Avenue, Ste. #110, St. Paul, MN 55104. Classifieds must be prepaid via cash, check, or credit card. Classified ads can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Want ads must be in the *Monitor* before Jan. 5 for the Jan. 15 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the *Monitor's* website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com

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Classifieds
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Studio sale

Continued from page 1

early days? He says it was the cows who were most curious about his work as a potter and, for all purposes, were very supportive. He practiced law full-time for 12 years and part-time for more than 40 years, while he pursued his love of clay.

Peter Leach, already an established potter, had a neighboring farm in the Cannon River Valley. Using his knowledgeable of non-profit structure and ceramics, Crawford joined forces with Leach and MacKenzie and started the Northern Clay Center (NCC). The NCC, located at 2424 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis, has been a nationally recognized center for clay arts since 1990.

Norman took his first pottery classes from MacKenzie at the U of M. Norman was in his last year as a forestry student and, following graduation, joined the navy for a two year tour. He's been making pots ever since.

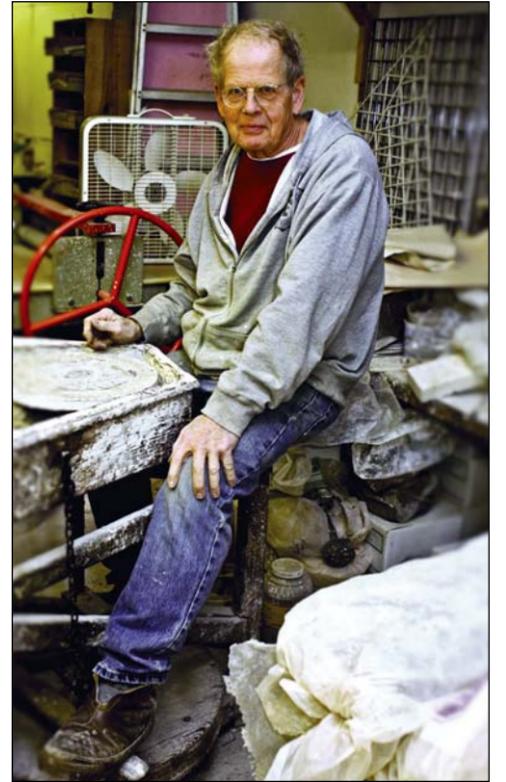
Norman uses the same treadle wheel he started on, kicking the treadle with his left foot while his hands steady the spinning clay. The style of Norman's pots is very recognizable. He says, "I probably spend as much time drawing on the pots as I do throwing them."

Each of Norman's cups, plates and bowls tells a story. The characters in his stories are often dogs, cats and rabbits on an adventure. Images of boats also appear frequently in his work, representing, Norman says with a smile, "the passage through life." Norman also does sculptural work, notably his signature candle sticks (see photo above of unglazed rabbits), which are an extension of his surface drawings.

Ceramics is both a science and an art. While Crawford uses a high-fire gas kiln, Norman uses a low-fire electric kiln. The glazes used at different temperatures have varying colors, textures and sheens. With so many talented potters showing their work at the studio sale, it's a great opportunity to ask questions about firing techniques, glazes, clays and more.

Neither Crawford or Norman were ever interested in being production potters (making the same forms over and over again without variation). "My pots come off the wheel and right away I start to think about how I can modify them by carving or scraping or pulling them into a different shape," Crawford explained. "I don't feel my pots are finished until I hear them sing."

Come on down Dec. 12 and 13 to enjoy the work of Crawford, Norman and their many artist friends. Visit early for the best selection of pots, paintings, weavings, art papers, beads, prints and hors d'oeuvres!



Top left: Example of Norman's vivid low-fire glazes. Top right: Tools of the pottery trade. Bottom left: An unglazed candle stick after first firing. Bottom center: Gary Crawford, potter. Bottom right: Mike Norman, potter. (Photos by Margie O'Loughlin)

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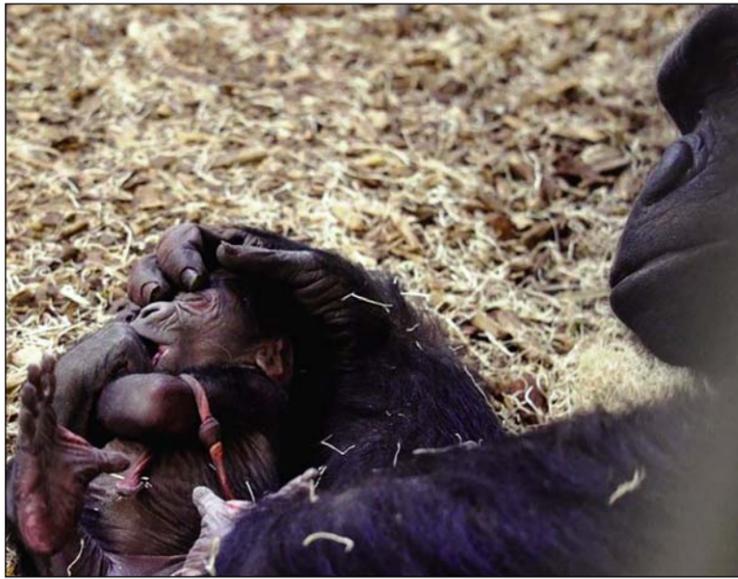
Birth of first gorilla at Como Zoo quickly turns to sadness

The joy of a new birth at Como Zoo, turned from elation to sadness within a matter of days. The baby male gorilla who was born in the early hours of Nov. 19 to mother Alice, sadly died on Nov. 23.

This was the first gorilla birth for Alice and the first gorilla birth in Como's 55 year history of being a leader in gorilla care and conservation.

At approximately four pounds at birth, the baby gorilla appeared healthy, strong and was bonding with Alice. After the birth, he and Alice were under zookeeper watch and care around the clock. The baby had appeared as if he was doing well through Saturday evening. He had a strong grip and was vocal. Alice was showing positive signs of maternal instinct, had been observed nursing and cradling the baby.

Despite best efforts to monitor and record the baby's food intake, many times Alice would cradle her baby to her chest with her back towards the observing zookeepers making it difficult to determine when, and if, nursing



Alice holds her male offspring shortly after giving birth at the Como Zoo on Nov. 19. It was the first birth of a gorilla in the 55-year history of Como Zoo's gorilla management program.

was indeed taking place. To prevent undo stress on new mothers, and allow them the necessary time to bond with their baby, it is imperative that zoo staff and veterinarians not intervene unless ab-

solutely necessary.

On Sunday morning it was apparent that the baby was weak and his health failing. While the intervention process was happening the baby was set down by Alice

and the zookeepers were able to retrieve him without the need to immobilize Alice. Resuscitation efforts on the infant were quickly preformed but were unsuccessful. Preliminary hypothesis is that the death might have been caused due to complications with food intake.

A gorilla gestation is approximately eight months. At birth, baby gorillas weigh between 4 and 5 pounds. It is extremely important for mom and baby to bond shortly after birth and for the baby to begin nursing. Typically Zoo staff will not intervene unless the health of the infant is compromised or the mother shows no motherly instinct. In cases such as that, zookeepers would step in and with veterinary staff determine next steps for reintroduction, hand rearing or even a surrogate type situation. Each animal at Como Zoo has its own Birth Management Plan.

Gorilla mothers are very protective of their babies. A gorilla mother will carry the baby on her chest for the first three months. At about 6-months-old the baby will move to ride on the mother's back

and begin playing and moving around on the ground close to mother. "Gorillas are very family oriented," said Jo Kelly, Senior Zookeeper.

"The entire Gorilla SSP shares the Como Zoo's heartbreak over this sad event," stated Dr. Kristen Lukas, Director of Conservation & Science at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, and the Chair of the Gorilla Species Survival Plan. "It is always difficult to lose a young one but we fully understand the significance of this particular birth for Como Zoo and are very sorry for your loss."

Out of 437 gorilla births at Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) institutions since 1980, 26% of males and 20% of females did not make it to their first birthday. In wild-living western gorilla populations, mortality rates in the first year of life have been reported up to 42% and in mountain gorillas, first-time mothers have 50% higher infant mortality rates than second-time mothers.

Another gorilla in the group, Dara, is also pregnant and due soon.

Episcopal Homes

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"When they make this move from home to apartment, they

would like to be able to stay there for their life, with services brought to them so they can avoid a second move," Veit continued. She said that besides looking at this project as a way of people being able to age in place, all their current residences have waiting lists. "Even our campus residents sometimes have to wait to be able to move," she said. "By

bringing in catered living and adding an additional nursing home, we're hoping to avoid those waits for our campus residents, so they'll be in a place where they can stay."

She said that resident participation, no matter at what stage a person is at in his or her journey of life, is important.

"If someone has dementia or

Alzheimer's, or if they are physically not capable of doing some of the normal household things, there are still ways for them to be participating and be engaged. Those with dementia still have memories of many of the tasks they can do in their home and still enjoy that. How we help them be able to fulfill those enjoyments is very important."

Veit is excited about the new models of living that are going to be offered at Episcopal Homes.

"Getting older has enough challenges," she said. "Whatever we can do to make it pleasurable and engaging and fulfilling for people is good. We want to be able to make a difference in their lives, and it's fun to see that happen for people."

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