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Midway Como

Monitor



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New Hamline U president grabs the reins

Dr. Fayneese Miller aims to apply her own life's lessons to her new post as Hamline University's 20th president

By JAN WILLMS

New ground is being broken at Hamline University. For the first time, the college has selected an African American, Dr. Fayneese Miller, as its president. She is also only the second woman to achieve this post.

For Miller, being a trailblazer is not a new role. She was the first African-American woman to get her Ph.D. from Texas Christian University (TCU) in Fort. Worth, TX. And she was the first African-American woman to achieve tenure at Brown University in Providence, RI.

"When I was at Brown, I would work day and night because I had to be better than, rather than as good as," Miller reflected in a recent interview in her office in Hamline's Old Main. "I made sure I had the publications, made sure they were good publications and that they were in the right places. So you do work hard."

She said she also worked hard as a student at TCU. "I didn't have the luxury of failing, because if I failed," she said, "the probability that another woman like me would come behind me was not very high, and I knew



Dr. Fayneese Miller becomes the first African American president of Hamline University, the oldest university in Minnesota. She is also only the second woman to hold the post. (Photo by Jan Willms)

that."

Miller said she sacrificed a lot in graduate school, only going home to see her family at Christmas. "The rest of the time, I was studying and doing everything I could to have what I was

able to do be recognized because I knew it mattered."

Even in high school, Miller recalled that she was on a path of hard work. She was one of only two black students who was a member of academic clubs, and

the only black student who went to the meetings. She explained that the high school she would have attended had been shut down during desegregation, and so she attended a high school with a population of primarily

white students.

"We had the academic meetings in homes, and I would go because I needed to make sure the other students became familiar with someone like me at the clubs. I would sit in those living rooms and be extremely uncomfortable," she recalled. "You have to keep making that effort, because if you don't not just open the door, but knock down the door, you're not able to show that you belong."

"I don't know if I'm so much of a trailblazer," Miller noted, "but I felt as if I didn't have a choice. We weren't going to change things or move forward unless someone stepped up and said 'I'll do it.' I've always been working as hard as I can to move to the next level. As I do that, I always make sure I'm reaching behind me and pulling someone else along. It's never about me, but about so many more people. I'm just one person trying to make a difference; that's all."

Miller praised her parents for being excellent role models. Both were active in the civil rights movement, and they also empha-

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Taco Bell withdraws plans for new restaurant

By JANE MCCLURE

Taco Bell's food fight with the St. Paul Planning Commission isn't over yet, even though restaurant owner Border Foods has withdrawn its plans for a new restaurant. The commission's Zoning Committee meets Sept. 10 (as the *Monitor* is being delivered) with city planning and Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) staff to review compliance of the existing restaurant use with standards, conditions and permits.

The meeting isn't a public hearing, but it's likely a few of the restaurant's neighbors will be on hand to hear what, if anything, can be done about what many contend are problems with late-night and early morning noise and patron behavior in the restaurant's drive-through service. An after-bar-closing-time crowd has been blamed for loud noise and disruptive behavior. Some of the behavior has wound up on YouTube.

A restaurant has stood at

565 Snelling Ave. since Zantigo opened in 1973. At some point a drive-through window was installed, although a conditional use permit was never issued. Nor can city staff find proof that building permits were ever obtained before the window was installed. With no conditional use permit, the city never had a chance to restrict operations.

The original fast food restaurant was issued a conditional use permit, but it lacks conditions. St. Paul requires fast food restaurants to have such permits; all drive-through uses must have separate conditional use permits.

Taco Bell is on a site that was rezoned for traditional neighborhoods use, over Border Foods' objections. That rezoning was done as part of long-range land use planning along the Green Line light-rail corridor. While it was meant to promote long-term redevelopment, the site's small size means any redevelopment would likely require land assembly over a long time.

The Planning Commission was poised Aug. 19 to put some conditions on the new restaurant and drive-through, including closing at 1am instead of the current 5am on weekends. The commission also wanted more security as well as conditions on new building design and the number of parking spaces.

But because Taco Bell wanted longer hours and disagreed with the conditions, the new restaurant plans were withdrawn. The plans can be resubmitted in the future.

But Planning Commission members said business cannot continue as usual.

"We have some significant concerns regarding the operations by Border Foods," said Commissioner Julie Padilla. She said the conditions hammered out were respectful to the business and its neighborhood.

Several commissioners said the result could have been a new restaurant that neighbors could live with. They want to hear from



St. Paul officials push Taco Bell on various neighborhood concerns even though they have now withdrawn their petition for a new building.

DSI about what is being done to deal with problems blamed on Taco Bell, and what changes can be made.

The commission also wants a complete look at all inspections and building-related history, including complaints about behavior. It's not clear what would

come out of that discussion and what the commission could recommend. But some commissioners said it's obvious the city hasn't been responsive to complaints. Border Foods has countered that it has been responsive and had worked with city staff and police to address issues.

School's Back in Session

Article and photos
by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Celtic Junction is a junction in the best sense of the word. It's a building, located at 866 Prior Ave. But, it's also an intersection—a meeting place for all manner of Irish traditions and a means for passing those traditions on to the next generation of students.

There's a lot happening behind the unassuming white stucco facade. The building has three tenants: The O'Shea School of Irish Dance, founded by Cormac and Natalie O'Shea; The Center for Irish Music, managed by Norah Rendell; and the offices of the Irish Fair, an event that takes

place each August on Harriet Island.

The O'Shea School of Irish Dance offers classes in traditional Irish dance for all ages. "When Natalie and I first moved to the Twin Cities," Cormac O'Shea explained, "we were teaching in both downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. It was hard for parents to drop off and pick up their kids. We imagined a space of our own that was centrally located, with a welcoming waiting area for families."

The O'Sheas started looking in 2008 (right about the time of the mortgage collapse) and learned there were more than five million square feet of commercial space available in the Midway area. It was the perfect time to buy. They purchased the building which houses Celtic Junction, and immediately set about a major renovation.

Three years later, the south half of the building was destroyed in a fire and had to be rebuilt. That same year, a sewer



Classes in full swing at Celtic Junction

The O'Shea School of Irish Dance teaches the requisite seven levels of competitive training. Co-founder Cormac O'Shea said, "The fifth level is called the 'prize winner' level. From there on up, things get pretty intense."

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"I tell the kids all the time that your schooling comes first."

Cormac O'Shea

line broke under the street, adding more energy and investment to an already considerable project. Cormac admitted, "that was a tough year." But the Irish are a persevering people....

Cormac was born in Dublin, Ireland. His parents still run their Irish dance school there, where they've been training elite international competitors for more than 30 years. Two of Cormac's siblings are international champions. Cormac and 16 other students from his parents' school joined the original cast of River Dance—the wildly popular traveling revue that put Irish dance and music on the world map.

With that experience, Cormac went from training 2-3 days a week, to training and performing six days a week and seeing the world at the same time. He had, as he said, "the best possible view in those six years—of what it's like to be an artist and a performer at the highest level."

The O'Sheas have three children now and are passing their love of Irish culture on to them. Their eldest, 14-year-old Adrienne, flew to Sligo, Ireland this summer to compete in the Irish

Music World Championships. She entered in five categories: flute, tin whistle, piano and singing (in both English and Irish Gaelic).

Cormac and Natalie, and the staff of the O'Shea School of Irish Dance, encourage personal excellence, but not at the expense of academics. "I tell the kids all the time that your schooling comes first," Cormac said. "If your homework isn't done, you'd better go out in the lobby and do it before coming into the dance studio."

The Center for Traditional Irish Music held their Fall Open House at Celtic Junction on Aug. 23. Every 15 minutes, they offered up a different class sampler so prospective families could



Cormac O'Shea, executive director of the O'Shea School of Irish Dance, is also an accomplished accordion player.

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New Hamline U President

Continued from page 1

sized the importance of voting.

"My parents thought the only way you could make a difference was to vote, and voting was like part of a religion in my house."

She said that when her son, now 22, was an infant she would take him with her into the voting booth so he could get used to the actual action of voting.

Miller, who arrived at Hamline after serving as dean of the College of Education and Social Services at the University of Vermont, has a background as a social psychologist. As an undergraduate, she wrote a research paper on self-esteem and later wrote her dissertation on this topic.

"My research showed that black people didn't like who they were, and I couldn't understand that because I loved who I was. I decided to do research to counter that and show that not all blacks have low self-esteem," Miller said. "We were comparing apples and oranges, comparing whites in higher socio-economic groups to blacks in lower socio-economic groups rather than comparing those coming from the same type of background. When you do that, you get different results."

Miller said that because of her research, she became interested in understanding identity and how persons form a sense of who they are.

"I also became interested in political activism and how politics can help shape your sense of self and encourage you to take risks that you wouldn't normally," she added.

This research spiked her interest in working with college students and how she could help them think about themselves in a different way. She wanted to assist them to develop the skills

and the knowledge they need to go out and do the work they want to do.

"When you look at your students and see what they have accomplished, it is one of the most rewarding things," Miller said. "I do think my work in psychology—understanding motives and attitudes and beliefs—has been very instrumental in my wanting to be a part of students' lives."

Miller explained that to her, education is preparing a person for not only the world of work but for membership in a civil society and all that entails. She said that teaching is more than standing in front of a classroom imparting knowledge to students. "It is encouraging them to think critically, be creative and learn how to generate knowledge they can apply in different situations. Education is more than opening up that brain and shoveling in knowledge. We have a responsibility to help our students understand that they're members of a civil society, and what that means."

Miller started her position as Hamline's president in July. In the short time she has been here she said she has found the college's greatest asset to be its faculty and staff who care so deeply for the students.

"Many of them could be at different institutions where the salary might be higher or the position more prestigious, but they chose to be here at Hamline because of what Hamline is all about. Its focus is on the student and social justice. Many faculty members have been here a long time, and they are still growing and learning."

Miller said she considers the greatest challenge, not just for Hamline but for all higher education, is to remain relevant. "We have to make sure we do," she said, "and understand that the students who come to us are different, and not like us when we were in college. This is

a challenge for all of higher education."

A challenge for the community as a whole is race relations. Miller said she thinks great strides have been made, but not enough. "I look at the number of black women who are university presidents or school superintendents or CEOs, and the number is very small," Miller said. "We still have a long way to go because we don't always make it out of the pool. We might get invited to the interview, but there's a glass ceiling there that hasn't gone away."

"I'm amazed and impressed that Hamline had the guts to select me because it's not the norm. I find it disturbing that black women are always viewed as threatening, and we're not. Those of us who have gotten both feet in the door still have lots to do. It's assumed we got the job through affirmative action or we got the job for some reason other than our ability and our hard work. So we still have to deal with it."

Miller said that stepping out of the field of higher education; she is truly saddened by what she sees around her.

"I'm saddened by the fact that so many parents have to tell their children to be careful of the police. I'm saddened by the belief that our kids are bad, and that they're automatically ready to attack. In that sense, we've taken several steps backward."

Miller said she recognized that some states are trying to impact negatively higher education, trying to defund it. And the fact that people's right to vote is being threatened in some states. "That's not just race, but looking at our elderly citizens who don't have the credentials required," she said. "I'm also saddened by the fact that we have someone like Donald Trump {running for president} who is making disparaging comments about people of color and women."



Dr. Fayneese Miller. (Photo submitted)

Miller said she is encouraged about some things, however. "We have made some strides. Look at my family. My husband is white, and my son is biracial. My family would not look like it does if we had not made strides."

But Miller worries about the achievement gap, wondering why it still exists. "All kids start on the same track, but we see changes in the third grade," she noted. "What is happening in that grade that is impacting children's ability to learn? Something is happening, even to kids who start off with early advantages. I think that something happens that negatively affects kids, some concept, not their self-esteem but how they see themselves."

Miller recalled that as a child, she had teachers who were her champions, who taught her more than just reading and writing. "They taught me about who I am, and they were incredible. They were critical in those formative years," she said. "You won't hear me criticize teachers because I had some very good ones. I just hope teachers realize the impact they have. It is so important they make students feel as if they matter and can accomplish whatever they want."

Miller said she is hoping that Hamline students will have

a major voice on campus. She plans to have office hours just for students and is currently on a listening tour of Hamline. "That is just the beginning. I'm going to student events, letting them know I support them and respect them, and I'm glad they're here," she said. "I want them to know who I am, and I want to know who they are."

Miller added that she doesn't feel a president gets to know the institution until he or she is on campus. "I'm getting to know the staff, the faculty, the students, the person who is mowing the lawn," she said. She is also starting to identify donors and people who want to make it possible for very deserving young people to get an education.

"I love what I do," Miller stated. "That's where I get my energy from. I see myself as a servant leader. Some would say that might be a derogatory term, but I don't. I enjoy seeing the smiles on our students' faces when they know they're succeeding."

"I am so thrilled and humbled by this opportunity to be president," she said. "I never thought when I was young this is what I would be. But I certainly feel this is the right thing, and Hamline is the right place."



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• Principal Theresa Neal collaborated with Sharon Sayles Belton to host the Como Park faculty at the Thomson Reuters corporate office on the morning of Mon., Aug. 31. Sayles Belton is the Vice President of Community Relations and Government Affairs at Thomson Reuters, former Mayor of Minneapolis, and longtime friend of Neal. The two leaders helped arrange a new Como partnership with the multinational mass media and legal business firm that was formerly West Publishing.

Como staff boarded school buses on Mon., Aug. 31 to attend informative sessions with Thomson Reuters' senior management about 21st century work expectations and desired skill sets for future employees. Consistent themes emphasized were collaboration, communication, global awareness, adaptability, cultural competencies and a growth mindset. Financial Literacy was also a key theme and component that the employer covets, dovetailing with Como's successful and growing Academy of Finance (AOF). Como teachers and staff identified overlapping and consistent goals that coincide with Thomson Reuters' and are looking forward to connecting Como students with ongoing opportunities, such as internships and employment, that will be supported by the partnership between Como and Thomson Reuters.

News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

Thomson Reuters hosts Como Park faculty



Freshmen Orientation for Como High's class of 2019 included get-to-know you activities in the school gym on Thur., Sept. 3 with leadership from Como's Link Crew. The first day of classes was Tue., Sept. 8.

• Como Park Robotics (aka BEASTBot) took part in "Robots Invade the Plaza" at 3M on Friday, August 7. The team networked with other teams and employees from 3M, Como's largest financial sponsor during the STEM-focused summer festival. The team is recruiting new members and mentors for this upcoming season. Please contact beastbot2855@gmail.com with

any questions or interest.

• One of Como's teachers performed at the State Fair on STEM Day, Thur., Aug. 27. Donna Norberg, a science teacher, is also a member of the University of Minnesota's Physics Force - an outreach troupe promoting physics to primary audiences of elementary and middle school students. The Physics Force brought

the physics fun for three shows throughout the day at the Carousel Park stage.

• Five Como teachers recently spent a week participating in the BestPrep Technology Integration Workshop. Sessions included strategizing tactics and methods to increase student engagement and achievement. As part of the workshop, teachers also spent an afternoon job shadowing professionals at Travelers in downtown St. Paul. Discussions centered on the "soft skills" that students need to be successful after high school.

• Freshmen Orientation was held on Thursday morning, Sept. 3, with Como's Link Crew! Link Crew consists of upperclassmen mentors and leaders that help all freshmen become associated with their new school and guide them throughout the school year. 50 juniors and seniors spent parts of their summer in leadership training, and enthusiastically welcomed the class of 2019 with activities to get their Como careers off to a great start. (see

photo)

• Students and the community will be celebrating Spirit Week and Homecoming beginning Sept. 14. Events include dress up days during the week, along with the "Battle of the Classes," Homecoming Coronation, and Fall Sports Pep Fest at an assembly. Homecoming games at Como during the week include: —Volleyball on Thur., Sept. 17 at 7pm vs. Johnson; —Boys' and Girls' Soccer on Fri., Sept. 18, vs. Humboldt (boys at 3:15pm, girls at 5pm); and —Football on Sat., Sept. 19, vs. Concordia Academy at 2pm. The football game will be played at Griffin Stadium.

• Sat., Sept. 19 will be the annual Homecoming Parade, beginning from the school at 11am. The parade route runs north on Grotto, turning left on Wheelock toward the lake, then left on E. Como Blvd. before heading back into the school grounds. The parade will feature Como's marching band, sports teams, academic groups, the Cadets from the MCJROTC and more. Parents, neighbors, friends of the community, and alumni are invited to line the parade route and then attend the picnic at school following the parade.

• Sports fans can check schedules for all Como and St. Paul City teams at sports.spps.org.

The redevelopment of the American Can/Silgan Building at 755 Prior Ave. is full steam ahead with a growing list of exciting tenants and big plans for the future. Come learn more about this promising project's progress at a community meeting, Thur., Sept. 17, 6:30-8pm at the American Can Building. The meeting will be hosted by Orton Development, City Council President Russ Stark's office, Hamline Midway Coalition and Can Can Wonderland. Parking is available near the smokestack.

In addition to updates from the developer on the project's progress, information will be provided about the possible designation of the building as a Commercial Development District, which would allow Can Can Wonderland and other potential tenants to serve alcohol on site.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, and take a tour of the future Can Can Wonderland space. To take

News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Community meeting scheduled about American Can Building

part in a tour please RSVP to Rob Clapp at rob@cancanwonderland.com or 612-508-6350.

Hamline Midway Investment Co-operative to hold second community forum Sept. 22

The newly formed Hamline Midway Investment Co-operative is looking for feedback and community discussion around future development in the neighborhood. Following on the success of their first community meeting in August, the group is holding a second community forum Tue., Sept. 22, 6:30-8pm, in the Fireside room of Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514

Englewood Ave. Come learn more about this neighbor-led effort and help inform future community-led development possibilities.

Ward 4 City Council debate scheduled Oct. 5

Come get to know the candidates running for Ward 4 City Council at an open public forum Mon., Oct. 5, 7pm at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 West Minnehaha Ave. This moderated debate will feature written questions from the audi-

ence that will be posed to both candidates—incumbent, City Council President Russ Stark, and challenger, Tom Goldstein. The debate will be hosted by the League of Women Voters, in partnership with the Hamline Midway Coalition and Union Park District Council.

Hamline University/Community discussion scheduled Oct. 14

There will be a community discussion with Hamline University Wed., Oct. 14, from 7-9pm at Hamline United Methodist

Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. In addition to meeting Hamline University's new president, Dr. Fayneese Miller, attendees will have the opportunity to provide feedback on a proposal for a Hamline University Community Advisory Committee; learn about the status of the house at 1549 Minnehaha Ave.; learn more about the City's Campus Boundary Zoning Study, as well as efforts to begin a historic survey of the neighborhood.

Next Deadline
September 28
Next Issue
October 8

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Development of Dickerman Park along University Ave. means the Griggs Midway Building Corporation must vacate space it has used for many years for parking. The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, voted unanimously Aug. 12 to approve a forgivable loan of up to \$200,000 to assist with a parking lot redevelopment project.

Funds will come from the Neighborhood Commercial Parking Pilot Program, which was set up by the HRA in 2009 during Green Line light rail construction.

The Griggs Midway Building Corporation owns five buildings on the block at the northeast corner of Fairview and University. Two of the buildings front on Dickerman Park, which is being reclaimed by the Department of Parks and Recreation after decades of private use for parking. That eliminates about 57 parking spaces. Also, a parking lot was developed along Fairview that encroaches upon city right-of-way. Another 27 parking spaces will be lost as the city also wishes to reclaim that property.

Redesigning parking behind and beside the Griggs Midway complex will make up for most of the lost parking. Because it is within one-quarter mile of an LRT station, there are no parking requirements for Griggs Midway. No additional city or HRA approvals are required. No existing businesses will be displaced or relocated.

Groundbreaking for Prior Crossing planned Sept. 21

Construction starts this fall on a University Ave. site just east of Prior Ave. The groundbreaking event for Prior Crossing, as the housing is called, will take place Mon., Sept. 21, 5-6:30pm, at 1949 University Ave. State and local officials expected to attend include St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, Rep. Alice Hausman, Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark, and Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Commissioner Mary Tingher.

The building will house Ramsey County's first supportive housing for youth and young adults who have experienced homelessness. It will be within blocks of the Green Line's Fairview station, making housing conveniently accessible to both downtown areas

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Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

Dickerman Park development means parking changes for Griggs Midway

and plenty of job and educational opportunities.

Capital funding for the 44-unit, \$10.7 million project was finalized with \$8 million in state tax credit funds awarded to Beacon in 2014 when the state legislature authorized \$100 million for affordable housing bonds. Other public funders include the City of St. Paul (\$1.1 million) and the Metropolitan Council (\$927,000). St. Paul Public Housing Authority awarded the housing 32 Section 8 project-based vouchers that will keep rents affordable.

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, working with The House of Hope Presbyterian Church and other local congregations and the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, made Prior Crossing a reality. The House of Hope congregation donated \$500,000 in initial funding to leverage further private and public capital and operating funds. Wilder Foundation will provide on-site supportive services to the 44 young tenants who will live at Prior Crossing.

Raymond Ave. Flats project moves ahead with changes

The Raymond Ave. Flats project can proceed, but with changes meant to mitigate its impacts on the University-Raymond Commercial Heritage Preservation

District. The St. Paul City Council unanimously upheld an appeal last month by Exeter Group and overturned project denial by the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC).

Planned is a five-story, 119-apartment addition to the General Motors Truck Company Building at 2390-2400 University Ave.

"This was a difficult one," said Council President Russ Stark. The development is in his ward. Stark said he could support the project with changes in design that would balance the site's traditional neighborhood zoning and its historic district issues. The design changes have already been submitted to city officials.

Stark also asked Exeter to work with the HPC staff on issues including placement of HVAC equipment, demolition of a chimney, and exterior materials for new construction.

Thomas Nelson, who is leading the project for Exeter, said the developers are satisfied with the outcome. "We've agreed to the changes and will continue to work with the city," he said.

The historic district is centered on historic industrial and warehouse uses, the West Midway trucking industry and the Minnesota Transfer Railroad. The proj-

ects' building is considered contributing to the historic district.

Stark said that the project changes should address concerns that HPC raised in its June vote to deny the project. He said that some HPC findings are speculative. One of the concerns the HPC raised was that extensive alterations to the building could potentially affect the historic status of the property and possibly, the entire historic district. But Stark questioned that, as did consultants hired by the developers.

The truck company building, which was built in 1928, is one story high. It is between two multi-story buildings. It is L-shaped and wraps around the former Twin Cities State Bank. It is west of another Exeter project, the seven-story C&E Lofts. Until recently the building housed an armored vehicle company.

Streetscape project gets support from city

Allocating \$1 million from the city's sales tax revenue Pay-Go Economic Development Fund will help cover costs of Snelling Ave. streetscape work, as well as planning for the former Ford Motor Company site redevelopment, commercial zoning vital-

ity funding, the St. Paul Design Center budget, and other projects. But the Aug. 19 vote by the St. Paul City Council wasn't unanimous as council members Dave Thune and Dai Thao voted against.

The program, which was set up last year by the City Council, is meant to provide flexible approach to commercial revitalization throughout the city by investing in neighborhood commercial corridor districts that have assets with potential, organizations with capacity, and community-developed plans. The intent is to leverage other investment. Most of the funding goes for plan implementation, with a smaller amount toward planning.

Thao objected to a \$75,000 allocation to reduce street assessments and help pay for streetscape work along Snelling Ave. in Hamline-Midway. The street is being rebuilt this year to accommodate the A Line rapid bus improvements. He contended that other businesses have also had to pay high street assessments. But other council members noted that the city has reduced other assessments in commercial districts in the past, including along Green Line light-rail.

The allocations also included \$200,000 for Ford planning, \$50,000 toward the design center and its work implementing various community plans, and projects on Rice St., Payne Ave., Phalen Village, and E. 7th and Arcade streets.

Monitor In A Minute

Campus boundary study postponed over objections

A campus boundaries study, which would restrict how St. Paul colleges and universities use properties they own outside of their boundaries, has been postponed. The postponement would give St. Paul Planning and Economic Development (PED) staff more time to discuss issues with college and university officials.

That delay disappoints area residents concerned about Hamline University's trend of buying houses outside of its boundaries and tearing them down. The university's year-long, self-imposed moratorium on further teardowns expires this fall.

But after a public hearing last month where college and university officials objected to the study and its recommendations, a Planning Commission committee voted Aug. 26 to table the study and allow for more discussions. Hamline University, University of St. Thomas and Macalester College

complained that the proposed restrictions were too onerous.

According to city staff, the recommendations are meant to discourage institutions from buying properties outside of their city-approved boundaries and tearing them down. The proposed zoning code change states that any property where the primary structure has been demolished within the past 10 years shall not be eligible for inclusion in a college, university or seminary boundary. The intent is to have more discussion about future use of those properties. Once a building comes down, that is seen as changing the surrounding neighborhood.

Trend Bar fined

A University Ave. bar has been penalized after an employee took part in charitable gambling on the premises. The St. Paul City Council last month imposed a \$500 fine on the Trend Bar, 1537 University Ave. The bar owner didn't appeal the decision or ask for a hearing before the City Council.

The council action stemmed from an April complaint to the city.

The Minnesota Gambling Board found that a bartender/employee had been gambling at the Trend Bar, collecting \$3,800 in pull-tab winnings in March. State law and city code prevent employees of an establishment that offers charitable gambling from taking part in gambling there.

Bars in St. Paul offer pull-tabs in conjunction with nonprofits. The pull-tabs in question would have benefitted Adonis Eco-Housing, a nonprofit that works on affordable housing issues. When pull-tabs are sold at a bar, workers can sell the pull-tabs at a booth. Or, pull-tabs can be sold at the bar. It's up to the nonprofit to provide training for bar staff.

The Minnesota Gambling Control Board is reviewing the case and will decide whether it will take action against Adonis Eco-Housing. After the incident was reported, the nonprofit no longer sells pull-tabs at the Trend Bar.

Park plans materialize

A 5.4-acre site along Griggs St. will become a park as a result of St. Paul City Council action Aug. 19.

The council approved spending \$1.5 million from the city's 8-80 Vitality Fund toward acquisition of the property, which is one-half block south of University Ave.

The park will extend south to St. Anthony Ave. along the east side of Griggs. The concept for the park was brought forward by Gordon Parks High School students and has been known since 2011 as Three Ring Gardens Park. That name was chosen because the area was known historically as "Circus Hill"—traveling circuses would set up there. City officials have been using the name "Lexington Commons."

City officials will work with the Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit group that helps units of government purchase and preserve space for parks use. The Trust recently helped the city buy the a Frogtown for conversion into an urban farm and park space there. The Trust will help with fundraising for the project.

Much of the Griggs St. property was used for years as parking lots for University Ave. motor vehicle dealerships. The site is between the Central Medical Building and current Wilder Foundation complex, and Skyline Towers and commercial-industrial development. The property has three owners.

The Trust for Public Land will raise \$1.035 million for the project.

Compiled by JANE MCCLURE



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St. Paul moves to encourage soccer stadium in the Midway

By JANE MCCLURE

If a Major League Soccer (MLS) stadium is built near Snelling and St. Anthony avenues the site would be exempt from property taxes. That exemption, adopted unanimously Aug. 26 by the St. Paul City Council, is in a non-binding resolution that outlines other goals for the property.

One goal is that the team owners build and operate a facility entirely with their own money. Another is that any stadium deal should involve payments to Metropolitan Council, which owns the 10-acre site. Those payments, suggested by Council President Russ Stark, would be used to support operations of the region's transit system.

Council members Chris Tolbert and Dai Thao brought forward the resolution seeking the tax exemption for the 10-acre site. They noted that the property, which was the site of the Metro Transit bus garage or bus barn for more than 50 years, has been tax-exempt for that length of time. The resolution also states that a soccer stadium could be the needed catalyst to spur redevelopment of the bus garage site, as well as 25 adjacent acres owned by RK Midway. Much of that property is now occupied by Midway Center.

Stark said his intent in amending the resolution was to emphasize the long-awaited development of the entire Midway Center superblock. In 2011, the shopping center and adjacent land were the focus of the Snelling Station Area Plan, developed in conjunction with the Green Line light-rail service. More recently, RK Midway, City, and Metropolitan Council members, have developed a long-range plan to redevelop the site. Getting the long-awaited redevelopment in motion is another goal.

Stark amended the resolution to ask that a stadium accommodate many other uses and public events.

The amendment also asks that "a fair, sensible plan can be developed for the construction of needed public infrastructure around the site." This infrastructure would include streets, sidewalks, bike facilities, park or public space, shared parking and storm water management. The adjacent Midway Center,

bus barn property, and another vacant parcel have been eyed for various redevelopment ideas for more than three decades. But costs of infrastructure have been a hurdle.

Soccer team owner Bill McGuire has indicated that if the Midway site is chosen, the team would like additional land for offices and spinoff development. But that has raised concerns about current Midway Center tenants, who worry if they could stay. Big Top Liquors could especially be affected because of the city's one-half mile distance requirement between off-sale liquor stores. A move could put that store out of compliance, and it could be forced to relocate.

Stark said one thing everyone can agree on is that the vacant property needs to be redeveloped. Even if a soccer stadium isn't built there, the recent focus on the site could bring in other proposals. He called the current site conditions "unacceptable."

The property tax exemption for the stadium would require approval from the Minnesota Legislature. There would also be federal approval, as well as Metropolitan Council approval required to sell the site, as federal dollars were used for the bus garage years ago.

City Council members said they have heard a range of comments for and against a soccer stadium and the property tax exemption. While city officials would like to see MLS soccer in St. Paul, "obviously this doesn't

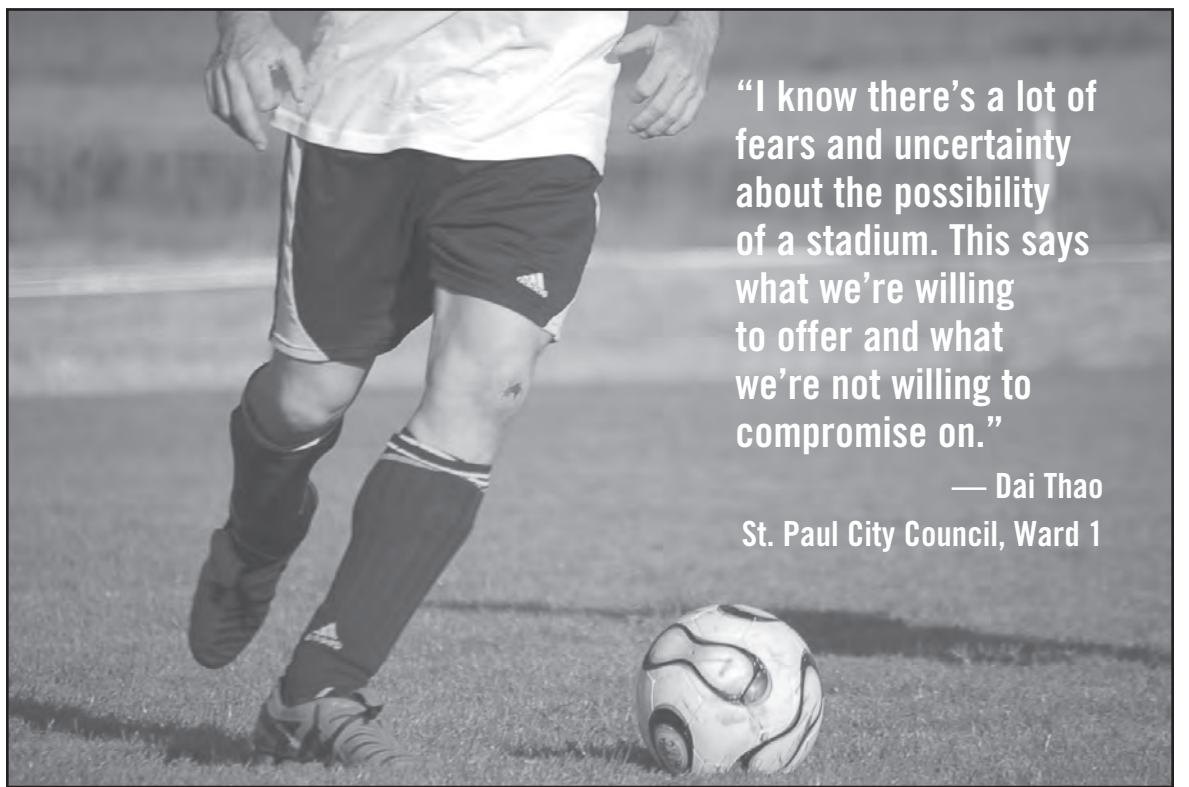


Photo courtesy of FreeImages.com

"I know there's a lot of fears and uncertainty about the possibility of a stadium. This says what we're willing to offer and what we're not willing to compromise on."

— Dai Thao

St. Paul City Council, Ward 1

guarantee anything," said Tolbert. "There's no deal." But the resolution does send a positive message about the site and its advantages including proximity to I-94, and bus and rail transit.

"I know there's a lot of fears and uncertainty about the possibility of a stadium," said Thao. The site is in his ward. "This says what we're willing to offer and what we're not willing to compromise on."

Stark, whose ward is adja-

cent to the site, said he too has heard support and opposition. He acknowledged that the discussions have moved very quickly and that there's been concern about having neighborhood input. Union Park District Council (UPDC) drew a large crowd to a community input meeting this summer and is continuing to gather neighborhood feedback. This summer UPDC voted to support studies of the possible soccer stadium if development

planning incorporates the entire superblock.

But the vote has drawn criticism from City Council candidates Jane Prince, David Glass and Tom Goldstein, who are running in Wards Seven, Five and Four. All have been vocal on social media against any stadium proposal. Prince posted a picture of a deteriorated East Side recreation center soccer field to make a point about the city supporting the wrong priorities.

New Midway group takes aim at senior health

On Sat., Oct. 3, the Hamline Midway Health Movement (HMHM) will partner with Hamline Elementary School's Fall Festival in a local scavenger hunt. Participants will walk from Hamline Elementary south on Snelling Ave., visiting local businesses and then return to the school. 'Hunters' will be given a Bingo game card with a listing of the participating local businesses noted on the card.

The goal of the scavenger hunt is for participants to walk into the businesses named on the card and receive a sticker from

that business. Once the card is filled, the participants will return to Hamline Elementary and enter their completed card in a drawing for a grand prize. The Fall Festival will take place between noon and 4pm on the Hamline Elementary School grounds.

HMHM hopes the event will benefit the community in several ways. Participants will receive the benefit of exercise, fun, socialization, and getting to know neighborhood businesses. Local business will benefit from the prospect of new customers. Participating businesses are encouraged

to provide the 'hunters' with a business card or flyer; perhaps a coupon or some other incentive to encourage our hunters to purchase from that store. This event wouldn't be possible without the help and support of the local businesses along Snelling Ave.

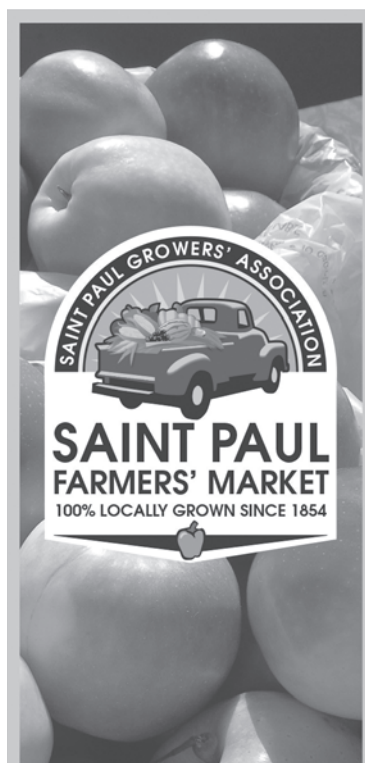
Together with our community partners, we hope to improve the health of Hamline Midway adults over the age of fifty and have the Hamline Midway community be known as a "wellness

district."

HMHM is a volunteer, community-based, "grass roots" initiative whose goal is to inspire and engage seniors in the Hamline Midway area to incorporate healthier lifestyle choices into their daily lives.

Within the Hamline Midway senior community, the HMHM will host monthly educational and informative seminars, as

Continued on page 11



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Chad Kulas named Midway Chamber Executive Director

Kulas says local businesses face both great opportunities and threats from light rail

By JAN WILMS

Light rail is going to be the defining characteristic of University Ave., according to Chad Kulas, the new executive director of the Midway Chamber of Commerce.

He said there are both great opportunities and threats presented by light rail, whether talking about businesses, individuals or residents of the area.

"It was more of a challenge for the Midway Chamber in the past, because the organization had to be so active in making sure light rail plans would be positive for the business community," Kulas said. "But right now, it's such a great time because we're through the construction, it's opened up, and that's a great opportunity. But there's also the threat that if we don't act in the right way, it could become a negative more than a positive."

Kulas said that most of the parking spaces along University Ave. were taken out. "That's a huge hit not only for businesses and the people who go to those businesses but for the community in general," he said. "Also, some of the regulations that have occurred around the transit stops are not very business friendly. But the key is to find a way to navigate around those and to find the positives; we need to make sure that while everything is still fresh and new, we can get things moving in a positive direction."

Kulas, who started his position in June, comes to the job with a lot of background experience that has helped prepare him for this spot. A journalism graduate from the University of St. Thomas, his previous careers have included being an assistant to the mayor and manager of government relations for St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Being at the City of St. Paul for four years, not only at the mayor's office but in licensing," he explained, "has helped me understand how the city works. I've worked with so many departments, and that's good. I know some of our members are dependent on working with different



"If you want to do business, or you want to associate with people between both downtowns, this is a great spot to be."
— Chad Kulas

New Midway Chamber Executive Director Chad Kulas approaches the job recognizing the great challenges facing local businesses while at the same time heralding the opportunities. (Photo by Jan Wilms)

city departments, and that can be tough to navigate, so my background has been helpful."

Another aspect of his background that has helped is the fact that he was a Frogtown resident for nine years. "For six of those years I was on the District Council board of the Frogtown Neighborhood Association," Kulas said. He claimed that being on the board, as well as living in that neighborhood, gave him more of an idea of what is going on in that part of town.

"A lot of times when a chamber executive gets hired, he or she tends to either have the government experience or they are from the community," Kulas explained. "I have both, and that really led to this job being an ideal fit for me right now."

Reflecting on the history of the Midway Chamber, which had its beginnings back in 1919, Kulas said the organization had a lot of the same issues then as it does now. "Everything old is new again," he noted. He recalled that it used to be the streetcar going down the Avenue; today it's the Green Line. "There are a lot of parallels," Kulas said.

He said that much of Univer-

sity Ave. has a kind of post-war baby boom look, when it was competing with the suburbs. That brought big box retail and big parking lots.

"Now we want to see more transit-oriented development," Kulas said, "with the parking more hidden. The city's trying to push for more new developments where you can fully access light rail."

He said that as far as competition for University Ave., it depends on the kind of business. "If you're talking about a clothing store, the competition is more in Rosedale or malls like that," he stated. "But if you're talking about places like Vandalia Towers, that's going to be a cool place, a lot of businesses going in there are types that would typically go to a downtown area. In some ways, because of the transit options we have along the Avenue, I think we're becoming more similar to more highly dense urban areas like a downtown."

Kulas said the construction of the light rail was difficult for many of the businesses, but a recent study in the *Business Journal* showed that overall the Green

Line has been positive. "The study showed that there were more businesses that started up then went away during this time," he said.

He added that he makes it a point when he sees a business to ask how it has been affected by the light rail. "Episcopal Homes said it has been great," he said. "Some of their residents use it every day. Some of the others understand the benefits of the long term, but they all took a hit when the construction was happening, so they have to dig out of that."

The Midway Chamber of Commerce currently has over 320 businesses as members. Kulas said his predecessor did a good job of increasing membership, especially with promoting events. "Our events have become very successful, and the direction I have been given is to continue to increase the membership."

Kulas said one of the challenges the Midway Chamber faces in increasing its growth is that there are so many organizations out there, with many ways for businesses to network, get advice and find information. "For us, like any other member-based organization, the challenge is

proving to people that we are the group that you want to spend your time and money with," he said.

"I think now that light rail is done, and our events are in a good place, it is a good opportunity for us to grow," Kulas continued. He said that one way the association needs to position itself is that as the Midway Chamber, it is midway between two downtowns. "If you want to do business, or you want to associate with people between both downtowns, this is a great spot to be," he said.

He added that what the Chamber has to offer is different for every member. "Our greatest asset is that a lot of business owners attend our meetings, and they are easy to talk to and easy to approach; networking is really good here," he said. "I hear from a lot of our members that it was very easy for them to get to know people pretty quickly in the Chamber. And if you need help with insurance or an attorney or any other area of your life you have a built-in network of people you can trust."

Kulas said that on Oct. 29, the Midway Chamber is offering its second taste event. During construction, Lunch on the Avenue was offered every other Thursday, with business people invited to a different restaurant to purchase lunch. After the light rail opened, it was called Lunch on the Line. They celebrated their 100th lunch last October with a tasting event offering food from 16 different restaurants. "People are getting excited for the one this year," Kulas said. It will be open to the public as well as Chamber members.

Kulas said the Midway area is looking forward to a rapid transit bus line that will go from Snelling through Rosedale, crossing into Minneapolis, and connecting with the Blue Line over to Hiawatha. He also noted the Bus Barn site has been getting a lot of free advertising, whether soccer goes there or not. "The longer that site is in the news, the more likely a developer can realize its potential and invest," he said.

Kulas noted that his personal goals include increasing the membership, expanding the participation of businesses east of Lexington and reaching out to increase the diversity of members in the Chamber.

"This is a very exciting time for St. Paul, University Ave. and the Midway," he said. "I look forward to seeing what the future holds."



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Welcome to the Neighborhood

Hamline-Midway introduces four new murals along Snelling Ave.

Article and photos

by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The Midway Art Festival went off without a hitch on Sat., Aug. 29 at Hamline Park on the corner of Snelling and Thomas avenues. The event was a gift to the neighborhood from Midway Murals and the African Economic Development Solutions' Little Africa initiative.

The six-hour festival was a celebration of art as a force for positive community change. It was also the unveiling of four new murals, created by four different artists, and spanning six blocks of the newly re-constructed Snelling Ave.

The thread that ties all four of the murals together is the common theme of "starting anew."

The area around Snelling and University is home to many East African residents and business owners who have started anew. The hope of Jonathan Oppenheimer, Midway Murals creator, is that the murals will enliven and unify the neighborhood, bringing people into more conversation and connection with each another.

Yuya Negishi's Japanese-inspired mural graces the outside of Kim's Oriental (Korean) Market at 689 Snelling Ave. Negishi worked with assistants Jesse Golfis and Aric Larson for two straight weeks painting the mural, going through more than 100 cans of spray paint and struggling against strong winds and rain. The rising phoenix and glorious sun are a testimony to the power of perseverance when starting anew.

Spray paint artist Eric "the Blaster" Mattheis painted the mural outside the Snelling Café at 638 Snelling Ave. Called "Con-

vergence," it reflects the galaxy of colorful cultures that dot the earth. According to Oppenheimer, "Mattheis brought an important street element to the project. Seeing work this great helps overcome the stigma of graffiti and spray paint as being renegade."

Lori Greene's Ethiopian-inspired mural at 555 Snelling Ave. was finished the day before the opening. Employee Adrienne Sherman said, "The piece is called "Berbere" and, for me, the installation was the best part. We spent so many hours in the parking lot outside the African Plaza. With mosaic, you install the images one at a time. The pieces of broken, colored tile had been assembled into separate parts back at the studio. As we'd lift each one in place, people loved seeing them go up on the wall."

Greta McLain created a brilliantly colored and attention-getting mural at 512 Snelling Ave. (See photo right) titled "Braid-ed." Gene Gergelu, executive director of The African Economic Development Solutions, said, "Greta was able to mentor two talented African artists on this project: Hanna Gashaw and Sara Endalew. They came out of this experience very excited about this mural specifically, but also more confident about their emerging careers as artists."

Free food from different traditions was available at each of the four locations. The festival at Hamline Park featured Poetry on Demand with Tim Blighen, Jon Reynolds' Street-corner Letterpress, a Paint the Pavement project to jazz up the park, music from DJ Superbrush 427 and River Beats Entertainment, and live music and dance by East African artists.



Greta McLain created a brilliantly colored and attention-getting mural at 512 Snelling Ave. It brightens the building that houses Sabrina's Café and Deli, and the African American Hair Braiding and Beauty Supplies. McLain's images are of proud faces, as tender as they are strong.



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Project creator Jonathan Oppenheimer, whose life has been a wonderful juggling act lately, said, "Today is a day to appreciate all the hard work that has gone into Midway Murals, and I'm very proud of all the people who've lent a hand. In the end, this project is about making the community stronger."



"Hooperina" with four hula-hoops in motion at the same time.



Photo above: Assistant Jesse Golfis and artist Yuya Negishi stood in front of their mural (689 Snelling Ave.), "Birth of a New Day," completed at 2am on the morning of the Midway Arts Festival.

MIDWAY ARTS FESTIVAL



Photo right: A group of friends "converged" in front of Eric "the Blaster" Mattheis' mural, 638 Snelling Ave.



Spray paint artist Eric "the Blaster" Mattheis painted the mural outside the Snelling Café at 638 Snelling Ave. Areas of softness like the dove's feathers symbolize the opportunities for a peaceful convergence of ideas, beliefs and friendships.



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Frogtown Park and Farm is one of a kind

Grand opening scheduled for Oct. 3

Article and photos by MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Now a busy inner-city neighborhood, Frogtown was once a wetland where frogs were so numerous that the area was named for them. While large numbers of frogs may not be coming back anytime soon, it's pretty certain that birds, bees and butterflies will start to see an uptick in numbers there.

On Sat., Oct. 3 at 10:30am, the Frogtown Park and Farm will have its official dedication and grand opening. The 12.7-acre park and farm is the first of its kind in St. Paul, being both a park for general use and enjoyment and a soon-to-be, full-fledged, working urban farm. The event celebrates the culmination of years of hard work by neighborhood volunteers, staff, City of St. Paul officials, and community organizations.

To understand the significance of this event, consider that the Frogtown neighborhood has long been recognized as having a dearth of green space. No neighborhood in the Twin Cities has less. And, green space is known to contribute to the overall health of a community.

Seeing this need, long-time residents Seitu Jones, Soyini Guyton, Patricia Ohmans and Anthony Schmitz put their heads together and started to dream. Eventually, they would become known as the founders of Frogtown Park and Farm.

The new park and farmstead include the area bounded by Minnehaha, Victoria, Chatsworth, and Lafond avenues. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd had their "Home for Wayward Girls" there from

1863-1967. The massive Gothic building that housed their order was torn down in 1969, and The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation began construction of their main campus on the site.

The foundation put their headquarters up for sale in 2008, with a strong desire that the land be purchased and used for a good purpose. Unfortunately, foreclosures were hitting Frogtown especially hard, and no one expressed interest in putting that kind of money into the community.

The founders approached the Trust for Public Land and the Frogtown Park and Farm soon became one of their first urban projects.



Eartha Bell, executive director of Frogtown Park and Farm, stands in front of one of the more than 100 semi-truckloads of compost brought in to get the farm started.



Frogtown Park and Farm will cover 12.7 acres in the heart of Frogtown. Once completed, there will be a 5.5-acre farm with working gardens, demonstration gardens for education, a produce stand and more. The 7.2-acre park will include green space, an amphitheater for public programs, walking paths, sledding hills and some of the best views in town.

A collaborative was formed between the community, the Wilder Foundation, the City of St. Paul, and the Trust for Public Land. The collaborative was able to raise \$4.2 million in a capital campaign. A portion of that went to purchase the land; the rest was set aside for eventual design and construction.

The land transfer took place in 2013, and a six month period of community discussions followed. All of the partners involved were committed to this being a community-led project. According to Eartha Bell, executive director of Frogtown Park and Farm, "more than 1,000 people attended the community discussions and offered up their thoughts." The San Francisco firm Rebar was contracted to facilitate the design process.

"We're starting at the most basic level," Bell continued, "and are building this farm from the ground up. We've had more than 100 semi-truck loads of good,

rich dirt brought in from Dakota Roots, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's organics recycling facility. This will give us 12" of healthy topsoil to start with, and soon we'll be able to amend our soil on a continuous basis with our own compost."

The park and farm are a work in progress, and development will continue in stages over the next three years. By the grand opening, one of the three formal entrances, the one at Milton St., will be completed. Local metal artist Gita Ghei is creating all three of the entrances, using input from neighborhood residents about what they would like to see.

The basic design infrastructure for the land will be in place by Oct. 3, including all walking paths. A 96' X 36' hoop house will be erected, with late-season vegetables in the ground. Staff will

be available to discuss next steps, such as an on-site market stand selling produce to local restaurants and co-ops, and the farm's crop rotation plan. Neighbors will be able to learn about gardening in the Farm Commons next year, exchanging labor for shares of fresh produce.

Events on opening day will start at 10:30am with a blessing of the land. Dakota elders, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, and representatives from neighborhood cultural and religious groups will represent the many faces and beliefs of Frogtown. At 11am, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and Councilmember Dai Thao will address the audience. At noon, nearby restaurants will provide a free mini-taste of Frogtown. Tours of the land will be given continuously from 12-2pm.

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St. Paul contemplates more liquor licenses on University Ave.

By JANE MCCLURE

A desire to add more dining and drinking options along University Ave. and Green Line light-rail service could result in St. Paul's largest commercial development district. The district could be established by year's end or early 2016. City officials hope it would jumpstart redevelopment at several sites between Lexington Pkwy. and the west city limits.

The district would be one-half block deep in some areas and would extend several blocks north and south in other areas, starting at Aldine St. In the West Midway, it would extend to take in former industrial sites that are being converted for mixed-use redevelopment, going as far north as Pierce Butler Rte. It would also extend north on Snelling several blocks to Englewood Ave., to include an area recently rezoned

for mixed use. And, it would extend south to Interstate 94 along Snelling. City officials are hoping that when A Line rapid bus service starts on Snelling in early 2016, the improved transit would be an incentive for economic development.

It wouldn't include the Midway Center superblock, which is eyed as a possible new Major League Soccer stadium site.

Ward Four Council Member Russ Stark brought forward the district in response to requests from property owners. It is one of two commercial development districts pending in the city. The other is centered on the former Schmidt Brewery keg house at 882 W. 7th St., which developer Craig Cohen is converting into a festival marketplace.

"Obviously, along the Green Line, we're looking at creating more development opportuni-

ties," said Samantha Henningson, legislative aide to Stark. The intent is to bring in more restaurants with full liquor licenses.

"Restaurants would love to come to St. Paul. But, when there is no license available, they're no longer interested," said Dan Niziolek, deputy director of the city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI).

If a commercial development district is created along University, any existing on-sale liquor licenses could then be used in other places in the ward.

St. Paul has had a citywide and per-council ward cap on on-sale liquor licenses for many years. Ward Four, Ward Three and Ward Two neighborhoods outside of downtown have no licenses available. Ward One has eight licenses available. The Ward One section of the proposed commercial development district extends from Lexington to Snelling. Henningson said including that part of University is still being discussed with the Ward One council office.

DSI officials, the city's Business Review Council and City

Council members are looking at making changes to St. Paul on-sale liquor regulations, but that will mean changing the city charter. It could also mean redefining restaurants and changing the longstanding rule of 60 percent food sales to 40 percent alcohol sales for on-sale liquor licenses. The changes could take many months, so as an interim step commercial development districts have to be implemented.

Ward Four has a cap of 16 on-sale liquor licenses. The last available license was snapped up earlier this year by Episcopal Homes, a senior living campus, which offers liquor in its private dining room. One group interested in a liquor license is Can Can Wonderland, the group seeking to convert a former N. Prior Ave. can manufacturing factory into an artist-designed mini-golf course. It would include a restaurant.

Ward One has 26 on-sale licenses; eight are available. The proposed soccer stadium site is in Ward One.

Commercial development districts typically have a neighboring property owner petition process, but that would be waived in this case because of the size of the district. Instead, a public input process would be set up

through the Union Park, Hamline-Midway and St. Anthony Park district councils. The councils would hold public meetings.

The city also requires that before any commercial development district goes to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval, there needs to be a public hearing in the neighborhood where the district would be located.

The City Council enacted the districts in the 1980s as a way to develop entertainment districts. But the districts have had mixed success. Downtown St. Paul has about three dozen liquor licenses, most in restaurants. Cathedral Hill's Selby Ave. commercial development district has also thrived.

But districts established at Energy Park, University and Dale St., University and Hamline, and at the former Amtrak station on Pierce Butler Rte. have not. Energy Park only has a couple of bar-restaurants. The other districts have no on-sale licenses at all. The remaining districts are single-site districts, set up so that a specific restaurant can sell liquor. Niziolek said city officials would prefer larger commercial development districts, and not single-site districts, in the future.

African American Cigarette Smokers Wanted for Research Study

The University of Minnesota is looking for African American cigarette smokers who are interested in **quitting smoking**. This study requires 12 visits. Participants will receive up to \$390.00.

For more information, call 612-626-5981.



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Health Group

Continued from page 6

well as provide physical and social activities with the goal of increasing the awareness and importance of self-care and prevention strategies. The larger intent is to reduce chronic health issues and the subsequent unsustainable dependency on health-care services and a diminished lifestyle. Most importantly they hope to address the physical, mental, social and emotional concerns seniors experience and help them live their lives more fully and continue to be contributing and integral members of our community.

HMHM is in the early planning stages, but already there is synergy between this group and the community. The goal is to host a free, once-a-month gathering for Hamline Midway seniors. It could be followed by the educational programs on such topics as Alzheimer's and dementia, resources for caregivers, end-of-life planning, managing limited finances, teaching basic computer skills, gardening tips etc. Attendees will receive a light, healthy dinner, followed by activities such as educational speakers, exercise programs teaching yoga and Tai Chi, organized walking groups, ballroom dancing, board games, and yes, Bingo.

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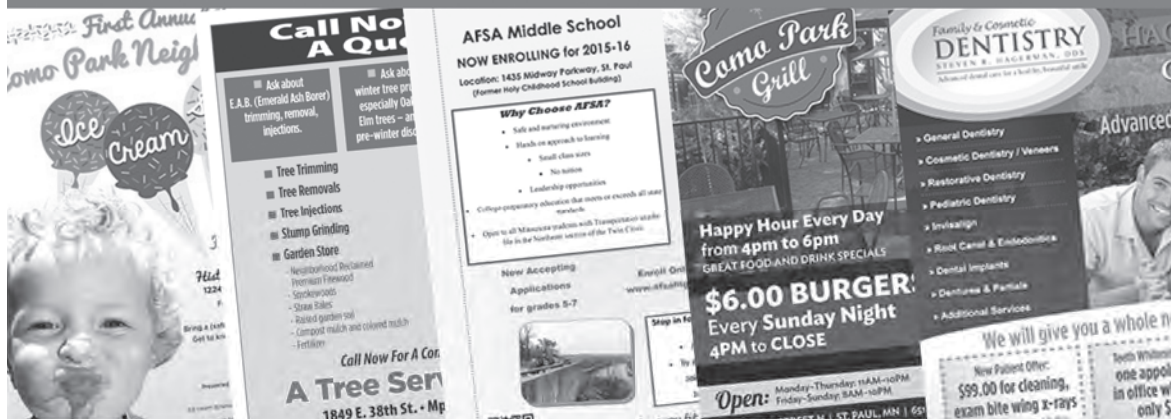
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In Our Community

Monitor

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

Donate at the fall Community Clean up!

HeroSearch.org and the City of Saint Paul have partnered so you can bring your donation items directly for local charities at the St Paul Community Clean up on the State Fairgrounds on Sat., Sept. 26, 8am-1pm. Go to the Larpenteur Ave. entrance just west of Snelling Ave.

Several local nonprofits will be collecting items including professional women's clothing, shoes and accessories for Dress for Success, as well as household items for Breaking Free and more. Other reusable items will be set aside for other charities and open to clean up visitors, so bring your denatable items and do good and clean house at the same time!

For more information, go to www.stpaul.gov/comeclean or www.HeroSearch.org/events.

Save the date for grooviest gala

ALLY People Solutions, 1246 University Ave. W., will host the Grooviest Party of the year, Thur., Nov. 12, 6-8pm, at the A'BULAE Event Center, 255 6th St. E.

For 50 years over 50 businesses have chosen to partner with ALLY People Solutions and hire adults with disabilities to solve staffing problem in their business. ALLY People Solutions workforce is a uniquely qualified and skilled group of 180 dedicated individuals who are ready to be employed for minimum wage, or higher paying, jobs with opportunities for advancement.

At the Groovy Gala, ALLY People Solutions guests will be walking down memory lane—back in time to the kitchen tables of its forward thinking and passionate founders. The night's program will reflect upon 50 years of advocacy, legislation, person-centered services, community making and public support leading to greater independence for the individuals it serves.

You can support Ally People Solutions by visiting www.AllyPeopleSolutions.org. Register for the event at www.AllyPeopleSolutions.org/GroovyGala.

Bike Tour to roll through Midway

The 20th Annual Sierra Club Bike Tour comes to Hamline-Midway on Sat., Sept. 19. A unique experience, the Tour will highlight green transportation in St. Paul's Midway, Downtown and Highland Park areas and will include bike-walk features on Charles Ave. and Bus Rapid Transit on Snelling Ave. coming in 2016. It's a leisurely-paced ride (approx. 20 miles) and includes rest stops,

guest speakers, and lunch.

The Tour starts/ends at Urban Academy Charter School, 1668 Montreal Ave. For more information and to register, see www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/tour or call Joshua Houdek at call 612-259-2447.

Bethlehem schedules craft sale Oct. 24

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (436 N. Roy St.) will hold their Craft Fair on Sat. Oct. 24, 9am-3pm. They will offer crafts, a bake sale, lunch and a raffle. The church is located one block south of University, right between University and Snelling, on Roy St.

Every Voice Counts planned Oct. 5

A facilitated discussion with Sen. John Marty will follow a showing of the 30-minute documentary "Legalize Democracy" from the organization Move to Amend. It will be screened on Mon., Oct. 5 at 7pm, at New Life Presbyterian Church, 965 W. Larpenteur Ave. Looking at how decisions such as Citizens United are impacting the voice of citizens in elections and the legislative process, the event is an opportunity to consider the effects of both "corporate personhood" and "money as free speech" on democracy's promise that every voice counts. Free and open to the public.

HM Elders plan upcoming events

All activities, unless otherwise noted, are at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave.

Annual Lasagna Dinner and Silent Auction. All Hamline Midway residents are invited to this annual event on Fri., Sept. 25 from 5-7:30pm in the Fireside Room at Hamline Church United Methodist. Feast on meat and vegetarian lasagna (along with dairy free and gluten free pasta options) prepared by Chef Erik Hendrickson, bid and purchase a variety of donated silent auction items—with all proceeds benefitting Hamline Midway Elders. Tickets are \$5 for seniors and children under 10, \$10 for all others in advance, and \$12 at the door.

Joint Friendly Exercise Class. This popular exercise class led by Joni O'Connell returns for an 8-week series on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons beginning Sept. 15 from 2-3pm. Joni uses humor to motivate participants—and we encourage elders who've never attended an exercise class before to try coming one time—and we think you'll be glad you did.

Caregiver Support Group.

Open to anyone caring for older adults or persons of any age with special needs, this group is facilitated by Hamline Midway Elder's Monica Gallagher and trained volunteers. The group meets on the second Thursday of each month. There is no cost, and new attendees are always welcome.

Chair Yoga. This popular free class led by Nancy Giguere returns for a 6-week series on Thursday mornings beginning Oct. 15 from 10:30 to 11:30am. This class is held in the auditorium at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. Chair yoga focuses on a range of movement, alignment, stretching, strengthening, awareness, breathing, and relaxation. All movement is done while seated or standing using the chair for balance.

Digital Storytelling 101. Nan Toskey of MEDIA to Remember will be conducting a small group workshop on Wed., Oct. 21 from 1-4pm for elders interested in writing, media, recording, and sharing. Space is limited for this free workshop, and interested elders must contact Hamline Midway Elders to learn more and reserve a slot.

Volunteers Wanted. Hamline Midway Elders operates with only two part-time staff. The majority of their services to neighborhood elders is provided by wonderful volunteers, and they could use more. They have a variety of volunteer needs ranging from driving folks to/from medical appointments, to providing chore services, to friendly visiting, to helping out at program events. Please consider helping their program help neighborhood elders.

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

HU/Community discussion planned

Save the date for a Hamline University/Community discussion planned for Oct. 14, 7-9pm, at Hamline Church United Methodist (1514 Englewood Ave.). You will have an opportunity to meet Hamline University's new President, Dr. Fayneese Miller. The agenda will provide feedback on a proposal for a Hamline University Community Advisory Committee, and you will learn about the status of 1549 Minnehaha, the City's Campus Boundary Zoning Study, and efforts to begin a historic survey of the neighborhood.

Fall Festival scheduled Oct. 3

The second annual Hamline Elementary Fall Festival, featuring The Cactus Blossoms, is taking place on Sat., Oct. 3, from 12-

4:30pm.

This year's festival will feature more entertainment, bounce houses, lawn games, and a chance to build something awesome with master builders from the Greater Midwest Lego Train Club. You'll also find a silent auction including goods and services from local businesses, face painting, food for purchase, crafts and more! Local vendors will also be on site for you to browse.

The day kicks off at noon with the Brodini Family Comedy Magic Show, a favorite with the kids!

A suggested donation of \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families will gain you access to all the activities. All proceeds go to fund arts education programming at Hamline Elementary School, a Saint Paul Public School.

The festival will take place in the field behind the school at 1599 Englewood Ave. and will move inside Hancock Rec Center (adjoining the school) in the event of bad weather.

For more details including vendor or volunteer information send us a message at HamlineElementaryPTA@gmail.com.

New pastor at Jehovah Lutheran

Jehovah Lutheran Church will continue into the autumn with one worship service, at 9:30am Sundays, followed by Sunday school and adult Bible study at 10:45am. Meanwhile, the Rev. Robert Benke has accepted a call to a congregation in Arkansas and the Rev. Mark Press will serve as vacancy pastor. Benke had served the congregation since 2003. Press is an emeritus professor at Concordia University in St. Paul. The church is at 1566 Thomas.

La Leche Group scheduled Oct. 8

The next meetings of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tue., Oct. 8. 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 on time and place.

Anxiety support group meets

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota sponsors free support groups for persons with anxiety disorders. The groups help individuals develop better-coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. An Open Door Anxiety and Panic support group meets from 6:30-8pm, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the

month, at Goodwill-Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., in Room 123. For information call NAMI at 651-645-2948.

Co-Ed Drum Circle planned Sept. 25

There will be a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., Sept. 25, 6:30pm at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored. All levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. Cost is \$10 at the door, and they provide drums. Info and registration at www.womensdrumcenter.org.

NAMI support group meets weekly

A NAMI Connection peer support group for adults recovering from mental illness meets in St. Paul. The free group is sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota. Trained facilitators who are also in recovery lead NAMI Connection groups. The group meets on Mondays, at 6:30pm, at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., Room 123. For more information, contact Mary at 612-387-6730 or call NAMI at 651-645-2948.

Annual Garden Day celebrated Sept. 19

Celebrate harvest season during Twin Cities' annual Community Garden Day on Sat., Sept. 19, noon to 3pm at Midway Greenspirit Community Garden at W. Taylor Ave. and N. Albert St. Gardeners will host a complimentary potluck, ice cream making, herb salt demonstration, pollinator house making workshop and garden tours.

Toastmasters offer Oct. classes

Have you ever sat still at a PTA or union meeting because you were afraid to speak up? "Speechcraft" can help you overcome that fear. You will learn to express your ideas in a positive manner. Viking Toastmasters is presenting a four week course on public speaking at Rice Street Library, 1011 Rice St., 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings starting Oct. 7. You will use a manual covering organization, gestures, voice control, word usage and impromptu speaking. Each speech will be evaluated to let you know how you are doing. The course will be taught by experienced Toastmasters. The cost is \$30 (includes manual). For more information call Les at 651-735-3953. To register email vikingtms591@gmail.com. You may pay at the first meeting. For

more information see their web site, <http://591.toastmastersclubs.org>.

Holiday boutique planned Oct. 3

The Church of the Holy Childhood, 1435 Midway Pkwy., will hold a holiday boutique on Sat., Oct. 3, 9am-4pm. They will offer a variety of unique items for your gift giving needs.

Keystone plans numerous programs

Beginner and advanced beginner pickleball will be held every Tuesday and Thursday, 9-11am. Cost for each session is \$2. Pickleball is sponsored by Keystone Senior Services at Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.

Licensed instructors from the Arthritis Foundation will provide exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11am to noon starting Sept. 15. Call 651-645-7424 for more information.

Exercise classes for adults age 50 and over are planned for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:30-11:30am. Stretching and warm up, endurance, cool down, guided relaxation, and fun are planned.

Play Mexican Train Dominos with friends and learn the game on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, 1-2pm.

Relax and play cribbage with friends every Tuesday, 12:30-3pm.

Keystone Crafters and Artists meet on Tuesdays, 1-3pm. Bring your projects and your art supplies and join fellow artists and crafters.

Health insurance counseling is available every Thursday. Get your health insurance questions answered in one-to-one sessions. You must call 651-645-7424 for an appointment.

There will be an AARP Smart Drivers four-hour refresher course on Mon., Sept. 14, 12-4 pm. The cost is \$18 and you must call 651-645-7424 to register.

All events are currently slated to run through November.

Salvage Saturday planned Sept. 12

Tech Dump, 698 N. Prior Ave., an R2 certified electronics-recycler that turns e-waste into jobs, will mark their first year in St. Paul with a Salvage Saturday event on Sat., Sept. 12, 9am-12pm. Salvage Saturdays offer weekend hours for free drop-off of most unused electronics for secure, environmentally safe recycling and

reuse.

Tech Dump is a Minnesota social enterprise that provides jobs to people with barriers to employment and protects the planet by responsibly diverting electronic waste through recycling and reuse. For more info, go to www.techdump.org.

City restarts Rec Check program

To help bridge the gap between the end of a child's school day and the end of a parent's workday, Mayor Chris Coleman today announced that St. Paul Parks and Recreation will again offer its popular Rec Check program. Rec Check is a free after-school program for youth in grades 1-5, provided at 16 Saint Paul recreation centers on weekdays from 3-6pm while St. Paul Public Schools are in session.

Local participating centers include:

—Hancock Recreation Center, 1610 Hubbard Ave.;

—Langford Park Recreation Center, 30 Langford Park;

—Oxford Community Center, 270 N. Lexington Pkwy.; and,

—West Minnehaha Recreation Center, 685 W. Minnehaha Ave.

Each day, youth participate in a variety of structured, supervised activities including tutoring sessions, craft-making, reading and physical fitness. A daily snack is also provided.

Rec Check is open to youth who live in, or attend school in, St. Paul. Registration must be done in person at the recreation center. Transportation may be arranged through St. Paul Public Schools if a child is attending Rec Check at a location more than one mile from their school. Transportation to students' residences from Rec Check is *not* provided. For more information visit stpaul.gov/reccheck.

Music of Haiti featured Sept. 26-27

The Minnesota Global Arts Institute and Hamline University continue their focus on our neighbors to the south, bringing the music and dance of Haiti's Carnival to St. Paul Sept. 26 and 27.

Raboday Dance and Drums' mission is to bring Haitian culture to Minnesota through dance, songs, drumming and storytelling. It is a space of expression, discovery and sharing, of roots, culture and history. It is a bridge to connect Haitian culture to other cultures in the community.

The main concert for The Music and Dance of Haiti will be held at Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Ave. on Sat., Sept. 26 at 7:30 (free, informative pre-show lec-

ture-demonstration at 7). Tickets are by general admission, \$12 for adults, \$8 for students, and \$5 for the Hamline/ACTC community. Seating is limited, and advance tickets are available online (<http://musicofhaiti.bpt.me>) or by calling 651-523-2459. Free parking is widely available in campus lots.

On Sun., Sept. 27, beginning at 2pm, there will be a *FREE* outdoor Haitian carnival in the plaza outside Sundin Hall. The carnival will include music, dance, drumming, and kite flying.

Other residency events include educational lectures and workshops for the university and for Hamline Elementary School

students. The series will wrap up in October with the Music of Paraguay.

Dementia Friends to meet Oct. 19

Dementia Friends will be meeting on Mon., Oct. 19, from 6-7pm at Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Dementia Friends is part of a growing network of people creating dementia-friendly neighborhoods and communities. A Dementia Friend learns a bit about what it's like to live with dementia and then turns that understanding into action.

The Dementia Friends move-

ment is changing the way people think, talk, and act about dementia.

Dementia Friends was launched in the St. Paul Neighborhoods Action Community to tackle the stigma, isolation, and lack of understanding of dementia. The initiative combines face-to-face Dementia Friends information sessions and an online Champion Training Video to help people learn more about dementia and the small things they can do to make a difference. ACT on Alzheimer's is committed to helping more communities and businesses become dementia-friendly by offering Dementia Friends information sessions.

Registration for fall classes has begun at rec centers

Basketball Registration is Sept. 1-31 at all recreation centers. You can register by going to your recreation site, by calling and using a credit card, or go to www.stpaul.gov/parks.

Registration for fall classes has begun.. Here is what is happening locally:

Northwest Como—1550 Hamline Ave. N., 651-298-5813
—Teen Dance ages 10-13
—Archery ages 9-14

—Tae Kwon Do ages 6 & up
—Red Cross Babysitting Class ages 11 & up
—Artist Workshop ages 7-13
—The Very Hungry Caterpillar Art Class ages 3-4

North Dale—1414 St. Albans St. N., 651-558-2329
—Adults/Seniors: Laughter Yoga, Pilates, Senior Fitness, Square Dance and Yoga
—Tae Kwon Do: all ages
—Ballet/Tap/Creative Movement

ages 39mo.-7yrs.
—Ballet ages 3-7
—Tap/Jazz/Ballet ages 7-13
—Drumming ages 8-Adult
—Growing With Music ages 9mo-5yrs.

Langford - 30 Langford Park, 651-298-5765
—Pilates for adults
—Badminton for adults
—Basketball Warm-up ages 9-14

Musical Offering sets Sept. 27 concert

The Musical Offering, one of the Twin Cities' premier chamber ensembles, announces its 45th Season opens Sun., Sept. 27 at Sundin Music Hall on the Hamline University campus.

The 2015-16 Season will showcase the richness of French music through The Musical Offering's eclectic ensemble of strings, winds and piano. The unique combination of instruments allows the area's oldest continuously performing ensemble to bring both famous and rarely heard masterpieces to the stage in a chamber setting. The ensemble is composed of top-tier professional musicians from the Minnesota Orchestra and from the faculties of Minnesota's finest universities under the co-artistic direction of Norbert Nielubowski and Susan Billmeyer.

The four-concert season opens Sun., Sept. 27, with an intimate, lyrical violin sonata

written by Mozart as he travelled on tour from Vienna to Paris. The program also includes Gabriel Fauré's only string quartet—the last piece he wrote at the end of his life—that is at once atmospheric, deep and soothing, and Parisian composer Adolphe Blanc's Septet, inspired by the Beethoven Septet but turning toward the full Romanticism of his contemporary Johannes Brahms.

A Francis Poulenc Flute Sonata starts off the second program of the season on Sun., Nov. 22. The concert also features the Casimir Théophile Lalliet Terzetto for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano. In contrast, Jacques Ibert's bubbly, sunny 3 Pièces for Wind Quintet offers frothy humor and Jean Francaix's witty 20th Century Octet.

Continuing The Musical Offering's tradition of combining an afternoon of exceptional music with exquisite cuisine, the

ensemble presents "Salon Parisien," a celebration of wonderful French music, food and wine in an atmosphere of camaraderie and conversation on Sun., Feb. 21. The program features Claude Debussy's landmark Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp, and Maurice Ravel's profoundly moving Piano Trio. In between are two contrasting works: the colorful, effervescent Jean-Michel Damase Wind Quintet and the mournful Poulenc *Élégie*, written in 1958 in memory of the horn virtuoso Dennis Brain.

All concerts begin at 3pm and take place at Sundin Music Hall. Tickets are \$25 (\$10 students) except for the Feb. 21 "Salon Parisien," which is \$50 all-inclusive. Season subscriptions are \$100 for all four concerts. Single tickets and season passes are on sale now and are available at musicaloffering.org or by phone at 651-523-2459.

Celebration of history planned at Hamline Methodist

Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave., will celebrate its history and its historic ties to neighboring Hamline University with a special service at 10am Sun., Sept. 27.

Bruce Ough, bishop of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, will preach. Bishop Ough will help Hamline Church dedicate plaques and celebrate its accomplishments. In 2015, the church was named as a Minnesota Annual Conference Historic Site. The church also received an award for outstanding historic preservation work by the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission and the St. Paul Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The church received that award as part of Preservation Month activities in May.

During the service, longtime

Hamline Church member and volunteer Marguerite Pramann will be honored. Pramann has been on many church committees, served as church historian and has been active in United Methodist Women at the church and district levels.

The Sept. 27 event is also an opportunity to tour the church, meet new Hamline University President Fayneese Miller, learn about church activities and see the new community bread oven. Refreshments will be served after the service.

In recognition of the church's 135-year history as neighbor to Hamline University, a display is now open at Klas Center at Snelling and Englewood avenues. The display includes information about church activities old and new, including the church's Minnesota State Fair

dining hall, the noted Minnesota artists whose works are featured at the church, church gardens and much more. The exhibit is free and open during Klas Center hours.

For general information about Hamline Church, go to www.hamlinechurch.org or call 651-645-0667 to speak with Pastor Mariah Furness Tollgaard.

For information about the Sept. 27 event, contact Church Historian Mary Bakeman at marybakeman@msn.com nor call 651-488-4416.

For information about, and a virtual tour of, Klas Center, go to <http://www.hamline.edu/about/virtual-tour/klas-center>.

For information about Bishop Ough, go to <https://minnesotaumc.org/news/meet-bishop-bruce-ough>.



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Pneumonia vaccine is important for all ages

Last winter Samuel thought he had caught a bad cold, but after two weeks of being sick, his health took a sudden turn for the worse. Samuel, only 35 years old, started having chest pain and trouble breathing. In a panic, his wife rushed him to the hospital while his children stayed with a neighbor. At the hospital, they learned that Samuel had pneumonia, and he needed to stay in the hospital.

Over the next week, Samuel tried many medicines to kill the germs that made him sick. After he had recovered, Samuel learned that his illness was caused by pneumococcal disease and that it could have been prevented with a vaccine. As a smoker, Samuel did not know that he was at a higher risk of serious infections from pneumococcal disease. After this close call and being away from his family and work for over a week, he got the pneumococcal vaccine and now tells everyone that they should be vaccinated too.

If you smoke, have asthma, diabetes, or another long-term health problem, the pneumococcal vaccine can help protect you from serious infections like pneumonia, meningitis (infection of the tissues surrounding the brain and spinal cord), and blood infections. Getting vaccinated can also help prevent less serious infections like sinus infections and ear infections. Vaccination helps stop these infections before they start and helps ensure that you do not pass them to your family and friends.



Pneumococcal disease is spread by coming in contact with the bacteria and then getting it in your mouth or nose. Sometimes

a person infected with pneumococcal bacteria can be sick, and you can avoid them, but often people are "carriers." Being a car-

rier means that the bacteria live in the nose or throat of a person, but that person does not become sick. You cannot tell who could be carrying the bacteria, so vaccination is the best way to protect yourself.

Even if you feel healthy, conditions like asthma and diabetes place extra stress on your immune system making it harder to recover if you become infected with pneumococcal bacteria. People with asthma, diabetes, other breathing, heart, or kidney conditions, and people who smoke cigarettes should ask their doctor about what vaccinations can help them stay healthy.

People who have illnesses that reduce their ability to fight infections need to get two different pneumococcal vaccines to

protect them. This includes people who have cancer, HIV, had surgery to remove their spleen, and cochlear implants (implants into the inner ear). People over 65 years of age should also get two different vaccines to protect them against pneumococcal disease. People in this age group can have problems recovering from a pneumococcal infection.

Ask your doctor or nurse if you have gotten the vaccines that you need. This includes flu vaccine because being sick with the flu makes you more likely to get pneumococcal disease. Make sure you are up-to-date on your influenza and pneumococcal vaccines! For more information, go to: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/pneumococcal/index.html.

Roseville series aims to help people cope better with Alzheimer's

By WARREN WOLFE

A series of documentary movies and talks by local experts will offer area residents an opportunity to build skills and confidence as they learn more about Alzheimer's disease and other dementia illnesses.

It is a growing issue as people live longer. About 90,000 Minnesotans have dementia, a number projected to reach 120,000 in 10 years. Overall, one in nine people age 65 and older will develop dementia, rising sharply to one in three among those 85 and older.

The series of talks and movies is sponsored by the Roseville ACT on Alzheimer's project—part of a statewide ACT program now

with 34 volunteer groups working to create "dementia-friendly" communities.

That concept focuses on building awareness, education and skills so that those with dementia can continue to live as independently as possible in their communities, helped by friends, family, neighbors businesses and city services.

The fall program will start Sun., Sept. 20, 1-4pm, with a showing of the HBO documentary "The Alzheimer's Project: Caregivers," at Lyngblomsten Care Center, 1415 Almond Ave.

The expert series starts 1-2:30pm, Thur., Oct. 8 at Roseville City Hall, 2660 Civic Center

Dr. Neurologist Dr. Michael Rosenbloom, director of the HealthPartners Memory Clinic in St. Paul, will talk about "Understanding Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease."

Other talks will be:

—Oct. 15, neuro-psychologist Dr. Sonia Mosch of the HealthPartners Memory Clinic, "Testing for Dementia: Diagnosis to Treatment and Real World Implications";

—Oct. 22, Deb Nygaard of Arthur's Residential Care in Roseville, "Practical Tips for Avoiding Power Struggles"; and

—Oct. 29, Catherine Engstrom of Wilder Foundation Caregiver Services, "Caregiver Stress/Burnout (Taking Care of You)."

Finally, two documentaries

showing how the arts help those with dementia will be presented at Lyngblomsten from 1-4pm on two Sundays. Nov. 1 will be the screening of "Alive Inside," about the power of music to tap stored memories. Nov. 15, "I Remember Better When I Paint" will be shown.

All events are free and open to the public, and will include time for audience questions.

Warren Wolfe is a former reporter for the Star Tribune, where he wrote about aging and health care issues for more than 20 years. He is retired and is active with the Roseville Alzheimer's and Dementia Community Action Team.

Classifieds

Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by Sept. 28 for the Oct. 8 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 \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor before Sept. 28 for the Oct. 8 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to denis@deruyternelson.com. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at www.MonitorSaintPaul.com.

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Residents push for bus route down Hamline

Hamline Hi-Rise seniors lead the effort to add bus route down Hamline Ave. to light rail line

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

If you live near 777 N. Hamline Ave., you have to take three buses to get to the grocery store on University Ave. W.

Some senior residents of the Hamline Hi-Rise opt to drive their power wheelchairs down the street instead, traveling nine blocks south to get to the shops along University.

Jerline Clark doesn't think that's safe. And she's working to do something about it.

Clark is pushing for a bus route down Hamline.

When the Green Line opened, Metro Transit added a route along Lexington, she pointed out, using federal funds designated for the purpose of moving people towards the light rail line. Representatives with Metro Transit have told Clark they won't add a line along Hamline because there is one on Lexington.

"We still can't get to the light rail," remarked Clark, who has been a resident at the Hamline Hi-Rise since 2005. Completed in 1976, 777 N. Hamline has 17 floors and 186 one-bedroom apartments. It is operated by the St. Paul Public Housing Agency.

"They made the decision of where to put the buses without asking the people in the neighborhood," she added.



Proud Hamline Walkers have gone door-to-door canvassing the neighborhood with a petition asking for a bus route down Hamline Ave. Over 250 have signed it. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

"There's more need down Hamline than there is on Lexington."

Over 250 people agreed with her and signed a petition last fall requesting a bus down Hamline.

In addition to asking fellow Hamline Hi-Rise residents to sign, Clark and the Proud Hamline Senior Walkers went door-to-door in the neighborhood asking for signatures.

"There are a lot of people

from different walks of life that want the bus," remarked Darlene Jackson, a fellow Hi-Rise resident who helped canvas the neighborhood. She pointed out that many Hamline University students indicated they'd use a bus if there was one.

Emily Samsel lives next door to the Hamline Hi-Rise and regularly volunteers there with her church, The Third Way Community, that meets at Knox Presbyterian Church.

"It seems like a no-brainer to me," said Samsel.

Right now, residents walk two blocks down to Minnehaha to catch a bus. They take that over to Snelling where they have to switch buses. That takes them only as far as University. Then they have to switch buses again to find one to take them to Cub.

Imagine doing that as a senior and then hauling your grocery bags back, switching buses

several times again. Now factor in inclement weather and icy roads.

"In the winter, it's terrible," added Jackson. "We're got to eat too. That's where the grocery stores are."

Samsel acknowledged that the residents could opt to use Metro Mobility, but it isn't predictable, and it costs \$3 or \$4 each way, she said. For someone who has to get to a doctor's appointment three times a week, that adds up.

"Most seniors are pretty limited," Samsel pointed out.

Some people opt to walk, but that can be tough too, pointed out Samsel. "These sidewalks are trouble," said Samsel. "I trip every time and I don't have a disability."

Because of the bumps and sidewalks that aren't shoveled well, the power wheelchairs use the smoother street surface.

Samsel believes that many residents would use a bus if it ran down Hamline. "It's good for everybody," she stated.

"It will benefit everyone to have a bus line down Hamline."

Emily Samsel

As she's talked to neighborhood residents, she has only heard support for the initiative.

They aren't asking for a private bus, stressed Clark. "We just need it to be convenient," she said.

Clark pointed out that they're flexible about how often the bus runs down Hamline. It could be every two hours or just



Jerline Clark, a resident at the Hamline Hi-Rise, is leading the effort to get a bus down Hamline. "I see a need for this," she explained. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

mornings and afternoons.

Last October, a community meeting was held at the Hamline Hi-Rise. Clark plans to hold another within the next few months to garner more support for the bus route.

She also urges residents to contact these people to show their support:

- Met Council Representative Jon Commers 651-645-4664
- Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb 612-349-7510
- St. Paul City Council Member Russ Stark 651-266-8640
- Minnesota Department of Transportation Commissioner Charlie Zelle 651-366-1899

For more information, contact Clark at jerlineclark@hotmail.com.

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Celtic Junction

Continued from page 2

get a taste for what they teach there.

Fall classes include: Celtic Cuties (singing for 2-4 years); Singing Sweeties (4-6 years); Tin Whistle Troupe (6-9 years); Budding Bodhrans (7-10 years); Write a Tune (8-12 years); and Irish Gaelic Singing (10-14 years). There also are adult song, instrument and language classes, and all kinds of ensembles (called "sessions") for kids, teens and adults.

Celtic Junction is a full-fledged music school with eight individual rooms for lessons and practice, and one larger gathering space for sessions. The Center for Irish Music has 18 pro-

fessional musicians on staff and serves more than 250 students of all ages. Year-round instruction in fiddle, whistle, flute, bodhran, harp, Uilleann pipes, button and piano accordion, piano, bouzouki, guitar, and song is available. The staff is a who's who of local instrumental and vocal talent (see their instructor's page for current bios at www.centerforirishmusic.org).

Additional music groups use Celtic Junction for practice and performance. Those groups include the Great Northern Irish Pipers Club, New Music Arts, and the Traditional Singers Club.

And, Celtic Junction has a stellar line-up of Celtic artists in performance, from close to home and around the world. Check out the schedule at www.celticjunction.com.

Other dance groups that kick up their heels at the junction are Scottish Highland Dance, Community Tap with Keane Sense of Rhythm and the Mooncoin Ceili Dancers.

Whether or not you've got a drop of Irish blood in your veins, consider coming out to a class or a concert at Celtic Junction. Through their dance and music offerings, they're adding a rich dimension of Irish culture to the Midway District—and a way for students of any age to learn and grow.

Nora Rendell, executive director of the Center for Irish Music, is a gifted vocalist, tin flute and whistle player, as well as a teacher.



A mother and daughter took part in an informal session at the Center for Irish Music, which involved fiddles, guitars, drums (bodhrans), concertinas, whistles and more.



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Friday, October 2
Installation Ceremony
3 p.m.
Hutton Arena, Hamline University


Inauguration Reception
Immediately following the Installation Ceremony
in a tent on Old Main Mall

Saturday, October 3
The Fall Fest – featuring family-friendly activities
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Anderson Center

Sunday, October 4
Worship Service with Inaugural Blessing – featuring music from Hamline University's A Cappella Choir
10 a.m.
Hamline Church United Methodist

hamline.edu/inauguration





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