



Long studied  
bike plan  
approved

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Something fishy  
is happening on  
Pierce Butler Rd.

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Baby boom  
continues at  
Como Park Zoo

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## Midway Como

# Monitor



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## Will reconstruction restore Snelling Ave. as Minnesota's Main St.?

*Business owners upset about narrowing of parking lanes, assessments nearing \$20,000*

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

They dealt with three years of construction along University Ave. while the Green Line was built.

Now businesses at Snelling and University are facing another construction season.

This time Snelling will be torn up.

Although attorney Stephen Nelson is located several blocks north of the University intersection at 665 Snelling, he says his business suffered from the University construction. Clients didn't want to deal with the hassle of the construction area, and so avoided his office, he said. It wasn't uncommon to have traffic backed up all the way from University to his office building.

Nelson is very concerned about the effect another construction season will have on local businesses, and points out that there are already many vacant structures in the area.

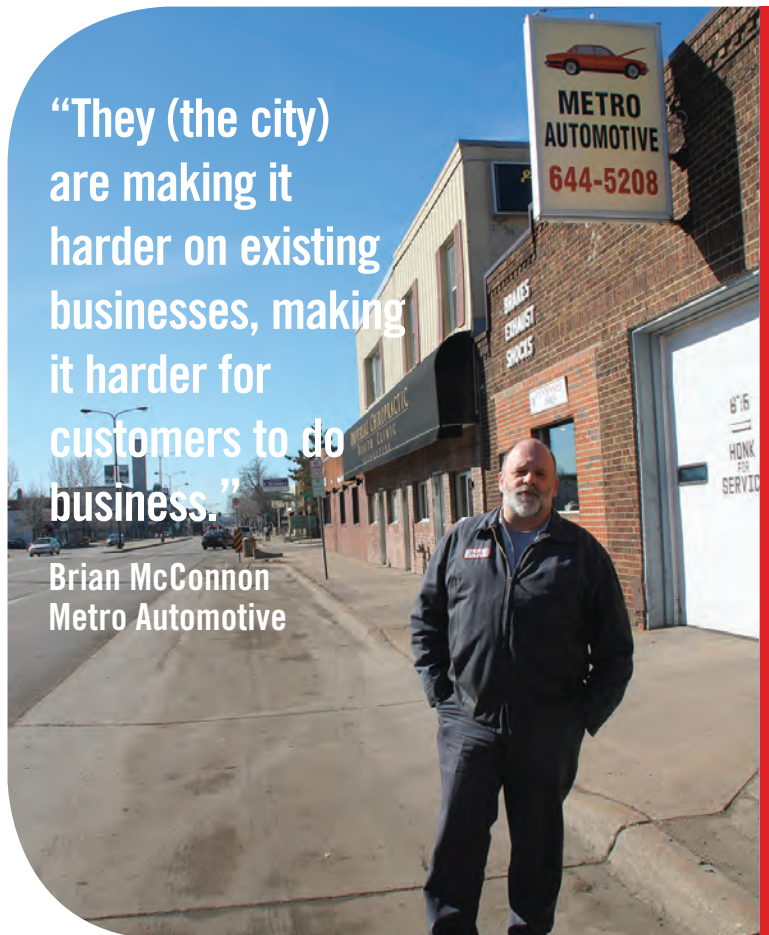
But it isn't just the plan to repave Snelling that has Nelson and other business owners upset.

It's the decision to add decorative lighting on the sidewalks.

The decision to add double lantern decorative street level lamps brings assessments and the loss of street space because the sidewalk boulevard area will

"They (the city) are making it harder on existing businesses, making it harder for customers to do business."

Brian McConnon  
Metro Automotive



be widened. The parking bays will be narrowed from 11 feet to 9 feet.

When Nelson asked why the

sidewalk had to be so wide, he was told it was to avoid car doors dinging the light poles. He thinks a few dents is worth the poten-

tial loss of life from someone stepping out of their car into the path of an oncoming semi.

"Is a life worth less than a car door?" he asked.

### City "not business-friendly"

Nelson is concerned about how the narrowing of parking lanes will affect his older clients. He can only park three cars in his small parking lot, so most of his clients park on the street.

Nelson had purchased land next to his in order to expand his parking lot to 8-10 cars a few years ago, but the city denied his request, despite it being in a commercial zone.

"If they don't want to give us parking lots, they need to give us street parking," said Nelson. "They say they're business-friendly, but I've never seen it."

Nelson's dad moved his law firm to Snelling Ave. N. in 1956. Nelson joined him in the 1970s.

Nelson has encouraged his council member, Russ Stark, to come down to Snelling and park two feet away from the curb in order to discover what it will be like when the street is reconstructed. "I never saw anyone come out and never heard from anyone that they did that," said Nelson.

Nelson has asked the city to reconsider its decision regarding the street lights.

"It has been a frustrating experience," he remarked.

Nelson isn't the only one upset.

### Midway Books suffering

Tom Stransky of Midway Book Store at 1579 University Ave. watched his business cut in half during the light rail construction. The shop has been there since 1965, and plans to celebrate its 50th anniversary this summer—during the reconstruction project.

Midway Books received a \$2,100 assessment for the University Ave. project, and is now facing a \$18,700 assessment for Snelling.

"Does that sound fair to you?" Stransky asked.

The city has offered payment plans for 20 years at 4.5% interest. "The city is going to make a lot of money off us," noted Stransky, who has considered relocating.

### Businesses say they were not informed about assessments

Nelson has polled most of the businesses near his location

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## Yearly gift sets in motion great things

*Even though she left the neighborhood decades ago, Rozanne Ridgway's annual gift honors her mother*

By JAN WILLMS

Besides giving them life, Ethel Ridgway gave her three children the gift of reading. And since 1998, her daughter Rozanne Ridgway has been passing that gift along to children through a grant in honor of her mother.

In spite of the fact that Ridgway has lived in Washington, DC, for many years, she has not forgotten the neighborhood she grew up in. The Hamline graduate served 32 years with the State Department in many capacities, including being an ambassador to East Germany and Finland, and ending her career as an Assistant Secretary of State of European and Canadian

Affairs.

"Every year she gives the Hamline Midway Library money so we can buy books for students at the Hamline Elementary School," said Sam Ryan, a library associate. "This is a book that the students get to keep. The gift is given to Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, and they in turn pass it on to us."

Ryan said the funding is somewhat flexible but has to be used for literacy-related programs. He said the grant has allowed the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha, to purchase a children's PC with learning games on it and a circulating selection of Big Books.

"Mainly, we use the grant for books," he said. "What we don't use by giving away to Hamline Elementary, we give away to Galtier School later in the year. And we buy books for a summer reading program that is city-wide."

Ryan said he has been at Hamline Midway Library for five years, and it has been a little different using the grant every year.

"Typically, we contact Hamline Elementary towards the end of the school year so that we can either have the students, in K-2 classes, visit us or we go over there. Along with giving a book and talking about the importance of reading and an expla-



Lily Kopp reads Dr. Seuss.

nation of why we're giving the book and a little bit about the history of Rozanne Ridgway, we use the time to talk about the library," Ryan explained.

"We want to implant in their minds what they can do

at a library and ask them about their favorite things to do there," Ryan said. "We show them how they can get a library card and ask them if they

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# St. Paul biking resources abound

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

The City of St. Paul is currently designated as a bronze level "bicycle friendly community" by the Bicycle Alliance of America. With the recent adoption of the St. Paul Bicycle Plan

protected lanes for safe travel. Once completed, this will link 350 miles of biking thoroughways within the City of St. Paul. (See story on page 4.)

Whether you're new to the sport or a seasoned cyclist, there are many resources near-by to help make your biking experience great.

If you don't own a bike and want give it a try, consider renting one for an hour or a day through Nice Ride Minnesota. Their slogan is, "Public bikes for everyone—fast, affordable and fun." They have rental stations in Hamline-Midway all along University Ave., corresponding with the Green Line stops. It's easy to rent a bike with a credit or debit card at any of the stations. They're getting an early start on the season this year and, weather permitting, plan to be up and rolling by Apr. 3. Their website is full of useful information, including fun day-trip routes around town and a valuable section on bike safety. Check it out at [www.niceridemn.org](http://www.niceridemn.org).

If you have your own bicycle and it needs some work, there are several reputable shops within an easy bike ride from Hamline-Midway.

To the south are Boehm's Cycling, Express Bike Shop, Now Bikes and Grand Performance, all of which can get you ready for spring.

To the east, at 712 University Ave. (near Grotto) is an innovative non-profit bike cooperative called Cycles for Change. Their mission is to build a diverse and empowered community of bicyclists, by helping people learn to maintain and repair their own bikes. While full-service repair for pay is an option, they encourage cyclists to come into the store during open shop times, to use their tools and ask questions of their mechanics on staff – all at no charge. The spring schedule for Open Shop is Tuesday from 4-8pm (for women and transgender); Wednesday from 3-9pm and Sunday from 12-5pm, when everyone is welcome.

All MTC buses, the Blue, Green and North Star train lines are now equipped with bike racks. The racks will hold most

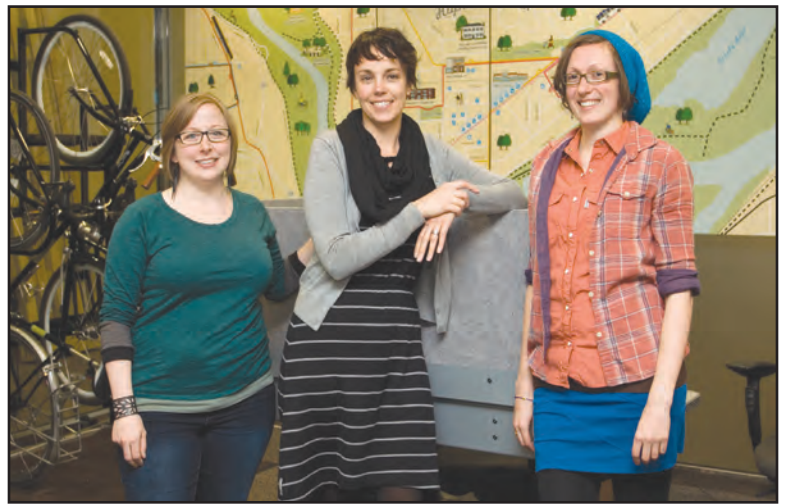


Friendly Streets Initiative's director Lars Christensen on Charles Ave. Bike Blvd. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

(SPBP), that designation may well rise to silver—or maybe even gold.

In a recent press release, Mayor Chris Coleman said, "This long-term, comprehensive plan will transform our neighborhoods over time. It will help to ensure a balanced, equitable approach to transportation infrastructure, improved safety and quality of life, new economic opportunities and better access for people of all ages."

The approved SPBP calls for an additional 197 miles of bicycle trails, boulevards and



Smart Trips staff members (L to R) Stephanie Weir, Jessica Treat and Emma Pachuta. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

wheel and frame sizes, except recumbents. There is no extra charge to use the bike racks and if you would like to practice loading your bike in a stationary setting, come on down to Cycles for Change or, another hub of bicycling wisdom, called St. Paul Smart Trips.

St. Paul Smart Trips (56 East 5th St., #202) is a TMO, or Transportation Management Organization. Their role is to collaborate with advocates, neighbors, workplace representatives and government staff—all working to address the transportation needs of the people of St. Paul. Executive Director Jessica Treat, whose family is car-free by choice, is an enthusiastic supporter of bicycle commuting. "St. Paul Smart Trips helps people explore their options for getting around town, whether by foot, bike or transit. The goal of the organization is to provide information on healthy, environmentally friendly and economical ways to reduce car travel," Treat said.

If the prospect of changing your transportation habits feels daunting, the staff at Smart Trips can help you understand your options—and they'll be the first to remind you that one smart trip at a time, every little bit helps. Find them at [www.smart-trips.org](http://www.smart-trips.org) to learn more.

To experience one of the collaborative planning models that will support the SPBP as it becomes reality, mark your calendar. On Sat., Apr. 25 from 12-4pm, the Friendly Streets Initiative (FSI) will co-host an event on the Griggs Pedestrian Bridge over I-94. This family-friendly event, part of FSI's Better Bridges Plan, will give residents a chance to share their thoughts on how to improve the Hamline, Lexington and Griggs Bridges over the freeway, making them safer for

cyclists and pedestrians.

Friendly Streets Initiative is a non-profit partnership whose mission is to engage St. Paul residents in transforming their neighborhoods. They do this by employing a variety of creative and interactive strategies. Executive director Lars Christensen said, "We've learned that if you want to have a good community conversation, you have to have fun!" To that effect, the Apr. 25 gathering will feature food, music, art-making and lots of conversation.

To see an example of their work in action, ride the Charles Ave. Bike Blvd. which runs four miles from Aldine to Park streets. The boulevard was conceived and built over the past four years and, pending final funding, will be completed this year. It sports safer crossings for cyclists and pedestrians, traffic-calming measures in the form of traffic circles instead of stop signs, stenciling on the streets to remind motorists that this is a bicycle boulevard, improved signage and more.

If all this talk about exercise is making you hungry, plan a visit to Trotter's Cafe (232 Cleveland Ave. N.) where every Saturday night is Local's Night from 5-8pm. Neighbors who live within 2 miles of the cafe get a 10% discount. Reduce your carbon footprint by walking, biking or busing to Trotter's, and they'll discount another 5%. There's free music every Saturday from 6-8pm as well.

As the city moves into this new era of improved and sustainable transportation options, it becomes clear that not only is the physical infrastructure of St. Paul changing, but also the infrastructure of information and resources that support it.

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# News from Como Park High

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

• 21 AP U.S. Government and History students spent the first week of March in Washington D.C. participating in the national Close Up program. The Como students had meetings to discuss public policy with both of their U.S. Senators and their Congresswoman during their visit to Capitol Hill. The students also participated in study visits to every major memorial and monument in Washington, visited several Smithsonian Museums, and attended seminars with Congressional aides, policy experts, and media members. Other cultural highlights included seeing a play at the Kennedy Center, and exploring neighborhoods such as Georgetown and DuPont Circle.



A group of Como Park High students spent the first week of March in Washington D.C. participating in the national Close Up program. The group is pictured on steps of the U.S. Capitol with Senator Amy Klobuchar.

• Como Park freshman World History students advanced from Regional competition to State History Day at the U of M in the following categories: Research Papers - Fatha Ahmed, Noah Frese, Jackson Kerr, Gabe Reynolds, and Lucas Carmichael-Tanaka; Individual Website - Grace Commers and Eva Hanson; Individual Exhibit - Walter Medcraft; Individual Documentary - Arturo Digirolamo; and Group Documentary - Shukuri Abdullahi and Hodon Bashir, Stephen Boler and Eli Pattison. St. Paul Regional Honorable Mention was awarded to Allen Thoresen and Shyann Salverda for Group Exhibit, and Beth Fryxell and Emma Wallisch for Group Website.

• The Como Park Advanced Band received a certificate of Excellence from the Minnesota State High School League at the March 24 Large Group Competition at Tartan High School.

• Rachel Tetlie was awarded the Presidential Distinction Scholarship in addition to a music scholarship of \$20,000 annually at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN.

• National AP Exams (Advanced Placement) will be conducted at Como during the first two weeks of May. 521 exams will be given in 23 different AP subjects that Como students have studied this academic year. April is a busy month of preparation and

review with several student-led study sessions and multiple evening sessions led by Como AP teachers.

• The Robotics team debuted their robot, the "Recyclops" at the 10,000 Lakes Regional Contest on April 3 at Williams Arena. Results will be in the next Monitor.

• The Como Park Booster Club hosted a successful fund-raising event at the Urban Growler in March. The Booster Club is a parent organization that supports Como school activities with supplementary financial support, while also broadening community involvement. The Club recently awarded grants to the Como Choirs and Jazz Band for travel costs, an ELL Field Trip, and supported needs of the JROTC, Cross-Country Team, Student Council, and Senior Barbeque.

• The annual Student-Faculty Basketball Game took place during the last hour of school before Spring Break. A packed gym of students supported both teams in a fun-filled event with players from the Senior Class

versus Staff members that always produces laughs and memories.

• The competitive spring sports seasons began with try-outs and practices in mid-March. Boys' teams include baseball, track, tennis, and golf. Girls' teams are fielded in softball, track, golf and badminton. Como also has Ultimate Frisbee teams for the boys and girls that are ramping up with more outdoor matches. New to St. Paul this year are co-op lacrosse teams for both genders.

• Cougars Softball is set to defend their conference crown, and a fund-raising event for the team is planned for Apr. 11 at the Nickel Joint, located at 501 Blair Ave., beginning at 6pm. Tickets cost \$15 and include great food and beverages, and many door prizes and drawings.

• Como Boys' Soccer is raising funds for its 2015 season with a May 8 event at the soon to be opening Como Dockside. More information about "Night By the Lake" is available at [www.comosoccer.com](http://www.comosoccer.com) with a link to purchase tickets.

## Keystone Community Services and West Seventh Community Center merge

West Seventh Community Center has merged with Keystone Community Services as approved by the board of directors at both organizations, effective Apr. 1.

"Keystone and West Seventh share similar missions, values and history as well as similar kinds of services and models of service delivery and thus are well-positioned to merge," said Eric Nyberg, President of Keystone.

Keystone and West Seventh have long been community-builders and providers of social services. The consolidation of key administrative functions will result in a single more streamlined and cost-efficient operation. This will ensure that West Seventh Community Center can continue its vital role in the West 7th neighborhood as part of Keystone Community Services.

For Keystone, the merger means an even stronger foundation. "We will be able to reach more residents with enhanced services and new opportunities for engagement, including volunteer opportunities and partnerships with faith communities and business leaders, in our new combined service area," said Nyberg.

Nyberg emphasized the shared history and impact of the two organizations. Both organizations grew out of the settlement house tradition and are part of a group of multi-service agencies that have long served neighborhoods in St. Paul, he added. "Neighborhood-based multi-service agencies have long contributed to the quality of life for which St. Paul is well known and we look forward to a strong future together."

Keystone has offered a variety of programs at multiple sites for people all ages. Their programming includes Basic Needs Services, including three food shelves and emergency services, Senior Services including Meals on Wheels delivery and active senior programming, Youth Services including after-school programming and a social enterprise, Case Management and so much more. Keystone operates its programs at seven community locations, including major multi-service sites at the Merriam Park Community Center. You can learn more about Keystone Community Services at [www.keystonecommunityservices.org](http://www.keystonecommunityservices.org) or call 651-645-0349.

## Letters to the Editor

### Dickerman Park plans look fishy

To the Editor,

The current conceptual plans for Dickerman Park look fishy, literally and figuratively.

There are precious few expanses of University Ave. in Midway (or the Cities for that matter) that offer us the opportunity to develop a world class street frontage and a prime location for a significant piece of public art that functions year round. This is not the place for token wildlife habitats, mini-art or history moments; much less ghost playgrounds.

A 'Linear' Park should be just that, linear. Formal tree lined promenades offering people and place watching opportunities with ancillary spaces for seating, respite, cafe-ing or food trucking.

A daily walk or vista to remember and enjoy, not to try and understand. A Park that becomes a Place.

Tom Reasoner  
St Paul MN

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# Long-studied bike plan approved by St. Paul City Council

By JANE MCCLURE

Bicycle helmets usually are not required attire in the St. Paul City Hall Council Chambers, but at a recent public hearing many were brought in to make the point that bicycle improvements are needed. More than 150 people were on hand in mid-March when the citywide bike plan was adopted. The St. Paul Bicycle Plan is the most ambitious plan of its kind in city history.

The St. Paul City Council voted 6-0 Mar. 18 to approve the plan. The vote included assurances to affected downtown business and property owners that their concerns about safety and loss of parking will be heard in the months ahead.

The plan calls for more than 350 miles of bike lanes, off-street trails and marked streets. (St. Paul currently has 153 miles of bike lanes and trails.) The plan goal, said city sustainable transportation coordinator Reuben Collins, is to have an off-road or on-road bike facility within one-quarter mile of every resident of the city.

City officials hope that by 2025, bikes are used by 2.5 percent of commuters and in 5 percent of all trips made. The first two phases of the plan envision completing the 27-mile citywide Grand Round trail and on-street bike route, and to plan and build a 1.7 mile downtown bicycle and pedestrian loop system. The downtown piece of the plan was intentionally left blank to allow for a separate planning process. The adopted plan also left out the Ford site in the Highland neighborhood, which is eyed for



*Adding to the city's bike system has a cost roughly estimated at \$107.9 million. That figure could be reduced as some projects will be combined with street reconstruction. Annual maintenance costs are at about \$3.6 million.*

redevelopment.

The plan has been in the works for four years and has been the topic of numerous community open houses, district council presentations and online forums. The plan will likely be implemented over a period of many years as streets are rebuilt or separate project funding becomes available.

Adding to the city's bike system has a cost roughly estimated at \$107.9 million. That figure could be reduced as some projects

will be combined with street reconstruction. Annual maintenance costs are at approximately \$3.6 million.

Council President Russ Stark noted that it's the first time he can recall having full temporary bike racks outside of City Hall. Volunteers brought the bike racks for the hearing, which had to be delayed because advocates wanted to bring bike helmets in with them. The helmets had to go through building security.

"It's a big day for the city to

finally be moving toward having a bike plan," Stark said. St. Paul has been behind on bicycle facilities, but "in other ways we're making a lot of progress quickly, and that's an exciting thing."

Stark introduced several amendments to the plan before the hearing, clarifying the need for annual progress reports and ranked list of projects. Another amendment clarified that the plan is a long-term vision that will take many years to implement. A third called for connections to the downtown bike loop to be made when the loop is built. He also added language to the plan to support the need to look at bicycle Safe Routes to School that may not be in the plan, but that may be sought at a later date.

One amendment clarified that University Ave. between Aldine St. and Transfer Rd. would have an in-street separated lane. Another change designated LaFond Ave. between Grotto St. and Chatsworth Ave. as a bicycle boulevard.

The plan states that, in some cases, when streets would be simply marked for bikes, there's not a need for a public involvement process. Stark added an amendment clarifying that in other cases, where parking may be lost or a lane removed, a public involvement process is necessary.

Thirteen people, most of them from downtown, spoke against the plan, with 17 others speaking in support. Most opposition centered on Wabasha St. and loss of parking, which is eyed as part of the downtown loop. The fight over Wabasha

has split the business community there.

Others who spoke against the plan raised safety concerns, with a few speakers criticizing cyclists for not following traffic regulations. A few speakers said they fear more bicycle-motor vehicle accidents if the plan is adopted.

Supporters praised the plan, saying it would transform St. Paul into a true bicycling city and provide needed connections. They disputed claims that adding bicycle lanes would hurt businesses, saying that adding bike and pedestrian facilities would bring more patrons.

Hamline-Midway resident Jessica Treat, executive director of St. Paul Smart Trips and a spokesperson for the group Women on Bikes, praised the plan. But as a member of a family that uses bikes and transit to travel, she urged the council to consider steps to add protected bike lanes in St. Paul. These lanes would have a buffer between bicyclists and vehicles.

Treat has a young daughter who will be biking beside her parents someday. Describing her most important job as being a mom, Treat said there are few streets in St. Paul where she'd someday feel comfortable letting her daughter bike.

Women on Bikes conducted extensive focus groups and heard from many women who said they want to bike more, and bike with their families, but don't feel safe on city streets. Treat said that makes the case for more protected bike lanes.

## Worried about the cost of shots? The MnVFC program can help

By The Minnesota Department of Health, Immunization Program

Maria is the mom of a 12-month-old who is due for her next well child check-up with the doctor. Like any other parent, she wants what is best for her child. She knows that getting her daughter vaccinated is an important thing to do to protect her from dangerous diseases.

Unfortunately, Maria does not have medical insurance for her daughter, and she knows vaccines can be expensive. She's worried her daughter won't be

able to get the vaccines she needs to stay healthy. Then, a family member tells her about the Minnesota Vaccines for Children program.

Through the Minnesota Vaccines for Children program, children 18 years old and younger who do not have medical insurance, are enrolled in Medicaid, are Native American or Alaska Native, or whose insurance doesn't cover the cost of the vaccine can receive all recommended vaccines free of cost.

If you are worried about how much shots cost, ask your

clinic about the Minnesota Vaccines for Children program. Find out if your child can get free or low cost shots by going to this website: [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/howpay.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/howpay.html).

Almost all clinics that see children in Minnesota participate in the Minnesota Vaccines for Children program. Ask your clinic if they participate in the Minnesota Vaccines for Children program and if your child can get vaccines free of cost. There may be some other fees you still have to pay when you go to the

doctor for the vaccines. You can call your clinic to ask if there are other fees before your visit.

Immunizing your child is one of the most loving things you can do. Getting all recommended shots protects your child and others in the community so disease does not spread. Diseases that used to be common in

the United States are rarely seen. That is because vaccines work.

If you are looking for more information about vaccines and the diseases they prevent, look at the Vaccine Information Sheets on this website: [www.immunize.org/VIS](http://www.immunize.org/VIS). They are available in many languages.

### Midway YMCA breaks ground for building

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, along with other community and business leaders and Y members, participated Apr. 3 in a ceremony recognizing the construction of the new YMCA. The new facility is being built at its former location. It will be 52,000 square feet and will feature a walking path, rooftop patio, kid's play maze, a demonstration kitchen and a state-of-the-art aquatic center, as well as the usual court spaces. The building is scheduled to open in early 2016.

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### Worried about the cost of shots?

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[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/howpay.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/howpay.html).





Will a much-touted plan to redevelop a Midway "super-block" be shelved? That's a question city and Metropolitan Council officials, and the owners of Midway Shopping Center, will have to answer in the weeks ahead.

Redevelopment of the former Metro Transit bus garage site could move ahead on its own and not as part of a larger project. Metropolitan Council members heard an update Mar. 25 on site planning, presented by Metro Transit planning and facilities staff. The council took no action, but is preparing for next steps for its property.

Recommendations from staff include analyzing site development potential given existing St. Paul zoning codes and regulations. Findings would be reviewed with city staff to resolve issues. Then market feasibility would be determined for the property, redevelopment proposals would be sought and then reviewed with city officials.

The 9.78-acre property at the northeast corner of Snelling and St. Anthony avenues has been vacant for more than a decade. Known as the "bus barn" site, it was once the home of a street-car garage and repair facility, and later a garage facility for Metro Transit buses. It abuts a smaller city-owned vacant property at the northwest corner of St. Anthony Ave. and Pascal St.

In 2012 the city and Metro

# Development Roundup

By JANE MCCLURE

## Will funding gap kill Midway "super-block" development?

Transit began site planning. Last year RK Midway, owner of the Midway Center to the north, joined in to explore redevelopment of the entire 34.5-acre site. The goal is a mix of uses, in a way that draws on the Green Line light rail and the planned A Line bus rapid transit on Snelling.

The consultant's report, which was released last year, identified new locations for streets, development sites and potential uses and open spaces. While the site has great redevelopment potential, there are large financial gaps between cost of infrastructure needed and what the market will support. A \$22 million to \$31 million gap was found between current site market value and the cost of necessary new infrastructure, including \$40 million in needed structured parking.

## Model Cities moves ahead

Yet another development project

is taking shape along the Green Line light rail route as Model Cities' proposed redevelopment of 839-849 University Ave. W., between Avon and Victoria gains steam. The St. Paul Planning Commission voted Mar. 27 to approve a conditional use permit to allow a mixed use structure of 45 feet in height, and to allow use of the University Ave.-Sherburne Ave. alley as a maneuvering lane.

Frogtown Neighborhood Association recommended approval and no one appeared at a Mar. 20 Planning Commission Zoning Committee meeting to speak against the project.

The development, called Model Cities BROWNstone, is located at the Victoria St. Station. Model Cities wants to build a four-story, 45-foot tall building with first floor retail, second floor office and 35 apartment units. The project includes 15 parking spaces behind the building, and 26 below-grade parking spaces.

Model Cities has a one-story

retail/office building on the site, as well as an adjacent apartment building. The BROWNstone and a second project along University, Central Exchange at 771-775 University, will provide affordable workforce housing, commercial and retail uses, green space and public art.

Total investment in the two sites is more than \$25 million.

## Snelling-Marshall area next to change?

The Snelling-Selby intersection has been transformed by Ryan Companies' construction of The Vintage on Selby mixed-use project. Now attention turns to the Marshall-Snelling area. Two sites there are under consideration by the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Land Use Committee.

One proposal would involve the demolition of homes, a warehouse and vacant commercial/office building on Marshall Ave. east of Snelling Ave. The sec-

ond is the possibility of a coffee shop with drive-through lane at the southeast Marshall-Snelling corner. Discussion is expected to continue this spring, committee members said.

Occupied by a service station for many years, the corner site was later used by a youth bike program and a Java Drive coffee drive-through kiosk.

Plans shared with UPDC show a Starbucks coffee shop with two drive-through location options, one with the building close to the street and the drive-through behind it, and the other set back from the street with the drive-through in front. It would not replace the Starbucks two blocks to the south at Selby-Snelling. But committee members were cold to the idea of a drive-through service at such a busy corner, and the idea of a one-story building as opposed to a larger structure.

The second potential new development in the area would be at 1509-1535 Marshall Ave., on the north side of the street. The property includes a vacant commercial/office building, three single-family rental homes and the DC Sales warehouse building. The properties are zoned industrial. Eric Riemer of Commercial Real Estate Minnesota is marketing the property for potential redevelopment. He met with the UPDC committee to gather ideas.

# Zoning study of Hamline University campus expansion undertaken

By JANE MCCLURE

Some Hamline University neighbors have been concerned about the university's purchase of properties outside of its city-set boundaries, and the demolition of homes. City officials have taken note.

How college, university and seminary campuses in St. Paul expand in the future could be affected by the results of a study launched Mar. 27 by the St. Paul Planning Commission. The commission, on recommendation of two of its committees, voted to launch a zoning study centered on the establishment and expansion of college, university, and seminary campuses. No timeline has been set for the study.

"We'd like to be able to better work with schools as they make their expansion plans," said City Planner Josh Williams. "The intent is to make sure that campuses complement the neighborhoods they are in."

"I would say we have heard a lot of particular concern about one campus," Williams said, referring to Hamline University. But he also noted the controversy a decade ago over University of St. Thomas (UST) expansion, which prompted years of debate as well as a legal challenge. UST was able to expand its campus, but only after agreeing to several conditions, including selling properties it owned outside of its boundaries.

The study was initiated by city staff and affected institutions will be notified. "We want to make sure that we manage the impacts campuses can have on neighborhoods and help neighborhoods stay strong," said Planning Director Donna Drummond.

Two schools, Macalester College and Hamline University, each own several properties outside of their boundaries. Macalester owns several homes and commercial buildings outside of its boundaries, and rents the properties out. Last year Macalester bought another commercial building in the "Mac Market" area of Grand Ave. and the former Immaculate Heart of Mary

Church building on Summit Ave.

While the Macalester purchases have generated little attention and no controversy, Hamline University is in a high-profile fight with its neighbors over the purchase of neighborhood property. The university and neighbors are currently in a mediation process overseen by ward Four Council Member Russ Stark. Neighbors were angered last year when college-owned houses outside of the campus boundary were torn down with no notice to neighbors.

A staff report stated, "Over the past several years, a large number of single-family residential properties have been acquired by institutions of higher

education in St. Paul. Some of these have been demolished and left as empty lots. The institutions undertaking these actions have done so in the absence of a clear plan for campus growth. This has raised substantial public concern over the potential for damage to the character and vitality of the residential neighborhoods surrounding these campuses.

"Since the 1980s St. Paul has used a conditional use permit process to regulate campus boundaries and growth. The conditional use permits are used to set campus boundaries as well as building heights and setbacks and other conditions on campus growth. Schools make annual reports to the city of information including enrollments, the number of dormitory beds and the number of off-street parking spaces.

"...Underlying zoning can affect whether a conditional use permit is needed. Nor does a campus have to have contiguous property to require a conditional use permit."

## 59th annual Rod and Customs Spectacular planned Apr. 11-12

Gopher State Timing Association's 59th Annual Rod & Customs Spectacular will take place Sat.-Sun., Apr. 11-12 at the Warner Coliseum on the state fairgrounds. Hours are Saturday, 9am-9pm, and Sunday 9am-6pm. Anticipated attendance is 8,000. Activities take place indoors. Parking will be on streets in vicinity of Coliseum; Midway lot; and in lot south of Como Ave.



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# In Our Community

## Monitor

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### Murray hosts round table event Apr. 9

Murray Middle School (2200 Buford Ave.) will be hosting its 2nd annual Community Round Table event. This provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to have a voice in identifying school strengths, areas for growth and provide suggested solutions. This event was well-attended last year and a big success in Murray working toward a common goal and creating a better Murray for everyone! For childcare and transportation requests please contact Stefanie Folkema at 651-744-3922.

### Interact opens first performance Apr. 23

Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, 1860 Minnehaha Ave. W., will welcome audiences to its new home in the St. Paul Midway neighborhood with "Plotholes: A Fool's Foibles," a new ensemble-created Bouffon Clown piece (with songs) directed by Jon Ferguson, with music and lyrics by Aaron Gabriel.

This inaugural performance in this new space will mark the launch of a three-year exploration of the role of the fool in history, literature and theater. "Plotholes: A Fool's Foibles" preview performance will be Thur., Apr. 23, 7pm, and will open Fri., Apr. 24 at 7pm. It will then run Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7pm, as well as a matinee performance on Saturdays at 3pm. The play closes Sat., May 16 with its 7pm performance. Run-time is approximately 60 minutes. Five-For-All performances are Wednesdays, May 6 and May 13 at 7pm.

Ticket prices are \$20 for general admission and \$5 for DIS/Cover tickets. Reservations and additional information can be found at <http://bpt.me/1322309> or by calling 651-209-3575.

For driving directions, parking information, and public transportation options visit: <http://interactcenter.com/location.html>.

### The Kids Stuff Sale scheduled for Apr. 18

Falcon Heights Elementary Kids Stuff Sale is planned for Sat., Apr. 18, 8:30am-12:30pm. Gently used kids clothing, toys, sporting equipment, furniture and more will be available. One-half off on marked items begins at 11am. The sale will be held at the school, 1393 Garden Ave. W., Falcon Heights. Free admission. No strollers or outside bags please. For more info or to donate gently used kids items (donations through Apr. 13) find them on Facebook: Falcon Heights Elementary Kids Stuff Sale.



### Murray students tour U of M greenhouses

Murray's Magnet Science II students toured the U of M greenhouses on Mar. 23-24. Students learned about experiments such as aquaponics, which is a food producing system that combines aquaculture (raising aquatic animals such as fish) with hydroponics (cultivating plants in water) in a symbiotic environment. They also got to discuss apple tree diseases, and how experiments are going on now to produce an apple tree resistant to leaf fungus. The U of M students taught the Murray students how to do stomata peels to examine leaf cell structure under the microscopes, and better understand how these cells allow oxygen into the leaf to be used in the process of photosynthesis. Murray students learned about the chemical reaction of photosynthesis, and how it can be measured using their knowledge from the chemistry unit they finished last month. The tour was proposed and organized by Dr. Jeannine Cavender-Bares, Associate Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, Institute on Environment Fellow, University of Minnesota.

### Hamline Park clean-up set Apr. 18

The Citywide Spring Clean-up event is planned for Apr. 18, 9-11:30am. The Friends of Hamline Park will be hosting and providing refreshments. It will be a great opportunity to (re-)meet your neighbors after the long winter and help pick up the litter that has accumulated over many months. Register at [www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment).

### The Musical Offering closes 44th season

The Musical Offering will finish its 44th season with "Bidding Adieu to Vienna," at Sundin Music Hall (1531 Hewitt Ave.) on Apr. 26, 3pm.

"Bidding Adieu to Vienna," a concert that celebrates the best of our recent 3-year exploration of Vienna's legacy, and looks to beautiful music in the season to come. The concert will open with Beethoven's vivacious "Quintet for Piano and Winds" and follow it with Berg's dramatic set of "Four Pieces for Clarinet and Piano," two contrasting works highlighting the incredible richness of Viennese culture. That is followed with a hint at beautiful things to come next season with

the charming "String Quartet No. 7" by Darius Milhaud and conclude with the effervescent "Nonet" by Martinu to welcome Spring and say "adieu" to our time in Vienna.

Tickets are \$25/ \$10 students, available in advance online at [www.MusicalOffering.org](http://www.MusicalOffering.org) or over the phone at 651-523-2459.

### Jehovah hosts Luther Collegiate Chorale

Jehovah Lutheran Church hosts a concert by the Luther College Collegiate Chorale at 7pm Sat., Apr. 18. The 100-member group will perform works by Beethoven, Palestrina, Daniel Elder, Allen Koepke, Craig Hella Johnson and Connor Koppin. The Luther choir has performed its repertory of sacred choral works from a variety of periods and styles in several venues including Lincoln Center in New York City. Ben Wegner, Jehovah Lutheran's music director, is a 2014 graduate of Luther. Admission is free with a donation welcome. Jehovah Lutheran is at 1566 Thomas on the corner of Snelling Ave.

### Spaghetti Dinner scheduled Apr. 11

The Men's Club of St. Stephanus

will be having their Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sat., Apr. 11 from 5-7pm at St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, 739 Lafond Ave. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 5-12. Take out is available. For tickets, call the church at 651-228-1486.

### La Leche Group scheduled Apr. 14

The next meetings of the Como-Midway La Leche Group will be on Tue., Apr. 14 and Tue., May 12. 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.

### Women's Bible study at Jehovah Lutheran

A Bible study for women will focus on the importance of Sabbath, a day of rest, and will focus on women's need to take time for spiritual purposes. The sessions are on alternate Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm at Jehovah Lutheran Church through May 6. The church is at 1566 Thomas Ave. Leader (via DVD) is author Priscilla Shirer. Sessions are based on her book "Breathe: Making Room for Sabbath." The sessions

are free. The optional book is available for \$9.95. Snacks are provided. Call 651-644-1421 for more information.

### Third annual run scheduled Apr. 26

Hamline University is partnering with the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) for the third year to host Hamline Cares 5K Run, Walk, Roll on Sun., Apr. 26, 9-10am. Hamline University's Foundations of Management class is in charge of organizing the entire event, and all funds raised will go to the DAV to provide transportation, outdoor programs, and employment services for local veterans. Registration is \$20-\$30, and you can register online at [www.midwestevents.com](http://www.midwestevents.com), go to events, and find "3rd Annual Hamline Cares."

### Ally People Solutions received MNHS grant

ALLY People Solutions was awarded a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Small Grant of \$5,950 from the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). The money is to hire qualified professionals to produce a manuscript commemorating the 50th anniversary of ALLY People Solutions. The manuscript will be called "Allies in Changing Times: Fifty Years of Serving People with Disabilities in Ramsey County." The MNHS awarded \$421,647, all under \$10,000 each, in 25 Minnesota counties as part of their yearly grant program.

### Drum Circle planned Apr. 24

The Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., will conduct a Co-ed Drum Circle on Fri., Apr. 24, 6:30pm. Percussion, rhythm and freedom of expression will be explored, and all levels of experience are welcomed and encouraged. \$10 at the door and drums provided. Info and registration can be found at [www.womensdrumcenter.org](http://www.womensdrumcenter.org).

### Midway Murals awarded \$5000

The Metropolitan Regional Arts Council has awarded \$5000 in funding to the Hamline Midway Coalition for the Midway Murals project. Midway Murals is a five-month-long public art collaboration featuring listening sessions with local immigrant business owners and neighborhood residents to develop the mural. Neighborhood participants will be actively involved in painting the mural. Activities will take place between April and September 2015.



## Hamline Church to build new bread oven

Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave., invites community members to the groundbreaking for the new bread oven, at 11:30am, Sun., Apr. 19. Gather on the lawn on the west side of the church. Learn about the project and how you and your group can get involved, and enjoy refreshments. The event is free and all are welcome.

## Front Avenue Pottery again joins Crawl

South Como artists Mary Jo Schmith, owner of Front Avenue Pottery, Jason Trebs of Jason Trebs Pottery and Jim Gindorff of Gindorff Landscape Photography, will host a studio event, sale and free workshops as part of this year's St. Paul Art Crawl, Apr. 24-26. Six other local artists will also exhibit with them at Front Avenue Pottery, 895 Front Ave.

Activities will begin Fri., Apr. 24, 5-10pm. In addition to Schmith (functional ceramics), Trebs (functional ceramics/stoneware), Gindorff (panoramic landscape photograph), visitors will be able to view the works of Bell and Frank Barr of Faerie House (ceramic & metal faerie housing), Ann Fendorf of Ann Fendorf Pottery (functional ceramics, low fire), Luci Haas of Adorae Artworks (functional ceramics, porcelain), Jenny Levernier of JMML Designs: Silver & Stone (jewelry), Brett Monahan (functional ceramics, stoneware), and Steve Wicklund (functional ceramics, porcelain).

Apr. 24, from 5-9pm, visitors will be able to try their hands at the potter's wheel.

On Sat. Apr. 25, the doors will be open from 10am-8pm, with free workshops (make a hanging wall vase or Father's Day beer stein) planned between noon-5pm.

On Sun., Apr. 26, the open house and sale continues 11am-5pm, with a free workshop (collage cards with Faerie House's Bell Barr) from noon-2pm.

All workshops during the tour at Front Ave Pottery are free, although contributions will be accepted to cover materials.

The St. Paul Art Crawl is an annual art, open studio event hosted and produced by the St. Paul Art Collective. You can visit 26 buildings across 6 neighborhoods and register to win a prize in the Art Crawl's Passport Program. Metro transit is free during the crawl! You can find all the locations and more information at [StPaulArtCrawl.org](http://StPaulArtCrawl.org).

## Sunday Series continues May 3

The Sunday Series continues in April with "Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom" on Sun., May 3. Learn about the history and future of this 17 acre natural area in the heart of St. Paul. St. Paul Public School Environmental Educator Josh Leonard will talk about how this little known gem of Como Park can be used for educational purposes and St. Paul Parks Environmental Coordinator Adam Robbins will discuss the management of the different habitats found in the

Woodland.

The presentation includes a tour (weather permitting). Please be prepared to be outdoors. Meet at the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Fireplace (west of Como Pool). Rain location: Midway Picnic Pavilion.

For more information call the District 10 office at 651-644-3889.

## Swap and Play Day planned Apr. 18

Gather items to donate for the Hamline Church Kids' Swap and Play Day! Drop-off is 6-8pm on Fri., Apr. 17, with the play day and swap 9am-2pm, Sat., Apr. 18. The church women need your gently used clothing, toys and small household items to swap. Clothing can be for all ages. No electronics, furniture, car seats or cribs please.

Snacks will be available for a free will donation, to support the snack fund for the 2015-2016

Tot and Kid Time and Toddler Tuesdays.

Come play with our stash of toys. Parents, learn about our bread oven projects and new community-supported agriculture venue in the neighborhood. And, meet community businesspeople and get information about activities and events.

Anyone needing further information can call 651-646-3473 or email [hamlinewomen@gmail.com](mailto:hamlinewomen@gmail.com).

## Neighborhood sale scheduled May 16

Registration for the 2015 Como Neighborhood Garage Sale is now open! This year's sale will take place on Sat., May 16. The registration fee for 2015 will be \$15, and you must be registered by May 8. Registration includes a listing on the printed and online garage sale map, and the fees fund the newspaper advertising and yard signs promoting

the sale. To register, or for more information go to their website at <http://district10comopark.org>.

## The Rose Ensemble performs Apr. 20

Commemorate the Civil War in a unique way with a free discussion and demonstration by The Rose Ensemble, featuring music from their upcoming concert, "The Hutchinson Family Singers: Antislavery Reform in 19th-century America." The Friends presents the Twin Cities' premier vocal ensemble on Mon., Apr. 20, 7-8:30pm, at Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Learn the stories – told through the music, travels and political actions – of a family of 19th-century American superstars. The Hutchinson Family Singers is a group of pro-Emancipation traveling musicians as famous in their time as P.T. Barnum. One of the unheralded aspects of the Hutchinson Family Singers

was the cultivation of interracial friendship and social protest. The Hutchinsons were noted and decried for their performances to interracial audiences.

## Observe Earth Day by dumping electronics

On Sat., Apr. 25, people who take advantage of Tech Dump's largely free electronic waste handling services at their 698 Prior Ave. No. location will be eligible to win a refurbished computer. Tech Dump will be accepting materials from 9am-1pm.

Dropping unwanted computers, old cables and cords, or obsolete cell phones at Tech Dump—an non-profit that creates jobs for people with barriers to employment—is a great way to observe Earth Day 2015 because it contributes to local economic growth and diverts harmful electronic waste from our landfills, air, and water.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## getting to know Dr. Taiwo Lawal



*I am: an internal medicine physician.*

*I became a physician because: I have always been fascinated by science and pursued medicine because I have a passion to help people.*

*Most people don't know: that I have training in ophthalmology.*

*Something I have learned from my patients is: that they are my teachers. They all contribute to making me a better doctor.*

*My personal health goal is: to maintain an active, healthy lifestyle.*

*The best thing I have done for my health is: having regular quiet time for recuperation.*

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Allina Health



By JAN WILLMS

That lettuce that got stuck in the back of the fridge and went bad. The peaches that needed to ripen, but now are soft and mushy. The milk that just doesn't smell right.

These products that can no longer be used add up. The average St. Paul family wastes \$96 worth of food per month.

Eureka Recycling, a non-profit zero waste organization, is doing its best to provide Twin Cities residents with ideas to prevent food waste.

"We received a grant through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to study preventing waste of food," explained Lynn Hoffman, director of community development for Eureka. "We did a pilot program in St. Paul centered on collecting compost. When people started participating and all their food waste was in a separate container, they saw how much that food waste could be prevented."

Hoffman said that from farm fields to grocery to consumer, there has been a lot more attention paid to this nationally as well as locally. "The focus of our work has really been on the consumer," she said.

Hoffman said the food waste is accidental. "Nobody buys food with the intention of throwing it away," she said. "People tend to waste produce, meat and dairy. But meat not so much; it is primarily fruits, vegetables and dairy."

The solutions to food waste are not very complicated, according to Hoffman, who has been with Eureka for 11 years. "We have been talking to lots and lots

# Solutions to food waste



## are not complicated

of people over the years, gathering information."

She said that as well as experts in the field, everyone else has tips, also. "You may have learned from Grandma the best way to store celery," she noted.

She said some of the tools for food waste prevention revolve around storage. "Often the containers the food comes from in the store are not the

best things to store the food in," Hoffman said.

She also claimed that menu planning is a positive tool that can save on food waste. "Think before you go to the store. Check your fridge—you may already have a jar of mustard in there." She suggested considering who will be home during the week to eat the meals.

"That's always my problem,"

Hoffman admitted. "I find a recipe that looks great, I get the ingredients, and then I realize I am not going to be home for four nights."

Another way of eliminating food waste is to do an inventory of the cupboards and pantry. "People are always shocked at how many condiments they have, or how many things get hidden."

She said there is A to Z tips on food storage on Eureka's website, [makedirtnotwaste.org](http://makedirtnotwaste.org).

"Everybody can find something useful in this," she said. "I think as Minneapolis rolls out its organic composting program, it will become apparent to people as they separate out the food waste from the rest of the trash what's in there."

Hoffman said composting is much more environmentally beneficial than tossing food or burning it in the incinerator. She emphasized that composting is good for things like banana peels or apple cores. But preventing food waste is the best solution of all.

"When you look at the impact of our food system, what people call the environmental footprint is huge," Hoffman said. "Think of all the resources it takes to grow a carrot, water it, harvest it, package it and take it to the store, and then you have to drive to the store to purchase it—all of that just to get it into your fridge. So if you waste that carrot, you're not just wasting the few dollars spent on a package of carrots, you're wasting all of those inputs."

Hoffman added that as a zero waste organization, Eureka is trying to find alternatives to using plastics for storage. "Disposing of plastics in the incinerator causes carcinogens," she noted. "It doesn't make sense to create one kind of waste to prevent another kind of waste." She said Eureka suggests alternatives such as waxed paper or glass jars for storage, which are useful be-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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**All aboard for Midway Village - three new residences arriving soon with the Green Line at the door!**

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## Food Waste

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

cause you can see the ingredients inside.

"Another useful tip is making a box or shelf in your fridge called the use-it-up box or shelf," she said. "Put in items that are moving toward an expiration date, and everyone can use these items first for a snack or in preparing dinner."

Regarding expiration dates, Hoffman said there are various dates listed on products: best if used by a certain date, or sold by a certain date.

"A lot of food is wasted just because an item reaches a particular date, and consumers think its fate is inevitable. We certainly want people to be safe, but you've kind of got to use your nose and trust your common sense. Often those dates don't mean anything about safety; they're just guide plans for the stores," Hoffman explained.

She said Eureka offers workshops on helping people with buying the food they think they can use. "Buying from bulk bins can actually be a good idea and save you money, but are you re-



Lynn Hoffman, director of community development for Eureka. (Photo by Jan Willms)

ally going to prepare the food or use it or store it? It's all about having a plan before you come home with 20 pounds of strawberries."

If someone has questions about recycling, compost or preventing food waste, extensive information is available on the website or at a hotline number, 612-669-2783.

She said that when Eureka started its food waste program, it followed some tips from a huge campaign in Ireland and England called Love Food, Hate Waste.

Hoffman stressed the importance of the zero waste approach to compost and preventing as much food waste as possible.

"There is a difference between food waste and wasted food," she emphasized.



## Take it out of the landfill!

So, you have cut down on your food waste at home, but we all still have waste. What can you do with what is left?

Although there is no comprehensive food waste program in St. Paul, if you are a Ramsey County resident you can still participate in taking that waste out of the landfill!

Right in the neighborhood we have the Ramsey County Yard Waste Site at 1943 Pierce Butler Rte. It will accept your food waste for composting if you follow some simple rules.

First pick up FREE compostable bags at the waste site or contact your local District Council office for availability. Fill the bag with compostable materials which include vegetables, fruits, meats (including fats, oils and grease), poultry, fish, bones, grains, dairy, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags etc. You can also include compostable cups, plates, utensils, bags etc.—check that it has the "Compostable" logo from the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) on the item or packaging to ensure it is compostable. In addition, you can add these items that are not recyclable: greasy pizza boxes, paper towels, tissues, wrapping paper, paper freezer boxes, soda and beer boxes, and dirty paper bags.

Then, bring the bag to the local waste site and dump it in the designated container during regular hours at the waste site.

Remember, food waste and compostable materials are to always be separated from any yard waste.

# Daily Diner abruptly closes

By JAN WILLMS

Nearly all of the online reviews of the Frogtown Daily Diner at 625 University Ave. were positive—customers raved about the parmesan hash browns, the pancakes and bacon, the chicken and waffles. They liked the bright and airy atmosphere, enhanced by local artists' work. And they described the welcoming feeling and the efficiency of the servers, stating they would be back.

But the numbers of diners were not sufficient to keep the restaurant afloat, and the Frogtown Daily Diner closed its doors abruptly Feb. 12 after nearly two years of operation. Operated by the Union Gospel Mission (UGM) as a program to teach its clients all aspects of the food industry, the Diner was as much an employee training project as a restaurant.

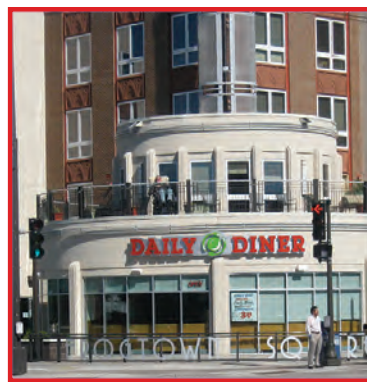
"Our original plan was to run a vocational training program," explained Brian Molohon, director of development for UGM. "We had individuals going through other programs at the mission, and once they became stable this would give them a chance to step out into the real world. This was an opportunity for them to get a real work experience."

The 12-week program provided the trainees with an apprenticeship with another restaurant, once they had completed their training at the Diner.

"We had 12 clients go through the program, and when they finished they were better off," Molohon said. "But we were losing a lot of money, and the costs were prohibitive."

He said it was a very tough, tough decision to close the Diner, but UGM determined it could continue vocational programs that would be much more cost-effective.

"Operating the restaurant was not about making money," Molohon continued, "but we can't be losing tens of thousands of dollars to make it work."



He said the Diner definitely had a loyal following of customers but was never overly busy.

"That was part of the challenge," Molohon said. "There was not enough volume for the trainees to interact with customers. The Capitol renovations took away customers, and the Green Line construction and a lot of different pieces were affecting traffic flow."

Molohon said that people were still nervous about coming down to University Ave. after such a long period of construction. "The Green Line finally opened late, and initially the ridership was not as high as had been predicted."

He said UGM did a lot of marketing and tried different things to bring in customers, but there was not enough volume.

"The Mission is very healthy," he added. "It was not that we had to cut the restaurant because the Mission was hurting. The question is how can we be better stewards? We worked with a dozen trainees in two years, and we can do a lot more with internal programs for a lot less cost."

"God has blessed us with funding from donors," Molohon stated. "We're in a growth mode that allows us to help many more people."

The connection he had with both the trainees and hired staff, a total of about 22 people, is what Mike Olinger, who came on as general manager of the Diner in September 2013 will miss

most.

Olinger was responsible for the over-all operation of the Diner from the front to the back of the house.

"I worked with employees, schedules and customers," Olinger said. "I miss the day-to-day interaction with the staff. I felt like we created a family, and I think everyone felt that way."

"I miss the interaction with customers, also," he added, "and a lot of the good relationships that were developed. I knew a lot of them by name, and we would hug each other and talk about our families. I miss the interaction with my UGM family, too."

Olinger said that he knew, from his restaurant experience, how it is always difficult to get the word out when you open a new place. "Getting people in the seats is always a big challenge," he said.

"From the aspect of UGM, we had a vocational training program that was a great program," Olinger noted. "The concept was fantastic. Putting everything together, we saw success in getting people into jobs and going out and having self-confidence."

He said that administering to people who needed help had brought him the greatest gratification.

"From a program standpoint, I understand the decision that was made to close and it was a good decision, but that doesn't make it any easier," Olinger said. He said that he couldn't emphasize enough how much he appreciated the opportunity the Mission gave him at the Diner. "I thank the staff at the Mission for that chance," he said.

Olinger said he would love to see the same type of concept in the same location. "My goal would be to reopen with backers and keep that concept. It's the right idea to create opportunities where people become self-sufficient. I miss the fact that we were able to help these people."

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# Garden Fresh Farms

Something fishy is happening on Pierce Butler Rd.

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

A few years ago, Dave Roesser and his wife DJ had a problem: what to do with a warehouse they owned in Maplewood that was sitting idle? The business they'd run there had been sold and, in Roesser's words, "We were looking at a clean slate."

As a former executive in finance and accounting for Hewlett-Packard, Roesser considers any business challenge from a dollars and cents standpoint. "First I evaluate all the parameters and then I ask myself, will this make financial sense?" he asked.

These veteran entrepreneurs (the Roessers have built and sold three successful businesses) had a vision that their next venture should follow current social trends. In the brainstorming period, they kept coming back to the same four words—green, fresh, local and natural.

According to their website,

"In 2010, we embarked on a mission to change urban agriculture," which is no small undertaking. The vehicle they chose as their agent of change was aquaponics: the combination of aquaculture, or fish farming, and hydroponics, the growing of plants in water instead of soil. They named their new venture Garden Fresh Farms (GFF), and went on to create a business model that would soon win major sustainability awards in Minnesota and beyond.

Though Roesser doesn't care to fish or garden, he "just got hooked on aquaponics."

"I figured we could buy the right equipment, install it in our Maplewood warehouse and be up and running—but it wasn't quite that easy. The available equipment was expensive and inefficient; in other words, it didn't make financial sense," he said.

Believing that problems are opportunities for learning, Roesser, along with son Bryan (now Chief Science Officer at GFF) set out to build their own aquaponics equipment. "We wanted," Roesser said, "to increase production per square foot while using substantially less energy and water."

They found innovative ways to farm fish and plants together in a symbiotic system, where each is helping the other. Simply put, waste water and organic matter from the fish break down to create nutrients the plants need, and the plants act as a filtering system to keep the water clean and the fish healthy.

GFF has outgrown their original Maplewood facility and built a second indoor farm in Hamline-Midway at 875 Pierce Butler Rte. The space measures 45,000 square feet, or slightly more than



Dave Roesser, president and founder of Garden Fresh Farms. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)



The styrene foam lettuce wall holds thousands of maturing plants. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

one acre. Roesser explained, "We divide our farm into 5,000 square foot sections, employing 2.5 full-time employees per section. We're re-vitalizing an old industrial building, paying taxes, feeding people and creating jobs in the neighborhood."

Roesser and his team believe that the future of farming lies in changing the food supply chain—growing affordable, organic produce right in the heart of the city. They harvest about 2,000 plants per day, five days/week, and work with distributors and sellers within just a few miles' radius. The morning harvest is brought to the distributors early in the afternoon, and sitting on grocery shelves within 24

hours after being picked. Nutritional value is high, because the produce is fresh. Prices are competitive, as no long-haul trucking is involved.

Look for GFF products at Mississippi Markets, Nature Valley and Whole Foods stores.

GFF also has a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) option, with a pick-up site next door at Sunrise Market, 865 Pierce Butler Rte. Other pick-up sites stretch across Minneapolis and St. Paul. Theirs is the only CSA in the Twin Cities that offers fresh food from the farm year-round, and memberships are available in 12 week increments. Because GFF's selection of micro greens, herbs and lettuce is consistent throughout the year, they augment their CSA shares with products from other farmer/growers. Examples are Sunrise Market's organic, gluten free pastas, fresh honey from Bare Honey, and an assortment of vegetables grown by nearby farmers.

Also, watch for a sign outside the Sunrise Market announcing the next Community Fish Day. The tanks at GFF optimally hold about 1,000 two lb. tilapia. Just like with any other kind of farming, when the "herd" get too numerous or too large, it needs to be culled.

Anyone who has ever visited a farm knows the joy of looking

out over an expanse of productive land. The experience at GFF is different because you're looking up at the rolling, green fields. "With our one acre farm," Roesser said, "we'll eventually be able to produce as much as we could on a 100 acre farm. We grow on the vertical plane as well as the horizontal. It's a floor to ceiling operation with tall growing racks for seedlings, giant orbiting gardens and vertical sliding panels for established plants. The system is designed to optimize energy by placing plants very close to their LED light source. Energy efficiency will be optimized further with the future installation of roof-top solar panels."

Water consumption for GFF is a fraction of what conventional farming methods take. Roesser estimated that five gallons of water are required to grow one head of lettuce in California's heavily irrigated Central Valley, and as little as one pint is used for the same at GFF.

All of these factors combine to make GFF's business model highly sustainable. Roesser commented, "I like to say that the first environmentalists were probably accountants." By his own admission, this man who still wears button-down collars seems to have found a current social trend he not only can follow, but even stay ahead of.



When plant roots reach the bottom of the orbiting garden's cycle, they're dipped in a trough of nutrient-rich waste water from the fish. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

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# In Our Community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

## Calling gardeners for 2015 Como tour

The Como Park Neighborhood Garden Tour is looking for gardeners of all abilities interested in sharing their hard work with the neighborhood during the annual garden tour on Sat., June 20. Each year, 12-15 gardens are featured on the tour, which attracts over 200 people from across the area. If you're interested in participating, or wish to nominate a neighbor, please contact tour coordinator Frank Dolejsi at [fdolejsi@comcast.net](mailto:fdolejsi@comcast.net) by Apr. 30.

## Spaghetti dinner planned Apr. 18

Boy Scout Troup 13 will hold their annual spaghetti dinner on Sat. Apr. 18, 3-7pm at St. Columba School Auditorium, corner of Blair and Hamline avenues. The all-you-can eat dinner is \$8 for adults, and \$5 for children 10 and under. Carry-out orders are welcomed.

## Bible study course planned at Jehovah

Jehovah Lutheran Church will host a Bible study on 1 Corinthians 15 entitled "Reaching the Summit and Holding on to Hope" at 9:30am on Sundays through May 3. The five-part, DVD-based course is published by Concordia Seminary of St. Louis. After 20-minute DVD presentations, live discussion follows. Presenters on DVD are Jeffrey Gibbs and Jeffrey Kloha of the St. Louis seminary. Jehovah Lutheran is at 1566 Thomas on the corner of Snelling Ave.

## Soccer team plans fundraiser May 8

The Como Park Boys Soccer team will hold a fundraiser, "Night by the Lake @ Como Dockside," on Fri., May 8, 6-11pm. The event will include music, food and drinks with proceeds going to the Como Park Boys' Soccer Program. Go to [www.comosoccer.com](http://www.comosoccer.com) for ticket information.

## HM Elders plan monthly events

There are a number of events sponsored by the Hamline Midway Elders (HME) in the next month. All programs are held at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave.

Joint friendly exercise classes with Joni O'Connell has returned. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 2-3pm thru May 21. New participants are welcome to join this free class at any time.

On Tues., Apr. 14, Mark Kile, Branch Manager at Hamline Midway Library, will talk about the wide variety of materials and programs available at the local library when he discusses "Libraries Are More than Books" at the monthly lun-

cheon, 11:30am-1pm. Free blood pressure checks will be provided and transportation for neighborhood seniors can be arranged with advance notice. New attendees are always welcome at second Tuesday monthly luncheons and free will donations are encouraged. The May 12 luncheon will feature Mike Reynolds and Maggie Blackmon from Hamline University, sharing information on how neighborhood seniors can become involved in campus activities and programs.

The support group for anyone caring for older adults or persons of any age with special needs, will meet on the second Thursday of each month, 6:30-8pm. This group is facilitated by HME's Monica Gallagher and trained volunteers. There is no cost and new attendees are always welcome.

In partnership with the Vital Aging Network, HME will be hosting a 3 part discussion series, "Aging with Gusto," for individuals 50+ to share their thoughts on how to view aging and how we treat one another and ourselves as we age. Aging with Gusto will be held on 3 consecutive Thursday evenings: May 14, 21 and 28, from 6-8pm. Dinner will be provided at each session. Space is limited to 30 individuals and reservations are required. There is a \$25 registration fee to help offset the meal costs.

For more information on any of the above items please contact Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or email [info@hmel-ders.org](mailto:info@hmel-ders.org).

## Bethlehem schedules rummage sale

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (436 N. Roy St.) will hold their Spring Rummage Sale on Sat., Apr. 25, from 9am to 3pm. Lunch will be available, and there will be a bake sale plus something for everyone. Bethlehem Lutheran Church is 1 block south of Snelling and University or 1 block north of Snelling and I-94.

## Home Tour to feature C&E Lofts

C&E Lofts at 2410 University Ave. W. will be among the newly renovated and lovingly preserved structures on the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour.

Most of the 52 places on tour are renovated single-family "real homes, real people, real ideas." As apartment living along transit corridors is in high demand, several lofts in converted historic buildings will be on tour as well, including three in downtown Saint Paul and the Schmidt Artist Lofts on West Seventh.

The former home of the Chittenden & Eastman furniture company, C&E Lofts is right on the Green Line at University and Raymond. Tour visitors are asked to park in the "Loomis" lot closest to Raymond.

Homes are open Sat., Apr. 25 from 10am to 5pm and Sun., Apr. 26 from 1-5pm. The full list will be online at [msphometour.com](http://msphometour.com) in early April.

Chittenden & Eastman was a furniture manufacturer; they acquired the building in 1927. It was designed by Walter Robert Wilson and constructed in 1917 as the M. Burg and Sons Building, a furniture showroom and ware-

house. The building's façade facing University Ave. imitates the architectural style of famous 19th Century Chicago architect Louis Sullivan.

## Murray students shine in annual competition

The Minnesota State Science & Engineering Fair (MSSEF) is an annual competition that showcases Minnesota's best and brightest students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Since 1938, MSSEF has been the pinnacle of project-based STEM education in Minnesota.

MSSEF is the culmination of Regional Science Fairs that occur throughout the state. From approximately 2,500 Regional participants, 500 students in grades 6-12 are selected to advance and present their research at MSSEF. Students compete for awards totaling \$25,000 sponsored by 40 government agencies, corporations, and professional scientific societies.

Murray participants were Maasia Apet, Valerie Bares (project and paper), Amira Boler, James Carlson, Henrie Friesen, Celia Olson, Eli Powell, Lila Seeba, Kathy Tang, Ella Vadnais and Zoe Ward.

Awards given were:

- Office of Naval Research Award: Friesen
- Welsch's Sweeping Northern Star Award: Apet
- Broadcam Masters Award: Bares, Friezen, Olson, and Powell
- Wolfram Research Mathematica Award: Carlson, Seeba, and Vadnais
- Seagate Top 10% Award: Powell and Olson
- Seagate Rising Star Award for Top Project: Bares
- Minnesota Academy of Science 8th Grade Paper Medal: Bares
- Bronze Award: Apet
- Silver Award: Friesen and Powell
- Gold Award: Bares and Olson

## Keystone seniors plan spring events

The Keystone Senior Program at Merriam Park Community Center has many "activities for spring" coming up.

Deb Lane, Community Liaison with Our Lady of Peace Home, will tell about the expanded admission criteria, an overview of their community based hospice and home care programs on Mon., Apr. 27, 11am.

On Mon, May 18, 11am, Annie Peterson will take us along on her many pilgrimages to the little village of Medjugorje, Yugoslavia.

Zumba Gold will resume on Fri., Apr. 24 at 12:30-1:30pm. The first two classes are free.

The AARP Refresher Smart Driver course will be held on Wed., Apr. 15, 4:30 - 8:30pm and the initial 8 Hour Smart Driver Class will be Mondays, April 20 and 27 from 9:3am. - 1:30pm.

The Keystone Krafters will have an Art Exhibit in the Senior Lounge on May 5, 6 and 7 from 9:30am-3pm. All are welcome to enjoy the beautiful, varied art work. Some items will be available to purchase.



## Local students hit Wolf Ridge

Four Como students tried their hand at being student counselors at Wolf Ridge a late weekend in March. They went up to Wolf Ridge ELC with the Murray Environmental Inquiry Immersion class to help teacher Tim Chase and the Wolf Ridge staff. The Murray students and the Como counselors went on a backpacking trip, cooked their lunch on camp stoves, and later that Sunday, attended a career fair put on by the US Forest Service. The fire jumpers and the wildlife biologist were the biggest hits, and the forester and Steve Robertsen, District Interpreter, Tofte Ranger District of the Superior National Forest were also informative. The counselors responsibilities were to help the students get to classes on time, help facilitate the equipment use, time management, and dorm room community. Pictured are (from left to right) Tim Chase, Xeehlue Vang, Kari Gurney, Kelly Chase, Alyssa Brown, and Will Toney.

Please call Keystone Senior Program (651-645-7424) at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave., to register for any of these programs, with questions or for a copy of the *Keystone Senior Hi-Lites*.

## CARS takes on Bakken oil trains

In the wake of five rail explosions in five weeks, Citizens Acting for Rail Safety (CARS) – Twin Cities, recently demanded that BNSF/CP/UP railroads halt dangerous oil by rail transportation. They also called on state and federal leaders to put a hold on 36 proposed rail expansion projects until a regional environmental study can be completed and recent accidents are thoroughly investigated.

According to a December 2014 Minnesota Department of Transportation report, 50-70% of oil pumped from the ND Bakken Range travels through the heavily populated communities of the Twin Cities each day.

"People around the Twin Cities are waking up to the reality that the equivalent of a pipeline worth of oil is traveling through their backyards, by their schools and senior centers, and past our beloved parks," reports Cathy Velasquez Eberhart, member of CARS – Twin Cities. "With seven 110-car oil trains passing through our communities each day, we are terrified that it is only a matter of time before an oil train derailment happens here."

The trains pass through a section of the Como neighborhood, within schools, parks and tens of thousands of people.

Among the accidents since the first of February: three of 15 derailed ethanol tank cars erupted along and into the Mississippi River outside Dubuque, IA; 19 of 25 derailed tankers were at least partially breached in a fiery explosion south of Timmens, ON, Canada; 19 of 28 tank cars with Bakken oil exploded in Mt Carbon, WV; 21 tank cars with Bakken oil derailed, several exploded, and five burned outside Galena, IL; and an oil train derailed near Gogama, ON, Canada, with

multiple tank cars on fire and in the river – just 21 miles from the fiery derailment that leaked into the same waterway three weeks earlier.

CARS submitted a number of demands of the industry and government including a federal investigation into the structural integrity and safety of our national rail infrastructure and a number of proposals to improve the safety of rail cars, as well as a demand to investigate the safety of shipping Bakken oil by rail and changes to federal laws and regulations to ensure the safe transport of Bakken oil.

## YMCA camps benefit garage sale May 13

The YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and du Nord annual Garage Sale will be held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Merchandise Mart building, Wed., May 13 to Sat., May 16. Admission is free. Doors are open 9am-7:30pm, Wednesday to Friday. Saturday Bag Sale opens earlier: 8am-2pm. More than 250 families contribute good quality camping equipment, clothing, household items, toys, books, antiques, furniture, sports equipment, etc. All proceeds go to the YMCA camps. For information call 651-645-6605.

## Film series ends at library Apr. 13

The Friends and The Advocates conclude the 11th season of the Women's Human Rights Film Series with the documentary film, "Scheherazade's Diary" on Mon., Apr. 13 (6:30-8:30pm) at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. W. The engaging tragicomic documentary follows women inmates through a 10-month drama therapy/theater project set up in 2012 by director Zeina Daccache at the Baabda Prison in Lebanon. Through their unprecedented theater initiative, these "murderers of husbands, adulterers and drug felons" reveal their stories—tales

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



### Green Line access still a concern

Green Line light rail is a welcome transportation option for people with disabilities, with easy boarding of trains and space for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. But cracked and pothole-ridden sidewalks, steep slopes, views blocked by tall plantings and gaps between rails and concrete make getting to and from the trains a challenge. In a few places, fire hydrants and light poles placed in the middle of sidewalks make traveling a challenge.

Ways to address those concerns were outlined Mar. 11 in a report released by the District Councils Collaborative (DCC). More than 40 people reviewed the report and saw a video, "The First: Last Mile", demonstrating the difficulty of accessing some rail stations.

The DCC, which is made up of St. Paul district councils and neighborhood organizations along the rail line, studied walkability in 2011-2012. The walkability studies covered north-south streets several blocks north

and south of rail stations. Reports were done for each station area. DCC Executive Director Carol Swenson said that evolved into a more in-depth study focused on access for people with disabilities.

"We received sharp criticism from the disability community, that the studies hadn't done enough to address access," Swenson said. About 9,050 people with disabilities live within a few blocks of the Green Line. Many live downtown and others live in the seven Public Housing Agency buildings in adjacent neighborhoods. Studies for September 2014 showed that more than 1,000 people with disabilities use five of the stations, with 2,000 using Central Station in downtown St. Paul.

Kjensmo Walker, a person with disabilities, helped with the study. She said access needs to be broadly understood and that meeting federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines "only scratches the surface" in terms of what accommodations are needed.

One issue the DCC will work on is that of having a place where

accessibility complaints can be made, so that those issues can be responded to quickly. Another is to tie into city, county and state plans for transportation and accessibility, and to work with Metro Transit on proposed transit and transit shelter improvements.

### Snelling detours set

When Snelling Ave. mill and overlay work, as well as Interstate 94 bridge redecking, gets underway, traffic will be detoured. The St. Paul City Council voted unanimously in March to approve detour routes and road wear and tear compensation from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). MnDOT is involved because Snelling Ave. is a state highway.

Construction gets underway this spring and motorists should watch for signs. The construction area is from Pierce Butler Rte. to Selby Ave.

St. Paul will be compensated \$17,315.29 for the "consumption of road life" caused by the detours. The routes posted for detours will be Minnehaha, Prior,

and Cretin Ave./Vandalia St. The routes total less than three miles.

Truck weights of up to 9-ton axle loads will be permitted on the detour routes.

The state will handle signage, put up and remove any needed traffic control devices, paint roadway markings and take other steps to control traffic on the detours. MnDOT will also do any street patching as needed during the detour.

### Brake noise regulated

Noisy "jake brakes," or compression release engine brakes, have long drawn complaints throughout St. Paul. The devices are used to slow down large trucks, but their noise is disruptive. The St. Paul City Council voted Mar. 18 to ask the Minnesota Legislature to give St. Paul the authority to prohibit the use of air compression engine brakes on all city freeways, highways, and streets.

The name "jake brake" is used because many of the systems are made by the Jacobs Company. The brakes are used for slowing down on steep grades, or for quick stops. Use of the brakes means being able to shift from highway speeds to a complete stop and back very quickly.

There have been complaints in area neighborhoods about the brakes, along truck routes and the freeway. State Sen. FoUng Hawj, DFL-St. Paul, is revving up the issue at the capitol. Hawj's district includes I-94, where the noise has drawn complaints.

The City Council resolution states that according to one manufacturer of compression release engine brakes, the decibel level is between 96 and 100 decibels. As a comparison, in St. Paul, rock concerts are limited to 85 decibels.

Compiled by Jane McClure

of domestic violence, traumatic childhoods, failed marriages, forlorn romances, and deprivation of motherhood. The women inmates share their personal stories, and in doing so, hold up a mirror to Lebanese society and all societies that repress women. A discussion follows the film, moderated by Theresa Dykoschak, Women's Program Staff Attorney at the Advocates for Human Rights.

### Support group for partners & spouses

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota is sponsoring a support group specifically for partners or spouses of someone who lives with a mental illness. The Partners & Spouses support group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm, at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton St. (Holton & Garden). For more information, call Melissa at 651-354-0825.

### My MN Farmer serves area CSA

You might remember that last month in the *Monitor* there was a story on CSA in the neighborhood. Another CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm serving the Midway Como area is My MN Farmer. They not only supply fresh veggies, but also can supply eggs, chicken, beef and more. Their local pickup is an address on Colne St. on Mondays. You can go to [www.mymnfarmer.com](http://www.mymnfarmer.com) to view their offerings and to sign up for their CSA share program.

### Rummage and bake sale scheduled at Jehovah Apr. 24-25

Jehovah Lutheran Church will host a rummage and bake sale Fri. and Sat., Apr. 24-25. Hours are 8am to 6pm on Friday and 8am to 4pm Saturday. Jehovah Lutheran is at 1566 Thomas on the corner of Snelling Ave.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

## News from District 11

By KYLE MIANULLI, HMC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

### Hamline Midway Spring Festival planned June 16

Gather your friends, family and community pride and get ready for the Hamline Midway Spring Festival scheduled for Tue., June 16. We'll be teaming up with Hancock Recreation Center to host a full evening of fun and revelry in the fields behind Hamline Elementary, and Hancock Recreation, from 4-8:30pm including an outdoor movie showing of the "Holes" at dusk. Come and enjoy some great food, local music, arts, activities and much more while getting to know your neighbors and all the fantastic businesses, organizations and community groups that make Hamline Midway special.

Initially envisioned as a community expo event, the energy and support of a dedicated group of community volunteers has transformed the event into a full-blown community festival. The St. Paul Parks and Recreation climbing tower will be on hand, as will the bouncy house and outdoor movie theater. We'll have a stage with live music and performances, fun interactive arts activities, and great food to satisfy the appetite you're sure to build up while enjoying the festivities.

Hamline Midway is full of community groups, from gardens to crafts clubs and more. This is your chance to explore all that is happening in the neighborhood. The community expo will feature a wide array of exhibitors and activities for you to explore, discover and connect with. Bring your wallet to shop the vendor tables and support our local business community.

Check online at [hamlinemidway.org/springfestival](http://hamlinemidway.org/springfestival) for more information. We have registration forms and sponsorship information there.

If you're interested in being involved in the festival, volunteering to help plan or help out the day of, or are just looking to learn more, contact HMC Director of Communications and Engagement Kyle Mianulli at [kyle@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:kyle@hamlinemidway.org) or 651-494-7683.

This event is made possible with partnership from the Hamline Midway Small Business Association, African Economic Development Solutions, Hancock Recreation Center, Hamline Elementary and Galtier Community School PTOs, and with the support of Hamline University.

### Citywide Spring Cleanup in Hamline Park, April 18

What better way to emerge from your winter hibernation than joining your neighbors in cleaning up Hamline Park? The Citywide Spring Clean-up event will take place in Hamline Park Sat., Apr. 18, from 9-11:30am. Bring your friends and family and help set the stage for a successful summer in the park that is sure to be full of events, community and fun. The Friends of Hamline Park is organizing the event. Contact FOHP organizers Jonathan Oppenheimer ([oppenhooa@gmail.com](mailto:oppenhooa@gmail.com)) or Lily Shaw ([lilshaw@gmail.com](mailto:lilshaw@gmail.com)) for more information and to RSVP.

### Should St. Paul have organized trash hauling? Join us for a community conversation June 4

How many trash collection trucks go down your alley every week? How much do you pay for trash pickup? Did you know that your neighbor might be paying less? Join us for a community conversation about trash collection in St. Paul Thur., June 4, 7pm at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.

An alternative system of "organized collection" would allow the City of Saint Paul to negotiate contracts with trash haulers on behalf of residents. Organized collection does not necessarily mean just one trash hauler for the entire City.

There are several ways that this system could work, including supporting multiple hauling companies. Many cities that have implemented organized collection have achieved greater efficiency, increased services and/or decreased costs. Currently, each household is responsible for contracting with a trash hauling company individually.

The Macalester Groveland Community Council, with support of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, is conducting a year-long study of current and potential models of trash collection in St. Paul. In addition to a series of community conversations, there is also a simple online survey for you to share your thoughts.

Visit [macgrove.org/trash](http://macgrove.org/trash) for details.



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# Rozanne Ridgway Annual Gift

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

know what libraries are close to their house. We also tell them the library is a place they can go to in the summer. The summer reading program is an initiative where we are encouraging reading and keeping track of what is being read. There are activities they can check off on a list."

Ryan said the teachers also encourage their students to use the library over the summer. "That's a time when a lot of students will go into summer slide," he smiled.

He said that this year Hamline Elementary contacted the library early because the children were doing a Read-A-Thon, and teachers wondered if they could receive books a little early to mesh with the Read-A-Thon. Also, they were celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday.

"So we brought the books, and the teachers picked a Dr. Seuss book specifically for their classes, and we ordered those books," Ryan continued.

Rhonda Simonson, who teaches kindergarten at Hamline Elementary, said the students read the Ridgway-purchased books the last two weeks in February. Each child got to take home his or her own book at the end of February.

"The Read-A-Thon lasted for two weeks, beginning on March 2, Dr. Seuss' birthday," Simonson said. She said that each child was given a packet and asked to

raise money for a school-wide Artist Residency and Apps for iPads. The Parent Teachers Organization (PTO) organized the fundraiser, and families could get sponsors for minutes read or give a lump sum.

Simonson said she gave her kindergartners their forms, with a lump sum \$1 pledge. They were instructed to put the form on their fridge and mark off how many minutes they had read. They drew more pledges, and 90 per cent of her students returned their reading forms, raising enough money to turn in \$270 from their class. The class had read over 3000 minutes in two weeks.

"The PTO surpassed its goal and raised over \$2,000," Simonson said. "The PK-second grade rooms where Ridgway had given books were the biggest contributors."

Simonson said the kids do get excited about receiving a free book, especially a hard-cover.

"I am a teacher, but most importantly I am a mom. I took my kids to the library for a stack of books weekly and enforced a quiet reading time daily all summer," Simonson said. "My children are grown-ups and they still love to read."

Simonson said she told her students every day of the Read-A-Thon that Ridgway believed in them becoming great readers. "She bought you a book because she wants you to read. She knows that reading matters."

Jessica Kopp, a parent with a daughter in the first grade at Hamline Elementary, also knows that reading matters.

"At some point last year she came home with a book," Kopp related. "I had no idea where it came from, and I thought it was

something her teacher gave her. This year I became more aware of the source of the book. She brought home a Dr. Seuss, and I said okay, I know where this comes from."

"My daughter loves to read, and I just thought it was so wonderful that there's a person who doesn't even live in the neighborhood anymore but at some point thought enough of where she had lived to give that gift," said Kopp.

She said her daughter loves to read. "She likes disaster books about earthquakes and tornados, and she loves mysteries. After she reads them, she likes to pretend she is a detective."

Kopp said she is very grateful for this grant. "I always think the neighborhood kids go to school knowing someone is thinking of them. It's nice to be in the world and know someone is thinking of you who maybe doesn't even know you."

She said she hopes that the children can get the idea they could be that person on the giving end someday. "Maybe it won't be books, but there might be something else they can give back to their neighborhood."



Sam Ryan, a library associate at the Hamline Midway Library, displays a thank-you card he received from Hamline Elementary kids after they received the gift of a book from Rozanne Ridgway. The grant from Ridgway also allowed the library to purchase a children's PC with learning games on it and a circulating selection of Big Books. (Photo by Jan Willms)

## News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

### Hamline Midway Library events roar into spring

Celebrate spring at the Hamline Midway Library, where a wide range of activities will be offered in April and May, with programs about women's human rights and labor history for adults, book clubs and storytimes for all ages, and hands-on art and science for families.

The library features Preschool Storytime Apr. 10, 17, 24, and May 1 from 10:30-11am for young children and their caregivers. The storytimes offer a great way to help young children build social and listening skills and number and letter recognition while they have fun. Kids of all activity levels are welcome.

On Sat., Apr. 11, 1:30-3pm, the Second Saturday Science Club explores balance and stability. Peter Hoh and Jackie Lannin will lead fun, hands-on art and science activities for children ages 6 and up and their families. Please call the library at 651-642-

0293 to register, or sign up online at the library website, [www.sppl.org](http://www.sppl.org).

Also on Sat., Apr. 11, from 1:30-2:30pm, the Kids Book Club for book lovers ages 8-12 will meet to learn more about the Maud Hart Lovelace book award nominees and discuss their favorites. The Teen Book Club for ages 12-18 will meet that day from 2:30-3:30pm to talk about the Battle of the Books, a tournament of the sixteen books of 2014. Who will win the battle? Come find out!

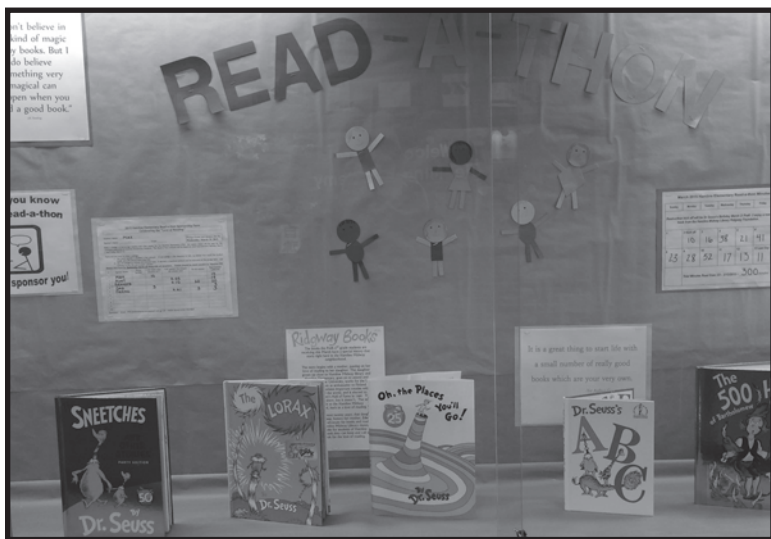
Mon., Apr. 13, 6:30pm, the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library present the tragicomic documentary "Scheherezade's Diary" as part of the long-running Women's Human Rights Film Series. The film follows a theater initiative at Baabda Prison in Lebanon. Through participating in the theater project, the women inmates reveal amazing,

often heart-wrenching stories of their lives.

The Wednesdays @ 1:00 at Hamline program scheduled for Wed., Apr. 15 has been cancelled.

On Sat., May 2, the Saints and Sinners Book Club will meet from 1:00-3pm to discuss "Puzzled Heart" by Amanda Cross. Contact Geraldine Balter at [geribalter@gmail.com](mailto:geribalter@gmail.com) or 651-224-5570 for more information.

The Friends of the St. Paul Library celebrate Labor History Month in May with the Untold Stories Labor History Series. On Mon., May 4, the library hosts author Walt Bachman discussing his recent book "Northern Slave, Black Dakota: The Life and Times of Joseph Godfrey" as part of the series. The book explores how the U.S. Army brought slavery to Minnesota.



The Read-A-Thon display at Hamline Elementary School.

## In Our Community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

### Lex-Ham Theater reads historic play

The Lex-Ham Community Theater, in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society, will present a dramatic staged reading of Tom Taylor's "Our American Cousin" at 6:30pm, Tue., Apr. 14, in the auditorium of the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The performance is directed by John Townsend and the performance is free and open to the public.

The performance is on the

150th anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

President Lincoln and his wife were watching "Our American Cousin" at the Ford Theatre in Washington, D.C. at the time of the shooting.

The reading is part of a series of events commemorating Minnesota's role in the Civil War.

"Our American Cousin" was the comedy hit of the late 1850s/early 1860s in England and in America.

The play centers on Asa Trenchard, a rustic American, who comes to England to claim an inheritance. Sir Edward Trenchard and his clever daughter, Florence, are about to lose their estate to Trenchard's business agent, Mr. Coyle. The Trenchard estate is populated by servants and a

motley assortment of people, including Lord Dundreary, whose assault on the English language led to popular fad of the time of inventing words. When Asa becomes attracted to Mary Meredith, the poor cousin of the Trenchards, the plot thickens quickly.

Lex-Ham Community Theater has been producing theatrical experiences for and by the residents of the Lexington-Hamline and surrounding neighborhoods in St. Paul since 1996.

Check the theater's website: [www.LexHamArts.org/theater](http://www.LexHamArts.org/theater) or call 651-644-3366 for more information.

For more events in the neighborhood, be sure to check out the online calendar at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)!



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It suffices to say Cinderella on Ice came to Hamline University this winter.

The Pipers men's hockey team turned around a program that had three wins since the 2012-2013 season to knock on the door of the NCAA Division III Frozen Four in March. Only eventual national runner-up Wisconsin-Stevens Point stood in Hamline's way.

Despite trailing 2-0 after two periods in the NCAA quarterfinals on March 21, the Pipers fought back twice to pull within a goal of the Pointers during the third period. It took a Pointers empty netter with little time left to avert a Hamline comeback in a 4-2 loss for the Pipers.

It prevented an improbable trip for Hamline to travel just a few miles to the University of Minnesota's Ridder Arena for the Frozen Four. Nonetheless, the Pipers made a turnaround that rivals the best of any team, in any sport, at any level.

Hamline went 14-11-4 overall and won the MIAC tournament championship. The Pipers had a previous two-season 3-41-6 mark.

First-year coach Cory Laylin took the reins for the Pipers and led the turnaround. The Hamline



# In The Zone

By MATTHEW DAVIS

## Worst-to-first turnaround makes for dream season at Hamline



Hamline men's hockey came a game away from the NCAA Division III Frozen Four and won the MIAC championship after winning only three games the previous two seasons. (Photo courtesy of Hamline athletics)

coach formerly played Division I hockey with the Minnesota Golden Gophers in the 1990s.

Joe Rubbelke had another

strong season for the Pipers with 23 points. The three-time All-MIAC award winner and North St. Paul native had plenty of help

around him this time.

Charlie Adams led the Pipers in scoring with 19 goals and had 33 points for the season. Brand Zurn had the second-highest total with 15 goals and 18 assists.

John Sellie Hanson had a good season in goal for the Pipers with a 2.93 goals allowed average and a .914 save percentage. He went 12-9-3 in net.

### MSHSL varsity boys lacrosse comes to St. Paul schools

Como Park, Central and members of the other St. Paul Public Schools will compete at the MSHSL varsity level for boys lacrosse this spring.

The St. Paul Celts co-op has been part of the MBSLA for 15 season and looks poised to make noise in the MSHSL field. The Celts, a top-five regular over the past eight years, ranked fourth among MBSLA teams last season.

Returning MBSLA All-State seniors Carter McCoy and Austin Cameron return at attack and defense respectively. Brady Olsen, also a senior, made MBSLA All-Conference last year.

Delcan Flynn and Bjorn Holm will be looked to for contributions as part of a strong Celt freshman class. Three freshmen from the Team Minnesota U15 have come on board for the Celts, which will give them an added boost for talent.

"We are laying the foundation for future seasons with St. Paul Public Schools, and with the St. Paul Celts team being split into third, we find ourselves with veteran leadership as well as a strong youth movement," Celts coach Ben Mooney said.

Nonetheless, life in a new league will have its challenges, though Mooney plans to keep the same system, which brought previous success for the Celts.

"Our opponents may not know us other than from our past program, but a new year, program and having the backing of the St. Paul Public School system will breed new life and lend some added motivation to our players," Mooney said.

# Classifieds

## Monitor

Want ads must be in the Monitor before May 4 for the May 14 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

Monitor Want Ads are \$1 per word with a \$10 minimum. Send your remittance along with your ad to Monitor Classifieds, 125 1st Ave. NW, PO Box 168, Minneapolis, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor before May 4 for the May 14 issue. Ad copy can be e-mailed to [denis@deruyternelson.com](mailto:denis@deruyternelson.com). Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](http://www.MonitorSaintPaul.com)

### AIR CONDITIONERS

Recycling discarded air conditioners. Free pick-up. No charge! Roger 612-210-3529. 11-15

### ANTIQUES

For Sale: Vintage 1900-1949 lights, house hardware, doors, tubs, radiators, etc. Also furniture hardware. 651-644-9270. 20% off with ad. B-15

### ATTORNEY

Creative Solutions With a Personal Touch. Legal Services in the areas of: Small Business, Wills and Trusts, Probate, Real Estate, and Family. Kirsten Libby, 855 Rice Street, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN, 651-487-1208 [www.libby-lawoffice.com](http://www.libby-lawoffice.com). B-15

### AUTO STORAGE

Secured auto and boat storage near Snelling and University. Short term or long term. Heated and unheated available. 570 Asbury Street. 651-641-0166. [hamlineparkstorage.com](http://hamlineparkstorage.com) 4-15

### BATHROOMS

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### FOR SALE

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### LAWN CARE

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Lawn/Snow Service, spring and fall cleanups, gutter cleaning and repair. 651-688-9977. B-15

Standard Lawn Care - Spring yard cleanups, weekly mowing with small push mower, average cost \$65/mo. 651-490-7617. 4-15

### MISC. SERVICES

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### OFFICE SPACE

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### PAINTING

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Painting, wallpaper removal. 30 years experience. Small jobs wanted. 612-202-5514. 4-15

### RUMMAGE SALE

Rummage and Bake Sale. Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas

Ave., St. Paul, April 24, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. & April 25, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 4-15

### SERVICES

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# Snelling Ave.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about what they think of the street lights and assessments. He discovered that many of them had no idea what was happening on their street and didn't know they were facing assessments of \$154 per linear foot.

While some knew about the street repaving, few knew about the street lights that were added to the project at the last minute, according to Nelson.

"It's not going to improve anyone's business," Nelson stated, who noted that most businesses in the area close at 5pm.

What upsets him the most is how the city handled the project.

"They just jammed it down our throats," Nelson said. "No one got a chance to have input or react."

## "Lighting we don't want"

Nelson wants to know why the city isn't covering the large price tag of the lights.

So does Brian McConnon of Metro Automotive (675 Snelling Ave. N.).

"They are making it harder on existing businesses, making it harder for customers to do business," commented McConnon. "On top of that, they're assessing businesses for lighting that we don't want."

McConnon believes that lighting is a normal part of a street reconstruction project and should be covered by the city. His assessment is about \$8,000. Nearby, Great Fans and Blinds is being assessed \$15,000.

"We weren't consulted about whether we wanted it, but yet we have to pay for it," said McConnon.

When he attended a meeting in February to complain, he didn't feel like the city was listening. "The city said, 'It's a done deal. Nothing you can do about it,'" recalled McConnon.

## "Kinda scary on Snelling Ave."

There are 37,000 cars a day traveling on Snelling Ave.

"Sometimes it's kinda scary on Snelling Ave.," said McConnon, who has operated Metro Automotive since 1991.

McConnon added, "Basically, the city is putting pretty decorative lighting over safety."

Nelson pointed out that Snelling Ave. is a major truck route. Burlington Northern Sante Fe (BNSF) operates a large unloading site on Pierce Butler Route, and trucks pick up trailers using Snelling.

He doesn't see how narrowing the existing 11-foot-wide parking lanes to 9 feet will work with 8-foot-wide semi tractor-trailers driving by. In addition, there are emergency vehicles and buses on the street.

In fact, the reconstruction



(Above) Brian McConnon of Metro Automotive illustrates how close vehicles will be to traveling buses and semi tractor-trailers if the parking lane is narrowed from 11 feet to 9 feet. The city plans to narrow the roadway in order to accommodate new street lights. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen) Illustration right: the extent of the planned Snelling Ave. construction project. Below: an artists rendering of Snelling Ave. improvement project.

project along Snelling is being driven by Metro Transit's new A Line bus rapid transit project, coming by the end of 2015.

The new line will connect the two light rail lines to the Snelling commercial area and to Hamline University, Macalester College, Highland Village, Rosedale Shopping Center, Minnehaha Park and Midway Shopping Center.

Touted features of the new line are buses so frequent riders won't need a schedule, fewer stops, buses with wider aisles and additional doors, enhanced stations and fares paid before boarding.

The buses won't pull over to board passengers, but will instead remain in the right driving lane.

Nelson questions the estimate that it will take just 10 seconds for the bus to pull over, load and resume traveling. "It



will be just like the Light Rail line," Nelson said, with a travel time much more than the initial projections.

He recently rode along a similar bus line in Washington

D.C. while visiting his daughter, and it took between 45 and 60 seconds to load, especially if there were wheelchairs or bicycles to get settled.

Nelson envisions traffic backed up for some ways behind these rapid buses.

## "Return to glory"

Kyle Mianulli of Hamline Midway Coalition/District Council 11 thinks this project will be a very good thing for the neighborhood in the long term.

"While not perfect, the project does incorporate many im-



portant measures to make the street a more pleasant place to be, shop, and explore," Mianulli said.

He added, "Right now, Snelling Ave. is a pretty dismal place to be a pedestrian. More cars pass by the businesses and shops on Snelling Ave. than any street in the city. The problem, especially for the section in Hamline Midway, is that it is not a welcoming streetscape for people to stop, get out of their vehicle and spend time here."

He believes that over time, this project will help to change that perception, which will translate into more foot traffic, customers, investment and overall revitalization of the area.

"Snelling Ave. was once considered Minnesota's Main St.," pointed out Mianulli. "I would like nothing more than to see it return to that glory, and I think this project is an important first step in getting there."

## DETAILS OF THE SNELLING PROJECT

- Total cost: 9.5 million
- Project area: Snelling from Selby north to Pierce Butler Rte.
- Traffic impacts will temporarily be lifted during the State Fair

## SUMMARY OF WORK

- Mill and resurface existing pavement
- Replace driving surface of the Snelling Ave. bridge spanning I-94\*
- Update pedestrian crossings to meet modern accessibility standards\*
- Improve drainage\*
- Construct Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) sidewalk platforms at four locations between Dayton and Hewitt avenues for the Metro Transit A Line\*
- Install new street lighting\*\*
- Plant new trees\*\*
- Upgrade sewers and utilities as needed\*\*

\* Work by MnDOT

\*\* Work by city of St. Paul

**Next Deadline:**  
**May 4**  
**Issue Date:**  
**May 14**



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# Como continues recent baby boom!

Como Zoo is continuing its recent baby boom announced the addition of a baby western lowland gorilla to its troop. The female gorilla was born in late February to first-time mother Dara inside the day room of the Gorilla Forest exhibit.

It is extremely important for mom and baby to bond

shortly after birth and for the baby to begin nursing. While bonding wasn't an issue for the pair, nursing was in question. During the week after birth the zoo staff, medical and veterinary professionals were able to gain access to the baby for a physical that included giving the baby fluids. The baby was soon reunited with her mother and shortly after that regular, timely nursing began.

Typically Zoo staff will not intervene unless the health of the infant is compromised or the mother shows no motherly instinct. In this case, the baby and mother were able to work out the situation with guidance from the Como Zoo staff and medical and veterinary professionals.

As a tribute to the late Arlene Scheunemann, often referred to as Como's "Zoo Mom," the baby

will be named "Arlene". Beginning in 1968 and spanning 45 years, Arlene Scheunemann was mother to four human children and foster mom to over 200 wild animals in her home. Arlene was responsible for the care and feeding of newborn animals such as tigers, orangutans, and gorillas in the days before Como had the facilities to care for infant animals.

Gorillas have an eight and a half month gestation period followed by an unassisted birthing process. Offspring are born nearly helpless except to cling to their mother's fur and to nurse. Young gorillas stay with their mothers for several years after birth. At birth, baby gorillas weigh between 4 and 5 pounds. Each animal at Como Zoo has its own Birth Management Plan. Como has been recognized by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) as a leader in gorilla care and conservation for 56 years.

Gorilla mothers are very protective of their babies. A gorilla mother will carry the baby on her chest for the first three months. At about 6-months-old the baby will move to ride on the mother's back and begin playing and moving around on the ground close to mother. "Gorillas are very family oriented," said Jo Kelly, Senior Zookeeper. "Mom will let other

family members see the baby and they will take their cues from mom as to how close they can be." When the baby is older and able to move around on its own, other family members, including dad, will play with the baby.

The baby's father, Schroeder, a 29-year-old silverback Western lowland gorilla, has been at Como Zoo since 1991. Schroeder's troop includes females Dara (11), Nne (26 and pronounced E-Nee), and Alice (12) who also gave birth to a baby in November 2014, but sadly her baby passed away shortly after birth. Alice and Dara both came to Como Zoo as part of the AZA Gorilla Species Survival Plan (SSP). The Gorilla SSP serves 52 zoos across the United States to help guide the management of the gorilla population.

With this recent addition, Como Zoo continues its involvement in the Gorilla SSP.



First-time mother Dara bonded quickly with daughter Arlene quickly after a short separation where the baby received a physical and some fluids.

One of the SSP's most important roles is to manage gorillas as a population to ensure that the population remains healthy, genetically-diverse and self-sustaining. Native to the lowland forests of Central and Western Africa, Western lowland gorillas are critically endangered. Commercial hunting for meat, habitat loss and disease are contributing factors to their status in the wild.



Baby Arlene was named in remembrance of Arlene Scheunemann.

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