



New maker space at Galtier Elementary is a hit with students

PAGE 2



Neighborhoods accept the adopt-a-drain challenge for cleaner water

PAGE 8



Mending & sustainability go hand-in-hand for Mobile Menders

PAGE 16

## Midway Como

# Monitor



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## United Theological Seminary to move from New Brighton to Midway

*Ecumenical seminary supports a community-based model to serve diversity of people inside and outside the church*

By TESHAM. CHRISTENSEN

At a time when seminary students are seeking connection, flexibility, and community involvement, the United Theological Seminary has decided to move from the suburbs into the city.

Seminary representatives signed a lease in September for 25,000 square feet at the Case Building (767 N. Eustis St.), and work will start soon on the space.

Classes for the spring term will begin at the new campus on Jan. 14, 2019.

"Our new campus space will be designed to best serve seminary education of today where many students participate remotely and require state-of-the-art technology, and many in-residence students commute and prefer an urban setting with access to mass transit," observed United Theological Seminary President Lee Zeidner.

"It will be in a vibrant community surrounded by emerging arts and non-profit organizations with socially conscious missions—this will create opportunities for collaborative efforts and opportunities for students to be involved in a multitude of community efforts as part of their training."

Global Academy, a pre-K-8th grade International Baccalaureate Charter School, has purchased the seminary's former location in New Brighton.



United Theological Seminary students in a typical class with examples of the school's theological art collection in the background. (Photo submitted)

### A melting pot of faith

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities was founded in 1962 by the United Church of Christ as an ecumenical seminary serving all Protestant denominations. "Unlike other seminaries in the Cities that were single denomination focused (Lutheran, Baptist or Roman Catholic), United's founders recognized the value of ecumenical training as families and communities became melting pots of faith traditions," observed Zeidner.

United was started in New

Brighton as the merging of two seminaries: Yankton Seminary in South Dakota and Mission House Seminary in Wisconsin. The land it was built on was originally a pig farm. In the 1980s, much of the land was sold off and became Seminary Estates, a community of single-family homes.

The current campus in New Brighton consisted of about five acres with four buildings: the original classroom building that now includes an award-winning architectural chapel built about ten years ago, a library and dining

building, an administrative building and the residence building.

United will continue to own and operate the residential units adjacent to the New Brighton campus and rent them to students. The seminary will provide subsidies for transportation from the residential units to the St. Paul campus for students that do not have access to cars.

### Strong social justice bent

United has had a strong social justice bent throughout its existence, pointed out Zeidner, such

as advocating for women in ministry 25 years ago when faith leadership was very male-dominated.

United has served many seminarians who have been historically marginalized by traditional church teachings, he added, and United's work has evolved as societal challenges inside and outside of the church have similarly changed.

"More recently United has been on the front lines of advocating for the welcoming and affirming of gay and lesbian people in the church and now in ministry," said Zeidner.

"Seminary was once a cloistered environment mostly serving white men on a path to church ministry—today it is a community-based model that serves a wide diversity of people on paths to serving people inside and outside the church in developing and exploring their spiritual lives," remarked Zeidner.

United has increased its focus on inter-religious chaplaincy—helping chaplains who will serve patients in hospitals, long-term care facilities, the military, and other settings to better understand and relate to people of all faith traditions, not just Christians.

"Deeply understanding intercultural and inter-religious wisdom can help our graduates

*Continued on page 3*

## Capitol Region Watershed District celebrates 20 years of service

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) celebrated two decades of exemplary water stewardship on Sept. 21. The well-attended gathering served several purposes: it showcased the agency's new headquarters at 595 Aldine St., which will be completed in November. It was a chance to celebrate CRWD's many achievements and strong community partnerships. And last, but far from least, supporters were able to watch sculptor Tamsie Ringler and her team make an art piece out of molten iron as the sun went down.

CRWD is a local, special-purpose unit of government that works to protect, manage, and improve lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands within its boundaries. The district covers 40 square miles and includes portions of Maplewood, Rosedale, and St. Paul. All of the water in the

district eventually drains into the Mississippi River.

Administrator Mark Doneux opened the evening's program by saying, "We have had many successful projects and innovations in the last 20 years, all of which happened because of strong partnerships."

Ramsey County Commissioner Janice Rettman was the first to lift her glass and offer a toast. "I haven't seen another agency that does a better job of using tools and tax levies responsibly. Here's to another 20 years!" she said.

CRWD Citizen Advisory Committee Member David Arbet has been on the board since the first day. "We moved to the Como neighborhood from Austin Texas," he said, "and couldn't believe how awful the water quality of Como Lake was at the time. The District 10 Council invited neighbors in to talk about what could be done. A



The iron used to make Ringler's sculpture was heated to 2,500 degrees, and carried very carefully to the pour site by her students. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

group of us petitioned the State of Minnesota, and a modest version of CRWD was created in 1998. We're proud of how far we've come."

Following complimentary food from the Foxy Felafel food truck, beverages from Burning

Brothers Brewery, and live blues music by Dan Rumsey, sculptor Tamsie Ringler supervised a live performance pour of molten iron. The iron used to make Ringler's sculpture was heated to 2,500 degrees and carried very carefully to

the pour site by her students. The bright red metal filled the rivulets and streams of the 8 1/2' x 12' mold, eventually forming a portrait of the river that will hang in the new office building.

CRWD is excited to start the next chapter in its history. They'll be moving into their Midway location in November, a repurposed building that formerly housed city street sweepers. Green building principles have been used to remodel the entire building, including stormwater management and energy-saving practices. The building will have public, interactive features designed to provide a unique look at watershed science. There will also be an on-site watershed learning center and a pocket park with water elements for neighbors and visitors to enjoy.

For more information, visit [www.capitolregionwd.org](http://www.capitolregionwd.org).

# New maker space at Galtier Elementary is a hit with students

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

A maker space is someplace where students gather to create, invent, tinker, explore, and discover, using a variety of tools and materials. No two school maker spaces are exactly alike—they're as unique as the school culture they represent.

Galtier Elementary, 1317 Charles Ave., has a brand new maker space located in their Exploratorium/Library. According to principal Sharon Hendrix, "All of the classes (K-5) get a 50-minute block of time in the maker space each week. Suddenly it's everybody's favorite thing to do."

Hendrix is a second year principal at Galtier, and a 29-year veteran of the Saint Paul Public School District. "I've been very inspired by the maker space at the new Bell Museum," she said, "and it helped to bring my thinking to the next level of what a maker space could be. Our staff believes in the mindset of our maker space because it incorporates design thinking and collaboration. The kids are challenged to look at problem-solving physically, by manipulating materials with their hands. They're also challenged to look at form and function in real, three-dimensional ways."

The open, inviting space at Galtier has several low tables, and a variety of materials set out for kids to experiment with: everything from legos, blocks, and marbles to Play-Doh and craft materials. Stu-



Principal Sharon Hendrix enjoyed Galtier Elementary School's new maker space, along with a kindergarten class. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

dents either work independently or with a friend, requiring relatively little instruction or assistance.

Hendrix explained, "We also have a 3D printer which has been popular with all of the grades. It's important for kids to learn how to code computers and, with the 3D printer, they can see the results of their coding. It's like learning a foreign language, and it's an important one to learn. 80% of the jobs that will exist for our elementary school age students don't even exist yet."

Hendrix is looking for parents and community members interested in volunteering in the maker space, either on an ongoing or occasional basis. The supervising teacher, Wilson Goss, would always be present, and volunteers would work with small groups of no more than five students at a time. All talents and interests are welcome; makers are artists,

crafters, knitters, seamstresses,

builders, programmers, engineers, painters, woodworkers, tinkerers, inventors, graphic artists and more. Contact Hendrix directly at 651-293-8710 if you are interested.

The maker space is part of the five-year vision Hendrix has for Galtier Elementary. "I wrote and received a 50K Bush Foundation grant last April," she said. "We're using the grant

in a number of ways including teacher training to personalize the learning experience, and professional development on improving classroom management with non-verbal cues. There are a number of students enrolled here who are coming from difficult life situations; we can't get to academic learning until we have success with social and emotional learning. Our test scores are still not great, but I'm hopeful that innovations like the maker space, along with our other efforts to personalize learning, can help to turn things around."

## United Theological Seminary

Continued from page 1

better serve those who they are in service to," remarked Zeidner.

This fall, there are about 100 students enrolled at United, 80% in masters programs and 20% in doctoral programs.

About 30% of students are people of color, and 47% of students identify themselves as female. Students come from across the United States, as well as from all continents and a multitude of countries outside of the U.S.

No denomination represents more than 20% of students. Students who define themselves as "none" (having no religious path in their background) represent nearly 10% of students.

### A flexible space

The one-story, 180,000-sq-ft brick Case Building was built by the Case Corp. in 1948 as a tractor parts distribution warehouse.

Suntide Commercial Realty initiated development of the 1940s structure in St. Paul's Westgate industrial area. The area includes about six city blocks nestled into an area bounded by University Ave. to the north, Hwy. 280 to the east, Interstate 94 to the south and the Minneapolis border to the west.

The space is currently a large shell with structural characteristics including many skylights and an urban green space. United hired Doug Pierce, an architect from Perkins and Will, to design its new campus.

The design will include a beautiful chapel, flexible space for creative expression including visual and performing arts, a space for prayer and meditation for those of many faiths, a community dining area, large classrooms with state-of-the-art technology, a technologically modern library, multiple bright and engaging student huddle and study areas and a patio in an urban green space right outside. The

city plans to transform an abandoned rail spur and bridge over Hwy. 280 into a bike-and-pedestrian trail connection running past the Case Building.

"Our new space is designed with input from students, alumni, faculty and staff and in that context will create an ideal learning culture for a diverse and vibrant seminary community," commented Zeidner.

"The space is designed to be fully accessible, green and comfortable for our diverse student,

faculty, and staff body."

United's move to the Tower-side Innovation District and Creative Enterprise Zone will better support existing curricular offerings and make way for new educational models.

While coursework in the arts and the theology, social justice, and interreligious competency have been optional up until now, starting fall 2019, they will be required. Technology infrastructure will support a growing base of distance education students.

Rev. Karen Hutt, vice president for student formation, vocation, and experience, plans to provide new places and contexts for United students to serve. "We've partnered with Episcopal Homes to support their spiritual development program through chaplaincy internships," stated Hutt.

She continued, "Our partnership with Episcopal Homes is just one way our students are addressing the changing role of the church.

Continued on page 4

## Letters to the Editor

### Thanks to the City Council

Dear Editor,

Almost a year ago, the Saint Paul City Council voted to restrict the sale of menthol tobacco products, a decision that will prevent youth initiation to tobacco, help current smokers make quit attempts and ultimately save lives.

The tobacco industry has targeted youth, women, African Americans, and other minorities for decades with menthol tobacco. Menthol has a cooling sensation that makes tobacco seem less harsh and makes it easier to start smoking. It also makes it harder to quit smoking and results in disproportionate health disparities in the targeted communities.

This ordinance will go into effect on Nov. 1, and it will be a big win for our community's

health. As a parent of two teenagers, I'm excited about this and proud to live in a city that focuses on the health of its residents.  
Etta Dreher

### Love the One You're With: A letter in support of Janice Rettman

As more women enter politics, they infuse fresh perspectives and new vigor into the system. But these new waves of energy do not necessitate washing out incumbent candidates for the sake of change alone. This coming generation must be able to look to seasoned and grounded public servants for not just guidance and leadership, but for some of the essential institutional knowledge that can get lost in the constant shuffle of offices. Tenacity and drive are not exclusive to youth but can be tempered and honed through years of successes and failures, wins and losses, and the tiny and immense labors of local office.

Janice Rettman has energetically served District 3 as our Commissioner on the Ramsey County Board for 21 years. We consider the experience and perspective she's gained during her tenure an incredible asset to the county and our community. Before being elected to the Board, she was a Saint Paul City Council member, the director of the Saint Paul Housing and Information Office, and a VISTA (the domestic version of the Peace Corps tasked with alleviating poverty) volunteer who served our country for several years. For her entire career, she has been a public servant.

Janice isn't your typical elected official. Like many of

you, we've known her for several years, and we each have stories of how she went above and beyond to help us solve problems in our communities.

Janice actually listens to people and carefully weighs all sides before making decisions. She isn't afraid to take unpopular positions, which frustrates some people. Going with the flow just for the sake of getting along is not something Janice will ever do—and we are better because of it. This is a rare quality in a person; it is even rarer in an elected official. She believes that government should be transparent and accessible and that without occasional disagreement and open dialogue there can be no progress.

Janice does not have a curated Instagram page or a robust Twitter following. She doesn't have a Facebook account on which to post selfies or monologues on identity politics. What Janice has is thousands of personal interactions accumulated over years of service, a track record of successfully collaborating across boundaries for the benefit of her constituents; especially those who are most in need, and a relentless drive to improve people's lives.

These are only a few of the reasons that we support Janice's bid for re-election. We hope in the coming months that you ask yourself what qualities you value in an elected official and like Janice always does; we hope that you do your homework before you go to the polls.

Sincerely,  
Patty Lammers  
Robert McClain  
John Howard

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The Como Community Council is seeking candidates to fill a board vacancy from South Como and Energy Park.

Any renter, homeowner, or community member who is age 18 or older and lives in Sub-District 4 is eligible to run. So are authorized representatives from a business or nonprofit organization located in Sub-District 4. (Sub-District 4 essentially is any part of District 10 between the railroad tracks; it stretches from Dale St. west to Snelling.)

The special election will be at the next District 10 board meeting, Tues., Oct. 16, beginning at 7pm. Community members living in Sub-District 4 and sitting board members are eligible to vote. The candidate elected will fill the remainder of the vacant term—until April 23, 2019.

The deadline to get on the ballot is past, but District 10 by-laws allow candidates to nominate themselves at the meeting and run as write-ins. For more information on the responsibilities of a board

# Como Community Council Corner

By MICHAEL KUCHTA, Executive Director

## Special election for Board vacancy set Oct. 16

member, see the District 10 website: [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org).

### Get more connected

The first-ever Como Connect—a free, neighborhood resource fair—debuts on Sat., Oct. 13. It's a chance to see, in one place, how much the community has to offer. The event features organizations and activities focused on aging in place, caring for children, keeping Como Lake clean, improving your do-it-yourself skills, things you can do at home to improve your environmental impact, urban agriculture, keeping your home and loved ones safe, and much more. The family-friendly event includes

giveaways and activities for children.

Como Connect is Oct. 13 from 10am-2pm at Bethel Lutheran Church, 670 W. Wheelock Pkwy. For more details, see [www.facebook.com/comoconnector](http://www.facebook.com/comoconnector).

### Protect yourself from identity theft

A free seminar—Scam-Proof Your Finances: Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft—takes place on Wed., Oct. 17. The workshop (presented by LSS Financial Counseling, TopLine Federal Credit Union, and District 10) features:

- Ways identity theft happens

- Steps to stop it
- How to use a “deter-detect-defend” strategy to minimize your risk

The seminar is open to anyone; in this technological age, that includes children, teens, and adults of all ages. Admission is free, but registration is required. Call 763-391-9494.

### Streetcar Station open once a month

With the change of seasons, the Como Park Streetcar Station is now open only on the first Sunday of each month. You can still stop in to pick up organics recycling

bags or starter kits (while supplies last), or chat with District 10 board members who are staffing the day. Hours remain the same: noon to 4pm. Upcoming dates are Nov. 4 and Dec. 2. The Historic Streetcar Station is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton.

### Upcoming District 10 Meetings

- Como Community Council Monthly Meeting: Tues., Oct. 16
- Environment Committee: Wed., Oct. 24
- Neighborhood Relations and Safety Committee: Tues., Nov. 6
- Land Use Committee: Wed., Nov. 7

All meetings begin at 7pm, typically at the Como Park Streetcar Station, which is at the northeast corner of Lexington and Horton. Renters, homeowners, and other community members are always welcome to attend and participate. Whenever possible, agendas are posted in advance in the “Board News” section of District 10's website.

As the temperature drops and the leaves start to fly, stop in at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., to enjoy great programs, Internet access, and get access to portable WiFi hotspots, books, CDs, DVDs and more, all free with your library card.

### Programs for families and kids

Preschool Storytimes in English happen Fridays, 10:30-11am, with upcoming events on Oct. 12, 19, and 26 and Nov. 2, 9, and 16. Storytimes feature stories, songs, puppets, and more. They're a great way for caregivers to bond with children and build social skills, listening comprehension, and letter and number recognition while creating a solid foundation for lifelong learning. Children of all activity levels are welcome!

Evening Storytimes happen Tuesdays from 6-6:30pm on Oct. 16, 23, and 30 and Nov. 6 and 13.

# News from Hamline Midway Library

By CARRIE POMEROY

The Show and Tell Book Club for grades 1-4 meets on Sat., Oct. 20, 1:30-2:15pm, to share books and do fun literacy activities together.

Sat., Oct. 13 from 11:30am-5pm is Math and Science Day at the library. School-age children and their families are invited to come to explore math and science with fun crafts and hands-on activities. As part of the fun, the Science Saturday series of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities will feature the theme “Spooky Shadows” from 1:30-3pm. How spooky can you make a shadow? What kinds of shadows can you

make? Participants can also paint a glow-in-the-dark mask.

### Calling tweens and teens!

Tweens and teens are invited to the library on Thur., Nov. 1, 5-7pm, to explore Day of the Dead traditions, eat pizza, and watch the Pixar movie Coco.

### For adults

On Tues., Oct. 16, 10:30am-12:30pm, the library presents Smartphone Basics and Security. Learn which basic security settings are right for you and how to configure them and find out about PINs and password managers, append backups, WiFi and

VPNs, smartphone scams, and more. Presented by Twin Cities Media Alliance and MELSA.

The Novels at Night Book Club meets on Thur., Oct. 25, 6:30-7:30pm. This book club aimed at adult fiction enthusiasts will discuss Erin Morgenstern's “The Night Circus,” a novel about a mysterious nighttime-only circus and a fierce battle of imagination and will between two young magicians.

On Wed., Oct. 31, 1-3pm, Jody's Documentary Film Series will show the film “Redneck Muslim” by filmmakers Jennifer Maytorena Taylor and Mustafa Davis. Meet Shane Atkinson, the first Mus-

lim chaplain at North Carolina's biggest trauma center and founder of “The Society of Rednecks.” How does he deal with the intersection between southern culture and American Muslims? Watch the film, enjoy snacks, and stay for the discussion afterward facilitated by Jody. This is a collaboration of the award-winning PBS POV series, the Hamline Midway Library, the Hamline Midway Coalition, and the Hamline Midway Elders.

The Saints and Sinners Mystery Book Club meets on Sat., Nov. 3, 1-2pm, to discuss good mystery novels. Contact volunteer G. Balter for book list or more information at [gerribalter@gmail.com](mailto:gerribalter@gmail.com) or 651-224-5570.

Chair Yoga with Nancy Giguere of the Hamline Midway Elders Association returns on Thur., Nov. 8, 10:30-11:30am. All movement is done while seated or standing using a chair for balance.

# United Theological Seminary

Continued from page 3

“People are lonely and in trouble everywhere—public spaces, clinics, libraries, correctional facilities, waiting rooms and human service organizations. These same people may not be going to church to talk to a minister, but they certainly benefit from talking to a chaplain or even a chaplain in training. This is what community and fellowship look like to our seminary students.”

### The concept of church evolving

The concept of the church may be evolving, but the core needs of people are not going away, stated Zeidner.

“While much has been written about the diminishing perceived need for ‘church’ at the center of community life in modern society, the need for a spiri-



United Theological Seminary will be moving into the Towerside Innovation District and Creative Enterprise Zone in St. Paul. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

tual life within the community is growing life,” said Zeidner. “A place to ask the big questions of life about the broader meanings of our lives and how we can live happier and more fulfilled lives in community with others are still important to many.”

He continued, “Despite the clouds of ambiguity about the future of faith communities, it seems clear that less will center on large buildings with steeples and stained glass.”

“More will require leaders who can bridge between the ev-

eryday experiences of people and historical contexts and texts in a manner that is perceived as relevant and useful,” Zeidner concluded. “More will require leaders who can lead from within the community rather than from

raised pulpits with sage voices. Leaders will require strong interpersonal skills with egos that can tolerate conflict and ambiguity. More will require deep skills at meeting the spiritual and emotional needs of people.”

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• The national Advanced Placement (AP) Exam results administered by the College Board were released to school coordinators in September. The information revealed that Como students earned hundreds of college credits. AP scores are categorized on a five-point scale for each test taken in a specific subject, with colleges and universities generally awarding credit for scores of 3, 4 or 5.

The rigor of AP courses and the effort put forth by students to succeed in them is optimal preparation for future college studies, regardless of test scores. Experience in AP is also favorable to students in college admission decisions, demonstrating a commitment to challenging study in courses of a student's interests, according to the College Board.

The College Board also revealed its individual student awards which are based on multiple exams across a variety of disciplines being passed at high levels. "AP Scholar" status is granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

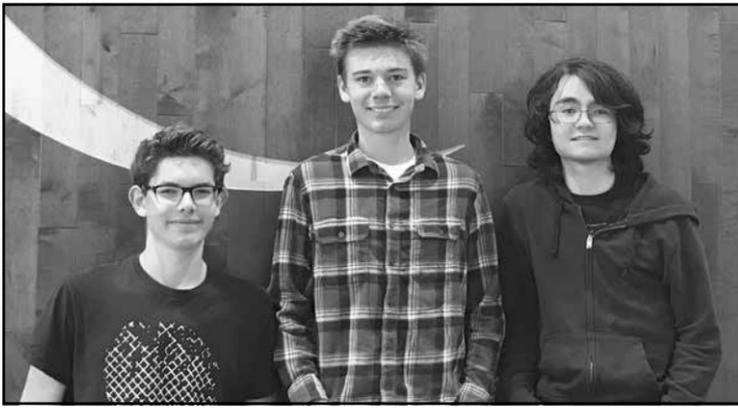
Como AP Scholars include Najma Ali, Kajsa Andersson, Ruby Beckman, Sunniva Burg, Amira Boler, Mark Brenner, Carter Brown, Roan Buck, Bridger Carlson, John Conway, Jared Czech, Nora Ellingsen, William Farley, Thomas Freberg, William Gray, Alexandra Harris, Asha Hassan, Olivia Helmin, Willow Hollister-Lapointe, Nicholas Jacobsen, Naddi Jillo, Zach Konkol, Georgia Langer, Song Lee, Abby Levin, Khyri Lueben, Olivia Mancía Chavez, Toe Meh, Jordan Moritz, Asia Nor, Alistair Pattison, Anthony Phelps, Serena Raths, Mason Salverda, Shyann Salverda, Mario Sanchez-Lopez, Chris Schanks, Lila Seeba, Sawyer Wall, and Emma Wallisch.

The AP Scholar with Honor award is granted to students who earn an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Como AP Scholars with Honor include Lucas Carmichael-Tanaka, Elijah Frese,

# News from Como Park High School

Compiled by ERIC ERICKSON, Social Studies Teacher

## AP Scholars, Election Season, and Como Homecoming History



Como seniors (l to r) Antero Sivula, Jackson Lee, and Peter Schik, earned Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program. The award is reserved for those who score in the top 2% of all participants nationwide. (Photo by Eric Erickson)



On Sat., Sept. 29, for the first time in school history, Como Park was able to host its homecoming football game—at home! (Photo by Eric Erickson)

Eva Hanson, Jacob Kingson, Joseph Newman, Bridget Proper, Gabriel Reynolds, and Isak Stillwell-Jardine.

The AP Scholar with Distinction is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Como AP Scholars

with Distinction include Aiyana Aeikens, Arlo Beckman, Stephen Boler, Arturo di Girolamo, Henrie Friesen, Isaac Haker, Chloe Hollister-Lapointe, Jackson Lee, Celia Olson, Thomas Quinn, Peter Schik, Antero Sivula, and Dina Thoresen.

National AP Scholar is a classification granted to students in the

U.S. who earn an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. Como's National AP Scholars include Christian Berger, Dylan Brady, Grace Commers, Noah Frese, Jackson Kerr, Eli Pattison, Vincent Portuese, and Dominic Wolters.

Como's long-established AP program continues to challenge and support students opting to study rigorous courses of their choosing at the college level in over 20 subjects taught by College Board certified Como teachers.

• The National Merit Scholarship Program has recognized Antero Sivula, Peter Schik, and Jackson Lee from Como's class of 2019 for their academic excellence. They each received a Letter of Commendation for their exceptional academic promise and outstanding potential, demonstrated through their coursework and performance on the PSAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

• Over 20 Como seniors enrolled in AP Government and Politics classes will be serving as Ramsey County Election Judges in the upcoming Nov. 6 election. The non-partisan service to the community is a wonderful opportunity to promote the democratic process and ensure fairness in the administration of elections. Students will receive training and then work at their local precincts along with a team of judges.

Como students will also be participating in the "Students Vote" state-wide election sponsored by the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office. Before election day, AP Government and Politics students will

monitor and facilitate an election in which all Como students will have the chance to practice voting procedure in our democracy. Students will use the official Minnesota ballot, and Como's results will be reported to the state where they'll be tabulated along with other participating schools, creating interesting data for classroom analysis.

• Como's Debate team has been busy practicing since the second week of school and has already had its first competition. For several of the new team members, the Minnesota Debate Teachers Association (MDTA) Jamboree held at Wayzata High School was their first competitive experience. The event turned out to be a confidence-building opportunity for those in the "novice" division, as well as the varsity returners.

Last year, two Como debaters qualified for the state tournament while all participants improved their research skills and oral presentations. Coach Deb Hansmeier and the team are excited about the possibilities for growth again this year.

• Homecoming week events at Como were festive and fun with spirit days in school, a pep fest, coronation, and "Battle of the Classes" on Sept. 28. On Friday night, it was a soccer doubleheader under the lights as the varsity boys' and girls' teams celebrated senior night with convincing victories over Johnson.

Saturday included a parade and for the first time—the homecoming football game was played on the Como campus. The new turf field made that possible, even though some basic amenities are still lacking. Local food trucks stepped in to provide concession options, and a portable, low-volume sound system was allowed to be utilized.

The Cougars lost the football game, but it was a joyful community gathering. Overall, homecoming week was well-orchestrated and full of positive activity thanks to the hard work of the Como Park Booster Club and Como staff.

### Board members needed

Hamline Midway Coalition is governed by a volunteer board. Serving on the board is a way to serve your community and help make decisions about land use and development, transportation, sustainability, and community building. There are nine elected board members and four appointed seats. All board members are elected or appointed for three-year terms. Elected members are voted in by the community in an annu-

# Hamline Midway Coalition

By MELISSA CORTES, Community Organizer

## Searching for community members wanting to serve

al neighborhood-wide election. Terms are staggered such that every year three seats are up for election—one from each of the three sub-districts in the neigh-

borhood. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Executive Director Kate Mudge at [kate@hamlinemidway.org](mailto:kate@hamlinemidway.org).

Interested in joining the Board of Directors? Anyone interested in running for an elected seat on the Board of Directors must return a completed application to the Executive Director no later than 5pm, Mon., Nov. 19. Application and more information can be found at [www.hamlinemidway.org/about/board](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/about/board).

### Committees meet

Hamline Midway Coalition Committee meetings are open to ALL community members.

—Board of Directors: 3rd Tuesday of each month, Hamline Midway Library Auditorium, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.

—Community Engagement: 1st Tuesday of each month, Hamline Midway Coalition's Office, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.

—Development: 2nd Thursday of each month, Hamline Midway Library Auditorium

—Environment: 4th Monday of each month, Hamline Midway Coalition's Office

—Transportation: 1st Monday of each month, Hamline Midway Library Auditorium

Contact us for more information or visit at [www.hamlinemidway.org/work/committees](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/work/committees).

### Adopt-a-Drain

By adopting-a-storm drain in the Hamline Midway, you are directly impacting water quality by preventing unwanted materials from entering the river. (See full story on page 8)

Visit us at [www.hamlinemidway.org/adoptadrain](http://www.hamlinemidway.org/adoptadrain) and learn how you can contribute to Midway's Adopt a Drain Challenge and Keep Our Water Clean!

### Pop Up Shop

Midway Holiday Pop Up Shop plans to be your one-stop shop to shop local in Hamline Midway on Small Business Saturday!

Each year more than 30 local vendors come together in one spot, making it's easier than ever to shop local for the holidays! Visit us on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 24, 10am-4pm at Celtic Junction, 836 Prior Ave.

Vendor list will be finalized in the coming weeks and will be shared through our website and Facebook. You won't want to miss this yearly event!

## November is National Family Caregivers Month

2nd Half with Lyngblomsten offers a variety of resources and services to support caregivers:

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# Upgrade of University Ave. Fire Station 20 delayed yet again

By JANE MCCLURE

The long-awaited replacement of the West Midway's Fire Station 20 (2179 University Ave.) will wait for a few more years. A proposed \$1 million allocation to start the station relocation and replacement process has been zeroed out of the city's 2019 Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB). The

change, proposed by Mayor Melvin Carter's administration, was reviewed by the CIB Committee in September. It will be adopted at year's end as part of the city's overall 2019 budget.

The budget calls for moving \$500,000 to the East Side's Fire Station 7. Another \$500,000 was moved to Rice Recreation Center

in the North End. Funds for both projects will be used to plan new facilities.

A check with Midway Chamber of Commerce and area district councils indicated that people weren't aware of the proposed budget change.

East Side's Station 7 was a flashpoint in last year's city budget

process because adding a medic rig there took away a fire engine. The new, larger station would allow a fire engine to return to Station 7, said Ward Seven Council Member Jane Prince.

Fire Chief Butch Inks presented plans showing Station 7 being completed in 2020-21. The planning and construction process

For Station 20 would then start in 2020-21.

Inks said replacement of Station 20 is also an infrastructure need. Station 7 was built in 1930. Station 20 was built in 1921.

Station 20 serves parts of the West Midway, Merriam Park and St. Anthony Park. Earlier this year an ambulance was added there to meet a growing demand for medical services, under a plan announced by Carter. The closest ambulances were at Station 23 (1926 Como Ave.) or Station 14 (111 Snelling Ave. N.) Moving the ambulance was hailed as an improvement for public safety.

A fire engine was moved from Station 7 to Station 20, tripling the number of rigs there from one to three. But that sparked the battle to get the engine back to the East Side.

Replacement of Station 20 has been discussed for more than two decades. Studies over the years, including the 2017 TriData consultants' study, indicates the city has gaps in fire service coverage, including West Midway. The need becomes more pronounced with redevelopment along the Green Line light rail, where many new housing units have been added.

Another need that has been raised is fire safety at the Westrock, formerly RockTenn, paper recycling plant one block south of Station 20. It is the only one of WestRock's facilities that doesn't have an on-site fire station. Company officials have long contended that the lack of fire protection has stymied efforts to expand and upgrade facilities.

Even when his team had a 13-0-1 record going into the final week of the boys soccer regular season, St. Paul Central coach David Albornoz didn't want his team to be satisfied.

"We have done nothing," Albornoz said. "I try to keep the boys thinking one game at a time. The worst thing we can do right now is to grow arrogant. I still believe we have room for improvement."

St. Paul Central has shutout eight opponents this fall and captured the St. Paul City Conference outright. The Minutemen rank No. 5 in the Class 2A poll through the last week of September and have a top-five win to their credit. They tied defending state runner-up Stillwater 3-3 in an early-season contest Aug. 25 at the Ponies' home field.

Albornoz said his team has been consistent all season and has handled the pressure well. The Minutemen have won six games by two goals or less this fall.

"I'd rather win 2-1 or 3-2 struggling or coming from behind than 7-0," Albornoz said. "I think that reveals the real character of our team."

It didn't go that way a year

## Prep Sports Notebook

By MATTHEW DAVIS

### St. Paul Central going strong into boys soccer postseason



St. Paul Central's Jared Garcia maneuvers the ball in a game this season. He helped the Minutemen go unbeaten in St. Paul City Conference play going into their final game of the season against St. Paul Como Park. (Photo courtesy St. Paul Central Boys Soccer)

Daniel Barrett leads the Minutemen in goals with 13 along with six assists. Mac Staloch has seven goals for second on the team, and he has four assists.

Max Hand leads the team in assists with 11, and he has six goals. Aiden Cavanaugh has three goals and four assists.

Minutemen goalkeeper Owen Brooks has been stellar in net.

Central beat Como Park 4-0 Oct. 3 and won the St. Paul City Conference with an unbeaten record. They're now 14-0-1.

ago as St. Paul Central lost five games by two goals or less, including a playoff defeat against Rosemount when the Minutemen had a high seed. Albornoz

said injuries played a role in that, which also gave the team an opportunity to improve. He said that resilience had carried over into this season.

Hamline Elementary is home to the largest Reading Partners program in St. Paul serving nearly 60 students last year.

Reading Partners starts with a simple, powerful belief that all students are 100% capable and have the desire to succeed in reading. Their program offers an extra scoop of reading help during the school day—one-to-one support, for 45 minutes, once a week, with the same tutor all year long.

Students are referred by the school principal or classroom teacher and are assessed by Reading Partners to determine their reading level and direction for skill-building. Students may be anywhere between 6 months to two-and-a-half years behind, so Reading Partners volunteers are trained to provide extra help with everything from phonics to comprehension.

This personalized, one-to-one approach is one of the best ways for students to make gains in reading and is an invaluable asset

## Hamline Elementary School

By JESSICA KOPP

### Community Partnership Spotlight: Reading Partners



An inviting and comfortable space has been created for the volunteers and students in the Reading Partners program. (Photo provided)

to Hamline's literacy program.

Reading Partners also takes a personalized approach at their sites; at Hamline Elementary, they organized training sessions for Hamline University students who work in Hamline Elementary classrooms, so they are prepared to provide robust literacy support for all elementary students.

Hamline Reading Partners Site Coordinator Marissa Heim, a passionate literacy advocate and future educator, sees the good working happening in the program every day.

She observes that as a student's confidence grows, so does their willingness to try. "The relation-

ships are key; they build trust, and soon students know that this person is here to support them. That changes everything," Heim said.

Heim's favorite part of her job is working with the kids; she loves their creativity, their conversations, and their eagerness to participate in Reading Partners. "The kids are always so excited to see their tutors—to see me!—and that enthusiasm keeps them coming back not only to learn but to connect. That's why it works."

Heim would like to see the program at Hamline grow to 65 students this year and with a team of committed volunteers already signed up, that goal is within reach.

The team of Reading Partners volunteers at Hamline Elementary include many neighbors and Hamline University students; Heim hopes to encourage more young professionals in the community to become volunteers, citing the value of mentorship and connection with people of all ages and all walks of life.

Heim has created a beautiful and comfortable space for students and volunteers to work together and routinely participates in school programs and activities outside of her Reading Partners duties; for these reasons, and so many more, she is an important and beloved part of the Hamline community.

To learn more about the Reading Partners program in the Twin Cities, check out <https://readingpartners.org/location/twin-cities>. To find out how to get connected to the program at Hamline Elementary, contact Heim at [marissa.heim@readingpartners.org](mailto:marissa.heim@readingpartners.org).

## Bee Day celebrated at Tatum Park Community Garden

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Tatum Park Community Garden held a fall celebration on Sept. 9, with bee education and bee-related activities for all ages.

Hamline Midway is actually home to three community gardens. The Tatum Park Community Garden is located at 1893 West Taylor Ave. (between Fairview and Prior). Run by volunteers, it's a place where neighbors can grow their own food, and gather together to enjoy what the earth has to offer.

An unusual feature of this garden is that each of the 20 plots is



Beekeeper Collin Klagman demonstrated the use of a smoker to calm bees. (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

buckwheat, oats, peas or clover on the side that is resting. Cover crops "fix" nitrogen in the soil, improve soil structure, and help keep disease and pests at bay in a natural way.

Members Helena and Collin Klagman live across the street from the garden, with their son Otto. Collin explained, "This was a rather neglected city park before it became a community garden in 2013. We've been members since it

started. We've noticed that it's very much a community space, even for people who don't garden. Neighbors walk by and enjoy it, and often stop to talk with the gardeners."

Helena added, "Collin and I both took the U of M class, 'Urban Bee Keeping in Northern Climates.' It's essential that people interested in keeping hives learn the best beekeeping practices. Honeybees fly in a two-mile radius to collect pollen, and visit neighboring hives as well as gardens. If they visit a hive that isn't well cared for

(mites are the worst culprit), they'll bring whatever pests or diseases they come in contact with back to their own hive."

The Klagmans manage two hives at Tatum Park Community Garden. Theirs was the first permitted apiary in the City of St. Paul. The hives are behind a fence at the back of the lot, and clearly marked per the City of St. Paul beekeeping ordinance.

For more information on becoming a member of the Tatum Park Community Garden, email [tatumparkgarden@gmail.com](mailto:tatumparkgarden@gmail.com).

# Innovative entertainment/art space adds state-of-the-art 'tap wall'

By JAN WILLMS

Can Can Wonderland, the first arts-based nonprofit in Minnesota, is remodeling and adding space to its location at 755 Prior Ave. Opened in January 2017, the festive venue offers food and drink, mini-golf, a boardwalk of arcade games, and live music.

The arts-based entertainment center is adding 10,000 square feet, renovating its kitchen and expanding its menu. "That space includes traditional private event space, activities, and a 5,000-square-foot pop-up art installation that will open in the next few months," said Jennifer Pennington, Can Wonderland's CEO.

And along with the remodel, Can Can Wonderland has added a tap beer wall that opened about two months ago.

When the business first opened, it offered craft cocktails. "With the number of people we were serving, it just wasn't very good structurally," Pennington said. She said the volume of people resulted in the service being



"We have instructions right on the tap screen," Nicholson said. (Photo by Jan Willms)

it provides people more choices."

She explained that if a customer is not sure he or she will like something, they can try it. "If you only want half a glass of wine, you can do that," she said. "So it gives you a lot of choices, and it benefits the bar team as well. They still get tips, and there is still a bartender there showing people how to pour and making recommendations."

The natural mechanics of the tap bar were installed through the Better Beer Society, a local group, and all the technology on the outside of the wall was provided by iPourit, a company with its headquarters in California. "The response to the tap wall has been extremely positive," said bar manager Tony Cutrone.

"It's a different kind of interaction with the guests, something they are excited about. It's great to have a team that is excited as well," Cutrone continued.

"We get to offer a lot more beers," Pennington said. "We did not have any taps before; we just had beers in cans." She said that limited space resulted in limited beers being offered. "Now we have 36 taps of beer, wine, kombucha, cocktails and cold press coffee." She added that the main bar is no longer just a craft cocktail bar, but a full-service bar. "You can come in and get a gimlet or martini or old-fashioned, and still get a craft cocktail."

Cutrone said there is a meter on the inside of the tap wall. "That hooks up to a tablet on the outside. That calculates how much you pour, essentially designs each tab. It charges by the ounce for how much you pour."

Pennington said the patron is also limited to how much he

or she can pour in an hour. "So if they reach that limit they need to go talk to a bartender who can assess them, and see if they need some water or food first. We make sure we are not overserving," she said.

Cutrone explained that the cocktails at the tap wall are pre-mixed.

"Every week we do a batch, depending on demand, eight to ten batches every week. They are pressurized and ready to go. I've never worked in a bar that premakes cocktails. It's great and makes things run smoother."

With the new technology, there have been some glitches, Pennington said. "Sometimes the lines had foam, so we had to figure it out, and now we can keep that under control. We also really need to do a good job of educating people on how to pour correctly. It's not straightforward if you're not a bartender."

Darren Nicholson, vice president of iPourit, agreed that is a challenge. "We don't have a lot of responsibility for it, but because we are a technology that fits into a beer dispense system, the challenge is patrons pouring their own alcohol." He said the average patron comes into an establishment and has probably never poured a beer before. "There is a trick to it. We have instructions right on the tap screen," Nicholson said. "There's some secret sauce to pouring a perfect pint."

He said another challenge from the perspective of iPourit is the market. "The market didn't exist," he noted. "It's a completely different mindset on how you operate a business, so it was kind of a challenge to get people to understand that."

He said iPourit was established in 2012 after its founders were out having drinks one night during a football playoff, and the bar was so busy they couldn't get a drink. He recalled the founder, Brett, who is in IT, said, "All I have to do is create a software platform that you can throw a credit card in and pour your own drink."

"Our first beer wall was in-

stalled in 2014 in Pacific Beach, CA, at Barrel Republic. Now the owner has three locations with tap walls, and a fourth going in. We have 128 location and over 3700 taps. It really is starting to take off," Nicholson said.

He said iPourit serves several different markets, concentrating on five. "We work with taprooms, fast casual, hospitality, corporate office and what we call urban living. Can Can Wonderland is a mix of all of them."

He said every person who checks in has to have a driver's license and credit card swiped. "We collect all the data: gender, age, and zip code. We report on every ounce that those demographics drink."

Nicholson said that across all the locations in the United States, the average pour size is 4.7 ounces; the average times a patron visits the beer wall is 5.5 times a visit. "So the average customer consumes 28 ounces of product, with an average price of 54.5 cents per ounce."

He explained that when an entrepreneur is looking at developing a business proforma and determining how many clients will be served, this process really helps define what the opportunity is because of all the data.

Pennington said that visitors to Can Can Wonderland have been very happy with the choices provided by the tap wall. Cutrone agreed, and he also considered the system to be very workable. "The technology was intimidating at first, but actually it is a really simple and easy system to use."

Nicholson added that he has found the tap wall is a fascinating place to hang out and is very social. "It can be hard to strike up a conversation at a bar, but people at a beer wall have an option to communicate with someone else they don't know, and they don't have to feel creepy about doing it," he said with a laugh.

Can Can Wonderland is open Thur., 4-11pm; Fri., 11am to 1am; Sat., 10am to 1am, and Sun., 10am to 8pm.

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CONCERT SERIES

# Which neighborhood can adopt more drains?

Como, Hamline-Midway, and Macalester-Groveland accept the adopt-a-drain challenge for cleaner water

By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Which St. Paul neighborhood can adopt more storm drains over the next year? The challenge has been accepted by the Como, Hamline-Midway, and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods.

As of Oct. 1, 630 storm drains have been adopted by local residents.

The official breakdown of the competing neighborhoods:

- Como/District 10—197 participants have adopted 297 drains.
- Hamline-Midway—103 participants have adopted 159 drains.
- Mac-Groveland—115 participants have adopted 174 drains.

"Unlike adopting a pet or a child, storm drains are pretty easy to take care of," remarked Hamline Midway Environment Committee member Lucia Hunt. "By signing up, a neighbor commits to watching a drain and making sure it stays clear of garbage, leaves, ice, and other debris. This means visiting the storm drain every month or two and sweeping it clean, weeding around it, and tossing litter into the trash. Chopping ice build-up in the winter is a great way to keep our streets clear and dry during slush season."

Hunt first learned about the Adopt-A-Drain program while going through the Master Water Steward coursework when they were all encouraged to adopt their own drain.

"There is an education component to the Master Water Steward program, and instead of coming up with a unique idea, I thought about how to increase adoption rates in my neighborhood," recalled Hunt. "I wanted to start a friendly competition between the neighborhoods to inspire some pride and pleasure in water conservation."

The competition between neighborhoods began in August.

## What washes down the drain...

"Water quality issues are making the news more and more here in Minnesota. We talk a lot about the impact of agricultural practices, but our urban impact can be just as damaging to the water bodies we love and are connected with," observed Hunt. "Some of us use pesticides and fertiliz-



Miriam Hansen checks her drain daily. "Drains need to be clean so the water can drain down it," explained the four-year-old. (Photo submitted)

ers on our lawns, rake our leaves into the street, or are careless with our wrappers and garbage. It is important to realize what happens to all that stuff when it goes down the drains."

"Many people do not know that our storm sewers go directly into lakes and rivers without any filtration," remarked Jenni Abere, who administers the Adopt-A-Drain program out of Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education. "Also, many people don't know that leaves and grass (in excess) actually pollute lakes and rivers."

Phosphorus is one of the most troublesome pollutants in stormwater runoff. When leaves, lawn clippings, animal wastes, fertilizers, and soil are picked up by stormwater runoff and are carried directly to local lakes and streams, they provide the lakes with excess phosphorus. This excess phosphorus increases algae growth and is why lakes turn green.

"All of the water, plastic bottles, straws, leaves, and road grime go straight through the underground pipes to the Mississippi River—unfiltered, untreated, and unseen," stated Hunt.

"We do not have any surface water in the Hamline Midway neighborhood, so everything appears to just 'go away.' However, if you take a stroll along the

riverbanks, it's a real eye-opener when you see all that trash accumulating and even worse is the invisible nutrient load flowing downstream."

District 10 Como Community Council Executive Director Michael Kuchta pointed out that storm sewers are the tributaries for Como Lake.

"What washes down the sewer grates goes directly into the lake—trash, excessive nutrients, and who knows what else. It's the equivalent to manure and fertilizer runoff into the Minnesota River. It directly degrades water quality," stated Kuchta. "In our case, anyone walking past could see and smell the consequences this summer—green water, algae blooms, and all kinds of trash in the water and on the shoreline."

## 40,000 pounds of debris diverted last year

By adopting a drain, participants commit to keeping it clear of leaves, trash, and sediment. These simple steps keep debris from washing down the storm drain and becoming pollution in local waterways.

Last winter and spring, St. Paul participants diverted more than 40,000 pounds of debris from metro area lakes and rivers.

The Adopt-A-Drain program began in 2014 with support from the city of St. Paul and Capitol



Residents who adopt a storm drain also get a yard sign to let others know that they're working to protect local bodies of water. (Photo by Tesha M. Christensen)

Region Watershed District. It was subsequently piloted in Bloomington, Roseville, Maple Grove, and Minneapolis, with support from those cities plus Nine Mile Creek and Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed Districts.

"There is a surprising number of people who are not 'official' adopters but who have been cleaning out their storm drains for years," Hunt commented. "They understand that the work they do benefits the entire neighborhood and that those individual civic actions make the Midway a better place to live."

"If you are considering adopting, look for one that you walk by or live by so it's not a hassle to visit it. You can even give your drain a name! Sign up at Adopt-a-Drain.org and pick one or two drains, or go all out and adopt an entire intersection to call your own."

Kuchta added, "We're in this friendly competition with other neighborhoods because it provides a fun way for all of us to take a simple, specific step to start turning things around. If residents adopt a drain, if they keep catch basins and gutters clear of grass clippings, leaves, and other debris, it makes an

immediate, positive impact on Como Lake. Plus, you get a nice-looking sign for your yard."

This fall, District 10 is also partnering with the city's public works department to spread the word that it is illegal to rake leaves into the street.

## 4-year-old adopts a drain

When four-year-old Miriam Hansen walked past the Adopt-A-Drain exhibit at the State Fair, it was a no-brainer for her family. They adopted a drain.

"My daughter's pre-K class focused on learning about rivers," explained her mother, Jill Hansen, of the Mac-Groveland neighborhood, who was inspired by her daughter's excitement. "As a part of this, they included drains and where the water goes."

During family walks, they started paying attention to the storm drains they walked past and cleaning them as needed. "We had many conversations about water, the animals living in and around the river, and the effect trash can have on them," said J. Hansen. "It was exciting for our daughter. The connection she made with helping the earth and animals was caring and beautiful."

Miriam checks her drain daily. If she notices that the drain near hers that was adopted by neighbors needs to be cleared, she is very prompt in telling them so.

"Drains need to be clean so the water can drain down it," explained the four-year-old. "The water goes to the river. We can't let garbage go down it because then the fish could eat it and die."

J. Hansen appreciates the Adopt-A-Drain program.

"I love that it empowers the community to play a small part," said J. Hansen. "If we all do a small part it can make a big difference."

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# Cooperative workspace energizes both brain and body

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

There's nothing unusual outside the tidy, brick building at 635 Fairview Ave. N.—but inside, dozens of people are working in a way that is anything but ordinary.

Businesswoman Anne Hendrickson bought that building in 2017, replaced the roof, added an elevator, four bathrooms, two showers, and a full kitchen, to make her vision of a healthy workplace a reality.

The business she started last year, Work it, is a coworking space where members pay a monthly fee to use the space at any time, day or night. "What makes ours different from other coworking spaces," Hendrickson explained, "is that members can integrate fitness into their workday. Every single piece of office furniture here, every single thing

we do, is designed for slow, steady movement."

There are 50 desks in the common spaces, private offices, and conference rooms at Work it. At the touch of a button, the desks can be lowered to sit at, or raised to stand at. The two-story, wheelchair-accessible facility uses specialized equipment from Lifespan Fitness and iSpace Environments, which allows the integration of fitness into otherwise sedentary work days.

Members can choose to use one of several types of wobble stools while seated, which require abdominal muscle engagement and quadriceps strength to hold steady. Hendrickson said, "These are the best office chairs ever. A person at work doesn't have to move while seated if they don't want to, but the option is there if they do."

For a fitness challenge while standing, members can work on their computers while using a balance board, bosu (see photo), or treadmill.

Hendrickson is no stranger to entrepreneurship. She founded and ran Downtown Dogs (a daycare and boarding facility) in Minneapolis for ten years. In 2014, she was approached by a customer who wanted to buy her business and made her an offer she couldn't refuse. Two years into a period of independent consulting, she found herself with no time to exercise. Worse still, because she didn't have an office, she was always meeting clients at coffee shops and restaurants—eating food she didn't want to eat and steadily losing touch with her body. Hendrickson realized she had traded her career for her health, and she



Anne Hendrickson, founder and owner of Work it, stood at her desk while balancing on a bosu. Her business motto is, "Work your body, boost your brain." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

A small firm membership for up to eight people costs \$400-\$800/month. A private office costs \$700/month. All levels of membership are on a month to month basis. Conference rooms can be rented by the general public for \$40/hour. For a complete description of membership levels and amenities, visit <https://co-workit.com>.

Hendrickson added, "We have a very diverse group of members here. Wellstone Action is using our space for their employees for a year, while they relocate their offices. We have other non-profit members, a lot of tech people, writers, bloggers, and photographers. Dogs are welcome to come to work too. The bottom line is: you have to be able to get your work done, and not disturb anyone else in the process."

Corporate clients seem especially drawn to the lower level, where workgroups often come for brainstorming sessions. Bike machines, free weights, open areas for stretching, moveable dry erase boards, revolving tables, and comfortable, supportive seating all lend themselves to better physical and mental health in the workplace. Hendrickson summed it up this way, "Every detail here is designed to maximize cognitive function."

thought, "I want to change that."

The idea for Work it took shape over time. Hendrickson knew she had to buy a building rather than lease because the profit margin for a coworking space is just too slim. She had only two essential items on her short list of requirements for a building: natural light and free parking for members. It took her almost two years to find the building she eventually bought, which is just a short walk from the LRT and has easy access for cars and bikers too.

Memberships are available at different levels. A general membership costs \$240/month.



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HAMLINE  
UNIVERSITY

Please register to attend these and other Hamline Alumni Weekend events. Information and registration for all activities can be found at [hamline.edu/alumniwknd](http://hamline.edu/alumniwknd).

Questions? Contact Christine Weeks at [cweeks03@hamline.edu](mailto:cweeks03@hamline.edu).

# Seasons of a painter's life

Monitor editor and co-owner Calvin deRuyter wins Winsor & Newton Award in national watermedia exhibition

By MARGIE O'LOUGHLIN

Calvin deRuyter, editor and co-owner of the *Midway Como Monitor*, recently won the Winsor & Newton Award in the NorthStar Watermedia Society's Fourth National Juried Exhibition.

Watermedia refers to paintings made with any medium that can be dissolved in water, such as watercolor, acrylic, gouache, casein, egg tempera, and water-based ink.

Artists from 20 states and Australia submitted 280 entries, and 16 awards were given in the form of art materials or monetary compensation.

All the winning paintings can be seen online at [www.northstarwatermedia.com/2018-northstar-4th-national-watermedia-juried-exhibition](http://www.northstarwatermedia.com/2018-northstar-4th-national-watermedia-juried-exhibition).

deRuyter has entered the competition each year since it started, but this is the first time that he's won an award. "There's never any way of predicting if you'll get into a juried show, or if you'll place. You enter, and then you hope," he commented.

His winning submission was a nearly mono-chromatic abstract watermedia painting called *Formare Due*, which is Italian for "second in a series of paintings based on form, shape, and molding."

In a sense, he's entering the second stage of his career as an artist. deRuyter explained, "Over the last 15 years, I've been fortunate to win more than two dozen awards, but this one was especially meaningful. I've been working in abstract forms for the last couple of years, and I was pleased that one of those paintings was recognized with a national award."

Like most artists, deRuyter's path to success has held its share of surprises. He graduated from Hamline University with a fine art degree in painting and spent a fifth year there as an artist's apprentice. Accepted into graduate school but lacking the means to go, deRuyter decided to take "a couple of years off." He had edited the student newspaper while at Hamline and, through a turn of events, ended up purchasing the fledgling *Monitor* for \$1 in 1975. He didn't pick up a paintbrush again until 1998.

Eventually enticed by a friend



But the landscapes stopped holding his full attention a couple

into taking a watercolor class at Como Conservatory, deRuyter wasn't exactly wild with enthusiasm. He said, "I was an oil painter in college, and I thought watercolor was a dirty word." But, the two friends completed their first class, then took another, and eventually signed up for a five-day watercolor workshop with nationally recognized teacher Skip Lawrence.

deRuyter explained, "More than any other painting medium, watercolor has so many rules. I never liked following them, and it showed in my work. On the second day of that workshop, the teacher was making the rounds and looking at what students had made so far. He stopped at my painting, and asked, 'You're not having any fun at all, are you? Forget all the rules, and paint the way you want to for the next three days. Just have fun with the medium.'"

"I really thought about what that meant," deRuyter continued. "After driving to the workshop the next day, I wondered how I could capture the feeling of that gray, cold morning. I went into the studio, and just started painting directly from the tube—with no palette, and a hard bristle brush. I've been doing watercolor that way ever since."

deRuyter went on to establish a reputation for himself as a landscape painter; what he called, "a Midwest colorist." Now a ten+ year tenant of the Northrup King Artist Studios in NE Minneapolis, he said, "There never was a color invented that I didn't like."

Painter Calvin deRuyter got this advice 20 years ago from a respected teacher, "Either have fun with it or stop painting." (Photo by Margie O'Loughlin)

of years ago, and the brilliant colors he had always been drawn to were slowly replaced with blacks, grays, and whites. deRuyter explained, "If someone had told me ten years ago, when I was becoming known as a colorist, that I would be focusing on monochromatic or single color paintings in the future, I would have called them crazy!"

"A viewer knows whether or not they like an abstract painting right away," deRuyter said. "But, often they don't know why. The abstract form is not familiar to most viewers in the same way that

a landscape or a still life might be. As a selling artist, I've had to start over again from a marketing perspective."

deRuyter will be offering a four-class series in November called "Loosen up your Painting," and a two-day workshop in mid-January on the "Abstracted Figure" (both at White Bear Center for the Arts). The NorthStar Watermedia Society's Fourth Annual Juried Exhibition will be on view at the White Bear Art Center until Oct. 18. For more information about hours, location, or classes visit [www.whitebeararts.org](http://www.whitebeararts.org).

To learn more about deRuyter's work and his art background go to [www.CalsPortfolio.net](http://www.CalsPortfolio.net).

## VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 Ramsey County Commissioner District 3



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# In Our Community

## Monitor

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

### CORRECTION

In the article about Higher Ground Academy moving to the Metro Deaf site that was published in the September 2018 *Monitor*, the school was inaccurately billed as "Minnesota's preeminent K-12 Afro-centric charter school." According to Principal Dr. Samuel Yigzaw, "We no longer call ourselves that. We are a college prep school that strives to educate our students in a culturally responsive environment." The *Monitor* apologizes for the error.

### Bazaar/Meatloaf Dinner set Oct. 13

Como Park Lutheran Church, 1376 Hoyt Ave. W., will hold their Fall Bazaar and Block Nurse Meatloaf Dinner on Sat., Oct. 13.

The Fall Bazaar, which runs from 9am-4pm, includes craft tables full of handcrafted items: jam, pickles, lefse, knit items, embroidered towels, holiday decorations, jewelry, gift bags, baked goods, and more. The coffee shop will be open from 9am-noon.

The Block Nurse Fundraising Meatloaf dinner will be held from 4:30-7pm, and includes meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread, salad, dessert, and beverage. Cost of the dinner is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children 11 and under.

### Fair planned Oct. 13

The Como Connect Neighborhood Resource Fair is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 13, 10am-2pm, at Bethel Lutheran Church, 670 W. Wheelock Pkwy. This is a free family-friendly event where you can connect with neighbors and community resources and opportunities. Como Park District 10 Community Council members will be on hand to talk to neighbors. And, find out more about the P factor in Lake Como with CACN and much more. Fair collaborators include District 10 Como Community Council, St. Paul Tool Library, Think Small, HHH Job Corps, Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom, Lyngblomsten, St. Paul Police Community Engagement, and others.

### Rhythms and Trees Fest planned Oct. 14

A Rhythms For The Trees Festival is planned Sun., Oct. 14, 12-3:30pm at Newell Park, 900 Fairview Ave. N. This free family-friendly event means to connect us with trees through drums, performances, education, and participation. It is hosted by the Women's Drum Center as part of the Million Women Drummers Gathering Initiative—"For the Love of Trees and Drums."

Come and wander through this world of trees and drums and take in: workshops, music

### Matt Privratsky named new Nelson aide

Newly elected St. Paul City Councilmember Mitra Jalali Nelson has announced the appointment of Matt Privratsky as the incoming Ward 4 Legislative Aide. He started his job Oct. 1.

Privratsky was formerly the Director of Public Affairs for Fresh Energy, a St. Paul non-profit that provides research and policy analysis on energy issues across Minnesota. His previous experience includes work for the Minnesota House of Representatives and as a radio news director. Privratsky has been an active community advocate for transit, housing, and sustainability issues, including work to improve way-finding and walkability in neighborhoods as a winner of the Knight Foundation Green Line Challenge. He was born and raised in Walker, MN and is now a homeowner and soccer fan in Ward 4's Midway neighborhood.

Councilmember Nelson took the oath of office Sept. 5 and cemented the first female-elected majority council in city history. The 32-year-old is also the first Asian-American woman to serve on the Council, its youngest member, and its only renter.



Matt Privratsky (Photo provided)

performances, blessings to honor trees and the sacred earth, healing drumming, drum circles, crafts, children's activities, face painting, tree displays, tree and drum exhibitors, vendors at the Marketplace and more.

For more information go to [www.facebook.com/events/456944901466263](http://www.facebook.com/events/456944901466263).

### History Open Dig scheduled Oct. 13

Join the Hamline Village History Project for a collaboration with the Hamline University Department of Anthropology, at an Open Dig, on Sat., Oct. 13 from 10am-2pm.

Dig attendees will uncover the remnants of an early neighborhood house built on campus in the 1880s. Learn about the Simpson Avenue House—a 19th Century homestead on the corner of Simpson and Hewitt near parking lot E on Hamline's Campus—and over 100 years of history on the surrounding area. Join faculty, students, and neighborhood history buffs in unearthing the site. Attend to get hands-on experience at a historic excavation.

Make sure you wear clothing that can get dirty and closed toe shoes! Otherwise, all equipment you might need is provided.

### Holiday Market planned Nov. 17-18

New Life Presbyterian Church, 965 Larpenteur Ave. W., will hold their Holiday Fair Trade Market on Sat., Nov. 17, 10am-4pm and Sun., Nov. 18, 11am-1pm. Choose from fair trade hand-crafts and food items from around the world. Finish your

holiday shopping early and know that you have helped fair trade artisans and food producers with your purchases. Enjoy soup and snacks in the cafe when you shop. Cash or checks are preferred.

### Lunch, Learn and Laugh set Oct. 23

Episcopal Homes will hold its monthly Lunch, Learn and Laugh program on Tues., Oct. 23, 11:30am-1pm, at Seabury senior Housing, 1830 University Ave. The cost is \$8 (cash or check only). They request RSVPs by Oct. 19 to [KMeyer@Episcopal-Homes.org](mailto:KMeyer@Episcopal-Homes.org) or call 651-379-5102.

"How can we re-imagine this new phase of our lives?" is the scheduled program as you watch a TED Talk with Jane Fonda. Within this generation, an extra 30 years have been added to our life expectancy—and these years aren't just a footnote. Fonda asks "how can we re-imagine?"

The lunch will include chicken wild rice salad, garden salad, breadsticks, and mini dessert, with coffee and water.

### Hamline Methodist seeks vendors

Hamline Church Holiday Marketplace is seeking vendors for its sale, 9:30am-3:30pm, Sat., Nov. 17 at the church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Lots of great artists, crafters and vendors have signed up for this year's event, which will include a reading of a children's book and a visit with Santa. Enjoy morning treats and a soup luncheon; used book sale and vintage linens, too! See the event on Facebook for a full list of vendors and happenings. Call 651-646-3473 or email ham-

linewomen@gmail.com for details. Please do not call the church office.

### Fall Flower Show open at Conservatory

The popular 103rd Annual Fall Flower Show is now open, 10am-4pm at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory through Nov. 25.

The show will feature hundreds of chrysanthemums of many different cultivars. The colors for this year's show are predominantly red and yellow. Yellow Swiss Chard and Chilly Chili peppers will serve to accentuate the beautiful red and yellow chrysanthemums.

There will be a show change Oct. 29-Nov. 2 in which the Sunken Garden will be closed, but all other rooms of the Conservatory will remain open to the public.

### Mni Wiconi opening scheduled Oct. 21

There will be an opening of the Mni Wiconi Gallery on Sun., Oct. 21, 2-4:30pm, at Can Can Wonderland, 755 Prior Ave. N.

"Mni Wiconi" (water is life in Lakota) is an interactive art installation made from a Skill Crane fabricated into an art gallery. American Indian Youth produced mini-art pieces contained in recycled water bottles that the public can try to win from the "Skill Crane Art Mni Wiconi Gallery." Students fabricated the machine with thematic cultural imagery such as water, land, air, fire, clan animals, Lakota Virtues and Ojibwe Grandfather Teachings. There will be a chance to win original student art.

Pretendians, a Native rock band based in Minneapolis, will perform. Three out of four of the members represent the Oceti Sakowin (7 Council Fires) of the Dakota and Lakota Nations. Many of their songs have societal/political influence and views from a modern Indigenous perspective.

There is a \$2 cover fee that applies to those ages 12 and up—free for those under 12.

### Frogtown Farm gets new Exec Director

Dave Colling has been hired as the new Executive Director of Frogtown Farm, effective Sept. 24.

With over 20 years of experience working with government and nonprofit agencies, Colling comes to Frogtown Farm after leading the Harrison Neighborhood Association as Executive Director. Earlier in his career, he consulted for many community-based organizations and managed Congressman Keith Ellison's first successful run for Congress in 2006.

Throughout Colling's career,

he has shown an ability to engage with neighbors, build trusting relationships, and assemble coalitions that advance community goals. He now brings that focus and experience to Frogtown Farm.

### HU opens 88th Theatre season

Hamline University's Department of Theatre & Dance will continue its 88th season with "She Kills Monsters," written by Qui Nguyen and directed by Jeff Turner.

An energetic adventure exploring the world of fantasy role-playing games, *She Kills Monsters* tells the story of Agnes Evans as she packs up her childhood home following the unexpected death of her parents and teenage sister, Tilly. When Agnes finds Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, she stumbles into an emotionally resonant, action-packed journey into the imaginative world that was Tilly's high-school refuge.

In this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal faeries, grotesque ogres, vicious cheerleaders, and 1990s pop culture, playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within all of us.

*She Kills Monsters* will play on Fri.-Sat., Nov. 9-10, and Thur.-Sat., Nov. 15-17. All performances start at 7:30pm at Hamline University's Anne Simley Theatre. Tickets are \$2 for Hamline students, \$3 for ACTC students and staff, \$8 for adults and \$5 for outside students and seniors. Reservations are recommended and can be made through the Hamline University Theatre Box Office at 651-523-2905 or via e-mail at [tickets@hamline.edu](mailto:tickets@hamline.edu).

### Holy Childhood plans rummage sale

Church of the Holy Childhood, 1435 Midway Pkwy., will hold a rummage sale Thur.-Sat., Oct. 25-27. Hours on Thursday are 9am-7pm, Friday hours are 9am-5pm, and Saturday hours are 9am-1pm.

### Church dining hall needs equipment

Hamline Church United Methodist is trying to raise funds to replace their decades-old equipment at their Minnesota State Fair building. They have had the location at the fair for 121 years.

The total cost of the ranges and cooktops, including a new dishwasher installed before this year's fair, could fall between \$50,000 and \$70,000, according to Ray Faust, who handles the church's social media accounts. A

*Continued on page 12*

## In Our Community

Continued from page 11

crowdfunding page has been established with a goal of \$25,000. At press time they had gathered \$6404 of their goal.

Donations to cover the expenses would allow the dining hall to continue to donate a portion of its profits to the Sheridan Story, an organization aimed at combating child hunger. To donate go to [www.gofundme.com/help-hamline-church-dining-hall](http://www.gofundme.com/help-hamline-church-dining-hall).

### St. Mark's schedules Open House Week

Saint Mark's School, 1983 Dayton Ave., will hold their Open House Week Oct. 22-26, daily between 9am-2pm. During Open House Week, you are invited to schedule a one-hour snapshot of student life at St. Mark's School that fits your family's schedule. St. Mark's is a PreK-8th-grade Catholic school—a reMARKable place to learn! Book your time at [markerspride.com](http://markerspride.com), 651-644-3380, or [schooloffice@markerspride.com](mailto:schooloffice@markerspride.com).

### 'The Candidate' to play at Can Can

"The Candidate," an uproarious interactive political comedy, is playing at Can Can Wonderland (755 Prior Ave. N.) at 6:30pm on Oct. 21, 28, and Nov. 4.

"The Candidate" is, on the surface, a madcap farce about the absurdity of today's political environment. Wild comedy, an attitude of "Party No Matter What," this interactive show centers on a rally for a new city council candidate. As the evening's festivities get underway, we start to see the true colors of his campaign team. The show is an indictment of our current political climate, digging into very real issues like dark money and the dangers of a homogeneous voting base.

All showings are pay-what-you-can (although there is a \$2 cover to get into Can Can). It is family-friendly, with themes of partying and lots of loud music.

For more information, or to reserve your spot, go to [www.dangerousproductions.org](http://www.dangerousproductions.org).

### Cat Day workshop scheduled Oct. 14

Community members and local rescue organizations are holding Community Cat Day, an outdoor shelter building event on Sun., Oct. 14, 1-3pm as their contribution to Alley Cat Allies' Global Cat Day. Volunteers will be setting up shop and are inviting anyone who would like to learn more about community cat care and to help build shelters to help save outdoor cats from the cold.

This is the 7th year that Como Park resident Molly Rosenberg, along with fellow volunteers Sue Knoblauch and Donna Bolte, has helped plan a Community Cat Day event in St. Paul. This year they've expanded and will be holding the event at the pavilion outside Cub Foods, 1201 Larpenteur Ave. W., Roseville. Neighborhood residents are encouraged to attend.

They will make shelters out of 20-gallon and 30-gallon plastic bins (the little ones fit into the

large ones with insulation in between). It would be great if you'd bring your own bins, or there will be some donated bins to have on hand for the workshop. They'll also use rolls of 16" x 25' mylar insulation, electric hand saws, box cutters, scissors, permanent markers, and duct tape to make the shelters.

They will also be accepting donations of dry and canned cat food for distribution to people in need who are feeding community cats.

### News from Hamline Midway Elders

Women's Drum Center returns to Hamline Midway Elders (HME) on Fri., Oct. 19, at 1pm for a free interactive workshop, "Health Rhythms," at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Come to drum and have fun! A wide variety of drums and percussion instruments will be provided, and no experience is necessary. This 60-minute program is based on medical research that shows the health benefits of drumming with a group, including stress reduction, mood improvement, and a boost to the immune system.

Tai Chi Classes are held on Mondays, 11:30am-12:30pm, at Hamline Church United Methodist. Kathy Carlson leads a new series of free classes. Tai Chi is a gentle exercise that increases flexibility and strength; reduces the pain and stiffness of arthritis, and improves balance. Older adults who have never participated in a Tai Chi class are encouraged to give this a try.

Knitting Group meets Mondays, 1-3pm, at Hamline Church United Methodist. Hamline Midway Elders provides the yarn and needles along with some light snacks. The group members work on projects, such as making shawls to be donated to a local hospice or blankets for a child care center. New participants are always welcome.

Exercise Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-2:30pm (through Nov. 6) at Hamline Church United Methodist. Joni O'Connell has led this eight-week series of free exercise classes each spring and fall for the past 11 years. She utilizes her unique Irish sense of humor to create a welcoming and motivating atmosphere. Older adults who have never participated in an exercise class are encouraged to give this a try.

Reading Buddies are wanted the first and third Wednesdays, 10:45-11:30am at Hamline Elementary School, 1599 Englewood Ave. HME partnership with Hamline Elementary School and the Reading Buddy Program returned with the start of the new school year. Third-grade students enjoy reading to neighborhood elders, so we're hoping to recruit even more older adults to participate. No experience is necessary, just a desire to interact with children. And you don't have to attend every session, just come when your schedule permits.

Jody's Documentary Film Series will screen the films "Red-neck Muslim" and "Mother's Day" on Wed., Oct. 31, 1pm at Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. The film follows an Iraqi hospital nurse and his family who are forced to leave their home. Jody Huber introduces the films and leads a discussion after each showing. Snacks are provided, and people

of all ages are welcome to attend.

Hamline Midway Elders serves older adults utilizing many wonderful volunteers, but they want/need more individual and group volunteers (of all ages) for tasks like fall raking, driving, friendly visiting, snow shoveling, and event assistance. Flexible days/hours. For more information, please contact Tom Fitzpatrick of Hamline Midway Elders at 651-209-6542 or [tom@hmelders.org](mailto:tom@hmelders.org).

### Beginning drum class starts Oct. 15

Announcing Let's Rock, a beginning drum set class at Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. W., Mon., Oct. 15, 5:30pm. This introductory class is for beginners who want to learn the basics of playing a drum set. Lessons include stick technique, explanation of each drum/cymbal and their uses, drum set rhythm and styles, and how to play along with other instruments. No drumming experience necessary, drums are provided, and the cost of the class is \$25. To register, leave contact info at [info@womensdrumcenter.net](mailto:info@womensdrumcenter.net).

### Xiong-Chan named a VP at Hamline

Hamline University has elevated Mai Nhia Xiong-Chan to its newly created position of Vice President of Enrollment Management.

Xiong-Chan, who came to Hamline in 2014 as Director of Undergraduate Admission, has led the university to four consecutive years of record-breaking first-year student enrollment.

In her new responsibilities, Xiong-Chan will oversee Hamline's offices of Undergraduate Admissions, Graduate Admission, and Financial Aid. She is also the only person of Hmong ancestry to hold a higher education position of this type in the United States.

### Jehovah Lutheran collects food/clothes

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas, is gathering food donations for Keystone food shelves and winter clothing for refugees and recently released prisoners.

Staple, nonperishable grocery items are sent on to Keystone Community Services, which operates food shelves in St. Paul and Roseville. Paper grocery bags in good condition are welcome as well.

The congregation is also gathering winter clothes, bedding, and kitchenware for refugees from Congo, which is enduring years of violent revolution. CEEDS, the Center for Employment and Education Development Services, maintains an office at the church to help Congolese refugees.

CEEDS accepts monetary donations as well. Checks can be made out to CEEDS and left at the church office or mailed to the church, 1566 Thomas Ave., St. Paul MN 55104. Contacts include Pastor Justin Byakweli, 651-230-8957, [justin.byakweli@ceedsusa.org](mailto:justin.byakweli@ceedsusa.org); or church member Shirley Dorow, [dorow@csp.edu](mailto:dorow@csp.edu).

The congregation also partners with CrossingHome, an organization that helps former prison-

ers adjust to living on their own. The group has an office at Jehovah Lutheran, where members are helping gather dishes, cooking pans, small appliances, flatware and furniture for released prisoners. Jim Seemann (651-276-8047 or [seemann@csp.edu](mailto:seemann@csp.edu)) is a congregation member and liaison with Crossing Home.

Items for any of the groups can be left at the church's Donation Center, indoors to the left of the entry at 1566 Thomas Ave. Tax vouchers are available. Drop off items before or after worship at 10:15am Sundays, or call the church at 651-644-1421 to set up another time, or contact one of the group's representatives listed above.

### NAMI holds partner support group

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors a support group specifically for partners or spouses of someone who lives with a mental illness. The Partners and 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. For more information, call Melissa at 651-354-0825 or Sara at 763-350-6502.

### Kao Kalia Yang to speak Nov. 3

St. Timothy Lutheran Church women will host Kao Kalia Yang, local Hmong-American author of "The Latecomer," on Sat., Nov. 3 at 1pm. Her topic will be "Reflections on Belonging." All are invited to come and hear Kao Kalia Yang speak about Hmong refugee and immigrant experiences. The church is located at 1465 N. Victoria St.

### Emotions Anonymous meets Wednesdays

Emotions Anonymous (EA) meets each Wednesday, 7pm, at the Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Use the rear entrance and ring the bell to gain admittance. The meeting is upstairs in Room 7.

The meetings are open to anyone who is seeking to achieve and maintain emotional balance. EA is not a religious group, and they welcome people of any religious affiliation or no religious affiliation. There is no cost to attend meetings. Only first names are used, and everything said at a meeting is confidential.

### Events planned at Merriam Park Library

The Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., is planning several events in the coming weeks.

Don't miss "Fall Maker Break: Young Dance" on Thur., Oct. 18, 2-3:30pm. Kids ages 7-11 will explore social justice, individual identity, and group collaboration through creative movement.

The Merriam Park Book Club meets Mon. Oct. 22, 6:30-7:30pm. The title they will discuss is "Evicted" by Matthew Desmond.

There are Family Storytimes at the library on Fridays, 10:30-11am. Spend time sharing stories, songs, and rhymes with your child while

building a foundation for reading success. Preschoolers, toddlers, and babies welcome!

Board at the Library will be held Wednesdays, 2-4:30pm. Join others for board games such as Apples to Apples Jr., Clue, Chess, Checkers, and more. Or, bring your own board game.

"You Can Make It!" takes place at the library on Mondays, 3-5pm, with hands-on crafts and activities for kids ages 7 to 11.

Paw Pals with Katie and Kerrie is planned for Thur., Nov. 1, 6-7pm. Read to a friendly dog who loves to sit and listen to stories. For young readers ages 6-12. Please register by calling 651-642-0385 or stopping by the library's service desk.

Open Lab for Writers meets every Thursday, 10:30am-noon. There is no instructor. This is an opportunity to meet, discuss, or work on whatever you're writing. All styles welcome!

Tech Help Clinics are set for Thursdays, 11:30-12:30pm, Fridays, noon-2pm, and Saturdays, 11:30am-12:30pm. The clinics are for all tablets smartphones. Bring your questions and, problems, and concerns. If we can't answer the question, we'll find resources or organizations that can! No registration required.

### Music Series announces schedule

Hamline Church United Methodist has announced the full line-up of artists and performances for its 2018-19 Music & Arts Series, including performances by Salsa del Soul, Kirtan Path, Cantus, Chelsea Chen, the Oratorio Society of Minnesota and more. Concerts (except for the concert on Dec. 1) will take place at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Parking is available in the Hamline Church parking lot.

"Salsa for the Soul," a Puerto Rico Hurricane Maria disaster recovery fundraiser, is planned for Sun., Oct. 28, 5-8pm (open house). Hamline Church will send members on a mission trip to Puerto Rico in November 2018 to assist in cleaning up and rebuilding after Hurricane Maria in 2017. This fundraiser for that mission trip will include a meal of traditional Puerto Rican cuisine as well as music from the Caribbean dance music band Salsa Del Soul. Bring your dance shoes! Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for students (elementary-college), and free for ages 5 and under. All proceeds will go toward the mission trip. Tickets available for purchase at [hamlinechurch.org/arts-series](http://hamlinechurch.org/arts-series).

MacPhail New Music Ensemble presents "Unremembered: Song Cycle for 3 Voices and Chamber Orchestra" by Sarah Kirkland Snider on Fri., Nov. 9, 7:30pm. A meditation on memory, innocence, and the haunted grandeur of the natural world, Unremembered recalls strange and beautiful happenings experienced during a childhood in rural Massachusetts. Through poet Nathaniel Bellows' moving words and images and composer Sarah Kirkland Snider's vivid, fraught, astonishing score, the cycle explores how beguiling events in early life can resonate in—and prepare us for—the subtler horrors that lie beyond the realm of childhood. This event is not ticketed; a free-will offering will be collected at the door.

Continued on page 15

## Another issue over signage

Aid to struggling Midway Center businesses or a violation of city regulations? A longtime bank sign, which has stood at the southeast corner of Snelling and University avenues for decades, is the focus of debate between the Midway Center ownership and St. Paul city officials. The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals will decide the sign's fate this month. The board couldn't reach an agreement on whether to order the sign removed or allow it to stay when it met Sept. 25.

The sign was used for decades by Midway Bank and its successor American Bank. American Bank closed its Midway location in 2014. The building was eyed as a new site for Midway Center Walgreens at one point. It was also used for a time for planning meetings for the Allianz Field Minnesota United soccer stadium and a revamped Midway Center superblock. The bank was torn down several months ago, but its sign remained in place.

RD Parent Investors, one of the New York-based companies that owns Midway Center, is asking that the sign remain. It had been blank for years but recently had new signage added asking that shoppers support the remaining Midway center businesses. Shopping center owners contend that the businesses are struggling and need to be promoted during construction of the stadium and its adjacent streets and public spaces. They argue that the sign is appropriate for businesses in the center's large area.

But the city's Department of

Safety and Inspections argues that the sign is an off-premises business sign and isn't allowed under city regulations. That decision, which was made by city staff, was appealed to the BZA. Because the board couldn't reach four votes on motions to remove or retain the sign, a decision was delayed.

The decision can ultimately be appealed to the City Council.

## Financing approved for street work around stadium

Work on the streets around the Midway Center superblock and the Allianz Field soccer stadium continues. The St. Paul City Council in September approved an additional \$600,000 in Minnesota Department of Transportation Trunk Highway funding.

Work underway includes street improvements, removal of the Snelling Ave./Spruce Tree Dr. traffic signal, adding a signal at Shields and Snelling avenues, median revisions on Snelling and signal construction at St. Anthony Ave. and Pascal St.

The council in the past approved \$750,000 of tax Increment financing and \$355,000 in Municipal State Aid financing. More funding is needed to complete the work.

The city's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee recommended approval of the work, which is continuing this fall.

## 1619 Hubbard can have ten units

A multi-family dwelling at

1619 Hubbard can have ten housing units, the St. Paul Planning Commission decided Sept. 7. The commission approved re-establishment of a nonconforming use permit symbolizing the property as a 10-unit dwelling.

The property, owned by Mark Nedoroski, is zoned for duplex use. But it has had legal nonconforming status for many years. Until the early 1980s it had ten dwelling units. The building is on a large lot of about 15,000 square feet and has enough off-street parking to accommodate ten units.

Since the mid-1980s it has between six to eight dwelling units as a result of renovation projects. It also has been through a number of zoning and permit reviews over the years.

City staff recommended denial of the request to add the two units, stating that it can be used as an eight-plex. But Hamline Midway Coalition and neighbors supported the request, citing Nedoroski's good history as a property owner.

The commission's Zoning Committee recommended approval of the request in August.

## Work continues at Como

Work continues on Como Park Zoo and Conservatory improvements. The St. Paul City Council in September amended the financing plans for more than \$3.1 million to reflect funds received from Como Friends and Lancer Hospitality for the Como Seal and Sea Lion Habitat Asset Preservation project and other work.

The funding amendment won approval in August from the city's Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee.

Como Friends is the non-profit partner of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. Since 1999 the Friends have reinvested more than \$35 million in projects and programs. The nonprofit has committed an increase of \$1,716,820 toward the habitat project for a total of \$4,486,000.

Lancer Hospitality provides food service, catering, and operation of Como Town. Lancer will provide \$1,385,066 to build a new food service building on Como Zoo grounds. This structure will replace the former Zooper building, which will need to be removed due to construction.

## Vote delayed on dwelling units

The St. Paul City Council hasn't shut the door on accessory dwelling units just yet. But before the council votes Oct. 10 on whether or not to allow more of the units throughout the city, changes to a proposed zoning ordinance are sought. On Sept. 12 Council members voted 5-1 to lay the matter over, and then approved a second layover Sept. 26.

The ordinance as currently written would allow the dwelling units, known as ADUs, on properties with single-family zoning. Properties would have to be owner-occupied. Adding a dwelling unit inside a home, in a home addition, in a backyard or above a garage would have to meet a

number of conditions on property size, heights and setbacks, utilities, and other zoning and building code issues. Occupants would have to meet the legal definition of a family, which can include two unrelated persons.

The study initially started with a focus on several neighborhoods but was expanded as more district councils asked to be included. Council members Dan Bostrom and Jane Prince raised concerns about enforcement and the homeownership requirements. Ward Three Council Member Chris Tolbert also said he'd like more time to look at the ordinance, the homeownership requirement, and how it is enforced. Another issue that has been raised is that the units being used as short-term rentals and not as permanent housing.

Proponents say the units would add needed housing density, allow families to live together with some privacy and provide a housing option that isn't very common. Opponents worry about density, excess parking demands and other issues.

St. Paul has historical carriage houses. But new ADUs are currently only allowed within one-half mile of Green Line light rail, from Lexington Pkwy. to the west city limits.

Only one of the dwelling units has been built near the Green Line, in Hamline-Midway neighborhood, since the ordinance allowing limited ADUs was adopted in 2016.

# Little Grocery on University turns tobacco shop, seeks variance

By JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul's upcoming restrictions on menthol products sales have business owners scrambling to retain the ability to sell such products. The Little Grocery, 1724 University Ave., wishes to get out of the grocery business and become a tobacco product shop this fall, with a separation distance variance approved Sept. 10 by the city's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). But that decision has been appealed to the St. Paul City Council, which will hear the request in late October or November.

The BZA vote was 4-2 for approval with Robert Clarksen, Luis Rangel Morales, Danielle Swift and Diane Trout-Oertel voting for the variance and Gloria Bogen and Thomas Sailor against.

Little Grocery owner Mussie Embaye is converting the grocery store into a tobacco shop because many of his sales are of menthol-flavored tobacco products. About 75 percent of the store's sales as a convenience store are of tobacco products.

In 2017 the St. Paul City Council voted to restrict the sale of menthol-flavored tobacco products to tobacco shops. At the time of the City Council vote, anti-tobacco advocates contended that menthol-flavored products are more heavily used by young people and people of color, putting them at risk for negative health impacts.

The ban was delayed to give stores time to sell out existing inventory. Convenience stores, grocery stores, and other retailers must stop selling the menthol-flavored



The Little Grocery, 1724 University Ave., has applied for a variance of 40' to become a "tobacco product shop" this fall. Tobacco products shops in St. Paul need to be at least one-half mile, or 2,640 feet apart. The Little Grocery is 40' short of the half-mile limit and have asked for a variance. (Photo courtesy of Google Maps)

products by Nov. 1. A few small grocery and convenience stores have already renovated their buildings to separate tobacco sales from other products. For Embaye, who rents his space, it is just easier to drop milk, bread, and eggs, and just sell tobacco.

Tobacco products shops in St. Paul need to be at least one-half mile or 2,640 feet apart. 1724 University Ave. is 2,600 feet from Vape Pros, 681 N. Snelling Ave. Vape Pros sells e-cigarettes and accessories. E-cigarettes in St. Paul are reg-

ulated in the same way that tobacco products are, so shops selling those items fall under the tobacco products restrictions.

A variance of 40 feet is needed to allow for the new shop to open. It's the second tobacco products shop distance requirement waiver the BZA has passed in three months. In July the board approved a 240-foot variance between two Rice St. shops. The board will hear a third request soon.

Embaye said he has little

choice but to change his store. "Everything I am asking for is in reaction to what the city has done," said Embaye. His convenience store, which he recently closed, wouldn't be profitable if he cannot sell menthol-flavored tobacco products. Embaye believes it makes more sense for him to sell tobacco.

"It's the only viable option I have at this point," he said. By becoming a tobacco product shop, the University Ave. storefront can have more than 90 percent of its sales from tobacco products, in-

cluding the sale of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, loose tobacco, plants, herbs, and smoking devices.

BZA members debated the impact the latest variance would have. Bogen said Embaye could still sell other tobacco products in his store, just not those that are menthol-flavored. She said the variance doesn't meet all of the required findings for approval, and that not meeting the distance requirement isn't a hardship.

Other BZA members said the request is reasonable. "The applicant is at a disadvantage because menthol cigarettes are what sells," said Trout-Oertel.

The Association for Non-smokers Minnesota and Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation youth program representatives objected to the variance, citing the detrimental impacts of tobacco on public health. Jeanne Weigum of ANSR-Minnesota said the area is already "heavily blanketed" with tobacco licenses. She said that issuing distance variances "flies in the face of the City Council's intent" in limiting access to menthol-flavored tobacco products.

BZA staff recommended approval of the variance, citing the business's location in a commercial district, the fact that Little Grocery has long sold tobacco products and the distance requirement hardship. BZA staff member Jerome Benner II said the 40-foot variance request is reasonable and should be granted. Union Park District Council made no recommendation.

# Proposed Snelling development west of stadium is further refined

Five-story development could house 18,000-sq-ft of retail, and about 200 residential units, 200 parking spaces

By JANE MCCLURE

Wellington Management's hope to build a five-story mixed-use development west of the Allianz Field Major League Soccer stadium needs support from Union Park District Council (UPDC) and city officials, if the project is to expand to its full potential. The council's land use committee is expected to vote as soon as Oct. 15 on a support request to purchase state-owned property.

Wellington wants to demolish the current Bremer Bank at 427 N. Snelling Ave. The site would be redeveloped with a new bank branch and Walgreens store on the first floor, and four stories of housing above. The first-floor retail space would be about 18,000-sq-ft that could house Walgreens and the bank, or the bank and up to three smaller tenants. The development would have about 200 housing units, with a mix of micro-unit/studios, one and two-bedroom units.

The St. Paul-based developer would like to purchase Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)-owned land south of the

bank. David Wellington, director of acquisitions and development for Wellington Management, told the district council land use committee in September some of the state property could be used for the new building. Some land could provide green space for residents and the surrounding community.

But acquiring the land means going through a state process. One option is for the city Department of Planning and Economic Development to work with the state on a land sale. That's been done in several neighborhoods over the years.

Another way is to see if MnDOT would put the property up for sale on its own. The latter method has its risks as Wellington could get outbid by another developer.

A letter of support from the district council would be helpful, Wellington said. Land use committee members said while they'd be interested in supporting the land sale, they want more details.

The property was cleared in the 1960s when Interstate 94 was built and has been vacant since then. Various neighborhood visioning

processes have come up with ideas for the property, which is sometimes occupied by people who are homeless. Ideas have included a park and active space.

Wellington said the project would be the first market-rate housing project near Green Line light rail in the area east of Fairview Ave. All other housing built on or near the light rail line in the past few years east of Fairview has been affordable housing.

About 200 parking spaces for residents and customers would be underground and on the first floor.

The first floor, which would be 18 feet in height, would have at-grade parking and a small parking deck.

The development has been through a number of iterations since a July presentation to the committee, including expansion to Roy St., said Wellington. Plans are now focused on Snelling Ave. between Shields and St. Anthony avenues. But that will take land acquisition. The development, which if it is to break ground next year, is at a point where it will need a decision

soon on the state land acquisition.

The Snelling property eyed for redevelopment is zoned for traditional neighborhoods three use, which would allow five stories. Additional height could be granted through a conditional use permit process. With a taller first story, a permit might be needed. The need for a permit won't be known until more detailed plans are developed.

Initially, Wellington and officials from the adjacent Central Baptist Church looked at demolishing two church-owned homes on Roy to develop a shared parking structure for the church and new development. The two houses are south of the church.

Three other Roy St. homeowners then expressed interest in selling their properties. Expanding the development west to Roy was considered, said Wellington. Making a larger project work financially would mean adding more height, which the developers aren't comfortable with.

"We don't want to bring commercial corridor massing into a single-family residential neighbor-

hood," Wellington said. Another issue is that of generating more traffic into the neighborhood west of the development.

The latest plan calls for using Snelling Ave. properties only, and not tearing down the church-owned homes.

The development team is also working on traffic flow west of the building. There is a north-south alley between Snelling and Roy, with an east-west extension to Roy about mid-block. Wellington Management met with the UPDC Transportation committee Sept. 10 to discuss traffic issues and the number of egress points for the new development. Both the bank and Walgreens wish to have drive-through windows. There's also a need for separate resident and commercial parking access.

Most neighborhood reaction to the development proposal has been positive, said UPDC Board and land use committee member David Rasmussen. He lives near the development. Wellington Management has held meetings with neighbors to discuss their plans.

## On-street parking? Nope, wider bike lanes with buffer zones.

By JANE MCCLURE

Wider, buffered bike lanes will be installed on Prior Ave. between University and Minnehaha avenues. The St. Paul City Council approved the project Sept. 5. The lanes are intended to provide a safer and more comfortable cycling experience on a north-south bike route. Work will be done as part of a street mill and overlay project this fall.

City Council members said they've heard strong support for bike lane improvements and unanimously approved the project. While the project has its supporters, including Hamline Midway Coalition and area cyclists and members of the city's cycling groups, it has drawn objections from a landscaping business that uses Prior for parking.

Prior has had bike lanes for several years but they are about five feet wide in the area north of University. It's not a width city officials and cyclists consider adequate today.

"It does meet our standards for bike lanes, but it is the absolute minimum," said Reuben Collins of St. Paul Public Works.

Prior is a collector street and Municipal-State Aid route. It carries more than 4,800 vehicles per day. The posted speed is 30 miles per hour. It's not a transit route but connects to several bus routes and Green Line light rail at University.

The street is about 40' wide between Charles and Minnehaha avenues, with two 11' travel lanes, two 5' bike lanes, and an 8' parking

lane. It has parking on the east side.

The changes after the mill and overlay allow for 11' travel lanes, 2' buffer lanes, 7' bike lanes, and no on-street parking. Public Works will also reconfigure the area near University on the north side of Prior, to add turning space and improve safety.

Because the project is in a commercial-industrial area with no residential uses, Public Works didn't hold an open house but instead reached out to property owners. One property owner objected to the project, citing the loss of on-street parking.

Josh Arvold and his brother own Arvold Landscaping at 622 Prior. They bought their property in February and use their lot area

to store landscaping materials and supplies. Arvold said employees and customers park on Prior and will have to walk a block when the parking is removed.

While supporting the street and bike improvements, Arvold said the change would create a hardship for the family business.

Collins said city officials heard from a second business owner who wants changes made on Prior south of University. But those won't happen until the street is reconstructed in 2022.

Another person who'd like to see improvements extended north is Rob Clapp, one of the owners of the Can Can Wonderland entertainment complex just north of Minnehaha. He asked if the mill and over-

lay could be extended one block, as that stretch of street is in poor condition, and also asked city officials to consider making the street more walkable.

Clapp and other proponents spoke for the project's safety aspects for bicyclists. Hamline Midway Coalition member Erin Parrish was among those who frequently bike along Prior, and don't feel safe with the current narrow lane configuration. Neighborhood resident Jake Ruter cited the importance of Prior as a bike corridor.

Improvements to Prior are consistent with the bicycle plan the City Council adopted in 2015. Long-term, a goal is to have the lanes be a connection to a future bike route along Pierce Butler Rte.

# Classifieds

## Monitor

Want ads must be received by the Monitor by October 29 for the November 8 issue. Call 651-645-7045 for more information. Your classified ad will also be automatically placed on the Monitor's website at [www.MonitorSaintPaul.com](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, PO Box 168, Osseo, MN 55369. Want ads must be mailed to the Monitor by Oct. 29 for the Nov. 8 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)

### APARTMENT WANTED

Quiet non-smoking woman looking for one or one-plus bedroom apartment. Flexible move date, but hope to move this Fall! Lynn — 651-489-9053

### 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-18

### 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). 10-18

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## In Our Community

Continued from page 12

"Chanting the Divine: An Evening of the South Asian Devotional Tradition of Kirtan" is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 1, 7pm at Hamline University Klas Center, Third floor - The Kay Fredericks Room on the Hamline University campus. Kirtan is the musical tradition of call and response chanting from the Bhakti Yoga tradition in India. Join the Twin Cities-based band Kirtan Path in participatory singing, open to people from all backgrounds, cultures, and religions. This event is not ticketed; a free-will offering will be collected at the door. Co-sponsored by Hamline University.

Hamline University A Cappella Christmas Concert will be held Sun., Dec. 2, at 4pm. The Hamline University A Cappella Choir presents their annual Christmas concert. This event is not ticketed; a

free-will offering will be collected at the door.

"Christmas with Cantus" is planned Sun., Dec. 23, 2pm. In the 1880s, Edward White Benson, the future Archbishop of Canterbury, organized the original Lessons and Carols service to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve. This innovative new vehicle for meditation and thought quickly became a model embraced worldwide. Christmas with Cantus presents a modern take on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, reimagined for our world today. Join Cantus as they both honor the age-old traditions and establish new ones for the next generation. Tickets will be available to purchase at [cantussings.org](http://cantussings.org).

"Speaking Like Light: An Evening of Spiritual Poetry from Around the World" is planned in the new year on Thur., Feb. 28, 7pm. Poetry is one of the most powerful tools we have for articulat-

ing the joys, mysteries, difficulties, and meaning of spirituality and the inner life. This annual candlelit event of poems and music will explore contemplative themes from diverse spiritual traditions. This event is not ticketed; a free-will offering will be collected at the door.

The Oratorio Society of Minnesota presents "Victoria - A Life in Music" on Sun., Apr. 14, 2pm. This will be an unforgettable evening of stories and music from the Victorian era as the Oratorio Society of Minnesota celebrates the bicentennial year of Queen Victoria's birth. With the popularity of the PBS "Victoria" series, you will enjoy a unique program of music which has been carefully researched and sourced from libraries throughout the U.S. and England. "Victoria - A Life in Music" will include actors, soloists, chorus, orchestra and organ and will focus on milestones from Queen Victoria's incredible reign of almost 64 years. Songs, instrumental selections and works for chorus and orchestra will feature music by Martin Phipps (PBS "Victoria" theme), Handel, Strauss Sr., Mendelssohn, Wagner, Gounod, Albert (Prince Consort), Stanford, Sullivan, Elgar and Parratt along with traditional Irish and Scottish songs from the Victorian era. Tickets available to purchase at [oratorio.org](http://oratorio.org).

The final concert of the season will be a Chelsea Chen- Solo Organ Recital on Tues., May 7, 7:30pm. With playing described as "stunning" and possessing "lovely lyrical grandeur" (Los Angeles Times), Chelsea Chen has electrified audiences throughout the United States and Asia. A Fulbright scholar and graduate of Juilliard and Yale University, she has performed to great acclaim at many important venues including Singapore's Esplanade, Hong Kong's Cultural Centre, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, and Los Angeles' Disney Hall. This event is not ticketed; a free-

will offering will be collected at the door.

## Frogtown Farm seeks Manager

Frogtown Farm is accepting applications for a full-time Farm Manager for the 2019 growing season.

Frogtown Farm's Farm Manager should be an experienced and well-rounded individual with strong production farming skills and a commitment to social justice. The Farm Manager plays an integral role in the leadership team of Frogtown Farm, sharing responsibility in advancing Frogtown Farm's mission. With skill and creativity, the Farm Manager navigates the operation of a certified organic, non-profit, production farm with the equally important goals of building community engagement, community education, and advocacy for social justice.

This position requires the ability to work across and within diverse teams and multicultural communities, where understanding and appreciating differences is essential to success.

This is a full-time position. A full description of needed qualifications, preferred qualifications, and physical requirements, as well as compensation and benefits package, are available from Frogtown Farm. Application deadline is Sun., Oct. 28, 5pm.

Please send resume and cover letter describing your qualifications, experience and perspective on the position to [dave@frogtownfarm.org](mailto:dave@frogtownfarm.org) or mail to Executive Director, Frogtown Farm, 941 Lafond Ave., Bldg D, Suite 200, St. Paul, MN 55104.

## Suicide prevention class offered Oct. 16

QPR is a free, one-hour presentation sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that covers the three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide—Question, Persuade, and Refer.

Just like CPR, QPR is an emergency response to some-

one in crisis and can save lives. QPR is the most widely taught gatekeeper training program in the United States, and more than one million adults have been trained in classroom settings in more than 48 states.

The QPR classes will be offered on Tues., Oct. 16 from 5:30-6:30pm, at NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave., W., in Suite 400. For more information or to register call 651-645-2948 x198 or see "classes" at [namimn.org](http://namimn.org).

## Annual TC Book Festival set Oct. 13

The Twin Cities Book Festival—sponsored by the local literary organization Rain Taxi—is planned for Sat., Oct. 13, 10am-5pm at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

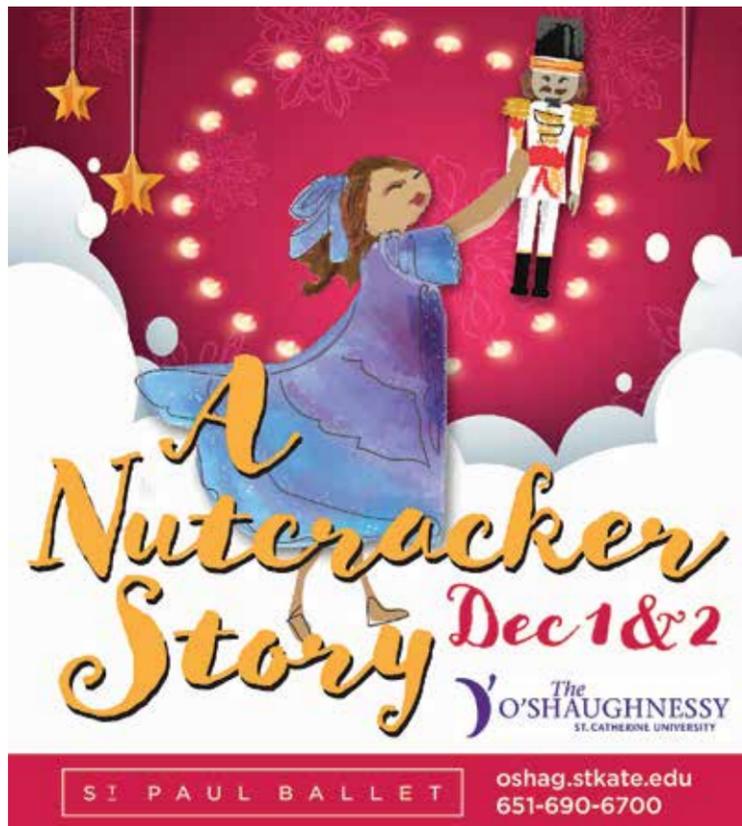
The festival is an annual get-together for the Twin Cities' devoted book community. The free, day-long festival presents internationally renowned visiting authors, local literary heroes, activities for kids, plus a giant book fair which offers both a snapshot of the publishing scene and great deals on books (new and used), magazines, book art, and more. Between 6,000 and 7,000 people have attended this one-day event in recent years.

Both the Progress Center and the Fine Arts Center at the Fairgrounds are used for festival activities.

The Progress Center houses the Festival's popular Book Fair, where over 140 literary organizations, publishers, book dealers, authors, magazines, and more display their bookish wares, as well as the Children's Pavilion and Youth Stages, where children of all ages will be entertained by activities and presentations.

The Fine Arts Center is home to conversations, readings, panels, and book launches by visiting and local authors. There are already almost 20 children's and YA authors scheduled to appear at the festival.

Keep up to date on all information about the festival online at [www.raintaxi.com/twin-cities-book-festival](http://www.raintaxi.com/twin-cities-book-festival).



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# Mending and sustainability go hand-in-hand for Mobile Menders

By TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

When Como resident Jenny Losey learned about Mobile Menders in August 2017, she quickly signed on as a volunteer.

"I thought it sounded like a really unique way to do something I enjoyed while helping out the community," recalled Losey.

Today, she serves as the group's Community Outreach Coordinator and also helps organize the Dress for Success event in the Midway area.

"We live in a society that quickly makes assumptions about a person based on their appearance—including how they dress. Being able to help people have clothing that fits, zips, and looks decent helps provide a measure of dignity to someone no matter what their situation is," remarked Losey. "On a broader level, helping to teach people about sustainability and mending helps reduce waste in our community which in turn creates a better environment for us all."

On average, an American throws away 70 pounds of clothing and textiles per year. From January through August 2018, Mobile Menders' 245 volunteers have repaired about 1,350 pounds of clothing.

"We are helping keep clothes and textiles out of the landfills by mending items and educating people how important it is to mend your clothing and textiles," stated Mobile Menders Founder Michelle Ooley, who is passionate about helping people understand how their choices can affect the environment.

"Recycling is such a powerful word, and people can feel overwhelmed," observed Ooley. "Getting your clothes mended is a simple way to start."



Mobile Menders was part of a Ramsey County Fix-It Clinic at Black Stack Brewing on Sept. 22. The next event will be at Galtier Community School to offer a Make Your Own Superhero Cape on Thursday evening, Oct. 25. (Photo submitted)

## Self-taught

Ooley is a self-taught seamstress who learned by reading various sewing blogs and watching videos. It involved a lot of trial and error and a good seam ripper, she remarked.

She was inspired to form Mobile Menders after volunteering at an Earth Day work event through her employer at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in April 2017.

At a Fix-It Clinic event held at Union Gospel Mission, Ooley hemmed pants, replaced buttons, and fixed rips.

With one hour left, a man named Jim came up to her with two items needing repair: a bathrobe with a rip in the seam and a jacket that needed a new zipper. She told Jim that she could repair his bathrobe, but the jacket would need additional time. She asked for his cell phone number and told him she would replace the zipper and return the jacket in about two weeks.

"He couldn't believe that I

would do that for him," recalled Ooley.

Two weeks later, Ooley met up with Jim to return the jacket. "Jim was moved to tears when I gave him his repaired jacket. He said it was the nicest thing anyone had ever done for him," said Ooley. She was moved to tears, as well.

She knew she had to do something more. Mobile Menders was born.

## Emotional connection to clothes

"Clothes are so important to people, and they hold such a powerful emotional connection," commented Ooley.

"We all have a favorite shirt, sweatshirt or pants. A story often goes along with an article of clothing. I've met some truly wonderful people that volunteer with Mobile Menders. It's not only providing a much-needed resource to the community, but also to the volunteers

and myself. It really is something to witness when you can mend someone's shirt when they didn't think you could."

She is always touched by the joy on a child's face after their stuffed animal is repaired at a mending event. "Every item that someone brings to an event is important to them, so it's important to us," said Ooley.

Losey remembers fixing a sweatshirt that had once belonged to the owner's sister who passed away. Her cat had ripped it up, and it needed some patching. Another time, she worked on letting out a suit coat for a man at a recovery center who didn't think he'd ever own another suit in his lifetime.

While Losey loves to sew, it wasn't always that way. Her mom tried teaching her to sew when she was in middle school, but she couldn't complete a project without a lot of help, so she gave up on it. "About two years ago, I decided to try and tackle making Halloween costumes for my kids, and got the sewing bug," she said. "I found a large online community of sewists and lots of YouTube tutorials to help me out when I got stuck, and quickly progressed into sewing a lot of my own clothes."

## Mending in the neighborhood

Mobile Menders was part of a Ramsey County Fix-It Clinic at Black Stack Brewing (755 N. Prior Ave.) on Sept. 22, and returned to the neighborhood for several events in October.

Mobile Menders had a table at the Hamline Elementary School's Fall Festival on Oct. 6 for the sec-

ond year in a row and demonstrated how to take an old t-shirt and turn it into a reusable bag.

Also in October, Mobile Menders began a partnership with Hamline Elementary School to provide free mending services to the students and their families in their Family Resource Room. "It's a project that we have been working on for several months and are excited to get it started," remarked Ooley.

Mobile Menders will also return to Galtier Community School to offer a Make Your Own Superhero Cape during the Fall Festival on Thursday evening, Oct. 25. Last year, over 150 fleece capes and masks were handed out to students. Each student then had the opportunity to go to a station and decorate a cape.

## Like an old-fashioned quilting circle

"Mending events remind me of old-fashioned quilting circles where we all sit around talking and sewing," remarked Losey. "I've met so many amazing people—both volunteers and the clients bringing in clothing to be mended. Lots of them stick around to chat or learn what we're doing to their clothing, and I've heard all sorts of interesting stories."

Some Mobile Menders volunteers sew, and others act as greeters at events.

"We all have different skills and it's so cool to sit at a table and have a variety of people all work together to solve a mending problem," observed Ooley. "It's very collaborative in nature."

For more information go to [www.mobilemendersewing.com](http://www.mobilemendersewing.com).

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