By TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

After considering another location, the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) Board has decided to raze the historic St. Andrew's Church building and construct a new facility in its place to make room for additional students.

The decision was made at the July 30 school board meeting that was attended by over 100 people, some who expressed support for the school’s proposal and others who sought to save the local landmark.

“Our obligation as a board is to ensure our students receive a top rate education supported by our mission of innovative education for the whole child through German immersion,” said TCGIS Board Chair Sam Walling. “So that everyone can understand what is right for our students and staff. We empathize with the community and their longstanding ties to the former St. Andrew’s church building. However, as a public school, we cannot forego our fiscal responsibility and fiduciary duty as stewards of the school.

In May, the board received a petition with 600 signatures asking that it wait on expansion until June 2020. While the board denied this request, it did decide to wait on a decision to investigate purchasing the Central Lutheran School (CLS) facility about a mile away at 775 Lexington Pkwy. N., and operating a split campus.

The school’s options of not doing anything, purchasing the CLS site, and replacing the former church building were discussed at the meeting before the 6-1 vote was taken to tear down the church and build new.

Tonight’s decision was a vote to support the growing needs of our students and staff to solidify our existing investment in our current campus on Como Ave.,” said TCGIS Facilities Committee Chair Nic Ludwig.

The proposed construction time line is June 2019 to January 2020.

SHSA disappointed but not done fighting

The neighborhood group fighting to save the 1927 church building was surprised by the board’s decision.

According to Bonnie Youngquist of Historic Saint Andrew’s (SHSA), TCGIS’s decision to demolish the former church was a disappointment, but not a complete surprise.

By MARGIE O’LOUGHLIN

Longtime neighborhood resident Kate Mudge has been chosen as the Hamline Midway Coalition’s new executive director. She said, “I’ll be moving into the position full time on Sept. 1, but will begin meeting with the outgoing executive director, Michael Jon Olson, in early August.”

Mudge will be bringing a varied skill set to her new position. “When I moved to Hamline Midway twelve years ago,” she said, “I was working as a professional baker. One of the things that got me into the neighborhood was that it clearly supported small businesses, and I had some ideas about opening my own bakery. I ended up going in a different direction entirely, taking a job at Second Harvest, and eventually becoming the executive director of an animal rescue organization called Pet Haven.”

Throughout those years, Mudge had regular contact with the Hamline Midway Coalition (HMC). She explained how a strong district council can make life better for its residents. She said, “Michael Jon was always responsive to my ideas and suggestions. Even if he didn’t have a ready solution for me, he could always point me in the right direction.”

As one of the founding members of the Tatum Park Community Garden (1893 Taylor Ave. W.), Mudge applied to HMC for help six years ago. “They helped us with start-up marketing to get our garden going and to bring a water line in from the street. We were able to turn a vacant urban lot into a productive community garden,” she said. Mudge and her wife are the proud owners of three dogs and, she claims, “every day, we walk for miles through the neighborhood. I keep looking around and thinking, ‘there’s something I’ve never seen before!’ I’m curious to learn, what do other people see when they look around? Who or what is being under-celebrated? Who or what can we lift up? There’s a sense of pride in Hamline Midway that’s well-earned. To be part of the on-going evolution of this neighborhood, as a resident and with this new job—it doesn’t get any better than that.”

HMC engages the voice and power of the community to advance neighborhood identity, embrace community diversity, enhance neighborhood vitality, and develop neighborhood leadership. They represent the interests of the neighborhood on a broad range of public policy and city governance issues. Recommendations to public agencies are the result of active deliberation on the part of their committees and their board of directors.

While the neighborhood is largely residential, it also includes light industry, retail and wholesale businesses concentrated along the major routes of University, Snelling, and Pierce Butler/Transfer Rd. The Hamline Midway neighborhood is bounded by University Ave. on the south, Pierce Butler Route on the north, Lexington Ave. on the east, and Transfer Rd. on the west.

Kate Mudge, incoming executive director for the Hamline Midway Coalition, mused, “What are the things I love most about this neighborhood? Watching deer in Newhall Park, exploring the RR tracks with my dogs, eating at Fast R. in the Black Sea, the proximity to the Green Line, our Tatum Park Community Garden, the Hamline Library and that’s just my short list. If it falls within my power and authority, I will lobby hard for the ‘Surf’ Club to bring back their Sunday Jazz Brunch…” (Photo by Margie O’Loughlin)
The dreams of many went up in smoke after the homes and businesses were taken away. Anderson recalled in a recent interview. “It was very sad to lose your community and feel moved out of your area that you were living through me was what I really wanted to get home after graduation and the plan had been that he would return home after graduation and join his father and go into business. He said they had developed some land in the community and the city and others tried to bring people together for a couple of picnics.

Anderson said he told them, “Let’s do something, really go big and bring people together for a couple of picnics.” So he and Smaller, who have now been friends for almost 65 years, put together a plan for Rondo Days in 1982. It took a year for them to get everything in place, and the first Rondo Days celebration was in 1983. They established an organization, Rondo Ave. Inc. dedicated to keeping the memory of Rondo alive.

The opening of Rondo Plaza is the culmination of 35 years of dedication by Marvin Anderson to keeping Rondo’s memory alive. Anderson was just graduating from high school when word came that the Rondo community, an area that covered about three and a half miles, was going to be torn down for the building of a freeway. The neighborhood, made up of African American families, ran from Rice St. to Lexington and from Farmers St. to Fuller. Over 700 homes were taken on Rondo and St. Anthony, and over 100 businesses were taken away.

“Twenty-five hundred communities across the country in 993 cities were affected. And of those 2500, 1600 were communities of color.” Anderson’s memories of Rondo are as fresh as if the destruction happened yesterday. He said the African American community was a unique area at the time. “We really didn’t have the freedom to move wherever we wanted because of restrictions,” he said. Limited to living in the Rondo area by their race, the residents flourished and built businesses, organizations, and clubs. “Some of those were a half miles, was going to be torn from Marshall over to Fuller. “Over night to be seen from Interstate 94. (Photo by Jan Willms)
Letters to the Editor

Support for Mitra Jalali
To the Editor,

The Ward 4 neighbors who’ve signed below are excited to vote for Mitra Jalali Nelson for city council on August 14, and we sincerely hope you’ll join us. As an organizer and former classroom teacher, Mitra has honed a clear vision of what our community needs. That vision includes affordable housing, livable wages, improved public transit, and streets that are safer for bicyclists, drivers, and pedestrians.

Mitra also has a thoughtful, in-depth plan for enhancing public safety in St. Paul, a plan that includes greater police accountability and increased emphasis on prevention, intervention, and community-led solutions. Whether you’re a renter working to put down roots in the neighborhood you love, a resident hoping to age in place in the city, or a working to put down roots in the city, and community-led solutions. Whether you’re a renter working to put down roots in the neighborhood you love, a resident hoping to age in place in the city, or a...
Cadets from the Como Marine Corps JROTC have been active during the summer, with seniors gathered for a two-day retreat at the end of June at the Trollhaugen Outdoor Recreation Area in Dresser, Wisconsin. Their objective was to plan the upcoming academic year from the perspective of their leadership positions in Como’s JROTC. The time away allowed for discussion and bonding over adventurous activities such as zip-lining, navigating a ropes course, swimming, and camping. The experience challenged the cadets and prepared them to inspire and lead younger cadets in the program.

Como cadets conducted a Cadet Guard and volunteered at Road Guard Positions during the Patriot Guard Ride on June 30. In a joint effort with students from Harding High School’s Naval JROTC program, the cadets supported more than 5,000 motorcycle riders who were participating in the ride that was established to honor wounded warriors and veterans in Minnesota. An extra, unique opportunity was earned by cadet Liam Driscoll, who was able to enjoy a free flight over the entire event for more than one hour in a military helicopter. It was an unforgettable experience for Driscoll and an impactful event for all of Como’s participants.

The Como JROTC Color Guard was also in action on the 4th of July in the annual St. Anthony Park July 4th Parade. The team is led by Como educator Michael Fisher, and proudly marched the mile-long parade route for hundreds of smiling community members. The cadets were also able to visit the St. Anthony Park Senior Citizen Center and take several photos with residents just before the start of the parade.

The Como’s Robotics Team is scheduled to make its annual presentation at the 3M campus on Fri., Aug. 17 for the “Robots on the Plaza” celebration. The Como “BEASTBot” will be on parade and showcase its stuff for 3M employees and families. 3M is a generous sponsor of the robotics team and will be demonstrating BEASTBot at the State Fair on Aug. 29. Como’s successful robotics program involves approximately 25-30 students each academic year and is led by Como teachers Donna Norberg and Michael Fisher.

A St. Paul Pioneer Press story this summer brought to light new and gently used children’s books to our book sharing programs, or donating non-perishable food items, personal care items, and school supplies to our school’s community food pantry. Celebration. And, you can celebrate with us at community events including our Fifth Annual Fall Festival on Sat., Oct. 6.

Happy Midsummer from Hamline Elementary! Staff and families are busy getting ready for a new school year and so excited to welcome new and returning families to 1539 Englewood Ave. There’s a place for you at Hamline, neighbors—check what’s happening!

Back to School Night – Aug. 30. Hey Hamline families! Come enjoy the fun for new and old friends, and walk through the building to see how things have changed over the summer. Your favorite teachers might be in a new classroom, and there are sure to be new spaces to explore including the west wing of the school, the new ballroom, and CIB Construction. Some community partners and the PTA will be around to chat and answer questions—and we’ll have something for your Hamline pride with t-shirts and yard or window signs available for purchase. Hope to see you there!

Learning and Connection Close to Home. For families with PreK-5th graders, you can learn more about the people, programming, and partnerships that make Hamline Elementary one-of-a-kind in St. Paul by checking out the school’s website atwv.spps.org/hamline, and explore PreK-5 enrollment options at Hamline Elementary by contacting Saint Paul Public School’s Placement Center at 651-632-3700. When school is in session, call the school at 651-293-8715 to schedule a tour to see our school in action.

For families with babies, toddlers and preschoolers, contact the Early Childhood and Family Education Office at 651-793-5410 to see which early childhood classes offered at Hamline ECE may be a good fit for your family. You can also learn more about their free, weekly drop-in playtime starting in September.

Reading Partners. For neighbors and local organizations, you can connect with Hamline Elementary by signing up to be a Reading Partners volunteer or work with us to develop a community partnership.

Giving Opportunities. You can show the school some love by sharing your support with us, designating Hamline Elementary PTA when shopping with Amazon Smile, donating
Can you get around the Park?  
District 10 is asking what it is like to get around Como Regional Park when you're walking, bicycling, rolling, or traveling in some way other than in a motor vehicle. Our survey asks about signs, paths, and generally getting from one part of the park to another.

You can take the survey online until Aug. 20—In English, Spanish, Hmong, or Somali—at comopark.org.

We can help with your party  
District 10 has street barricades and portable recycling containers that community members can use for block parties, neighborhood events, and similar projects.

The street barricades are required by the city when you block off your street or alley—but ours are a more-affordable option than getting them from Public Works. Barricades require a $50 deposit. We return $40 when you return the barricades. Reservations are first-come, first-served. [To borrow our barricades, you must have an event permit from the city.]

You can borrow the recycling containers for free; there are two kinds:
- For cans, bottles, and other items, you can include in your weekly recycling
- For food scraps and other compostable items

To reserve any of this equipment, call the District 10 office at 651-446-3889.

Vote early at Streetcar Station  
Ramsey County will open 11 locations for early voting in the days before the Aug. 14 statewide primary elections and City of Saint Paul special election for City Council in Ward 4. Any Ramsey County resident can vote early at the Como Streetcar Station as well as at one of 10 other locations. Early voting hours at the Streetcar Station are Aug. 12 and 13 from noon-6pm, and Aug. 11 and 13 from 9am-3pm. Polls are open on Election Day, Aug. 14, from 7am-8pm (but votes must be in on their own precinct on that day).

State Fair do’s and don’ts  
Especially for those of you who live near the State Fairgrounds, District 10 will post a “check sheet” of what is allowed—and isn’t allowed—during the 12 days of the Fair. The guide covers street parking, lawn parking, peddlers, and vendors; includes phone numbers to call about different issues; and offers general advice from neighbors on common courtesy and making the most of the fair’s attractions and crowds. Look for the guide on District 10’s website, www.district10comopark.org.

Join us for yoga  
District 10’s next Community Yoga get-together is Sun., Sept. 9 from 9:30-10:30am at the Como Park Streetcar Station. Instructor Meegan Hall of Como Park Yoga and Wellness will lead the session, which will be suitable for all levels of skill and experience.

Twin Cities German Immersion School  
Continued from page 1

hearts of many as something sacred, beautiful, imbued with deep history and shared meaning. We were surprised to find deeply disappointing that TCGIS was not willing to compromise to make the Central Lutheran School financially feasible.

SHISA is still focusing on preserving the church. “We worked hard for many years getting positive solutions. Now we will work harder to ensure the former St. Andrew’s is not demolished,” re- marked Youngquist. “We are moving on to the next phase in which included accounting for all things, local historic designation.”

SHISA has raised over $7,500 of its $10,000 goal through a GoFundMe campaign this spring. She told fellow board members she thinks they should focus on how to retain teachers before adding additional students.

“TCGIS parent Aaron Gjerde also questioned whether growing larger fit with the school’s strategic mission. He supported operating a split campus at Central Lutheran to take more time on this issue.”

“Our town won’t make good long-term decisions when we are trapped by time,” he pointed out. School board member Dianne Bell disagreed. “I think the space need is something we have to address,” she said. “I don’t have the luxury of waiting.”

“Doing nothing perpetuates spaces and situations that prevent teachers from doing fabulous work,” stated board member Stephanie Forman.

School officials contended that the gym in the former church sanctuary is dangerous with its marble pillars and lower-walled coverings. Several children were injured at the end of the last school year, including one who required stitches after falling into a protruding corner. The school also has trouble finding space for special education needs.

TCGIS intends to tear down the Como Ave structure and replace it with a slightly larger, three-level structure with six additional classrooms, a gym large enough for two sections to operate at one time, additional office/special education spaces and a cafeteria.

The bottom line agreed that the St. An- drew’s church structure was unique in part because it was designed by well-known Twin Cities’ architect Paul V. Youngquist. The building represents a lack of empathy and understanding of its value to the community and historically,” remarked Youngquist. “This mindset is how historic buildings are reduced down to any consid- eration for the long-term benefit.”

She added, “Preserving irre- placeable historic resources is the role of the government to do, especially when other options were viable. Through our outreach efforts over the past few months, we have found that the vast majority of the pub- lic agree that history matters and should be preserved.”

LATE BREAKING NEWS: CENTRAL LUTHERAN TO CLOSE  
As the Monitor was going to press, Central Lutheran School, 775 Lexington Plwy N., announced on Mon., Aug. 6 that the school would close in September, with Twin Cities German Immersion School would help save the school. That effort failed (see article on page 1), as did a last attempt by the school to work with Twin Cities German Immersion School would help save the school. That effort failed (see article on page 1).
Historic Resources Survey

The Hamline-Midway Neighborhood Historic Resources Survey has come full-circle from the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC). The commission reviewed and approved the survey comments on the report, and then sent it on to state historic preservation officials for further action.

The study, which was reviewed at a neighborhood meeting in June by HPC member Samantha Henningson, didn’t draw more on historical archives including Ramsey County Historical Society, Hamline University, Hamline Midway History Corps and Hamline Church United Methodists. But HPC members also noted the survey is a “reconnaissance” document, meaning more study can be done in the future. Such a survey is intended to be a basis for future surveys.

Submitted by Summit Envirosolutions, Inc., the survey area included the geographic boundaries of all of Hamline Avenue, University Avenue, and Transfer Rd. This area includes about 3,000 properties, and it is designated as one of the local historic areas on 119. Of those, 182 had been previously inventoried and 12 torn down. It includes schools, churches, one university campus, one public library, nine parks and playgrounds, ten religious properties, and one barn along with single-family homes, multi-family homes, and commercial buildings.

The last assessment, the St. Paul and Ramsey County Historic Sites Survey, was conducted 35 years ago.

The individual properties and areas within the neighborhood identified in the survey may be designated as St. Paul Heritage Preservation sites and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Trend Bar

The Trend Bar, 1537 University Ave., must pay a $500 fine for a license violation, the St. Paul City Council decided July 18. The council upheld an appeal by Brett Ripley to use the building as a fourplex, and rejected a request to allow four units there. Approval is with conditions to put the property on a fourplex. It is required to have working video surveillance equipment.

The St. Paul Police Department wasn’t able to get a video tape of the assault, said Assistant City Attorney Therese Skarda. A petition for a permit. The council is asking that the city’s Innovation Team immediately convene a working group of staff from the departments of Public Works, Police, the Office of Technology and Communications and the City Attorney’s Office to vet and plan for permit parking enforcement using license plate reader technology. It is to start in September 2019 in conjunction with a new online permit renewal system. The council is also asking the Police Department to increase the capacity of its parking enforcement ranks, as well as the efficiency of deploying officers. Henningson said license plate reader technology would be a big step in residential permit parking enforcement. One complaint she and other council members have heard is that in areas where two-hour business parking is allowed in a permit district, the time limits aren’t enforced. Officers currently chalk tires and recheck after two hours.

Many changes approved July 25 are technical, including rolling all of the plus two dozen districts into one ordinance and replacing more than three decades of separate council resolutions creating and amending districts. Changes were approved to create standardization in residential permit parking rules among the districts. Time limits will still vary by districts and by street.

While hours won’t be consistent citywide, many other changes will be. From now on, three vehicle permits and two visitor permits will be made available to each household. Some districts including Irvine Park and Summit Hill had as many as six resident permits per household. Permits fees will change starting in 2019, with churches and nonprofits within residential permit parking areas paying $5 and not $1 apiece for visitor placards. Vehicle and visitor permits will be $25 each, up from $15. A fee of $25 will be charged to replace lost permits, a jump from $15. Anyone who receives a violation will pay $10 for a new permit and not $1. Hang tags for visitors will be $3 each, up a dime. Vehicle and visitor per- mits will be no longer be offered at prorated prices after May 1.

People who drive a leased vehicle will be able to buy permits in their home districts, something that wasn’t available before. No permits will be available to owners or employees of commercial or office buildings. That won’t change, despite some suggestions during the recent study.

Some changes are proposed district by district, to time limits and streets where permit parking is allowed. One key change allows residents of multi-family building to sign petitions. Property owners were the only ones who could sign before. Seventy-five percent of residents or property owners in a district must sign a petition for a permit.

The change also allows more flexibility for city staff when permit extension requests are made.

Changes go into effect 30 days after the council actions or published, or after sign changes are posted.
As stadium opening comes closer, traffic concerns gain attention

By JANE MCCLURE

As construction continues on and around the Allianz Field Major Leaguer Soccer stadium, how to get fans to and from the facility on game days continues to be scrutinized.

One step is that of allowing two interim parking lots along Snelling Ave. The St. Paul City Council will hold a public hearing at 5:30pm Wed., Aug. 15 on an interim use permit request by MLS United Football Club.

The request is the latest in a series of actions tied to ongoing work at the stadium. In the past few weeks, new streets and parking spaces have taken shape. Space where Midway, and later American Bank, stood for many years was paved. The long-vacant lot at the northwest corner of St. Anthony Ave. and Pascal St. has been paved for a permanent lot.

The Spruce Tree Dr./Snelling Ave. traffic light was being removed as of the Monitor deadline. The traffic signal will move south to Shields Ave.

The St. Paul Planning Commission Transportation Committee in July began its review of what’s ahead for game day transportation planning. The planning has a lot of moving pieces, for people who take transit, ride shuttle buses, bike, walk or drive to soccer games. Work also needs to be done before any plans would go out for community comment, which could take place as early as September.

By then planners should have a good idea of the projected “mode split” for games. That is, they could have estimates on how many people would take transit to the games versus walking, driving or biking.

Part of the committee’s July discussion centered on the interim lots. Some Transportation Committee members worry that the lots, which are eventually to be replaced with office/retail buildings and structured parking, might be difficult to get rid of once they go into place.

But there are also worries about soccer fans parking in the surrounding neighborhood, and how to encourage ways to get to the games that don’t involve driving. Ways to promote transit and shuttle bus use were discussed by the committee. Those are steps the soccer team would likely take the lead on, in conjunction with ticket sales.

An alternative urban area-wide review (AUAR) study of potential environmental impacts of the stadium was completed about two years ago. It outlines potential transit and transportation impacts and raised concerns about the possibilities for traffic congestion. A site plan has also won city approval. Minnesota United FC and city officials have continued to look at transportation planning in conjunction with ticket sales.

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The new soccer stadium will seat 19,400 fans. With its opening predicted less than a year away, questions on how all those fans will get to and from the stadium take center stage. (Photo courtesy of Minnesota United)

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The new soccer stadium will seat 19,400 fans. With its opening predicted less than a year away, questions on how all those fans will get to and from the stadium take center stage. (Photo courtesy of Minnesota United)
2018 Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival was celebration of life

Photos by MARGIE O’LOUGHLIN

Once again, the Mid-Summer Festival at Lyngblomsten (1415 Almond Ave.) was a day to celebrate artistic exploration, life-long learning, and interconnectedness between people of all ages. This year’s event was held on July 20, continuing an annual tradition that began in 1913. Volunteer coordinator Shelli Beck said, “There is just no way we could put on a festival of this size without the help of our volunteers. This year we had 130 volunteers, and I can’t say enough good things about them.”

Pianist/vocalist Paula Lammers provided one of the many indoor opportunities to view and hear artistic expression.

Zoe Bird, creator of the Alzheimer’s Poetry Project, partnered with Northern Clay Center this year. She helped visitors write poems, which were then stamped into clay tiles to be fired and picked up later in the week.

Volunteer Judy Mueller (left) is part of the pet visitor program. Community members can bring their healthy pets to Lyngblomsten to visit with older residents, a connection which is believed to foster better health through joy, touch, and comfort.

Hermes Floral has been in business since 1906, the same year Lyngblomsten came into existence. They donated flowers to the Mid-Summer Festival, as they do each year.

Volunteer Judy Mueller (left) is part of the pet visitor program. Community members can bring their healthy pets to Lyngblomsten to visit with older residents, a connection which is believed to foster better health through joy, touch, and comfort.

What makes us special?
- Career & College Focus
- Small Class Sizes
- Experiential Learning
- Mixed-Age Classes
- Project-based and Traditional learning opportunities
- PSEO, Internships, Work credit
- Personalized Graduation Plans
- Catch-up on missing credits

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- Catch-up on missing credits
First look at JA of the Upper Midwest’s new St. Paul headquarters

Office opens in November; innovative experiential learning facility will open in January 2019

Business leaders, educators, and state and city officials received the first look at Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest’s (JAUM) future headquarters, slated for a November opening with the first students using the facility the week of Jan. 7, 2019.

The Junior Achievement James R. and Patricia Hemak Experiential Learning Center is centrally located in the Midway neighborhood right on the Green Line light rail. The new building will enable JAUM to double the number of students served each year by its on-site experiential programs from 17,000 to 34,000.

JAUM purchased the 100-year-old building at 1745 University Ave, W., which has been redesigned and is being refurbished to meet its specific needs with the help of RSP Architects and Mortenson Construction.

The new building will house three experiential learning labs:

- **JA BizTown** is a fully interactive free-market lab where students in grades 4-6 learn what it means to be responsible business leaders, consumers, workers, and citizens by participating in this simulated community. Students perform specific jobs within each of the 18 different shops, each of which offers a consumer product or service.

- **JA Finance Park** teaches middle and high school students about personal finance and career exploration through classroom instruction complemented by a day-long hands-on experience where students apply learned concepts in a life-like community.

- **JA Innovation Incubator** will encourage high school students to cultivate their entrepreneurial interests and develop relationships, talents, and skills to build self-confidence. Students will have access to state-of-the-art technology, including a digital business start-up platform, and the opportunity to learn from local entrepreneurs.

Spurred by a lead gift of $4 million from retail industry entrepreneur and JA alumnus Jim Hemak and his wife, Pat, and $1.4 million donated by JAUM Board of Directors, the organization is now less than $2 million away from its $20 million fundraising goal for the Let’s Build campaign. The campaign supports the purchase and renovation of the building and will also help grow JAUM by providing funding to meet new demands for program expansion, operating needs, technology upgrades, and the ability to continue providing Junior Achievement programs to local schools at little or no cost.

Students from throughout the metro area, as well as from greater Minnesota, will benefit from the programs housed in the new facility. The urban location and proximity to light rail and bus transportation make the new facility more convenient for students during in-school and after-school programs.

Demolition of the building began in March 2018 and will be finished in early September. Crews are also readying the 18 shops for JA BizTown and 18 shops for JA Finance Park that will serve as a blank slate for creating an inspiring learning experience for students.

JAUM is making a significant commitment to sustainability. Through a partnership with the U.S. Green Build Council (USGBC) to integrate sustainability strategies into the building, including solar panels, energy efficient water heaters and HVAC system, and low flow toilets.

JAUM will utilize USGBC’s ADVANCE program to track operational performance to achieve LEED certification. Students will support this effort by tracking key LEED certification requirements, including water usage, recycling practices, and energy audits.

Teachers, volunteers, and corporate partners who visit the building will be encouraged to embrace sustainability practices, such as using public transportation, carpooling, and packing waste-free lunches.

Students participating in the JA BizTown and JA Finance Park simulations will learn about sustainability technologies, careers, and education requirements, and teachers will be provided with a sustainability-focused curriculum that they can implement in their classroom.

To learn more about JAUM’s future home, the Let’s Build campaign, or to make a secure online donation, visit letsbuildjaum.org.

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**LEED Certification Requirements**

- **Energy Efficiency**
  - LEED certification
  - Energy Star buildings
  - Energy efficient boilers and chillers
  - Energy efficient lighting
  - LED lighting
  - Daylighting
  - Water-efficient fixtures

- **Water Efficiency**
  - Reduced potable water use
  - Water-saving measures
  - Rainwater harvesting
  - Greywater recycling

- **Indoor Environmental Quality**
  - Ventilation
  - Indoor air quality
  - Low-emitting materials
  - Sustainable materials
  - Low-emitting adhesives and sealants

- **Transportation**
  - Public transportation
  - Bike storage
  - Pedestrian-friendly

- **Materials**
  - Recycled content
  - Regional materials
  - Local materials
  - Certified wood

- **Innovation in Design**
  - Innovative design solutions
  - Sustainable design
  - Novel concepts

- **Indicators**
  - Green building credits
  - LEED system
  - Green building guide

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**Sustainability Strategies**

- **Energy Efficiency**
  - LEED certification
  - Energy Star buildings
  - Energy efficient boilers and chillers
  - Energy efficient lighting
  - LED lighting
  - Daylighting
  - Water-efficient fixtures

- **Water Efficiency**
  - Reduced potable water use
  - Water-saving measures
  - Rainwater harvesting
  - Greywater recycling

- **Indoor Environmental Quality**
  - Ventilation
  - Indoor air quality
  - Low-emitting materials
  - Sustainable materials
  - Low-emitting adhesives and sealants

- **Transportation**
  - Public transportation
  - Bike storage
  - Pedestrian-friendly

- **Materials**
  - Recycled content
  - Regional materials
  - Local materials
  - Certified wood

- **Innovation in Design**
  - Innovative design solutions
  - Sustainable design
  - Novel concepts

- **Indicators**
  - Green building credits
  - LEED system
  - Green building guide

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**LEED Certification**

- **Silver**
  - Achieved in 2018
  - Energy efficient lighting
  - Water-efficient fixtures
  - Indoor air quality
  - Low-emitting materials

- **Gold**
  - Higher levels of achievement
  - Advanced energy management
  - Additional water conservation
  - Enhanced indoor environmental quality
  - Innovative materials and design

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**JAUM Campaign**

- **Let’s Build Campaign**
  - $20 million fundraising goal
  - Lead gift of $4 million from Jim Hemak and his wife, Pat
  - $1.4 million donated by JAUM Board of Directors
  - Additional donations from local entrepreneurs

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**Central Lutheran Families**

502 Arlington Ave W on the corner of Dale and Arlington
Serving Saint Paul for 70 years

Schedule your tour by calling 651-489-1459 or visit www.mmsaschool.org

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Household item donations needed
Gently used household items are needed by recently released prison- ers served by Crossing HOME, an organization that helps released prison inmates adjust to living on their own.

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., is helping gather clothes, cooking pans, small appliances, flatware, and furniture on behalf of Crossing Home, which has an office at the church.

Bring items to the church’s Donation Center indoors to the left at the Thomas St. entry before or after worship at 10:15am, Sundays. To set another drop-off time, contact the church at 651-644-1421 or jehovahlutheran@msn.com; or contact Jim See-mann at 651-276-8047 or see-mann@cs.pdx.edu.

Seemann is a congregation member and liaison with Crossing HOME. Contact him especially for guidance about donating larger furniture. More about Crossing HOME is at crossinghome.org.

Liebhard presents new work Aug. 16-18
Erin Liebhard, Artistic Director of dance organization Rhythmically Speaking (RS) and long-time Midway Como resident, will present a new work at “Rhythmically Speak- ing 10/18,” running Aug. 16-18 at the Southern Theater in Minne- apolis. This event marks ten years of RS supporting and presenting original dance works by local and national artists inspired by American vernacular dance.

This year’s choreographers, through their unique views, carry on the organization’s ten-year tradition of exploring the subtleties of the human condition through dance. The show will be tied together with reflective video vignettes celebrating the history of RS.

Suicide Prevention
Class offered
QPR is a free, one-hour presenta- tion sponsored by NAMI Minne- sota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that covers the three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide—Question, Persuade and Refer (horizontal QPR). QPR is an emergency re- sponse to someone 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 taught in classroom settings in more than 48 states. The QPR class will be offered on Fri., Aug. 24, from 5:30-6:30pm, at NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave., W., Suite 400.

For more information or to register call 651-645-2948 x198 or see “classes” at namimn.org.

Wilder Block Party
Aug. 11
Celebrate our diverse community with the fun, family-friendly Wilder Block Party on Sat., Aug. 11, 11am-4pm. Located in the heart of the University and Frogtown neighbor- hoods at 451 Lexington Plwy N., this annual event is free and open to the public. Enjoy the summer af- ternoon with a variety of local food, carnival games, and free activities. Come for fun, stay for the community! There will be free carnival games and a rock climbing wall for kids, fun family activi- ties, the “PARK it” pop up activ- ity trailer, and food. Coupons for fire giveaways available on first come first serve basis.

Tatum Garden plans Bee Day Sept. 9
The Tatum Park Community Garden (with support from the mid- way Men’s Club) invites you to Bee Day on Sun., Sept. 9, 10am-1pm. The Garden is located at 1893 W. Taylor Ave.

All are welcome to this event where kids and their families can celebrate the pollinators that make our world beautiful! See the garden and build your own bee house, see a real apiary, meet a beekeeper, and taste honey!

Questions, or to RSVP, tatumparkgarden@gmail.com.

New Rec Center planned for Frogtown
City leaders and members of the community broke ground July 16 on Saint Paul’s newest recreation center. The $7.3 million building project will completely replace the current 6,400 square foot Schef- fer Recreation Center with a new 23,500 square foot facility, which will feature community rooms, a kitchen, 23,500 square foot facility, and a full-size gym.

There will also be an additional $2.3 million in improvements to the grounds, including a new play area, an artificial turf football and soccer field, a full-sized basketball court, and a Kato court. The new facility, which will be located near the Como Ave. and Marion St. in- tersection expansion, will open in the fall of 2019. The current rec- reation center will remain open during building construction.

The St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission also voted to approve the renaming of Schefer Recreation Center to Frogtown Community Center. The renaming recommendation was the result of community input and is pending a City Council resolution to make it official.

Hamlene University part of truth partners
The Saint Paul and Minnesota Community Foundations presented $250,000 in grant awards to Truth and Transformation: Chong- ing Racial Narratives in Media, a partnership that aims to change problematic racial narratives and their representation in local news media.

The grant funds a core group of six community partners includ- ing Hamline University. Other partners include Minnesota Pub- lic Radio, KMOJ/98.8 Radio, The Minnesota Humanities Center, Pili- sbury United Communities, and ThreeSixty Journalism. This grant is part of the Foundations’ wider-reaching Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) work, which focuses on narrative change, racial healing, and relationship building.

Walk to fight suicide planned Sept. 16
The annual Twin Cities Out of the Darkness Walk hosted by the Greater Minnesota Chapter will be held 10:30am, Sept. 16, at Como Park. This fundraising walk supports the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)’s local and national education and advocacy programs and its bold goal to reduce the annual rate of suicide 20 percent by 2025. It is hoped that more than 3500 people from throughout the Twin Cities will participate.

“We walk to raise awareness about this important health issue. Suicide touches one in five Ameri- can families. We hope that by walk- ing we save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide,” said Erik Arveseth, Greater Minnesota Chap- ter coordinator.

The Twin Cities Out of the Darkness Walk is one of more than 400 Out of the Darkness Community Walks being held nationwide this year. The walks are expected to unite more than 250,000 walkers and raise mil-
NAMI provides hope for those dealing with mental illness

Minnesota NAMI office moves near Fairview/University light rail station

By TESA M. CHRISTENSEN

A new location means the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Minnesota has more space for classes and training to help people dealing with mental illness.

NAMI moved its offices from 800 Transfer Rd. near the Amtrak train station to 1919 University Ave. W., Suite 400 in March, and staff members have been enjoying the larger, better-located office.

Plus the office is just a few blocks from the Fairview and University light rail station, which makes it easier for both staff and others to use public transit to get to NAMI, pointed out NAMI Minnesota Executive Director Sue Aberholden.

"There's also parking behind the building for those who come by vehicle.

Ramsey County Mental Health Center is also located in the resource building. Plus, common spaces are shared with ASPIRE Minnesota, an organization that provides children's mental health services.

Perkins + Will of Minnesota designed the interior space, while the FR Bigelow Foundation helped pay for new cubicles.

"I encourage people who are in the neighborhood to stop by," stated Aberholden. "We have lots of resources. Check our website for upcoming classes.

"We are a great resource for the community, and we want people to use us."

Making a difference every day

Aberholden has worked at NAMI for almost 17 years, and she's focused on disability-related issues her entire career.

"I've stayed because I can see how every day our organization makes a difference," stated Aberholden.

Like many other NAMI employees, she has family members who live with depression and anxiety. Through that, she knows the importance of treatment and community support.

What is mental illness?

Every year, NAMI Minnesota serves over 160,000 people across the state through advocacy, education, and support. NAMI does not provide treatment, but the organization hosts the annual NAMIWalk, Spring Gala, and education conferences. Staff members give presentations and provide resources to increase awareness and promote understanding of people living with mental illnesses.

What is a mental illness?

A mental illness is a condition that affects 1 in 5 adults that affects a person's feelings, thoughts, and well mood," explained Aberholden.

The number one diagnosis is anxiety, followed by depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, eating disorders, and personality disorders.

Mental illness can affect people of any age, race, religion, or socioeconomic status. Mental health disorders account for more disability than any other illness, including cancer and heart disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

It doesn't only affect adults, either.

Four million children and adolescents in the United States suffer from a serious mental disorder that causes significant functional impairments at home, at school, and with peers.

"Half of all mental health issues appear before age 14," observed Aberholden. "If we keep thinking it's an adult issue we miss the boat."

30 classes

Education and public awareness play an integral role in NAMI Minnesota's mission to improve the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses and their families through changing public attitudes associated with mental illness.

NAMI Minnesota offers over 30 different classes and provides vital information about mental illnesses, treatment, and resources through publications, presentations, and newsletters.

Classes are offered throughout the state, and NAMI's 30 staff members are on the road quite a bit.

Some classes help family members learn how to help their loved one. Others focus on suicide prevention and mental illness in the workplace.

A support group for those dealing with anxiety uses the book, "Embracing the Fear," to go over strategies people can use themselves.

Teens are taught to recognize mental illness in themselves and others. NAMI has found that peer support groups work best for teens who share their life experiences and help others.

One of NAMI's most popular classes is Mental Health First Aid. "A lot of people have learned first aid over the years," pointed out Aberholden. "Learning Mental Health First Aid is the next step.

"It's all of us working together that will help," she said.

Another popular offering is the 12-week Family-to-Family class for those with a family member dealing with mental illness.

This year, the State Fair has designed Mon., Aug. 27, as its first Mental Health Awareness Day. The event will include mental health education, sources through inspiring stage performances, music, demonstration, yoga, information, and more.

Over 4,000 people attend NAMI's Annual Walk, set for Sept. 22 this year at Minnehaha Park. There is no registration fee.

"It's a really uplifting and joyful event," stated Aberholden. (Photo submitted)

Suicides have doubled

NAMI staff members go into schools to provide the national Ending the Silence program and have reached over 9,000 students in Minnesota through the one-hour health class. Staff members often offer evidence-based suicide prevention training to teachers before the class so that they are prepared to answer questions from students who start conversations afterward.

Aberholden wants people to know that it is okay to ask if someone is suicidal, and that doesn't mean you are "planting a seed."

"The number of suicides using the means Robin Williams did increased dramatically after his death," she pointed out.

Suicides have been increasing nationally and statewide. In 2001 in Minnesota, there were 400 people who committed suicide. That number has jumped to 800.

"It's a public health crisis that is going away," stated Aberholden.

Get help

Last year, over 4,000 people were helped through the NAMI Helpline at 1-888-NA-MI-HELPS or namihelps@namimn.org. NAMI guides people who are trying to navigate the mental health system and identifies resources and treatment that can help.

For parents who feel isolated and overwhelmed by your child's behaviors, NAMI offers a Parent Email Warm Line. Email parentresources@namimn.org to connect with a parent peer specialist.

Since April, a text-based suicide prevention service has also been available. People who text MN to 741741 will be connected with a counselor who will help defuse the crisis and connect the texter to local resources. Crisis Text Line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Mobile Mental Health Crisis Teams can also be valuable in trying to decide whether or not someone needs more assistance, according to Aberholden.

"They can provide advice on the phone, come to someone's house and offer stabilization," she said.

This is a good option for those who don't need hospitalization but need help. Each county has a different line to call, find a list on NAMI's website.

Misconceptions

NAMI staff members hear many misconceptions about mental illnesses.

"People sometimes blame parents, and it's not okay because illnesses happen," pointed out Aberholden.

Another misconception is that people aren't trying and if the person exerted a little more willpower they could get over it. "Serious depression isn't about willpower," stated Aberholden. "This is something that isn't someone's fault."

She added, "We wouldn't do that with other illnesses."

When someone is bleeding, he or she isn't told to exert a little more willpower to heal.

While well-meaning people often tell loved ones to "reach out if you need me," that doesn't always help. "If you're seriously depressed, you're not going to do that, so people need to learn how to reach in," observed Aberholden.

Text and say, "Hey, I'm in the neighborhood. Let's go for a walk," she suggested. That has multiple benefits as the exercise also gets the endorphins going in the brain.

"Send get-well cards and bring over a hotdish," said Aberholden. "We do these kinds of things for people who have cancer, but we don't do that for people with a mental illness."

You don't see CaringBridge sites for people with mental illnesses, she added. Yet she knows of one man who started one at the urging of his wife. He commented that his hospitalization was tough because the decks of cards were all worn out, and they didn't stock his favorite soda.

"Every day someone showed up with cards and pop," noted Aberholden. "It turned into the shortest hospital stay he'd ever had."

"Providing hope for the future is critical."

Sue Aberholden has worked at NAMI for almost 17 years, and she's focused on disability-related issues for her entire career. "I've stayed because I can see how every day our organization makes a difference," stated Aberholden. (Photo submitted)

Over 4,000 people attend NAMI's Annual Walk, set for Sept. 22 this year at Minnehaha Park. There is no registration fee. "It's a really uplifting and joyful event," stated Aberholden. (Photo submitted)
In Our Community

Continued from page 10

lions for suicide prevention efforts. With this walk last year, the Greater Minnesota Chapter of AFSP raised over $200,000 and had 3000 participants.

Urgent need for blood donors remains

Thousands of people have re- sponded to the emergency call for blood donation, but the demand is still out- sued by the American Red Cross in early July. Still, there continues to be an urgent need for donors of all blood types, especially type O, to give now to address a severe blood supply gap. Red Cross blood donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than they are coming in, and right now there is less than a five- day blood supply on hand.

There is a particular need for type O blood, which plays an im- portant role in ongoing patient care and emergency situations. Type O is the most transfused blood type and can be given to patients with any blood type. Blood type O negative is the universal blood type and can be given to any patient. It’s what’s called a “universal” or emergency replacement for when there is no time to determine the blood type of pa- tients or donations in emergency situations.

In thanks, all those who come to donate blood or platelets through Aug. 30. More information and details are available at RedCrossBlood.org.

Everett hired as VP for inclusivity

Hamline University has hired Dr. David L. Everett as its first Associate Vice President for Inclusivity. He will begin his duties on Aug. 1.

Dr. Everett has worked as Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity consultant for the Minnesota De- partment of Human Services since 2015. While there, Everett was in- volved in the preparation, delivery and assessment of equity, inclusiv- ity and diversity training programs, for the benefit of internal and external audiences at various levels.

He also served as an assis- tant professor with Minnesota State University, Mankato and Univer- sity (MNSCU) from 2008-12, provid- ing instruction in world religions, ethnic studies, race and culture. He helped develop and implement MNSCU's Access, Opportunity and Success program, which helps en- hance higher education access for underrepresented populations.

A leader in Higher Education’s newly-cre- ated position will work with fac- ulty, staff and students alike to fos- ter an inclusive environment across Hamline’s educational spectrum.

Course on Mental Illnesses offered

NAMI Minnesota (National Alli- ance on Mental Illness) is offer- ing a free educational course that helps families create and maintain a strong standing of mental illness, discuss resources, build communication skills, reduce stress and find sup- port.

Over 4,000 Minnesota fami- lies have benefited from this course. Join others for this series taught by family members who have walked the walk.

The Family-to-Family course will meet weekly for 12 weeks on Mondays (DSP), August 10, from 6:30-9:30pm, at NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave. W., Suite 400. For information or to register (required), call Helen at 763-227-0271.

Reading volunteers needed at Chelsea

Chelsea Heights Elementary, 1557 Hiram St., is looking for weekly Reading Volunteers for the 2018- 2019 school year.

Reading Volunteers meet Mon- days through Thursdays from 8:30-9:15am to read one-on-one with three dif- ferent students in 1st-3rd grade for 15 minutes. Chelsea provides the books, the instruments and coffee!

If you are interested, please contact Maura Thompson at maura@urbanboatbuilders.com or Chelsea Heights at 651-253-8790.

The new season begins the week of Oct. 1.

PCs for People celebrated ten years

Last month PCs for People, 1461 Hamline Ave., celebrated ten years of providing affordable computers and Internet access to people with limited incomes.

Since 2008, PCs for People has been a driving force behind digital inclusion efforts in the Twin Cities, Minnesota and the US. Their mission is to provide technol- ogy access that offers employment and educational opportunities to low-income families, individuals with children, people with disabilities, and non-profit organizations.

Almost 166,000 people, including more than 87,700 chil- dren, have gotten access to home Internet through PCs for People in their first ten years.

Make a paddle at Urban Boatbuilders

Have you dreamed about craft- ing your very own canoe paddle? Urban Boatbuilders, 2268 University Ave. W., can make that dream become a reality through a Make Your Own Paddle Workshop.

A class will be held Tue., Sept. 18, 6:30-9:30pm, with the second session on Sat., Sept. 22, 9am- 4:30pm.

Class size is limited to 4-8 adults, and the class fee is $39 per person (including materials). Please note that this course does require the safe use of power tools, sharp hand tools and stand- ing for an extended time. Participants are encouraged to wear com- fortable clothing and closed-toed shoes. It is helpful to bring snacks and a water bottle.

Make your own paddle with a group of friends? Gather 5-8 friends who all want to make a paddle, and schedule a private class at a time that is convenient for you.

To schedule your class or to learn more, contact Janelle at 651- 644-9225 or email janelle@urban- boatbuilders.org.

“Coco” planned in the park Aug. 18

The movie “Coco” will be shown as the final movie in Hamline Park’s Movies in the Park 2018 program.

“Coco” will screen Sat., Aug. 18, at dusk, at Hamden Park Coop, 993 Hamden Ave. W. Bring along a blanket or a lawn chair and enjoy a starlit night of fun with friends and family. You can come before dusk to stake out your place for the movie. Everyone is welcome.

La Leche League meets Aug. 14

The next meeting of the La Leche League of St. Paul Como-Midway will be held on Tues., Aug. 14, from 7-8:45pm. The discussion will focus on breastfeeding-related issues. Please contact Heidi at 651- 659-9527 for more details.

Drum Center offers custom classes

The Women’s Drum Center, 2242 University Ave., offers custom classes and workshops for friends, family, and co-workers. Drumming is a unique and exciting activity for birthday parties, retreats, team building events, etc. Workshops can be 1/2 hour to 1 1/2 hours and will provide a variety of hand drums and stick drums are provided, along with many percus- sion instruments. The center can accommodate up to 25 drummers.

More info at www.womensdrumcenter.net or call 651-206-7617.

NAMI holds partner support group

NAMI Minnesota (National Alli- ance on Mental Illness) sponsors a support group specifically for spouses or partners 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, 1759 Holm St. (Holm and Garden). For more informa- tion, call Melissa at 651-354-0825 or Sara at 763-380-6402.

Emotions Anonymous meets Wednesdays

Emotions Anonymous (EA) meets each Wednesday at 6pm, at the Ham- line 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 any- one who is seeking to achieve and maintain emotional balance. EA is not a religious organization and they welcome people of any religious affiliation or no religious affiliation.

There is no charge for meetings and all meeting- ings are open to the public. Only first names are used, and everything said at a meeting is confidential.

Events at Merriam Park Library

The Merriam Park Library, 1381 Marshall Ave., offers custom classes and several events in the coming weeks.

Board at the Library will be held every Wed., 6-6:30pm. Join others for board games such as Apples to Apples Jr., Crib, Chess, Checkers.

Maker Camps are planned at the library Mondays and Fridays, 10am-noon. There will be hands-on crafts and activities for kids ages 7 and 11.

Paw Pals with Katie and Kerrie is planned for Thur., Sept. 6, 6-7pm. Read to a friendly dog and enjoy reading in our dog-friendly reading room.

For young readers ages 6-12. Please register by calling 651-642- 4466, or dropping in at the library’s service desk.

Open Lab for Writers meets every Thursday from 9-10am. 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 sched- uled for Thursdays, 11:30-12:30pm. Fridays, noon-2pm, and Saturdays, 11:30am-12:30pm. The clinics are for walk-ins only. Bring your questions and, problems, and concerns. If we can’t answer the question, we’ll find resources or organizations that can! Registration is not required.

Parents’ Book Club meets Mon., Aug. 27, 6-7:30pm. The book this month is “Their Eyes Were Watching God” by Nona Gelasee Hurston.

Pop Wagner is a guitarist, fiddler, and cowboy poet who has been sing- sing the world sharing his music, tall tales and dry wit with friends and family near and far. (Photo by Mark Norberg)

News from Hamline Midway Elders

The Monthly Luncheon will be held on the first Tuesday of every month. The Mid- line United Methodist Church will present “Nature at Our Doorstep,” solid information about birds, seasons, and other aspects of the natural world, enlivened by personal experience, homespun humor, myth and folklore. He’ll also sell and sign copies of his re- cent book, Green Books will also host another book giveaway at the luncheon.

Pop Wagner Concert and Pot Luck Dinner are scheduled for Thur., Aug. 16, 6pm at Hamline United Church Methodist. The evening begins with a visit with the pianist, who has been traveling the world share his music, tall tales and dry wit with friends and fans near and far. (Photo by Pop Wagner)

Merriam Park Book Club

Continued on page 13

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August 2018 • Monitor • www.MonitorSaintPaul.com
By JANE MCCULLE

An ambitious proposal to redevelop a century-old West Midway meat packing plant at 2103 Wabash Ave. into apartments has been abandoned.

But, the property still is eligible for historic designation and possible use of low-income housing tax credits for a future developer. The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) July 26 reviewed a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the property. The report goes to the State Historic Preservation Office. State review is another step in the designation process, which can take several months.

The HPC and its staff provided an update on the Wabash Ave. property, which was commissioned by the previous development team. The report, which is almost 60 pages long, gives an overview of the history of livestock slaughter and meat packing in the city.

HPC comments on the report were generally favorable, with most focused on building demolition and garbage members noted it’s remarkable that there was a meat packing plant operating in the middle of the city until the late 1970s.

The meatpacking plant, located on the Wabash Ave. rail spur of the Minnesota Transfer Railway, was originally built as the Henry G. Haas Slaughterhouse in 1886. The slaughterhouse operated as the Midwest Abattoir from 1898 to 1927. The Superior Pack Company purchased it in 1928 and began plant operations. While the original wood frame warehouse is gone, many early parts of the building remain.

But how historic designation would be used by a new developer remains unclear. The property has long been a challenge for redevelopment. It is zoned for industrial use but has sat largely vacant since 1979. Its first floor in recent years has housed uses including pet boarding, guitar repair, and industrial tire sales and service.

The oldest part of the building dates from 1886. It was added to in 1911, 1928 and 1947. Different roof and floor heights pose one challenge for redevelopment. Sections range from one to three stories in height. Another challenge is that the building fills much of the property.

The previous developer, Superior LLC, obtained a conditional use permit from the Planning Commission in February to convert the largely vacant structure into 64 apartments. The developers had hoped to start work in June. One wrinkle in the project was the desire to seek historic designation and use state and federal historic tax credits. Changes to the tax credits were made at the federal level this summer, which affects how developers can finance projects.

The conditional permit approved was to generally allow residential use in an industrial area. It allowed more than six dwelling units on an industrially zoned property. Plans called for 19 dwelling units on the first floor. Typically, when residential units are allowed in an industrial area, those are on upper floors.

The permit also allowed 90 percent of the first floor to have residential use. Typically, 80 percent of the first floor would be for non-residential use. Typically, 80 percent of the first floor would be for non-residential use. Typically, 80 percent of the first floor would be for non-residential use.

But in the face of opposition, the conditional use permit request was withdrawn earlier this spring.

That means a new developer will have to start over once a proposal is developed. Preserving industrial land versus allowing the apartments to go ahead was an issue debated at length by the Planning Commission Zoning Committee in the spring. One concern was the rezoning of the industrial property.

But the St. Paul Port Authority and Midway Commerce spoke for the apartment project, noting that an appropriate use for the site hasn’t been found.

The Zoning Committee was commissioned by the previous developer. Now, city officials outlined the plans for building rehabilitation. A building permit request had been submitted by then and was under review. The permit showed work of $131,000, with an active plumbing permit ($20,000) and an active electrical permit ($24,000).

Nam L. Ho explained at the legislative hearing that there were problems with the owners’ previous contractor, he was paid $15,000 yet didn’t do any work. The current contractor is working with the city to get permits and a work plan squared up. Ho said there is more than $250,000 earmarked for the work.

Chen said the work could be done this fall.

Hamline Midway Coalition Executive Director Michael Jon Olson said 694 N. Snelling Ave. is the “number one concern” for many neighborhoods.

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Hamline Midway Coalition Executive Director Michael Jon Olson said 694 N. Snelling Ave. is the “number one concern” for many neighborhoods. Construction owners must improve by Dec. or face further action.

The City Council action means that the building can proceed. After Dec. 6, the City Council will receive a report from March-Minneapolis Metro Transit’s passenger hearing office, with findings on the status of the nuisance abatement. The board owners, interested parties, city officials and its inspection staff will present information on the current building condition, a status update on the abatement of the dangerous/nuisance conditions.

Chen said the city will go back to the city council Dec. 19. If there isn’t progress by then, the city can order that the building be torn down.

Hamline University at the north-east corner of Snelling and Minneapolis avenues, and a former warehouse and lighting shop at 678 N. Snelling Ave. is the “number one concern” for many neighborhoods. Construction owners must improve by Dec. or face further action.
Aeon gets funds to rehab Como by the Lake

By JANE MCCLURE

Aeon is drawing on a wide range of financing sources for the $15.3 million Como by the Lake project.

Projects receive STAR funds

About $2.7 million in 2018 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revi- talization (STAR) grants and loans won St. Paul City Council approval July 18. Area projects fared well in the final action. This year the program had a focus on small businesses and business proposals that are meant to fill vacant commercial properties.

Projects funded include improvements for Sabrina’s Café and Deli, 514 N. Snelling Ave. Neighbor SC Upholstery, 641 N. Snelling Ave., also had building improvements approved, as did Snelling Coffee, 638 N. Snelling Ave.

Black Hart Properties, which purchased the vener- able Town House bar at 1415 University Ave., also saw its re- quest for exterior and interior improvements approved. Mod- ernization of a building at 860 Vandalia St. for the Jobs Foun- dation Tech Dump electron- ic recycling program made the cut, as did tenth-ranked Can Can Wonderland’s (755 Prior Ave. N.) request for lighting and sound improvements.

Several other area projects were turned down.

Aeon gets funds to rehab Como by the Lake

Como by the Lake senior housing at 901 E. Como Blvd. has been approved in late 2016 and extended the sale of up to $7.3 million in conduit tax-exempt housing revenue bonds and approving a waiver of the city’s developer fee for the project.

The purchase of the 99- unit building, which includes 57 Section 8 units, will keep the property affordable for its tenants. Residents organized in 2015 after the previous owner announced the property sale that could have forced out many low-income residents.

Aeon acquired the building in late 2016 and extended the Section 8 contract for another 20 years. Aeon has extensive experience as a developer, owner, and manager of affordable rental housing, for both families and individuals. Earlier in 2018, Aeon secured HRA funding approval for the acquisition of Larpenteur Villas in St. Paul, which was part of a larger port- folio acquired by Aeon.

Aeon is drawing on a wide range of financing sources for the $15.3 million Como by the Lake project.

One woman makes “a quiet stand” every day

By MARGIE O’LOURGHIN

Merriam Park resident Abby Lamberton can be found every morning and afternoon, mon. through Fri., at the corner of Montrose Place and Marshall Ave. She’s been anchored there during the commuter rush since early July when a Time Magazine cover photo propellled her to do something about the immigration crisis at the US/ Mexico border.

Lamberton has lived in the neighborhood for 30 years and is the former owner of Bore- sila Varnish in Midway. “After I saw that photo of a little girl screaming as her mother was taken away,” she said, “I knew I had to take a stand. It’s a quiet stand, but it matters to me. I feel I’m helping to keep this issue of separating families in the forefront of people’s minds.”

“My goal is to keep coming here until we, as a nation, find a better way to handle our immigration policy,” Lamberton continued. “My signs are not political. Some people scream at me. ‘We should deport them all!’ Many more peo- ple honk and say hello. Some even double back in their cars or on their bikes and tell me how they feel about the issue. Often they tell me that they care, but don’t know what to do. It’s important that we start to talk to each other. I’m just trying to bring back a civil conversation.”

Livable Communities funds

Metropolitan Council, at its July 25 meeting, approved four Livable Communities grants for St. Paul projects. The funds are to be used for projects that pro- vide affordable housing, clean up of polluted sites, promote mixed-use development along transit lines, and meet other development goals.

Cities have to participate in the Livable Communities program to submit projects for funding.

One grant funded is $28,924 for the redevelopment of the northwest corner of Uni- versity Ave. and Dale St. The grant is for environmental as- sessment and cleanup planning for a mixed-use development that would include a business incubator, professional offices, small business entrepreneur training center, and up to 60 units of affordable housing.

Livable Communities funds
Why everyone should have a ‘personal board of directors’

By JAN WILLMS

In 1998 Jim Zugschwert was laid off from his job. “I didn’t have anybody to talk to about the layoff. I had a young family and didn’t know who to talk to. My wife just wanted me to do something,” Zugschwert recalled. He eventually found another job, but it was a struggle.

Fast forward to 2012. Zugschwert found himself caught up in another company layoff. But this time, he found a better-paying and more suitable position within a short time.

The difference? Zugschwert attributes it to his personal board of directors, a few mentors he had in place to assist him in moving forward.

Como resident Zugschwert’s success with this personal board led him to recently publish a book, “Peak Perspective: Develop Your Mentors and Become the Leader You Were Meant to Be.”

Around 2007 Zugschwert was invited to join a group of men for some training. A man named Robert Lewis, author of the Men’s Fraternity series, advised in that training that everyone should have his own personal board.

“At that time in my life I was working with a company that had a traditional board of directors that set policy and governance and had oversight. I wanted the idea but not the structure,” Zugschwert explained.

“So I set out to line up one or two key people, and I came to the realization that having one mentor can almost be considered having another opinion.” Zugschwert wanted more, so he started looking around in his life for men of influence, men he looked up to.

“One by one I started inviting people to coffee, to talk. If it made sense for me, I would take the next step and ask them to be on my personal board of directors.”

Zugschwert noted that he has some very good friends who are not a part of his personal board.

“The reason is, they are great people, and I love them, but sometimes people can be prescribers. You tell them what is going on, and they will say ‘Oh, just do this.’ They never listen. They never ask questions. They never give feedback. I wanted to make sure I was looking for people who can understand me, help me clarify my thinking, expand my perspective and make quality decisions for my life.”

Most people write books about what it means to be a good mentor, according to Zugschwert.

“I wanted to come at it from another perspective,” he continued. “If you are at a crossroads in your life or you’re an entrepreneur that wants to make a difference in the next ten years, how do you go about it? How do I put together a good team of mentors?”

Zugschwert said he thinks back to that initial layoff in 1998 and how he did not know where to turn or who to ask for help.

After that experience, he set out to put together a plan. “Mentorship became an important part of my life,” he said. He said the criteria he used to choose his board of directors came down to four things.

“Number one, they had to listen. Number two, they had to ask questions. Number three, they had to give me honest feedback. And finally, they could give me some suggestions.”

Taking a long time to build up relationships with his mentors was essential to Zugschwert. “I didn’t want people who would tell me what I wanted to hear,” he said.

“I wanted them to know here is what I’m thinking, here are the opportunities before me, here’s what I know so far. Then they can talk to me, ask me questions, and give me some ideas for another way to think about it.”

Zugschwert said he would then take some of that feedback from one meeting and meet with another member of his board and do some confirming or some fine tuning.

“By the time I was done talking to three or four mentors, I had a well-rounded point of view and thinking, so I could make a quality decision. I had great input from the people who would listen to me. Honest feedback is a key criterion,” Zugschwert said.

Zugschwert emphasized the importance of working with a personal board of directors whether facing a challenge or an opportunity.

When he was going through his layoff in 2012, Zugschwert said that he had two pages of notes he had taken on his idea to form a personal board of directors, and how he went about it. At that time he was meeting with a publisher about the possibility of writing a book, and he also mentioned his interest in writing a book about mentoring.

He said the publishers thought his other book idea was great, but they were really interested in the book about mentoring.

“So I set the other book aside and pursued the book on mentoring. With two of my pages of notes,” Zugschwert said. “I turned it into ten chapters and 32,000 words.”

He started writing “Peak Perspective” in May 2017 and completed it in November 2017. His book was published this summer.

Zugschwert said that when he started to build his personal board of directors, he did not have anyone turn him down. Two of his mentors live out of state; three live in Minnesota.

“The time I asked, we had already been talking for some time,” he said. “I had already invested in them. Some of them took time, and they did not all happen overnight.”

All of his mentors are in different industries.

Today, Zugschwert mentors also come to him for advice.

It has been a rewarding journey for Zugschwert, all about building relationships with people he trusts who encourage him to have faith in himself and make good decisions. “My mentors know they can’t tell me what to do—that would not work,” he said. But listening and reflecting and asking questions is what helps, and by sharing his ideas in a book, Zugschwert hopes others will benefit as well.
By MARGIE O’LOUGHLIN

Emily Zoltai will be in her third year of graduate school this fall at Concordia University, St. Paul (1262 Concordia Ave.), working toward her MS in Orthotics and Prosthetics. Orthotics and prosthetics are devices that help people who have missing or under-functioning limbs achieve fuller mobility and greater independence.

Zoltai is passionate about her studies and is completing a six-week clinical internship in Quito, Ecuador this summer with an organization called the Range of Motion Project (ROMP). ROMP provides prosthetic devices to children and adults in poverty, who could not otherwise afford them. Their two clinics are located in Quito, Ecuador, and Zacapa, Guatemala.

Zoltai has had a strong connection to ROMP since she graduated with a BS in human physiology from the University of Oregon five years ago.

“At that time,” Zoltai said, “I had a chance to volunteer for two months with the ROMP Clinic in Ecuador. I figured I would eventually go on for an advanced degree in physical therapy, like most of my classmates were planning to do.

She continued, “For the first week I was in Quito, I spent every day in the physical therapy wing creating rehabilitative exercises for patients. The second week, I wandered into the prosthetics wing. I was curious! What were routers, sanders, and band saws doing in a hospital? Was hooked.”

While living in Quito again this summer, Zoltai is organizing her fourth annual ROMP fundraiser—and doing most of her organizing via email. Motion Physical Therapy, which is located at 550 Vandalia in the Midway neighborhood, has offered to support her fundraising efforts in two significant ways.

On Sun., Sept. 16, a 5K run will begin and end at the Lake Monster Brewery—just outside Motion’s front door. Organizer Jack Lunt of the Brewery Running Series said, “10% of our donations from this event will go directly toward ROMP. Our goal is to sign up 200 people and sell out the run. At every event we host, there are families pushing strollers, retirees walking, runners just getting started, as well as experienced runners—all kinds of people for whom mobility is empowering.”

The mission of the Brewery Running Series is to be active, have fun, and give back to the community. The cost for this event is $30; more information and registration forms can be found at www.breweryrunningseries.com.

After the Sept. 16 brew run at Lake Monster, Motion Physical Therapy will be hosting an open house in their offices at 550 Vandalia, #105, with two documentary ROMP videos playing on a loop. The Brewery Running Series will also hold a raffle and social time there.

The fundraiser that Zoltai is organizing from Quito will be held in solidarity with a major climb in Ecuador this summer, where some of the world’s most elite, physical, Emily Zoltai, ROMP ambassador and Concordia University graduate student in Prosthetics and Orthotics said, “Our organization is very grateful for the support of Motion Physical Therapy and the Brewery Running Series event at Lake Monster Brewery. The combined efforts of these organizations, along with our many other community partners, will make it possible for ROMP to continue working toward full mobility for those who lack it—regardless of ability to pay.”

On Sun., Sept 30, anyone wanting to support ROMP locally can come to the Minneapolis Bouldering Project at 5pm. The Bouldering Project is located at 1433 W. River Rd. N. in Minneapolis.

The Sept. 30 line-up of events and presenters will include Motion Physical Therapy; a panel of speakers on mobility issues, including some who are living with limb loss; a prosthetics building station; extensive resources on adaptive sports, including demonstrations by Wiggle your Toes and Mind Body Solutions; and two short-film screenings about highly successful amputee climbers. Participants are also welcome to try climbing at the Bouldering Project, with complimentary climbing shoes included.

Donated items from Patagonia, Osprey, and More are welcome to try climbing at the Bouldering Project, with complimentary climbing shoes included. Donated items from Patagonia, Osprey, and More are welcome.

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The goals of the ROMP fundraising events being held around the globe this summer are the same: to show the power of mobility, the importance of access to prosthetic care, and the need for legislation that protects the rights of those with mobility issues.

For more information on the local fund raiser, contact Emily zoltai@gmail.com. Tickets can be purchased at www.crowdrise.com/romp.minneapolis. To learn about the impact of ROMP in Ecuador and Guatemala, visit www.rompglobal.org.