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Bill seeks to tighten framework for land use rules along river

City officials are concerned that legislation would give more authority to the state

By JANE MCCLURE

A bill now making its way through the Minnesota House and Senate would change the way land use is regulated along 72 miles of the Mississippi River through the Twin Cities. The bill would require the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to oversee a revision of the rules governing land uses in the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA), replacing the 30-year-old state executive order that established the MRCCA.

Proponents of the legislation contend that the changes would better protect the river's ecosystem. The current regulations do not reflect existing land uses and are so vague that controversies can easily erupt, according to Whitney Clark, executive director of the Friends of the Mississippi River.

"I think these regulations will help businesses and the environment," said Representative Rick Hansen (DFL-District 39A), who is sponsoring the House version of the bill, HF424. "The opposition we're hearing may be a fear of the unknown."

The proposed legislation would maintain the basic framework of the critical area program, but it sets up a process for the DNR to make new rules working in concert with cities and other property owners along the river from Dayton to Hastings.

RIVER CORRIDOR ZONING ►2



Former "American Idol" contestant Casey Carlson sang the National Anthem and fielded questions to help kick off the Highland Park Little League season on May 3. An opening day parade through Highland Village was followed by ceremonies at the Ford Fields on Montreal and Cleveland avenues. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Central Corridor parking plan falls to reassure local business owners

By JANE MCCLURE

A 74-page report on how to address the loss of on-street parking due to the building of the proposed Central Corridor light-rail transit line lacks the constructive solutions to be of much help, according to the owners of some University Avenue businesses.

The report, "Mitigating the Loss of Parking in the Central Corridor," will be reviewed by the University Avenue Business Association at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, May 21, at Model Cities, 849 University Ave. The report will also be discussed in May at meetings of the district councils along the light-rail route and at 11 meetings for affected businesses along University.

Metropolitan Council chairman Peter Bell praised the report, calling it a key step in addressing a "very important and nettlesome issue." Other members of the Central Corridor Management Committee, including St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, also praised the effort.

"People are at least beginning to see that there's an end in sight," Coleman said. The Central Corridor will be a boon to the entire region, he added, "but if we build it at a cost to all of these other people, then we've lost something."

CENTRAL CORRIDOR ►2

Summit Hill couple build support for children's clinic in Haiti

By FRANK JOSSI

Michele Boston's first exposure to Haiti came while buying jewelry for the Grand Avenue gift shop, Eccentricities, that she and her husband Jeff once owned. A tag on the jewelry indicated that a portion of the proceeds would be donated to help teach English to students in Haiti.

Michele decided to further investigate and learned that not only was Haiti the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere—the average income is just \$1.00 a day—but 20 percent of its children die within their first year.

"I've been to Borneo, India and Malaysia, but Haiti was far different, far poorer," Michele said. "It's hard to imagine it was once called the Pearl of the Antilles."

Many of the country's problems stem from chronic political instability, the latest of which occurred during a rebellion in 2004 that resulted in the ouster of the president, the intervention by the United Nations and the forma-

tion of an interim government.

Sensing an opportunity to contribute to re-making Haiti, the Bostons began visiting the country in September 2005. After her first visit, Michele decided they should tap their family foundation to build a children's medical clinic in Port Salut, an impoverished city of around 54,000 on Haiti's southwest coast.

"I called Jeff and said, 'I can't leave here without doing something,'" Michele said. "I told him I had an idea for a clinic and he said, 'Let's do it.'"

They named their effort Project Haiti and in 2007 changed the name of their family's

foundation to No Time For Poverty.

The decision to build a clinic made sense because the Summit Hill couple run Boston Health Care Systems, a St. Paul firm that serves clients with mental illnesses and physical disabilities. Michele has an undergraduate degree in social work and Jeff is a licensed clinical psychologist and nurse.

The 8,370-square-foot *Klinik Timoun Nou Yo*, which in Creole means "Our Children's Clinic," is now under construction. Work had been delayed because of the country's notori-

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New clinic opens ►17

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1◀ CENTRAL CORRIDOR

Business owners who have seen the report were disappointed by what they termed its lack of substance. The critics acknowledged that Central Corridor planners probably did the best they could with limited resources. However, they said, the report does not contain enough specifics and some of its recommendations are impractical.

"It's a big disappointment," said Jack McCann of Update Company, which manages eight commercial buildings near the intersection of University and Raymond Avenue. "This whole process has gotten a lot of business owners very angry and very frustrated."

"The report seems to be more about ideas than actual solutions," said Summit-University Planning Council executive director Irna Landrum.

"Businesses are having a hard enough time as it is," said Mike Baca of Impressive Print, 1754 University Ave. Baca wondered whether the prospect of future parking problems will prompt some businesses to move off University.

McCann and Baca have both been frustrated by the rudimentary nature of the parking solutions in the report. Despite years of planning, the fact that University would be losing more than 1,000 of its 1,215 on-street parking spaces between Rice Street in St. Paul and 29th Street in Minneapolis did not come to light until a year ago. "The inability of the project staff to anticipate that shocked a lot of people," Baca said.

Baca said the report does not do nearly enough to address the looming problem, and with construction expected to begin in 2010, University Avenue businesses may be running out of time.

The report outlines various strategies for addressing the parking shortfall at 11 locations on University where it is expected to be especially great. The strat-

egies were developed by city of St. Paul and Central Corridor project staff who surveyed University Avenue building by building and met with business owners and neighborhood groups. The anticipated parking problems vary from block to block and even business to business, according to Craig Blakely of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development.

The 11 critical areas on University from east to west are the north side from Galtier to Western Avenue; the north side from Western to Arundel Street; the south side from Arundel to Mackubin Street; the north side from Kent to St. Albans Street; the south side from Grotto to Victoria Street; the north side from Lexington to Dunlap Street; the north side from Albert to Pascal Street; the north side from Simpson to Fry Street; the north side from Fry to Aldine Street; the north side from Transfer Road to Vandalia Street; and both sides from Raymond Avenue to Highway 280.

The potential parking problems and solutions are outlined for each area. For example, the block between Albert and Pascal streets would lose 15 on-street parking spaces to the construction of light rail, according to the report. "There is a high need (in this area) for short-term parking due to the type of businesses," the report states. "Most businesses indicated that their customers arrive by car and park on the street, in lots or on (nearby) residential streets. The customers rely on quick parking for pickups and deliveries."

The report states that the Albert-Pascal area has some off-street parking that businesses could share, but it is underused and inaccessible to some. It recommends that this businesses in this area get design assistance to make the existing off-street parking more accessible, develop shared parking agreements, work on land-use and planning issues

and improve their communication.

Shared parking agreements and improved communication among businesses are recommended for all of the areas studied. According to Dan Soler of the Central Corridor project staff, there are neighboring businesses along University whose owners do not speak to each other. The staff has tried to bring the owners together, he said.

Business owners, local residents and Central Corridor planners may be forced to accept some trade-offs, according to Landrum. For example, some of the on-street parking is being lost because of such amenities as crosswalks. "Those issues may have to be revisited," Landrum said. "But we're hearing from project staff that it may be too late to change them."

Most of the proposed parking solutions would have to be implemented by the city of St. Paul, according to Blakely, including the installation of parking meters and the creation of residential permit parking districts.

Side streets that intersect with University have hundreds of parking spaces that businesses could use if those spots are managed properly, Blakely said. Parking meters may not be popular, he added, but they may be the best way to ensure that the parking spaces are available to customers. The report also notes that customer parking could be provided in nearby alleys. It also suggests that in some areas, the employees of local businesses be allowed to purchase residential parking permits.

However, residential permit parking must be approached carefully, according to Reggie Aligada, a Hamline-Midway resident who serves on the Central Corridor Management Committee. "It really changes the way you live," he said.

To view the parking mitigation report, visit www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor.

1◀ RIVER CORRIDOR ZONING

One frequent complaint is that the current rules are cumbersome and too hard to follow, leading to protracted and costly debates. The MRCCA under the current law has outlined four districts—urban open space, rural open space, urban diversified and urban development. The bill would set up additional zoning districts to better reflect the MRCCA's actual land uses as well as the river's natural and cultural features.

For example, Holman Field, downtown St. Paul's airport, is currently zoned for rural open space, Hansen said, yet it does not fit that definition. The bill would provide a new zoning designation for the airport that would better guide its future development.

The bill would establish new MRCCA rules using the latest technology to identify bluffs, steep slopes and other natural features of the river valley. The bill would also clarify the responsibilities of local governmental units and state agencies for enforcing the rules.

What is not yet known is how the new state rules would affect local zoning regulations and variances to those regulations. For example, under current law, cities are directed to protect natural vistas when considering riverfront development. The new rules may specify the allowable height of buildings.

"Cities are raising legitimate concerns (about the bill) because we're moving into what is unknown territory for them," said Rebecca Wooden, a land-use supervisor in the DNR's Division of Waters. The executive order that established the MRCCA allowed local units of government to develop their own



A riverboat passes a natural overlook just south of the Lake Street bridge.

zoning rules, and some people have said that order was too flexible, according to Wooden. They have argued for a more rigid framework for land-use decisions.

If the bill passes before the end of the current session, the rule-making process would begin in January 2010 and could take a year or more to complete, according to Wooden. The new rules could affect a portion of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant, expansion of the Crosby Lake Business Park and the redevelopment of the West Side Flats. However, there will be ample opportunity for public comment before the rules are adopted, according to Hansen.

St. Paul officials question whether the proposed changes would lead to even more conflicts over rule interpretations among the DNR, the city and affected property owners. The city has made numerous changes to its river corridor regulations in recent years, with more changes now awaiting review by the St.

Paul Planning Commission and City Council.

St. Paul City Council members, officials in the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development and representatives of the St. Paul Riverfront Corporation all questioned whether the changes would give the DNR too much authority over local land-use decisions. "This legislation is something we need to be tracking carefully," said Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris.

Mark Stutrud, founder and president of Summit Brewing Company, is concerned that the new rules might make it harder to expand the brewery in the Crosby Lake Business Park. Summit employs about 50 people and has invested close to \$23 million in its brewery since it moved to the West End from the Midway area in 1998.

"Most of the proposed legislation is pretty vague," Stutrud said. "That means what results could be pretty onerous."

Klinik Timoun Nou Yo

Pediatric Outpatient Clinic



A drawing of the proposed Klinik Timoun Nou Yo, which means "Our Children's Clinic" in the Creole language.

1◀ NO TIME FOR POVERTY

ous hurricane season.

Though the clinic has been a priority, No Time For Poverty has also supported programs to provide clean water, sanitation, public education, medical assistance and elder care in Haiti. The Bostons have adopted the Coeur (Heart) School in Haiti and have helped ensure that the 222 students enrolled there have enough to eat. They have also paid the educational and living expenses for a handful of medical students, a dentist, an engineer and two masonry students who have agreed to serve the clinic in exchange for financial support. Once it is finished, the clinic will offer affordable medical, dental, surgical and optical care for children ages birth to 16.

Sitting in a coffee shop discussing their work in Haiti, Michele flipped through photographs of children in other medical facilities in the country. The photos showed hospital rooms with no equipment and no electricity, and floors covered with fetid puddles of water.

Malnourished and dehydrated children stared sadly at the camera.

Jeff recalled seeing a girl's dead body in the front yard of her home in Haiti. He said the hospital had left her there because the family could not afford to put her remains in the morgue.

"I've been to Borneo, India and Malaysia, but Haiti was far different, far poorer," Michele said. "There was so much malnourishment and so many children dying of diseases that could have easily been curable in the United States. When you look at the political and social history of the island—it's tragic. It's hard to imagine it was once called the Pearl of the Antilles."

The Bostons already have built a visitor's center, *Kay Espwa* (Hope House), to house physicians, medical students and other personnel who will volunteer at the clinic. They have also met with new Haitian president René Préal and local officials to ensure they are following all appropriate regulations in constructing the clinic.



Jeff and Michele Boston of Summit Hill have plans to build a children's health clinic in Haiti through their foundation No Time for Poverty. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

As a child, Michele had her own struggles. She was the daughter of two disabled parents of modest means until her father bought a cheesecake company and developed a way to freeze and transport the desserts. After receiving an undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois, Michele came to the Twin Cities to attend William Mitchell College of Law and decided to stay. The couple met more than 25 years ago when Michele, then a trial attorney, cross-examined Jeff, a Roseville native, who was appearing in court as an expert witness for the state.

Throughout the year, the Bostons hope to send several mobile medical teams to Port Salut as they build the clinic. The next trip will take place May 18-24. They are also looking for volunteers to help sort and package medical supplies for shipment to Haiti.

And, of course, there is always a need for financial contributions. They raised \$73,000

for the clinic at a fundraising dinner last year and continue to seek donations. The clinic will cost \$655,000 to build, despite having nearly all of the equipment donated, and will cost about \$550,000 a year to run, Michele said. They have a matching grant of \$250,000 and another fundraiser planned for October 23 at the Depot in Minneapolis. (For information, visit www.notimeforpoverty.org.)

The Bostons, who have two children ages 16 and 20, have been involved in many other nonprofit projects, including food and clothing drives, Toys for Tots and a program that Michele started 14 years ago at Webster Elementary School called I Can Read. Dozens of employees from Boston Heath Care have participated in the reading program.

"But this (clinic) is the biggest thing we've ever undertaken," Michele said, "and we're going to need the help of a lot of others. We can't do it alone."

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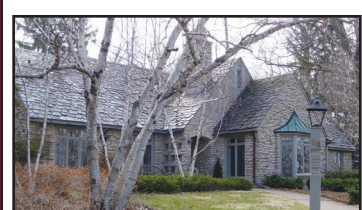
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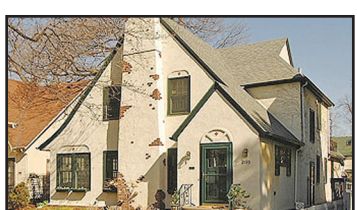
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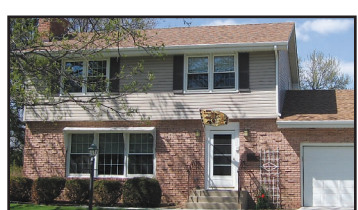
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County requests \$1 million to revive Riverview transit study

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans for the previously proposed and then abandoned Riverview Corridor transit route between downtown St. Paul's Union Depot and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport are rolling once again. A request for \$1 million in federal funds to study potential alignments for the transit route will be heard by the U.S. Congress in the coming year. The request was approved on April 21 by the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority.

No preferred alignment nor mode of transit has yet been identified for the Riverview Corridor this time around, according to Regional Rail Authority executive director Tim Mayasich. "Everything is preliminary at this point," he said.

The \$1 million in federal funds would pay 80 percent of the cost of a new study of potential alignments. Ramsey County would pay the other 20 percent through its Regional Rail Authority fund. Previous transit studies for the Riverview Corridor looked at West 7th Street, Shepard Road, I-35E and the Canadi-

an Pacific Railroad right-of-way as potential alignments.

U.S. Representative Betty McCollum has indicated that Shepard Road is the favored alignment this time around. According to her, the Riverview Corridor would establish a link between the proposed Chicago-to-St. Paul high-speed railroad line and MSP International Airport.

The Riverview Corridor was planned more than a decade ago as one side of a transit triangle whose other sides consisted of the Hiawatha Corridor light-rail line and the proposed Central Corridor light-rail line. Former Governor Jesse Ventura and Metropolitan Council Chairman Ted Mondale were strong supporters of the Riverview route.

A study of the Riverview Corridor was completed by county and Metropolitan Council staff nine years ago. The preference at the time was for a dedicated busway between the airport and Maplewood Mall, much of it along West 7th and East 7th streets.

However, local residents and business owners were strongly opposed to the idea. On-

street parking would have been lost. Sidewalks would have been narrowed. A few businesses would have had to sacrifice property for bus shelters. The loss of boulevard trees, potential hazards for pedestrians and the potential use of side streets as de facto park-and-ride lots were viewed as other strikes against the busway.

The Riverview busway was awarded \$44 million in state funds. However, a fiscal crisis in 2003 prompted Governor Tim Pawlenty to rescind \$40 million of that amount, essentially killing the project. However, the city of St. Paul did use the remaining \$4 million to pay for land-use planning around the sites of the proposed transit stations.

News that the Riverview Corridor could be the subject of more transit studies has dismayed some West End residents. "Back from the dead and bigger than ever," said Diane Gerth, a former member of the West 7th/Fort Road Federation board. Gerth, Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune and other West End activists said that any talk of using West 7th Street as a route for a new dedicated bus-

way would be met with strong opposition.

According to Thune, West End residents do not want to lose local bus service in favor of transit that is faster but less convenient. "We went through all of this before," he said. "The community doesn't want it on West 7th. They want it on Shepard Road."

The Riverview Corridor could be the first federal Small Starts project in Minnesota, according to McCollum. Small Starts is a Federal Transit Administration program that provides funds for smaller transportation projects such as buses and trolleys. The requests must be for no more than \$75 million, and total project costs must be no more than \$250 million.

The Riverview Corridor request was one of two approved by the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority on April 21. The other was for \$4 million to study a proposed transit line that would extend east along I-94 from downtown's Union Depot through Washington County. The federal government would also pick up 80 percent of the costs of that study, and local units of government would pick up the other 20 percent.

Reuse of former grain terminal casts shadow of concern on Upper Landing

By JANE MCCLURE

The former Grain Terminal Association head house and sack house on Shepard Road and Chestnut Street should be ready for use as a Mississippi Riverfront trail head and interpretive center by early June. The historic buildings are now in the final stages of rehabilitation and will be available for special event rentals later this year. Before that happens, however, residents of the nearby Upper Landing neighborhood are hoping the city addresses their concerns about parking congestion and spillover lighting.

More than 60 people, most of them Upper Landing residents, attended an April 23 meeting on the rehabilitation of what is now known as City House. Several people complained about the appearance of the two buildings, which are the last remnants of a massive grain elevator complex. A few people even suggested that the buildings be razed. But that is not likely to happen. The head house and sack house are on the National Register of Historic Places and the city has already spent more than \$3 million to rehabilitate them.

"The buildings aren't going to go away," said City Council member Dave Thune, whose Ward 2 includes the riverfront property. "We have to finish what we start."

The city has used a combination of federal, municipal and private funds to pay for the rehabilitation and interpretive display, includ-

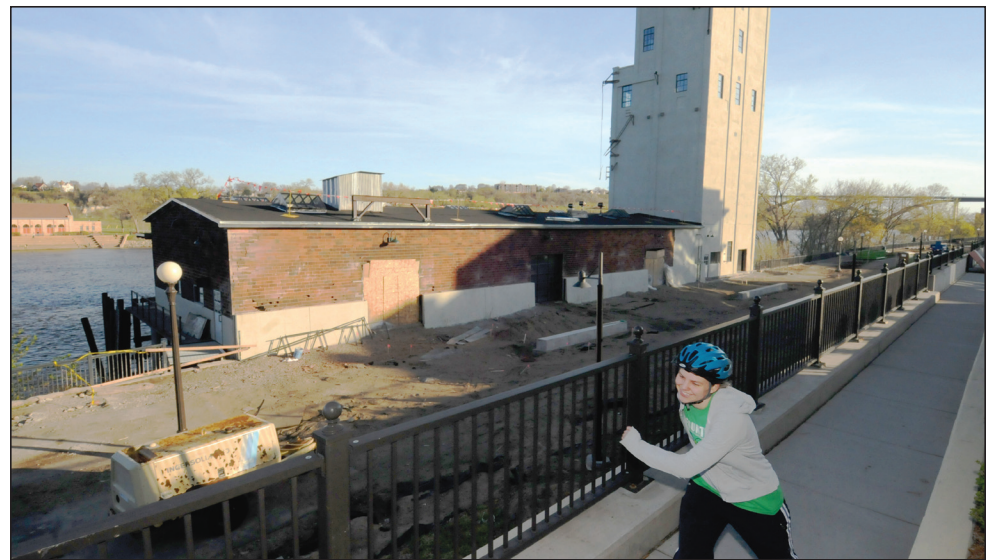
ing \$1.3 million in federal Community Development Block Grants and \$1.183 million in a federal trails grant.

Work on the buildings has ranged from replacing part of the head house roof to strengthening deteriorated pilings beneath the surface of the Mississippi River. The walls and roof of the head house had unanticipated deterioration. Workers discovered beams on the third and sixth floors to be completely sheared through.

Some Upper Landing residents complained that when they bought their condominiums they were told the head house and sack house would be turned into a beautiful complex with a restaurant. A restaurant had been planned, said city project manager Marie Franchette. However, the restaurant partnership ADRZ bowed out when a key investor dropped out.

The buildings' rehabilitation is being done in a way that would allow a restaurant to be added in the future, Franchette said. Current plans also call for the buildings to house an interpretive display created by the St. Paul Riverfront Corporation and Historic St. Paul to explain their historic role as a grain facility.

The 1940s-era head house and sack house were part of a large grain elevator complex built by the Grain Terminal Association, the first farmer's co-operative in the U.S. Much of the original grain handling equipment is still intact, including scales for weighing grain, the machinery that bagged the grain and the



Joy Peterson roller-blades on the Samuel Morgan trail past the historic Grain Terminal Association head house and sack house. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

small elevator that carried workers between floors.

The neighbors' objections to the buildings centered primarily on lighting. The city wants to install lights on the side of the head house and on top of the sack house. The buildings' interiors and an adjacent plaza would also be lit. According to city officials, the lights will be directed away from the neighborhood and shielded to prevent spillover lighting. However, Upper Landing residents were dubious.

"It never really does get dark down there now," said Rick Crilly, whose condo is about 75 feet from the head house and sack house. According to Crilly, the site has been brightly lit since the rehabilitation began last year.

"It will be lit," Thune said. "It's not like we're

out in the country." However, he added, city staff will work with neighbors to contain the lighting.

Some residents were concerned about traffic and parking around the head house and sack house. City House will be available for special events, and 48 parking spaces are designated for that purpose in an adjacent parking ramp.

The special-event facility will not have any electrical outlets, and no grills or open fires will be allowed at the site. Still, the city has received inquiries about renting it. However, city officials said, City House will not be rented out when other major events are taking place nearby, such as A Taste of Minnesota and the Irish Fair of Minnesota at Harriet Island.



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Spirited election helps calm waters for Highland District Council board

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

For the second consecutive year, more than 200 local residents turned out for the annual meeting of the Highland District Council in April. They elected eight people to new two-year terms on the council's 18-member board of directors.

With the new makeup of the board, HDC president Bill Klein said he is hoping for "a calmer year than the past two."

It was two years ago that HDC board members discovered unpaid staff withholding taxes going back nine years that resulted in more than \$56,000 in back taxes, penalties and interest owed to the IRS. The HDC settled that debt a year ago. However, the turmoil continued, according to Klein.

"Little was getting accomplished, and we were in danger of becoming irrelevant to the city at large and not being listened to by the City Council," he said.

The HDC board is made up of 12 grid representatives, four at-large representatives and one representative of each of the Highland and West 7th business associations. Six new representatives were elected in April from the odd-numbered grids, including Tia Anderson, a graduate student in Community and Economic Development at the University of Minnesota, Grid 1; Arline Datu, a communications specialist and board member for the St. Paul Neighborhood Network cable television access channel, Grid 3; longtime Republican Party activist Ray Cleveland, Grid 5; Andrew Smith, a Republican activist and former HDC board alternate, Grid 7; Fay Hassie, the former owner of a physical therapy equipment distribution company, Grid 9; and Kathy Soderberg, manager of Sibley Manor Apartments, Grid 11.

Cory Tennison, an assistant Scott County attorney, and Tim Puffer, a former Grid 7 representative, were elected to the at-large seats on the board, outpolling former at-large representative Georgia Dietz and newcomer Jennifer Willard.

Tennison, Puffer and the six new grid representatives will take their seats at the HDC board's next monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. That is when the board will elect a new slate of officers for the coming year.

It was the new slate of officers elected in May 2007 who discovered the council's problem with unpaid withholding taxes. That problem was later attributed to sloppy bookkeeping on the part of HDC staff and lax oversight by the HDC board, and led to the resignation of the

HDC's longtime community organizer, Gayle Summers, that same month.

Dietz, the newly elected vice president of the HDC board, volunteered to serve as community organizer in Summers' stead, and in September 2007 she suspended her board membership to be paid as temporary community organizer while the board sought a permanent replacement for Summers.

Sixteen people applied for the position, including Dietz. When Kathy Carruth was hired as community organizer in January 2008, Dietz filed with the St. Paul Human Rights Department the first of two discrimination complaints against the HDC board. The first alleged age discrimination in the process used to hire Carruth. The second alleged retaliation for her first discrimination complaint when the HDC board sought to oust her and president Bill Poulos as board officers, in part for impeding HDC efforts to resolve its IRS debt. Only Poulos was removed as a board officer, but Dietz filed the second complaint anyway. Both of her complaints were ultimately rejected by the city's Human Rights Commission.

However, a confrontational atmosphere continued to prevail at HDC board meetings. It ultimately led to the passage earlier this year of a "civility resolution" whereby the HDC board agreed "to act and communicate, with one another and the public, in a civil, respectful and cordial manner."

"Things are running smoothly now," said Puffer, a professional accountant who as HDC treasurer led the organization through its tax troubles. "We have an outside payroll vendor and strong board oversight mechanisms in place."

Carruth said she is looking forward to working with the new HDC board. "The activities and operations of the council should stay away from politics and focus on the issues that are important to the entire community," she said.

St. Paul City Council member Pat Harris, whose Ward 3 includes Highland Park, said that he, too, is "looking forward to working closely with the new HDC board. The City Council sees all of St. Paul's district councils as partners."

Among the issues the HDC can expect to tackle in the years ahead is the redevelopment of Ford Motor Company's 135-acre Twin Cities Assembly Plant in Highland Park, which Ford has said it will close sometime after 2011. The planning process for redeveloping the Ford Plant property "will be the biggest in the city's history," Harris said. "The HDC needs to stay focused on its impact as we go forward."

STAR shines on four local projects

BY JANE MCCLURE

Historic housing rehabilitation, exterior improvements at the new Mississippi Market food co-op, a new African-American heritage information center on Selby Avenue and the upgrade of a West End tire processing facility are among the projects that have been recommended for funding by the city of St. Paul's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) Board. Among the projects that were rejected by the STAR Board was Holy Spirit Catholic Church's request for a \$5,000 grant to replace the pea-gravel surface on its two elementary school playgrounds with wood chips.

The STAR Board recommended a total of \$187,000 in grants and \$58,000 in loans through the STAR Program, which derives its revenue from the city's half-percent sales tax. The board's recommendations are now being reviewed by Mayor Chris Coleman. The City Council will make a final decision on the

STAR grants and loans later this month.

Eleven projects citywide were recommended for funding by the STAR Board, including these local ones:

- A \$5,000 grant and a \$20,000 loan to Historic St. Paul to complete exterior historic rehabilitation projects on up to four homes on the West End and West Side.
 - A \$12,000 grant and a \$13,000 loan to pay for outdoor improvements at Mississippi Market's new food co-op near West 7th Street and Otto Avenue.
 - A \$15,000 grant to Culture Brokers Foundation to establish a new African American Heritage Corridor Information Center on Selby Avenue.
 - A \$25,000 loan to JJV Rubber Mulch and Safety Surfacing at 560 Randolph Ave. to purchase and install tire recycling equipment.
- Small grants and loans through the STAR Program can be for up to \$25,000. All have to be matched one-to-one with money, material or labor from other sources.

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Changes to Grand sign district, electronic signs draw mixed response

By JANE MCCLURE

Changes to Grand Avenue's special sign district and to citywide regulations on electronic signs are sparking a war of words on Grand and throughout the rest of St. Paul. This month, a St. Paul Planning Commission committee must sort through numerous arguments for and against changing the two sets of regulations.

On Grand Avenue, the use of portable signs has sparked controversy among businesses, the Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA), residents and the Summit Hill Association (SHA). Proposed changes to electronic sign regulations, meanwhile, have been criticized by the sign industry as being too restrictive, but are supported by the anti-billboard group Scenic St. Paul and members of the Macalester-Groveland and St. Anthony Park district councils as a way to reduce visual clutter and light pollution.

Changes to either set of regulations need approval from the Planning Commission and City Council.

Grand Avenue special sign district

Several changes are being proposed for Grand Avenue's special sign district, which was adopted 26 years ago. Most of the changes are meant to clean up ambiguous and confusing language, said city planner Emily Goodman. Other changes would reduce the

amount of business signage allowed, increase regulations on lighting and spell out enforcement measures. The changes also outline the process for having the district councils and GABA review sign permits.

More than two dozen people attended public hearings on the changes on April 24. Most of the testimony centered on portable signs, which under the proposed regulations would be prohibited except to identify a business that does not have a door directly on Grand. Portable signs would be limited to 42 inches tall and 36 square feet.

One wrinkle in the debate is that portable signs placed on sidewalks already violate a city ordinance prohibiting the blocking of rights-of-way, Goodman said. Still, she said the ordinance usually is only enforced if there is a complaint.

John Wolf, co-owner of Saji-Ya and Dixie's on Grand, said those restaurants would be negatively affected if the city restricted their valet parking sign. He said that for many of Grand's small businesses "those (portable) signs are critical," and feared that banning them would have an adverse impact on businesses struggling in a tough economy.

"I don't think this is a time to make it more restrictive," Wolf said. "This is by far the most trying time my businesses and others have ever seen."

St. Paul Business Review Council chair David Baker has asked for more time for his

group to review the proposed regulations. Chad Kulas of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce also questioned why the regulations were being brought forward now.

"It's an especially difficult time for businesses," Kulas said. "When considering changes to the special sign district, ask yourselves why Grand Avenue has to change."

However, GABA and SHA representatives said the changes ought to move forward. SHA executive director Jeff Roy said the proposed regulations strike a good balance between allowing businesses to promote themselves and restricting sign clutter.

GABA executive director David Regan agreed that valet parking signs should be allowed. According to him, it is also important for businesses without a door on Grand to have the ability to put up portable signs.

Electronic sign regulations

The proposed modifications to the city's electronic sign regulations, which were originally adopted in 2007, are based on those in other cities, Goodman said. One of the criticisms of electronic signs is that they can be distracting to motorists.

Currently, electronic signs are only permitted in certain commercially zoned areas. The signs must be at least 660 feet apart and at least 75 feet from a residential zone as measured along the road, and at least 50 feet from a residential zone measured radially. Schools and

other institutions are allowed to have message board electronic signs in residentially zoned areas.

The proposed changes would place additional restrictions on electronic sign placement and orientation, size, illumination and brightness, and the characteristics of the messages displayed. Except at professional sports facilities such as Xcel Energy Center, electronic signs would not be allowed to include video images. Text and images on electronic signs also would not be able to change more than once every 12 seconds.

Baker said the BRC is opposing the electronic sign regulations. "These signs allow businesses to give immediate information to customers," he said.

Greg Rendall, president of the Minnesota Sign Association, said restricting electronic signs will create a financial hardship for businesses. His group is asking the city to allow small businesses to use the signs. Similar concerns are being raised by businesses that sell the signs.

District councils and Scenic St. Paul support the regulations, saying the electronic signs are distracting. "We're concerned about the appearance of our communities," said Joel Clemmer of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council.

Supporters endorsed the recommendation for spacing electronic signs as well as limiting their number on an individual lot.

News Briefs

County OKs \$8.1 million for buying Union Depot building

The Ramsey County Board, meeting as the Regional Rail Authority, has voted to proceed with the \$8.1 million purchase of the Union Depot head house on East 4th Street in downtown St. Paul.

The head house is the majestic, columned building where the proposed Central Corridor light-rail line is expected to terminate. Connected to the head house's lobby is the Union Depot concourse, which the county bought last year for \$49.6 million. The county is hoping to redevelop the concourse as a transit hub where buses, high-speed trains, Amtrak and commuter trains can drop off and pick up passengers.

The vote on the head house purchase was 5-1. Janice Rettman cast the lone vote against it (commissioner Tony Bennett was absent), saying she was concerned about the high price. The purchase will involve negotiations with two property owners. At this point, it ap-

pears that JAS Apartments' condominiums, Christos restaurant and the other businesses in the Union Depot lobby will remain.

County staff will make a final inspection of the building in May and present a final report to the Regional Rail Authority before the end of the month.

Site plan for St. Thomas' new athletic complex is approved

The site plan for the construction of a new three-story, 180,000-square-foot athletic complex at the University of St. Thomas was approved in April by the St. Paul Planning Commission.

The Anderson Athletic and Recreation Complex will be built on the current site of Schoenecker Arena, Coughlan Field House and Foley Theater. Work is scheduled to begin after graduation this May and be complete by October 2010.

The new athletic and recreation complex will include a 2,000-seat volleyball and bas-



Slowly, but surely, Xcel Energy's old coal-fired High Bridge plant continues to be dismantled. Its 570-foot-tall smokestack has been gone since last June. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

ketball arena; a field house with a 200-meter indoor track; an eight-lane, 25-yard swimming pool; a fitness center; a weight room; as well as offices and classrooms.

The Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee recommended approval of the site plan. City staff recommended that the university work with local officials on drain-

age issues as well as erosion and sediment control during construction.

St. Thomas is also planning to tear down O'Shaughnessy Hall next year to make way for a new student center on the northeast corner of Summit and Cretin avenues.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.

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UST effort to sell Grand properties hits the brick wall of housing market

Its 2004 permit with city may have to be modified

By JANE MCCLURE

When the University of St. Thomas was allowed to expand its campus boundaries to include the two blocks bounded by Summit, Cleveland, Grand and Cretin avenues in 2004, it agreed to sell off three properties on the south side of Grand as owner-occupied housing by August 11, 2009. That was one of many conditions attached to the special condition use permit granted by the city of St. Paul at the behest of the Merriam Park Community Council, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association and the group Neighbors United.

However, the soft housing market is making that agreement problematic. The third prospective buyer in two years recently backed out of a deal to buy the two off-campus houses and a maintenance garage from the university. The buyer, whose name was not released, had planned to redevelop the garage at 2076 Grand Ave. and the two single-family homes at 2080 and 2084 Grand for residential use, but canceled the purchase agreement in April.

St. Thomas vice president Doug Hennes said the university is hearing over and over again from prospective developers about the poor housing market and the difficulty in selling new homes. "We keep running into the same problems and we're running out of time," Hennes said.

St. Thomas officials and the latest prospective buyer wanted the option of using the garage as a maintenance facility beyond the August 11 deadline. That would have allowed the developer to collect rent on the garage from St. Thomas until the university had another maintenance facility to replace it. A new maintenance facility is planned as part of the Anderson Athletic and Recreation Complex that St. Thomas will soon be constructing on campus.

However, in April the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) rejected St. Thomas' request to allow the garage

to be used as a maintenance facility beyond August 11. Without that arrangement, the maintenance equipment and staff will have to move this summer to temporary quarters and then move again when the Anderson complex is completed. The arrangement would also have given the prospective buyer more time to work on plans for redeveloping the site as housing, Hennes said.

If the three Grand properties are not sold by August 11, St. Thomas will be in violation of its conditional use permit. It is rare for the city to revoke a permit for a violation of conditions. More likely, a modification of the permit would be worked out between the university and the St. Paul Planning Commission.

WSNAC will discuss the matter at its next meeting on May 12. Most committee members said they do not want to reopen the debate over the conditional use permit and possibly revive the rancor that preceded its approval in 2004.

City officials will have to weigh the inconvenience of St. Thomas having to move its maintenance facility twice against the problems that could arise from reopening the debate over the conditional use permit, according to WSNAC co-chair Scott Banas. "I don't see an inconvenience as an undue hardship (for St. Thomas)," Banas said.

Alyssa Rebensdorf of Neighbors United said she fears that if one permit condition is changed, others will follow. Her neighbors, she said, already believe that St. Thomas is focusing more of its attention on building large new facilities than on fulfilling the promises it made in 2004, including selling off the Grand Avenue properties and buying, rehabilitating and selling other houses in the surrounding neighborhood. Rebensdorf described what is happening as a "frittering away" of the conditional use permit process and the agreement that led to its support by neighbors.

Hennes defended the university, saying that when the permit was approved in 2004, St. Thomas did not have firm plans to build the new athletic complex or the new student center. St. Thomas is not straying from the commitments it made in 2004, Hennes said. However, he added, "no one ever said we would never modify the conditional use permit."

Salary freeze restores city's reserves

By JANE MCCLURE

Savings realized over the past four months through a hiring and wage freeze will allow the city of St. Paul to proceed with at least some of its previously planned capital improvement projects. A bond sale, which was postponed in February, will now take place on May 27. The \$40 million sale will pay for such local projects as street paving in the Cretin-Goodrich and West 7th-Bay Street areas and the completion of the new fire station and fire administration building at West 7th Street and Randolph Avenue.

Meanwhile, city officials are carefully monitoring the debate at the Capitol over the state's budget for the two years beginning July 1. Three different proposals have emerged thus far, all with different impacts on the city. Governor Tim Pawlenty's proposed budget would cut Local Government Aid (LGA) to St. Paul by \$7.7 million in the first year and by \$16 million in the second year. The House's proposed budget would mean a \$3 million cut in LGA in the first year and \$5.7 million in the second. The Senate's proposed budget would result in no reduction in LGA in the first year and a \$1.1 million reduction in the second.

The May 27 bond sale is for projects that were approved over the past two years. It does not affect projects that have yet to be approved through the city's 2010-2011 Capital Improvement Budget process.

Before the bond sale could take place, the city had to replenish the budget reserves that were depleted by as much as 20 percent late last year when, because of a revenue shortfall, state officials failed to follow through on \$5.7 million in LGA that it had previously promised to St. Paul.

How much the city has in its budget reserve affects its bond rating and the cost of financing a bond sale. The city needs to have about \$32 million in its reserves to make the bond sale attractive to buyers.

Among the steps that were taken by the city to replenish its budget reserves were a hiring freeze in all departments, a freeze on the salaries of the mayor and mayoral appointees, and the early retirement of city employees. Money left over from past capital projects and lower than expected interest rates also helped.

The ongoing city hiring freeze has been a concern for some City Council members. "Management by vacancy isn't a strategic way to operate," said Ward 5 council member Lee Helgen. Ward 3 council member Pat Harris said he is especially worried about the 35 vacant positions on the St. Paul police force.

Deputy Mayor Ann Mulholland told the City Council that the city could use federal economic stimulus funds of about \$1.3 million to hire six police officers. However, she said, after three years the salaries and benefits of those six officers would have to be covered by some other revenue source.

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Viewpoint

Light-rail planning: The end is nigh

BY MICHAEL MISCHKE

The recent release of a University Avenue parking study by the city of St. Paul has done little to ease the anxiety of business owners and their employees over the impact the proposed Central Corridor light-rail transit line will have on them. What Metropolitan Council chairman Peter Bell, who praised the report, referred to as a “nettlesome issue” has the potential to put many of those shops—particularly small ones—out of business.

Despite nearly a decade of planning, news that University would be losing more than 1,000 of its 1,215 on-street parking spaces between Rice Street in St. Paul and 29th Street in Minneapolis was not made public until last year. It has taken until now to address the looming parking problem in any serious way—such as it is—and according to many University Avenue businesses, the report falls far short of offering meaningful solutions.

“While University will lose much of its on-street parking spots to make room for LRT,” concedes the Metro Council, which will operate the light-rail line, “those represent less than 5 percent of the parking spots that will remain in lots and ramps.... Measures such as shared parking, permit parking, metered parking and time limits on parking can help ensure turnover of parking spots so business customers who need to drive can find parking when they need it.”

Where they need it and at what price may be another matter. Many University Avenue businesses have no off-street parking, and the cost of sharing it with those who do is only going to increase along with the demand for it.

“People are at least beginning to see that there’s an end in sight,” said St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman in also praising the parking report. University Avenue business owners and their employees can only hope the end the mayor was referring to isn’t their places of employment.

Shadow boxing

Residents of St. Paul’s West End may be waking up today to find themselves playing the real-life role of Bill Murray in *Groundhog Day*. If you didn’t see the movie, Murray plays Phil Connors, an egocentric Pittsburgh TV weatherman who, on a hated assignment covering the annual Groundhog Day observance in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, finds himself reliving the same day over and over again.

Yes, the hated Riverview Corridor is back (see the story on page 4 of this issue). “Back from the dead and bigger than ever,” said Diane Gerth, a former member of the West 7th/Fort Road Federation board who helped lead the fight against the first incarnation of the Riverview Corridor as a dedicated rapid transit busway on West 7th Street.

No specific route nor mode of transportation has yet been identified for the new round of Riverview Corridor studies expected to get under way this year. But once again the West End neighborhood finds itself gearing up for a fight against a proposed solution to a problem that doesn’t exist.

Economic illiteracy

On the heels of the U.S. Congress’ approval of President Obama’s \$3.5 trillion budget, a reader alerted me to a poll conducted last month by the Center for Economic and Entrepreneurial Literacy, a nonprofit organization that promotes financial education. The poll results and an accompanying video can be viewed on its website at econ4u.org.

“We wanted to know how many Americans grasp just how big a trillion really is,” the CEEL states. “In order to do so, we took a poll of 1,001 Americans asking, ‘How many times larger is a trillion than a million?’”

The poll’s respondents—all age 18 and up—were offered five choices. How many do you suppose gave the correct answer—a million times larger? Twenty-one percent, or about the result you’d expect to get from polling primates.

It’s scary to think what that says about the educational system in the U.S. Scarier yet is what it says about U.S. citizens’ comprehension of the federal budget issues that are certain to have profound effects on them and on generations to come.



Inbox

Wall to Walgreens

Really, do we need another Walgreens? While I completely agree that redevelopment of the Oasis Market and Party America parcels would be good for Highland Village, I strongly disagree with the idea of a Walgreens on that site (*Villager*, April 22).

What does allowing a Walgreens to build say to Highland’s longtime Snyder Drug Store? Is it really that far for people to go to the Walgreens at Randolph and Snelling avenues or the Walgreens at Hiawatha Avenue and 46th Street in Minneapolis? I don’t see the need for Walgreens having three stores within three miles of each other.

One of the biggest appeals of this community is that it isn’t big-box or chain-store heavy. When looking at what developments suit a community, we should look at what the community as a whole is lacking. Quite frankly, Party America fulfills a necessary service in this community.

Let’s think about for whom and what we are developing sites: the people who live in and patronize this community.

Barb Christensen
Longfellow, Minneapolis

Permitted to be perturbed

I recently received a letter from the city of St. Paul saying that starting May 8, my neighbors and I will be required to pay annual permit fees to park in front of our own houses and to allow our guests to park nearby when they visit. The cost and hassle of permit parking is something we have tried hard to avoid, but during the past several years so many University of St. Thomas students and staff have made our block their free parking lot that a critical mass was reached and permit parking was approved. My neighbors with small children will now be able to park safely in front of their homes again, and I will no longer have to dread going to the store in the afternoon, only to find that there is nowhere to park and unload when I return.

It is very frustrating to think that the main reason we have had to struggle to find parking and will now have to pay for permits is because St. Thomas does not provide free or affordable parking or public transit for its commuter students and staff. On-campus parking lots and ramps will not alleviate the problem if they aren’t affordable.

This issue has impacted this neighborhood for many years. Yet the only solution attempted seems to be for the city to increase the radius of permit-only parking around the

campus. This is unfair to my neighbors and me, who are now required to pay to use the streets we already pay to maintain; unfair to St. Thomas students, who pay high tuition and should be able to easily reach their classes; and unfair to the city, which has to orchestrate and enforce this massive permit parking bureaucracy.

I hope St. Thomas students, faculty, staff and administration will stop asking us to eat the costs and inconvenience of their student transportation problem.

Krista Menzel
Merriam Park

Dent made in ethanol subsidy

Facing a record \$6.4 billion budget shortfall, Minnesota lawmakers have to make responsible choices. Schools, nursing homes, and the sick and jobless need our attention. Keeping the doors of our hospitals open, our students learning, and putting our economy back on track are my top priorities this legislative session. But meeting those priorities means making difficult decisions with limited resources. Lawmakers need to prioritize based on what works and what doesn’t.

To pinpoint new efficiencies in government, we often rely on the input of the nonpartisan Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA). Recently, the OLA released a report that recommended ending the millions of dollars Minnesota spends every year to subsidize record profits in the state’s ethanol industry. That’s why I voted last week to end the \$24 million in ethanol producer and deficiency payments made every biennium in Minnesota. Unfortunately, the measure was defeated 50-80. However, I successfully authored an amendment to require ethanol producers who receive these payments to comply with environmental laws, to have the payments posted on the state Agriculture Department’s website and to end the payments if the ethanol producer is sold.

We were able to pass these important new reforms and reduce the ethanol producer payment by 20 percent. That’s a good start. The \$4 million we would save in this effort could be used to fund the more pressing priorities of our state in this time of severe economic crisis.

Rick Hansen, Representative
District 39A

8◀ INBOX

Downside to biofuels

If we are to care for the Earth, we must include the health of its oceans and its freshwater lakes and streams. A place to start is with our own Mississippi River system. Over the past several thousand years, the river has carried enough silt to build a substantial delta in the Gulf of Mexico. For more than 100 years, it has carried other products like nitrogen and phosphorous from the fertilized farm fields and sewage systems of mid-America. These nutrients cause algae bloom in both freshwater and saltwater. As the algae decays, it robs the water of oxygen, making it uninhabitable for fish. This causes so-called "dead zones" in freshwater and at the ocean mouths of many of the world's rivers.

A joint study by the universities of Sao Paulo, Arkansas and Cornell states, "In the U.S., over 60 percent of the coastal rivers and bays are moderately to severely degraded from nutrient pollution." The demand for corn and soybeans to make ethanol and biodiesel has increased the acreage in the U.S. planted with those crops by 12 million between 2006 and 2008. Ten million of those newly fertilized acres came from conservation and pasture lands. This experience is being repeated throughout the world, resulting in coastal dead zones as the nitrogen and phosphorous from fertilizer nourishes the algae.

We are currently producing about 9 billion gallons of ethanol per year, nearly all of it in the Mississippi River basin. A federal mandate calls for a steady increase to 36 billion gallons by 2022. The above study concludes that "continuing the current direction in biofuel production, particularly with the focus remaining on grain and sugar crops as primary feed stocks, has serious implications for coastal water quality, and it will almost certainly worsen already serious hypoxic conditions in many locations around the world."

In adding to a river's natural content, we're tampering with Mother Nature, an activity that has uncertain and often unattractive consequences.

Rolf Westgard
Macalester-Groveland

Median muddle

I find some of the letters to the editor in the *Villager* very interesting but also misleading. One person claimed that he was looking forward to less noise and vibration from traffic when the proposed median is installed on Snelling Avenue. Sorry, but that traffic is going to be about 10 feet closer to your house, so it will actually be worse. Also, since there will be no parking on Snelling, those unmarked squad cars will not be there to slow down traffic.

People say they will be able to cross Snelling Avenue more easily with a median. Sure, go ahead and step right into the traffic lane. At one of the meetings, a representative from the Minnesota Department of Transportation said that blinking lights and signs do not work. The gentleman is wrong! They may not work by the state Capitol, but they sure do on Smith Avenue by United Hospital.

There are very few if any median trees that could stand the salt spread on Snelling Avenue each winter. And where are they going to put the snow and slush?

Obviously, I do not support this project any more than I support the lights that are turned on just about every night on the Macalester College athletic fields. They light up Berkeley Avenue like mad.

Vernon R. Jorgensen
Macalester-Groveland

Reconsider truck ban on I-35E

The main reason Snelling Avenue is so loud and congested is that it carries an extraordinary amount of truck traffic. Why? Because two decades ago, when I-35E was built, neighborhood residents succeeded in convincing transportation authorities to ban truck traffic from the stretch of I-35E in the southern half of St. Paul. As a result, truck traffic must be rerouted off I-35E and onto Snelling Avenue between Montreal Avenue and I-94. Is it time to reconsider this tradeoff?

Vicky Sandberg
Highland Park

River corridor reforms praised

I applaud Representative Rick Hansen (DFL-District 39A) and Senator Katie Sieben (DFL-District 57) for their work to update the 30-year old law governing the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (*Villager* Viewpoint, April 22). I am especially impressed with their efforts to engage stakeholders in the process. Hansen and Sieben have made numerous amendments to their bills in response to concerns raised by stakeholders.

The Mississippi River is a tremendous asset that contributes to the health and vitality of our community and economy. This legislation will help ensure that the resources we all value and the benefits we all reap from our great river will remain intact well into the future.

Peggy Lynch, Executive Director
Friends of the Parks and Trails
of St. Paul and Ramsey County

Hold lawmakers accountable

Accountable *adj.* 1. Obligated to account for one's acts.

That's what my dictionary tells me the word means. In his guest editorial, "Addressing state's structural deficit" (*Villager* Viewpoint, March 25), Dane Smith states that "we must make our governments more accountable." He doesn't define who "we" are. He doesn't tell us how "we" make our governments accountable in the first place. And so he fails to tell us how "we" could make our governments more accountable.

I know this much: If "we, the people" want government of the people, by the people, for the people and financially accountable to the people, then, "we, the people" have to organize in numbers large enough to be able to effectively impose an obligation upon U. S. Senators and Representatives to account to us on a continual and timely basis and in an organized manner, answering our questions about their financial management of our federal government. There is no other way to get there from here.

Tea parties do not equal accountability. Neither does talk about accountability.

That "we, the people" haven't done this to date goes a long way toward explaining why special-interest groups continue to get the financial elevator and the general public continues to get the financial shaft.

You know what they say: If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Terry Bushard
Merriam Park

INBOX ▶ 10

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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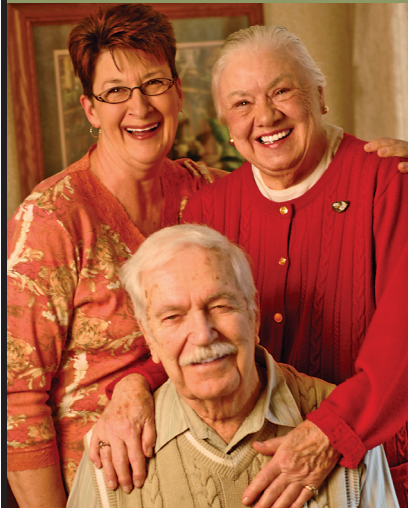
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Workers of the world remember

Untold Stories," a labor history series sponsored by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, will continue on Thursday, May 7, with poet Mark Nowak reading from his new collection, *Coal Mountain Elementary*, and a sing-along with the Twin Cities Labor Chorus. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 N. Dale St.

The series continues with the documentary film *Con el Toque de la Chaveta (With a Stroke of the Cigar Roller's Blade)*, which will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, at the Riverview Library, 1 E. George St. The film takes viewers into the cigar factories of Cuba where they will witness the literary readings that take place while the *tabaqueros*



Minneapolis police officers intervene in a clash between striking Teamsters and a so-called "citizens army" on May 21, 1934.

roll cigars.

Minnesota high school students will present their own labor-related History Day displays, performances and films at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, at the St. Paul Labor Centre, 411 Main St.

and Bill Milliken, author of *A Union Against Unions*.

All "Untold Stories" events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 651-222-3242.

9◀ INBOX

Imbalanced broadcasting

I guess it took eight years, but it looks like Minnesota Public Radio is now on board in support of faith-based initiatives. MPR is sponsoring "Religious Life in the Obama Era: A Conversation With Joshua Dubois," scheduled for May 20 at the Fitzgerald Theater. What's next, an MPR symposium heaping platitudes on No Child Left Behind?

The Wal-Mart of public radio demonstrates once again political bias with a hubris that defies explanation. The public deserves less political grandstanding from MPR and more balanced broadcasting. Better yet, why not disavow any political affiliation? After all, this is supposed to be public radio, not a broadcast medium for the like-minded executive staff locked in the ivory tower at 480 Cedar Street.

Jon Wiersma
Highland Park

Ayd Mill motives questioned

As an extension of the Midtown Greenway, Neighborhoods First! has long recognized that an alignment of the Ayd Mill Road bike trail west of the railroad tracks is preferable to one east of the tracks (*Villager*, April 22). We also concur with CP Rail that the east side of the tracks should be reserved for an additional set of tracks and the possibility of commuter rail.

CP Rail considers the land west of the tracks to be a buffer. Even so, its reluctance to allow the construction of a bike trail is understandable. The issue is not one of safety. A cyclist is far safer on a trail adjacent to the railroad tracks than on a street, with or without bike lanes. Rather, the issue is one of liability. Did the city offer to indemnify the railroad in exchange for right-of-way? With eminent domain so commonly used for road projects, why did Mayor Chris

Coleman publicly take condemnation off the table in the final days of negotiation and then reverse himself once federal funding was lost? Why not close a lane or two of traffic on the existing roadway easement and convert it to a bike trail?

The kindest explanation is that Mayor Coleman's "most livable city in America" does not place a high priority on alternative modes of transportation. Another explanation is that a pedestrian and bicycle presence in the valley, particularly on the existing roadway, is an impediment to the true goal of a four-lane highway.

Mike Madden
Merriam Park

For government we can afford

I see this saying on a few bumper stickers: "If you're not outraged, you must not be paying attention." Well, the General Accounting Office of the Obama administration says we've racked up more national debt in the last three months than we did during two terms of the Bush administration. Heck, it did better than that—it racked up more debt than all previous administrations combined. We can't afford that.

Much of the so-called "stimulus" money didn't go to stimulate anything. It went to states, cities, counties and school districts to help balance their budgets. States, cities, counties and school districts used to have to live within their means. Now they can rely on the federal government to borrow money from the Chinese or just print more money. This is inflationary. It's not sustainable. This is money our future generations will have to pay back.

If we citizens must lower our consumption of energy and consumer goods under the guise of "sustainability," why not government? Margaret Thatcher said it best: "The problem with socialism is that eventually you run out of someone else's money."

Gary Fischbach
Highland Park

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Long-awaited Summit-U plan moves closer to completion

By JANE MCCLURE

Preserving and improving the neighborhood's housing stock, developing vacant Selby Avenue lots and helping businesses survive the Central Corridor light-rail line are among key elements of a new Summit-University/District 8 Plan. The St. Paul Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan on April 24 and sent it to the City Council for adoption as part of the city's comprehensive plan.

The district plan recommends more than 40 actions to ensure a better future for the Summit-University neighborhood, which is home to 18,249 residents. The Summit-University Planning Council board and staff held meetings in all six of the neighborhood's subdistricts to solicit comments on the plan, according to SUPC board member Carl Nelson, who spoke in support of the document at a Planning Commission public hearing in March.

The plan focuses on the areas of transportation, communication, connectivity, land use, housing, education, economic development and safety.

"We're pleased to see that this is finally moving ahead," said SUPC board president Steve Wilson. The plan, which was approved by the district council two years ago, replaces the district plan that was adopted in 1980.

School Notes



The Destination Imagination team of 8th-grade boys from Highland Catholic School placed at the state level on April 18 in Chaska and will advance to global competition in Knoxville, Tennessee, the week of May 18. Team members, from left, include (front) Andy Broadnax, Coleman Kramer and Will Harens; and (back) Chase Mullarky, Andrew Schindler, Fred Werner and Justin Pariana.

Experimental College of the Twin Cities (EXCO) is now accepting applications for free summer classes. EXCO was started by Macalester College students in 2006, and a second chapter based at the University of Minnesota began last year. Everyone can teach or take a class at EXCO. The application deadline is May 29, and most classes will start the week of June 15. Contact excotc@gmail.com or visit www.excotc.org.

Hebrew courses will be offered beginning the week of May 18 at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The weekly classes will be taught by Liora Levi from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Mondays for beginning students, from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays for intermediate students and from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays for advanced students. The cost for six sessions is \$90-\$135 plus a \$20 textbook. Register by May 11. Contact Penny Schumacher at 651-255-4732.

Highland Park Junior High School French immersion students won first-place ribbons at the *A Vous la Parole* oral French contest on April 21 at the University of Minnesota. The winners were Audrey Awich, Rowan Bakke, Delaney Broberg, Adam Caruso, Evan Denis, Allegra Edwards, Chloe Fouilloux, Samantha Kennelly, Mehdi Nabil and Aria Sanders.

Musikgarten of Minnehaha Falls, 5212 41st Ave. S. in Minneapolis, is now accepting registration for summer music classes for children from infant to age 5. The classes will run from June to August. Early evening classes also are being offered for the first time. Call Emily Ireland at 651-485-0153 or visit www.MusikgartenMinnehahaFalls.com.

Five students at Christ's Household of Faith School at 355 Marshall Ave. are among 13 students from across Minnesota who have been named state winners in Zaner-Bloser's 2009 National Handwriting Contest. Advancing to the national competition will be Preston Alleman, grade 1; Ari Geerdes, grade 2; Thomas Bluhm, grade 4; Vanessa Otten, grade 5; and Kiana Alleman, grade 6.

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District Council

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Board election results—The Highland District Council held its annual meeting and board elections on April 22. Elected to represent the six odd-numbered grids were Tia Anderson in Grid 1, Arline Datu in Grid 3, Ray Cleveland in Grid 5, Andrew Smith in Grid 7, Fay Hassie in Grid 9 and Katherine Soderberg in Grid 11. The two at-large board members elected were Tim Puffer and Cory Tennison.

Block club leader training—Pam McCreary and Ruthann Eide from the St. Paul Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit will present a training session for forming block clubs and apartment clubs at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday May 12, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Call Alisha Anderson at the HDC office or e-mail her at hdccrime@visi.com.

Community Development—A proposal to construct a Walgreens on Ford Parkway and Finn Street will be discussed by the HDC's Community Development Committee at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center.

MAC update—Reconstruction of the north parallel runway at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is scheduled to begin on August 17 and run to late October. The next meeting of the Noise Oversight Committee will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, at the Metropolitan Airports Commission office. Visit www.macnoise.com/noc.

GarageFest—The second annual Highland Park garage sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 29-30. Residents who would like to include their sale in GarageFest may call 651-259-1204 and leave a message, including their address and the types of items they will be selling. Their sale will be listed in the *Villager* prior to the event.

Upcoming meetings—Board meeting, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; block club/apartment club leader information meeting, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave.; Community Services Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, Hillcrest; Community Development Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, Hillcrest.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Battle of the Bands—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will host its Teen Battle of the Bands from noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, June 7, on Grand Avenue at Macalester Street in conjunction with Grand Old Day. Applications are due by May 12 and are available on the community council's website. Volunteers are needed before and during the contest. Contact Afton Martens at the council office.

KidsPark carnival—A spring carnival and fundraiser will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, May 16, to celebrate KidsPark's new home at Desnoyer Park, 525 Pelham Blvd. The carnival will include games, face painting, inflatable slides, obstacle courses, food and refreshments, and a silent auction. Call 651-603-0144 or visit www.kidsparkdropin.org.

Mattocks Park cleanup—A cleanup and beautification of Mattocks Park on Palace Avenue and Macalester Street will be held at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 16. The city will provide the supplies and mulch, with residents supplying the labor. Call Mary Cerkenik at 651-690-9533.

Spring Plant Share—The community council's Beautification Committee invites Macalester-Groveland neighbors to share their perennials at its annual Spring Plant Share on Saturday, May 16. Those who do not have plants to share are asked to make a minimum donation of \$2.00 per plant. The Plant Share will take place from 10:00 a.m. to noon at 1982 Summit Ave., 1276 Berkeley Ave., 200 S. Mississippi River Blvd. (enter through the alley) and 127 Amherst St.; and from noon to 2:00 p.m. at 1561 Randolph Ave., 1295 Fairmount Ave. and 1984 Jefferson Ave.

MacGrove Moves—The fourth annual MacGrove Moves will be held this spring to promote health and fitness and reduce traffic congestion. To participate, residents leave their cars at home and walk, jog or bike to their destinations at least 15 times before August 12. Sheets to record the trips are available on the council's website and at the Edgumbe and Groveland recreation centers. Those who complete the sheets will be entered in a drawing for prizes. The third annual Golden Shoe Hunt in conjunction with MacGrove Moves is now under way. During each of the first three weekends in May, a golden shoe will be hidden in an area where people walk, jog or bike in Macalester-Groveland. Those who find a golden shoe may bring it to the council office and win a pair of running or walking shoes donated by Fun N Run.

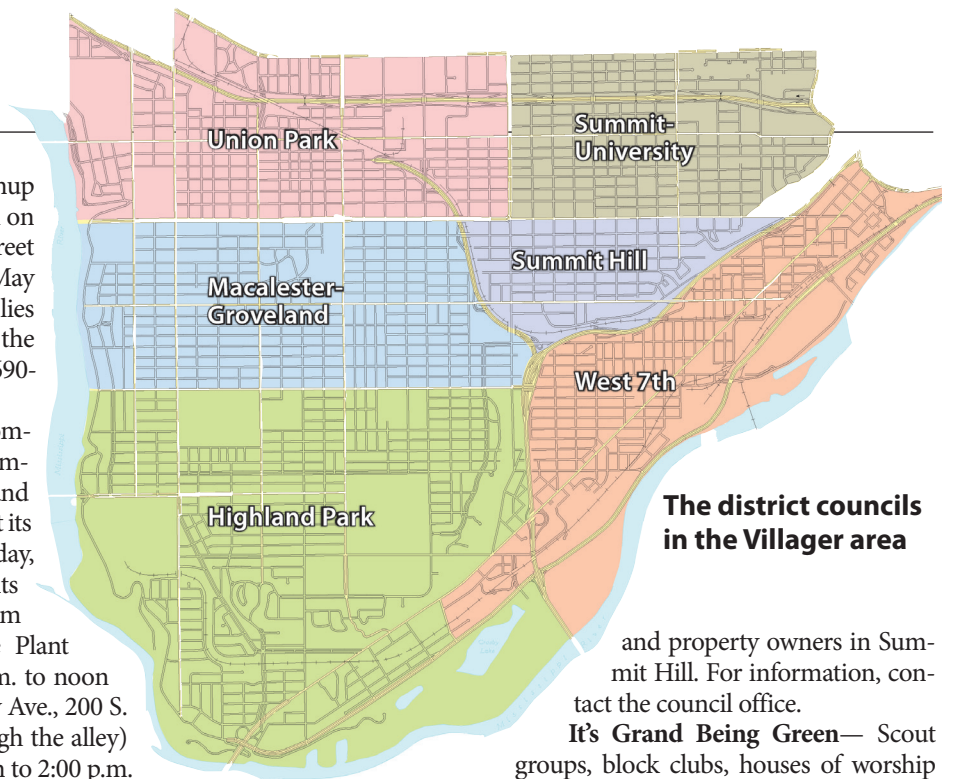
Upcoming meetings—Board of directors, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14, Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.; Beautification Committee, 6:00 p.m. Monday, May 18, Edgumbe; Community Outreach Committee, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, Edgumbe.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Neighborhood cleanup—The Summit Hill neighborhood will hold its annual neighborhood cleanup from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 16, near the corner of Pleasant Avenue and Victoria Street. Those who work a 3½-hour shift at the cleanup will be treated to lunch and may drop off one load of material for free. For information or to lend a hand, contact the SHA office.

Environment Committee—The SHA's Environment Committee is currently working on several projects, including a Plant & Prairie Party on June 13 at the Linwood Recreation Center. Membership is open to all residents, business owners



The district councils in the Villager area

and property owners in Summit Hill. For information, contact the council office.

It's Grand Being Green—Scout groups, block clubs, houses of worship and other neighborhood groups are being sought to march with the SHA during the Grand Old Day parade, whose theme this year is "It's Grand Being Green." For details, call the SHA office.

Board meeting—The next meeting of the Summit Hill Association board of directors will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Light-rail station art—Five teams of artists will present their designs this month for artwork that will be incorporated into the 15 stations proposed for the Central Corridor light-rail line. Presentations will be given for the Fairview, Raymond and Westgate stations from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 N. Fairview Ave. N.; and for the Snelling, Lexington, Dale and Rice stations from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. Contact the Central Corridor project office at 651-602-1645 or centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us.

Pizzazz auditions—The Lex-Ham Community Theater will produce Hugh Leonard's one-act comedy, *Pizzazz*, this summer. Auditions will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 9, and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, May 11, in Room 150 of the Music/Fine Arts Building at Concordia University-St. Paul, 310 N. Hamline Ave. Visit www.Lex-HamArts.org/theater or contact theater@lexhamarts.org.

Recycling bins—Recycling bins are handed out from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The next pickup dates are May 6 and 20.

Union Park news—The UPDC's board of directors will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, in Concordia University's Library Technology Center, 1282 Concordia Ave. Visit the district council's website for more information.

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Nativity showers new moms for 25th year

Teacher Ginny Sullivan and her 5th-grade class at Nativity Catholic School will host the 25th annual Mary Shower on May 16-17. The public is invited to bring unwrapped baby gifts to Nativity Church during any of its Masses that weekend.

Donations are being collected for women and families who need help with supplies for their newborn children. The gifts will be passed along to Birthright of St. Paul and the Highland Life Care Center.

Sullivan said each year there is an incredible outpouring of handmade and purchased items from area residents. Her students spend

several days folding, sorting and arranging the donated items for the newborns.

Prior to the collection, some of the children make fliers to solicit donations. Others raise money by setting up neighborhood lemonade stands and holding bake sales. Cash donations for the Mary Shower will be given to the organization Pro-Life Across America.

"It's really a volunteer-motivated activity," said Sullivan, who started the tradition in 1984, when she began teaching the 5th grade at Nativity.

For more information, call Nativity School at 651-695-8555.

Religious Notes

The JUPUSA youth choir from Chimbote, Peru, will perform at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave., as part of its nationwide tour. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted for Los Amigos del Padre Juan, which supports the work of the Reverend Jack Davis to help the poor in Peru. Call 651-698-5581.



Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave., dedicated its first major sanctuary renovation in 70 years during worship services on May 3. Care was taken to maintain the historic character of Pilgrim's neo-Gothic sanctuary, which was built in 1939. The chancel platform was brought forward to the crossing of transepts and nave, and the altar railing is now accessible. Sound and lighting also were improved.

"I'm Telling—Cabaret Theater" with Maria Asp, Darcey Engen and Nanci Olesen will be presented by Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. The event will feature stories of several mothers from different perspectives, backgrounds and traditions. Admission is \$15. A two-for-one rate is offered for those who bring a friend or relative. Contact Wisdom Ways at 651-696-2788 or visit www.wisdomwayscenter.org.

Institute of the Himalayan Tradition, 1317 Summit Ave., will offer the following: "Ten Jewels of Yoga Spirituality" from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 9 (\$25-\$30); and "Kriya Yoga" from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, May 30 (\$25-\$30). Call 651-645-1291 or visit www.ihtyoga.org.

Groveland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1671 Summit Ave., will meet at 10:15

The award-winning youth choir from Chimbote, Peru, will perform at Lumen Christi on May 9.

a.m. Sunday, May 10. Trescia Dunn, a food educator who has worked in the natural foods industry for more than 15 years, will speak on "Does Our Relationship with Food Matter?" Call 651-408-7022.

"The Liberated Wailing Wall" will be presented by Jews for Jesus at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at Bethel Christian Fellowship, 1466 Portland Ave. The worship experience has been described as a combination of Israeli folk music and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Donations will be sought. Visit www.bcf-nations.org or call Liz Kimmel at 651-645-1534.

An evensong celebrating the music ministry of Douglas Shambo will be held at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. Anthems by Shambo and canticles by Harold Friedell will be performed. A reception will follow. Call 651-228-1164.

The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest wants to include photos from local families' Passover seder celebrations in its collection. Photos may be sent to history@jhsum.org along with the date taken, location, names of participants, favorite food and Haggadah (text) used. Call 952-381-3360 or visit www.jhsum.org.

Highland, Mac-Groveland clean up

The Highland and Macalester-Groveland district councils' annual spring cleanup will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9, in the employee parking lot of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant. (Enter off of Mississippi River Boulevard.)

Items that will be accepted include children's goods (books, toys, clothes), fluorescent bulbs, tires, reusable household goods, electronic products (TVs, stereos, phones, computers), bikes, metals, lawn mowers, snow blowers, construction debris, mattresses, carpeting, concrete and rock. Heavier items should be packed on the bottom and lighter ones on top.

The cost is \$15 per car; \$20 per truck, trailer or minivan; and \$30 for larger vehicles. Additional charges include \$2.00 per car tire, \$3.00 per truck tire and \$10 per

mattress or box spring.

Items that will not be accepted include appliances (call JR's Appliances at 651-454-9215 for a discounted pickup), household hazardous waste (call Baywest at 651-291-0456), brush and compost (call Ramsey County at 651-266-1155), waterbeds and mini-blinds. Anything that is broken, stained, ripped or not in usable condition also will not be accepted.

Proof of residency in the Macalester-Groveland or Highland Park neighborhood will be required to enter the cleanup site. Volunteers who work a morning or afternoon shift will receive a free pizza lunch and a voucher good for use at the cleanup.

For more information, contact Karmann Peters at the Macalester-Groveland Community Council office at 651-695-4000 or karmann@macgrove.org.

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Fluorescent bulbs
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Furniture
Electronics (TVs, stereos, phones, computers)
Bikes
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Lawn mowers, snow blowers (small engines)
Construction debris
Mattresses
Carpet
Concrete

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

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(call JR's Appliances at
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• Microwaves • Dehumidifiers • Water Heaters
Hazardous Waste
(call Baywest at 651-454-9215)
• Paint • Paint cans • Oil
• Propane tanks • Car batteries
Brush/compost
(call Ramsey County at 651-266-1155)
Waterbeds
Mini Blinds/Shades
REUSE WILL NOT
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BROKEN, STAINED, RIPPED OR NOT
IN USABLE CONDITION (these items
may be thrown into garbage at the cleanup)

Fees: \$15 Per Car; \$20 Per Truck/Trailer/Minivan; \$30 for Larger Vehicles;
\$2 Per Car Tire; \$3 Per Truck Tire; \$10 Per Mattress or Boxspring.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR ELECTRONICS AT THE SPRING CLEANUP



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Crime Report

The following calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. For a list of weekly crime reports by neighborhood from the St. Paul Police Department, visit <http://stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=2399>.

Highland Park

Burglary—Police arrested a 19-year-old Brooklyn Park man on a warrant for burglary and an 18-year-old Minneapolis man for possession of stolen property on the 600 block of South Snelling Avenue at about 11:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 7.

—An attempted burglary was reported on the 1700 block of Wordsworth Avenue between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 15. The handle to the locked screen door was broken off, but no entry was gained.

—Two televisions were stolen from the recreation room of River Crossing Apartments, 1375 Davenport St., between 8:00 p.m. Wednesday and 8:00 a.m. Thursday, April 15-16. The apartment building also was broken into at about 12:30 a.m. Friday, April 24.

—A home on the 1200 block of Juno Avenue was broken into sometime before 11:00 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Assault—A juvenile was threatened at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy., around 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 15.

—Two neighbors on the 1600 block of Ford Parkway had to be separated by police at about 12:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25. The neighbors were arguing over loud music and one man punched the other in the nose. Police were called back at about 10:00 that morning after the men began arguing again. The victim wanted to press charges for assault.

Lexington-Hamline

Assault—An aggravated assault occurred at Gordon Parks High School, 1212 University Ave., at about 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 14. Two girls fought each other in the lunch room. Both students were suspended.

Sex crime—A rape was investigated on the 1200 block of Dayton Avenue on Monday, April 13.

Weapons—Shots were fired on the 1200 block of Dayton Avenue at about 12:30 a.m. Monday, April 13.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—An attempted burglary occurred on the 400 block of South Cretin Avenue at about 5:00 a.m. Sunday, April 19. Someone tried to break in through the back door, but was scared off when the resident turned on the light.

—A home on the 300 block of South Cretin Avenue was broken into between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22.

—A residence on the 2100 block of Princeton Avenue was broken into between 12:30 and 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred on Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard at about 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 14.

—A bike was stolen at the University of St. Thomas at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 23.

—A garden gate was stolen at Five Trees, 1838 Grand Ave., between 6:00 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 24-25. The gate was made circa 1900 and is green with white trim, about 3 feet tall and 4½ feet long.

Merriam Park

Robbery—Izzy's Ice Cream Cafe, 2034 Marshall Ave., was the victim of a strong-armed robbery at about 1:15 p.m. Sunday, April 26.

Burglary—An apartment on the 300 block of North Cleveland Avenue was broken into during the evening of Tuesday, March 31.

—A home on Mississippi River Boulevard just north of Summit Avenue was burglarized at around 10:00 p.m. Friday, April 17.

—KidsPark, the recently relocated child

care center at 525 Pelham Blvd., was broken into between 3:30 p.m. Thursday and 7:30 a.m. Friday, April 16-17.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a residence on the 1700 block of University Avenue between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. Sunday, April 12.

—A home on the 1800 block of Ashland Avenue was burglarized on Tuesday, April 14.

—A home on the 1600 block of Marshall Avenue was broken into between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Sunday, April 26. The residents were home at the time.

Theft—A truck was stolen at Herschel Street and University Avenue on Saturday, April 11.

—A theft from auto occurred on the 1900 block of University Avenue between 10:00 p.m. Thursday and 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 16-17.

—A family's bicycles were stolen while they shopped at a rummage sale at St. Mark's School, 1976 Dayton Ave., between 11:30 a.m. and noon Saturday, April 25.

—A theft from auto occurred on the 300 block of North Mississippi River Boulevard between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. Thursday, April 23.

Summit Hill

Burglary—A resident saw an unknown man break open the coin box on a washing machine in the laundry room of an apartment complex on the 1100 block of Grand Avenue at about 1:00 p.m. Thursday, April 23. The man fled before police arrived.

Theft—Several bottles of cologne were stolen from CVS Pharmacy, 1040 Grand Ave., between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. Friday, April 17.

Miscellaneous—Unknown suspects threw rocks through the windows of parked cars during the evening of Wednesday, April 15, on Summit Avenue and Milton Street, on Summit near St. Albans Street and on the 900 block of Ashland Avenue.

—A suspect threw rocks at a passing car on Ayd Mill Road and Jefferson Avenue at about 2:00 a.m. Friday, April 24.

Summit-University

Robbery—A woman was robbed at Chatsworth Street and Concordia Avenue at about 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 17.

Burglary—An apartment on the 200 block of North Oxford Street was burglarized around 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 16.

—Someone tried to pry the back door open at the Muddy Pig, 162 N. Dale St., between 1:00 a.m. Thursday and 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 16-17.

—An apartment complex on the 300 block of Dayton Avenue was broken into between 1:00 and 7:30 a.m. Saturday, April 25. Property was damaged in the laundry and storage rooms.

Assault—A man was stabbed during a knife fight at Grotto Street and Hague Avenue at about 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 17. The victim was taken to Regions Hospital with slashes to his knee and torso.

West End

Burglary—Police arrested a 19-year-old Minneapolis man for burglary on the 1100 block of West 7th Street at about 4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 4.

—Xbox and Wii video game systems and many video games were stolen from a residence in the 700 block of Butternut Avenue between 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22. Entry was forced.

—A burglary in progress was reported at Bennett's Chop and Railhouse, 1305 W. 7th St., at around 12:30 a.m. Monday, April 27. Police detained five men in the area, but no one was arrested.

Theft—A 17-year-old boy was cited for shoplifting a bottle of liquor at Dannecker's Super Market & Liquors, 793 Randolph Ave., at about 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 26.

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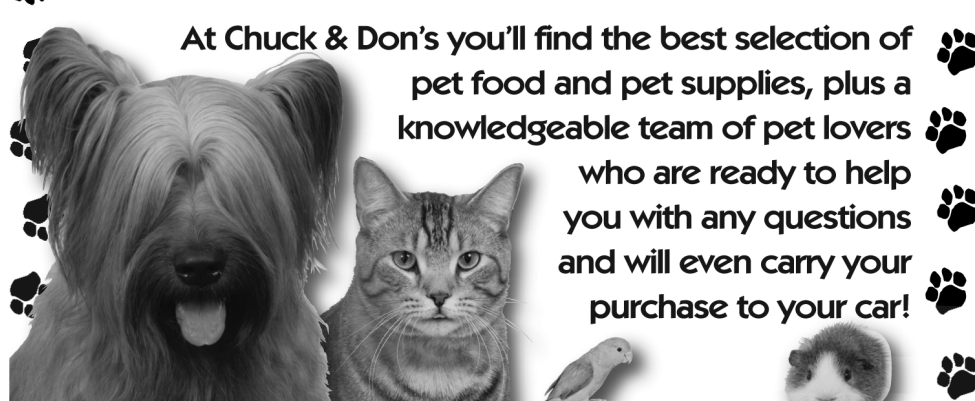
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Gardening

Passion for plants

Garden coach offers expert advice on how to cultivate an urban oasis

By BOB GILBERT

For master gardener Susan Holland, the real harbinger of spring isn't the date on the calendar, it's the tender shoots of perennials sprouting from her Snelling-Hamline garden.

Holland has an extensive garden that flanks the sidewalk from her back door to her garage. Each plant is tagged to identify it. Her plant selection is such that something colorful is flowering in spring, summer and fall. Her lungwort and daffodils will be blooming soon, as will the lilacs bordering her neighbor's yard.

Holland recently started a business as a garden coach to help people map out the best places to plant shrubs, flowers, fruits and vegetables. "When people call me they're usually looking for advice on how to create a beautiful garden where they can sit outdoors and enjoy the weather," Holland said. "Sometimes they're absolutely flummoxed about what to do. They're looking for somebody who can look at their garden with new eyes and help them realize its potential."

Holland charges \$40 to \$60 per house call. She analyzes the available sunshine, what plants are already there, the homeowners' color and plant preferences, whether they have children or dogs, and if the area is used as recreational space. Her goal is to get her clients excited about their gardening plans, to ensure that they will be able to maintain the plants themselves and, most important, to enjoy the results. She will even accompany clients to the nursery to pick out the plants.

Holland said Minnesota's climate, which horticulturalists refer to as Zone 4, offers as many advantages for gardeners as disadvantages.

"For plants that require a cold winter where plants freeze in the soil and then come up in spring, this is a fine location," she said. "Though it's cold, we can grow many species that can't be grown elsewhere, such as day lilies, hostas, foam flowers, daffodils and heuchera."

Successful gardens start with good soil, Holland said. When she has a client's soil analyzed, she's looking for proper levels of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. However, she can feel with her own hands the quality of its tilth, its organic matter. Scraps of fruits and vegetables, human hair, eggshells and coffee grounds are some of the composted items she



uses to rejuvenate depleted soil.

Sometimes when perennials are no longer thriving the problem is not soil depletion, but space, she said. Since perennials grow back bigger and stronger each year, they sometimes get too big for the area they occupy. Her advice is to dig some of them up and replant them elsewhere, since the denser species get, the fewer flowers they produce.

"You have to keep dividing things to keep them thriving," she said. "They need that for their vigor. When you dig some of your plants up you'll be amazed how the added space rejuvenates them."

Holland grew up in Orange County, California, where plants grow year-round, and has bachelor's degree in history from the University of California-Riverside. Her father and grandfather later moved to the Hood River region of Oregon, where they ran a black walnut tree farm.

She studied landscape history at the Ingham School of Design in England. The gardens in the neighboring mansions served as her classroom. She also spent time in Scotland where rock gardens were popular due to its inclement climate.

Returning to America, she took a job as an architectural historian in Bismarck, North Dakota. There she met and married her spouse of 28 years, Erik. For several years they both worked in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, where they dressed in period costumes as guides at that historical site. She was active in the horticultural society there, which pre-



Susan Holland prepares to plant an Encore Autumn Twist azalea in her Portland Avenue backyard, while a fritillaria (at left) is already in bloom. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

serves heirloom plants from early American history.

Twelve years ago, she and her husband were hired by the Minnesota Historical Society and came to St. Paul. She admits that acclimating herself to Minnesota took time, but living in Scotland helped.

Holland has a fondness for fairy gardens and said there is a growing interest in using miniature plants, especially among condominium and apartment dwellers. Miniature roses can be found in own her backyard. "Each plant species has a different way of defining itself as miniature, but a conifer, for instance, only grows one inch a year," she said.

Holland plants and maintains the circular garden around the sign at the Eleanor Graham Community Garden at the Hamline Avenue exit from Ayd Mill Road. She also lectures for the St. Paul and Ramsey County garden clubs and opens up her Portland Avenue garden to those organizations four times a year. For

more information, she may be reached at 651-646-8591 or MNGardenCoach@aol.com.

For those not looking for a garden coach, Holland said there are free resources available that people may turn to for advice. She suggested dialing "Ask a Master Gardener" at 651-704-2071 for gardening questions. Someone will usually call back within 24 hours.

She also recommended visiting the website for Gardening Matters (www.gardeningmatters.org), an independent organization dedicated to community gardeners in the Twin Cities. In addition, she said classes are offered by the Minnesota Horticultural Society and the University of Minnesota for those who are interested in becoming a master gardener.

"Gardening doesn't have to be hard work if you choose the right soil and the right plants and get your weeds early," Holland said. "The work that you put in offers a bucolic reward in your backyard that's colorful, peaceful and a joy to sit in."

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Local plant sales are taking root all over

Gardeners pining for new perennials or itching to get their hands on some impatiens will find the following area plant sales, plant swaps and other events in full bloom during the next few weeks:

Friends School will hold its 20th annual plant sale from May 8-10 at the Minnesota State Fair Grandstand. More than 2,300 varieties of plants will be sold, including herbs, grasses, perennials, vegetables, annuals, climbers, fruit trees, shrubs, roses and native wild flowers. Sale hours are 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday (half-price sale). Admission is free. Visit www.FriendsSchoolPlantSale.com or call 651-621-8930.

The St. Paul Farmers' Market will sell flowers and vegetables from 1:15 to 5:00 p.m. on Fridays, beginning May 8, in the parking lot of St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 1079 Summit Ave. The downtown St. Paul market at 5th and Wall streets is now open from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturdays and from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sundays. Call 651-227-6856.

A **Spring Fest and flower sale** will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9, in the parking lot of Immanuel Lutheran Church on Snelling and Goodrich avenues. The day will feature family activities, a garden shop, flowers for Mother's Day and concessions. The Barbary Coast Dixieland Show Band will perform beginning at 3:00 p.m. Call 651-699-5560.

The Longfellow Garden Club will hold its annual plant swap at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, outside Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Participants should bring perennials, bulbs and extra seedlings to share. A small donation will be requested from those who do not bring plants and are not club members.

The Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota will hold its 26th annual plant and garage sale from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, at 1647 Laurel Ave. The sale will feature several varieties of heirloom tomatoes, along with an assortment of perennials. Call 651-646-3005.

The Garden Club of Ramsey County will hold its annual plant sale from



Those partial to peonies and other plants will find their fill at May plant sales.

8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 16, at Highland Catholic School, 2017 Bohland Ave. The sale will include plants from club members' gardens, along with a variety of annuals, bare-root shrubs and perennials purchased at wholesale prices from local growers. More than 2,000 plants will be for sale. Visit www.ramseygardeners.org.

St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave., will hold a perennial plant sale from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 16.

The Dowling Community Garden will host its annual plant sale from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the garden, 39th Street East and 46th Avenue South in South Minneapolis. The sale will include heirloom and hybrid tomatoes, peppers and eggplants, along with a wide variety of other vegetables, flowers and herbs. Visit dowlingcommunitygarden.org.

Cans for Sam's ninth annual plant sale will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday May 16, at 3608 38th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Every dollar collected from the sale of annuals, perennials and heirloom tomatoes will go to help homeless, abandoned and abused animals. Bring a bag of aluminum cans and enter a prize drawing. Four-legged friends are welcome. Call 612-722-1886.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Beautification Committee will hold its annual Spring Plant Share on Saturday, May 16. Plants will be sold from 10:00 a.m. to noon at 1982 Sum-

mit Ave., 127 Amherst St., 1276 Berkeley Ave. and 200 S. Mississippi River Blvd (alley), and from noon to 2:00 p.m. at 1561 Randolph Ave., 1295 Fairmount Ave. and 1984 Jefferson Ave. Those who do not have plants to share will be asked to make a minimum donation of \$2.00 per plant. Master gardeners will be available at several locations to answer questions. Call 651-695-4000.

The Highland Plant Share will be conducted from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Gardeners may exchange their potted plants with their neighbors' or purchase plants if they have nothing to exchange. Call 651-695-4005.

The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park has changed its annual bulb sale. This year, the same week that the 10,000 bulbs are pulled from the spring flower show they will be for sale in the gift shop. There will also be a limited number of annuals grown by the conservatory's gardeners available for purchase beginning May 1. Call 651-487-8201.

The Midtown Farmers' Market opened for its seventh season on May 2 on Hiawatha Avenue and Lake Street, next to the light-rail station in South Minneapolis. The market is open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays and features local food, art, crafts and music. Upcoming events include Mother's Day family fun on May 9 and Native Plant Day on May 16. Call 612-724-7457.

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Health and Fitness

United Family clinic opens new doors with same 70-year mission firmly in place

By Carolyn Will

The engraved cornerstone on United Family Medicine's new West End health clinic states its mission clearly: to serve and to teach. And with the recent opening of its \$14.8 million Peter J. King Family Health Center at the corner of West 7th Street and Randolph Avenue, United Family Medicine has added another chapter to a storied history dating back to the 1930s.

"We're evolutionary," said Dr. Tim Rumsey, staff physician and founding member of the United Family Practice Health Center, which recently changed its name to United Family Medicine. Rumsey said the clinic's staff strive to deliver top-notch health care to everyone who walks in the door, from the poor and uninsured to area residents from the surrounding middle- and upper-class neighborhoods.

"I can walk through the lobby and see a homeless person sitting next to an executive who lives in Crocus Hill," Rumsey said. "What's wonderful about the new facility is that everyone feels comfortable here."

The clinic is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, public health centers in the Twin Cities. It began in the 1930s in the old Wilder Dispensary, where the Minnesota History Center is located today, as a clinic offering free and low-income health care and was staffed by physicians from nearby Miller Hospital. The dispensary became the St. Paul Outpatient Center and was later taken over by Miller, which merged with St. Luke's Hospital in 1972 to become United Hospital and Clinics.



CEO Jeanne Bailey stands outside the recently completed Peter J. King Family Health Center on West 7th Street and Randolph Avenue that houses the United Family Medicine health clinic and a residency program. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

United Family Practice was formed in the early '90s through the merger of Rumsey's private practice, the Helping Hand Health Center on the West End and United Hospital's outpatient clinic. In 2004 it became United Family Practice Health Center and established itself as an independent, federally qualified health center look-alike. The clinic is termed a look-alike because it meets many of the standards of a federally funded clinic, including the stipulation that it must be run by a community board. In return, it receives higher reimbursements in order to treat the unemployed and underinsured.

"It's not a free clinic, but we find a way to make it work for everyone by keeping fees as low as possible and offering sliding-scale fees," said CEO Jeanne Bailey.

Since 1993, the center has also been home to a residency program that provides training for family practice doctors. "In the 1930s, our predecessors realized that everyone deserves

"It's not a free clinic, but we find a way to make it work for everyone by keeping fees as low as possible and offering sliding-scale fees," said CEO Jeanne Bailey.

proper health care, regardless of ability to pay," Rumsey said. "Ever since then, we've attracted and trained physicians to provide that quality care. In our new facility, we'll continue pursuing those goals, foster the health and wellness of the community, and keep our neighborhood vibrant."

The new center, which was built on the site of a former bingo hall and restaurant, opened

on March 9. It has 31,000 square feet, twice that of its old cramped quarters at 545 W. 7th St., just a mile to the east. A parking ramp and surface lot offer 128 spaces of free parking. Inside, large windows run the length of the lobby and beautifully painted glass partitions offer patients privacy when checking in for appointments.

"At our last location, it was standing-room only in the reception area and it was really disrespectful to our patients," Rumsey said.

Eco-friendly standards were followed as much as possible in constructing the new building, including lights that automatically turn on and off as people enter and exit rooms, and window coverings to block the sun on hot days.

On a recent tour of the clinic's treatment rooms, Rumsey was still marveling over his new professional surroundings. "We were used

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Melanie Peterson-Nafziger runs past the MacGrove Moves banner in front of the Edgumbe Recreation Center. In the foreground are the golden shoes that city officials plan to wear on May 6 to promote more walking and bicycling in St. Paul. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

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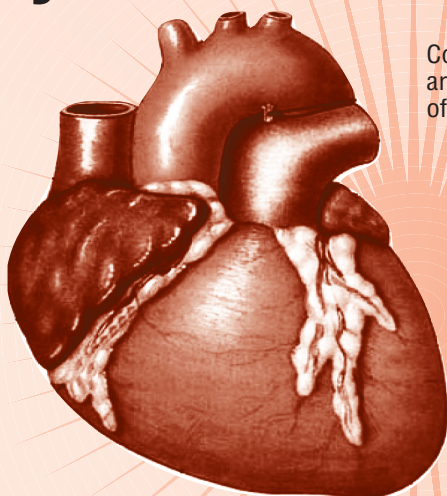
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MacGrove Moves

Program urges folks to roll or stroll where they need to go this summer

BY FRANK JOSSI

With spring's arrival, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council is once again encouraging St. Paul residents to dust off their bicycles and slip on their walking shoes instead of grabbing the car keys when heading out for short neighborhood trips.

The community council is rolling out its fourth annual MacGrove Moves, a program that encourages residents to get fit, save money and improve the air quality by leaving their cars at home and walking, jogging or biking to their destinations at least 15 times between now and August 12.

Brochures for MacGrove Moves will be available at more than two dozen retail locations, on the council's website (www.macgrove.org) and at the Edgumbe and Groveland recreation centers. Participants are encouraged to record their nonmotorized trips on the brochure's log. When 15 destinations are completed, they may turn the log in at the Edgumbe Recreation Center to be entered into a drawing for gifts donated by almost 30 area businesses.

Adding to the interest will be the presence of golden shoes hidden where people walk, jog or bike in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood during each of the first three weekends in May. Those who find the golden shoes will receive a free pair of walking or running shoes from Fun N Run on Randolph Avenue.

Melanie Peterson-Nafziger, chair of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Environmental Committee, was recently busy spraying golden shoes for St. Paul City Council members and Mayor Chris Coleman, who have been asked to wear them at the council's meeting on May 6 to promote the event.

Last year, those who participated in MacGrove Moves avoided more than 1,000 car trips in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. This year, the program has been adopted by the Summit Hill Association (SHA) and has been opened up to the entire city, Peterson-Nafziger said. The program attracted 100 entries last year, but she hopes for many more this year. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council, the SHA and the Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA) plan to distribute 10,000 MacGrove Moves brochures at Grand Old Day on Sunday, June 7, and at businesses on Grand Avenue.

"We're doing this for a variety of reasons," Peterson-Nafziger said. "The focus of the program is to get people moving and out of their cars. Studies show that around 40 percent of carbon emissions come from vehicles and that 70 percent of all car trips are errands people do in the neighborhoods where they live. Many of those could be done by bike or by walking."

Kate Pearce, chair of the SHA's Environmental Committee, said another goal of the program is to reduce traffic on Grand Avenue and other neighborhood streets. At Grand Old Day, the Summit Hill and Macalester-Groveland community councils will have a booth on Grand Avenue near Ayd Mill Road to help spread the word.

To help promote travel by bicycle, GABA is using \$14,000 from the city to install 70-80 bike hitches on Grand Avenue, said treasurer Chad Skally, who spearheaded the effort. The metal hitches—basically posts intersected by circles—are being installed at or near intersections with heavy retail traffic on the avenue.

Skally said the bike hitch program was a remarkably easy sell. "This is the first time the Grand Avenue Business Association, the Summit Hill Association and the Macalester-Groveland Community Council have agreed unanimously on something in my memory," said Skally, who operates Live Green Apartments on Grand. "Usually there's something somebody doesn't like, but not this time."

Grand Avenue merchants embraced the program as long as the bike hitches are not positioned in front of their doors, he said. They will be spaced about every two blocks from Dale Street to Cleveland Avenue. In a few places, such as Victoria Crossing, the hitches may be located just off of Grand so bicycles do not inhibit pedestrian traffic, Skally said.

Manufactured by Dero in Iowa, the hitches have two points of contact that allow two bicycles to be locked securely to them. At least 150 new bicycle parking slots are expected to be available on Grand Avenue this summer.

"I think it'll encourage people to bike to Grand Avenue to shop or commute to work," Skally said. "The benefits are not just for retailers, but for their employees."

For more information about the bike hitches, call GABA at 651-699-0029. For information on MacGrove Moves, call the Macalester-Groveland office at 651-695-4000 or visit www.macgrove.org.

17◀ UNITED FAMILY

to taking everyone's castoffs for our offices," he said. "This environment just feels calming and allows us to work more efficiently."

The new clinic offers 40 upgraded exam and treatment rooms and a community room for group meetings and educational workshops. Patient services offered include urgent care, primary care for infants to senior citizens, mental health screening, disease screening, preventive care, chronic disease management, and on-site lab and X-ray facilities. A mobile dental unit will be added next year.

Clinic hours also have been expanded until 8:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and Saturday hours will be offered soon. A new physician will be added to the staff of 12 doctors this summer.

"Last week, we had 1,005 visits to our clinic that covered everything from urgent care to suicidal patients to the elderly with chronic illnesses to school and employment physicals," Bailey said. She expects the number of annual visits will expand from 46,000 at the old clinic to 60,000 at the new one by 2014.

"We're always growing and accepting new patients," she said, "and we know it's going to be a huge challenge seeing the growing number of people who have lost their homes



Dr. Tim Rumsey and physician's assistant Cora Peine work with a state-of-the-art digital X-ray viewer at the new Peter J. King Family Health Center. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

or jobs. It's a whole new package. But patients can stay here through all those life-changing cycles. They don't need to find a new medical home. We've seen two to three generations come here."

United Family Medicine also operates clinics at the Sibley Manor Apartments in Highland Park, the Face-to-Face Clinic on the East Side and the Dorothy Day Center in downtown.

Plans for the new health center got a boost three years

ago when the United Hospital Foundation made a commitment to spearhead United Family Medicine's \$14.8 million capital campaign. The building is named for Peter J. King, whose King Family Foundation donated \$3.5 million for the project. McGough Construction donated the parking ramp and the city of St. Paul granted \$900,000 in sales tax proceeds for the center. Large and small gifts were also received from more than 10,000 individuals, corporations and foundations.

United Family Medicine was awarded a \$450,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation last summer and is still working to raise the remaining 5 percent of its capital campaign.

Bailey said an open house will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 30, and will feature tours, treats and a chance to meet the staff. For information, call 651-241-1000 or visit united-familymedicine.org.

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Staff member Tammy explains CEREC

fabricated in a day or two. CAD/CAM technology also allows Dr. Fischbach's staff to save teeth that most other dentists would extract.

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Real tail-waggers

Master baker Klecko's latest batches of biscuits are going to the dogs

BY JUDY WOODWARD

Roxy, a standard black poodle with boundless energy and a voracious appetite, strains to escape her owner's grip while the taste test is being set up on the living room floor. On the left is a standard-issue dog biscuit from a local grocery store; on the right is a homemade variety flavored with red caviar and shrimp. On a signal, Roxy is released. In less time than it takes to say "canine gourmet," the homemade dog biscuit vanishes down her throat, while the run-of-the-mill version sits untouched.

Master baker Klecko, who created the winning dog biscuit, is not in the least surprised by the result. He figures that if you bake a better dog biscuit, the canines of the world will beat a path to your stash.

Klecko, 45, a Highland Park resident and CEO of St. Agnes Baking Co. in St. Paul, has spent nearly three decades catering to the hun-

gry hordes of Minnesotans who already rely on St. Agnes' baked goods to fill the bread baskets of most of the state's finer restaurants. So why shouldn't Bowser enjoy the same high standards in his dog biscuits?

Man's best friend doesn't even have to leave the comfort of home to sample such delights as Sausage-y Beagle Biscuits or the Pack's Tangy Treats. Not if he has a human companion with at least a shred of interspecies decency, that is. Klecko's new cookbook, *K-9 Nation Biscuit Book: Baking for Your Best Friend* (Minnesota Historical Society, April 2009), teaches dog owners how to whip up three dozen different canine treats right in their own kitchens.

Klecko will share his dog biscuit-baking secrets in a workshop from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St., Minneapolis. Admission, which includes the museum exhibits, is \$5.00-\$10. Pets, alas, are not invited, but their owners will have the op-



Dan "Klecko" McGleno offers a handmade dog biscuit to his pet Peanut in his Highland Park kitchen. His new *K-9 Nation Biscuit Book* features recipes especially formulated for man's best friend. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

portunity to buy signed copies of Klecko's book.

Dog biscuits are a logical sideline for a man whose lifelong ambition has been to be elbow-deep in dough. Klecko said he has been turning out dog treats "for years," but the general public can buy them only once a month when St. Agnes Baking Co. opens its doors for the retail trade.

K-9 Nation Biscuit Book repre-

sents the next step for a man who owns four dogs and says that some of his happiest times in the kitchen are spent in their salivating company. As food critics, he said, dogs bring a welcome forthrightness to the proceedings. If he passes out bread samples to humans, their good manners have a tendency to kick in. "They can be *too* complimentary," he said.

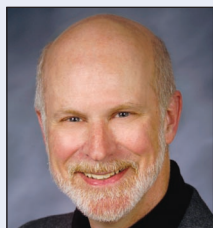
But there's no worry on that score with dogs. "Hand a dog a biscuit he doesn't like," Klecko said, "and just try to get a response."

Indifference is not a reaction Klecko often encounters, but he has learned some interesting things about canine tastes. "I can tell you that dogs definitely prefer seafood

KLECKO ► 21



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20◀ KLECKO

to beef or chicken," he said.

Still, in these tough economic times, how many pet owners are putting crab and shrimp on their own plates, much less in Fido's bowl? Are homemade dog biscuits doomed to go the way of other expensive luxuries of the last decade? Klecko takes the long-range view.

"I'll tell you," he said, "when you feed a city every day like I do, you learn their spending patterns. People are taking on comfort foods."

And that extends to the family dog. "The commitment to pets is huge," he said. "When finances are tough, we may give up that trip to Hawaii, but we won't compromise on our pets."

Klecko, who has baked for presidents, rock stars and professional athletes, so dominates the world of Minnesota bread-baking that—like Madonna—he has achieved the status of a single moniker. It's quite a transformation for a guy who was born Daniel McGleno in Crystal.

"I'm 100 percent mick on my dad's side," he said.

His is a fine pedigree, no doubt, but the Irish are not known for the excellence of their baked goods. No, the future Klecko longed instead to connect with the yeasty traditions of his Polish mother. However, in the days of his youth commercial baking was an enterprise conducted in tight ethnic

enclaves and no Polish master baker was going to reveal the secrets of his trade to a kid named McGleno.

"I wanted to bake with the Poles," he said, "but they said they'd never bake with a mick. So they called me 'klechko,' which meant—or so I was told—'revere your master.'"

Klecko's grasp of the Polish language might have been shaky, but his way with yeast and flour was a credit to his mentors. Over the years, the nickname evolved to its present form, and in the kitchen Klecko is king. Still, he knows that when it comes to human appetites anyway, his bread always faces unseen competition.

"Baking is a personal and emotional thing," he said. "The one person I can never compete with is somebody's grandma. Your grandma is always No. 1."

Maybe that's why Klecko has found comfort in also baking for dogs. "Talk to anyone who makes his own biscuits," he said. "Dogs are so sensitive to smells. They know when you have these treats and they go crazy."

Klecko encourages dog lovers to do their own baking, but just in case they lack the domestic gene, they also may buy samples of the dog biscuit-maker's art from 10:00 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of every month at the St. Agnes Baking Co., 644 Olive St., in the Williams Hill Business Center east of the state Capitol.



Squid ink and olive oil were blended into the black dog biscuits created by Klecko, while red caviar colors the others.

Meatball's PBJ Biscuits

1½ cups whole wheat flour
1½ cups all-purpose flour
¾ cup cracked wheat
1 cup water
½ cup olive oil
2 tablespoons orange flower water (optional)
2 tablespoons peanut butter
1 tablespoon strawberry jelly

• Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

• Place the flours and cracked wheat in a large bowl, mixing loosely by hand or with a wire whisk. Add the water and olive oil, stirring with a sturdy spoon to mix the dry and liquid ingredients. Just before the dough comes together, add the orange flower water, peanut butter and jelly. Mix until the dough is pliable.

• On a floured work surface, roll or pat the dough out to a thickness of ½ inch. Using a pizza cutter, make horizontal and vertical slices through the dough to form cube shapes. Place the biscuits on a baking pan or sheet covered with parchment paper. Bake in a preheated oven for 35-40 minutes.

(Editor's note: Meatball is the Klecko family's chihuahua.)

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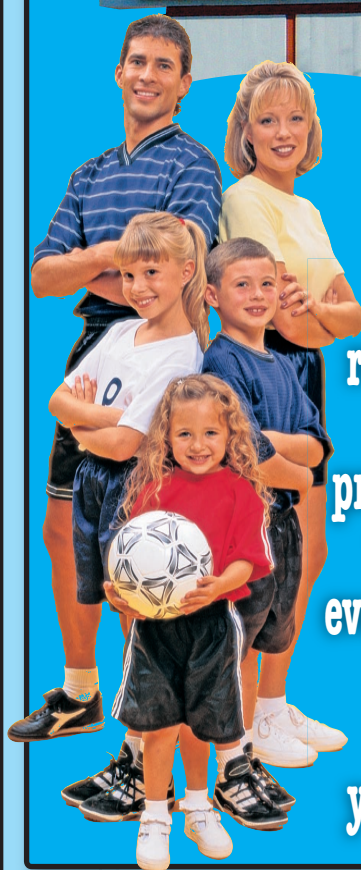
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Food



Home Fires

By Jo Marshall

Baked goods that really rise and shine

There's nothing like praise to send a kitchen junkie on a cooking bender. My daughter Molly recently ushered a college friend home for dinner. The friend's name is Stella, a Korean woman on a student visa and a character all her own.

Effervescent by nature, Stella was literally bouncing up and down as the dishes went in and out of my oven. "I haven't had this meal in over a year!" she exclaimed in a voice exuberant enough to bring my husband out of the living room.

Molly and I flashed each other grinning glances. We knew Stella didn't mean "this meal," i.e., pork roast rubbed with coriander and cumin, side dishes of caramelized carrots and roasted red potatoes and onions, and a salad of spring greens, dried cherries and walnuts. By "this meal," the dorm-dwelling Stella meant a home-cooked dinner, and in all likelihood her enthusiasm was a product of homesickness as much as hunger.

The dinner I was making had a decidedly Western bent and besides, it included a foodstuff unlike any Stella had ever eaten at her family's table in Seoul. As I shoved the carrots into the oven, I asked Molly if she'd like some popovers. It was a rhetorical question, of course. I'm absolutely sure that in the entire history of consumption, no mortal has ever refused a popover, and Molly's reflexive "heck yes" response grabbed her pal's attention.

Stella's eyes widened as she watched our every move: Me whisking eggs and milk and flour, Molly slathering the popover cups with butter and ladling in the batter. Her curiosity swelled along with the popovers, and every few minutes she'd sprint to the oven to monitor their ascension. She commented on their browning and noted how I poked them with a toothpick before giving them just a little more time in the oven.

When we took our seats at the table, I set the popovers right next to Stella, intent on watching her eat them as closely as she had watched us cook them. She pried one open. Her jaw dropped slightly as she appraised its curiously hollow middle. She carefully spread it with butter, watching the butter melt into the eggy orb before lifting it to her mouth.

What followed was a protracted "mmmmmmm," praise on



A basket of gourgères (pronounced goo-ZHEHR) still warm from the oven. PHOTO BY JANET HOSTETTER

Any dispassion my husband may have been harboring that evening was immediately shattered at the table. Biting into a warm gourgères sent him over the moon. He asked me to repeat the name of this wondrous delight over and over and over.

any tongue and the universal expression of contentment. Stella gleefully accepted another popover whenever the basket was passed and, after the table was cleared, diligently copied the recipe for what she charmingly referred to as "poppers."

As I said, praise at the table can send me on a bender, and suddenly I became fixated on the egg's miraculous ability to leaven the most elementary baked goods. I fantasized about popovers flecked with herbs and studded with cheese. My mouth watered (and arteries probably hardened) at the thought of little Yorkshire puddings plopped into the hot drippings of a succulent rib roast of beef. Sweet dreams of clafouti,

the moist and crustless tart of cherries and sweetened batter, captured my imagination.

The cerebral odyssey might have gone on indefinitely, but it was interrupted by long-ago memories of the nights when, as supper ended, Mom would present a platter of cream puffs. They were like edible clouds, similar to popovers but crispier, every bit as hollow yet denser in a way. I'd never made that kind of pastry before, and that simply had to change. It couldn't be that difficult. After all, my mother made it, and though she was no slouch in the kitchen, she was no gourmet. She had six kids to feed and wasn't given to complicated recipes or fussy preparations.

With steely determination, I got out my cookbooks and turned on the oven. I was about to make choux pastry, the dough used for cream puffs, éclairs and those fancy little canapés that you snatch off platters hoisted by white-gloved waiters at soirées to which you wish you were invited weekly but aren't.

The recipe that caught my eye was for gourgères. Studded with gruyère cheese, they sounded delicious. But honestly, I

CHOUX PASTRY ► 24

GOURGÈRES

The most impressive thing about choux pastry may be how simple it is to produce. The batter comes together in minutes. This recipe yields about 20 medium-sized gourgères. Minus the cheese and pepper, you've got the shells for cream puffs.

- 1 cup water
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, diced
- 1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 large eggs (chilled)
- 1 cup coarsely grated gruyère cheese (about 4 ounces)
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Lightly butter two rimmed baking sheets or line them with parchment paper. In a medium saucepan, bring the water, salt and butter to a simmer, whisking until the butter melts. Add the flour and stir rapidly with a wooden spoon until the flour is absorbed, pulls away from the sides of the pan and forms a ball. Continue stirring until a slight film forms on the bottom of the pan. Remove from the heat and cool a minute or two. Then, using an electric mixer, beat in the eggs one at a time. (After the addition of each egg, the dough will break apart into squiggly pieces. Just keep beating until it comes together as a batter. Then add the next egg.) Stir in the pepper and grated cheese.

Drop the rounded tablespoons of the dough onto a baking sheet, spaced about three inches apart. Dampen your fingertip

to smooth any peaks of dough. (Recipes always say to do this, but since the word choux is French for "cabbage," I think you're perfectly justified in leaving them a little crinkled.)

Bake on the center rack until golden brown, 20 to 30 minutes. (Check after 20 minutes; the bottoms can burn easily.) When done, they should be well-browned on the outside but slightly moist in the middle. Transfer to a cooling rack and serve while still warm. (The gourgères may also be prepared a couple of hours ahead of time and then reheated for five minutes or so at 350 degrees before serving.)

Note: To economize and localize, you can substitute a local sharp cheddar for the imported cheese. I'm not sure if they can still be called gourgères, technically, but they scored high marks in my unofficial and undoubtedly biased taste test.

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Flour, butter, eggs, water and a pinch of salt make choux pastry. Add grated Gruyere cheese, and you have gougères. PHOTO BY JANET HOSTETTER

23◀ CHOUX PASTRY

would've made them just to repeat the word. Gougère (pronounced goo-ZHEHR) is one of those French terms that rolls off the tongue like silk and makes you feel oh so sophisticated. Say it out loud, and I guarantee you'll be in the kitchen, too, baking up a batch.

Making choux (it's pronounced "shoo," but don't let that scare you away) is pretty straightforward. Just heat some water in a saucepan, add a pinch of salt and a dab of butter and, when it comes to a simmer, dump in flour and stir like crazy with a wooden spoon until the dough comes off the edges of the pan and clumps in a ball on the spoon. Cool for a minute or two, then add the eggs. At that point, you can drop dollops of dough onto a baking sheet to create the shells for cream puffs or canapés, use a pastry bag to make the elongated ovals for éclairs, or stir in shredded cheese for gougères.

Stella's exuberance for popovers didn't prepare me for my husband's reaction to that first batch of gougères. Like most parties to a well-tested marriage, my husband takes some things for granted, including the expectation of a reasonably nice dinner when I've

spent time in the kitchen. But any dispassion he may have been harboring that evening was immediately shattered at the table. Biting into a warm gougères sent him over the moon. He asked me to repeat the name of this wondrous delight over and over and over, which I was all too happy to do.

As luck would have it, Molly was home for dinner. This time we dispensed with the grinning glances and laughed out loud at the unabashed giddiness of this typically macho guy.

One of the joys of being a cook is that good things never have to come to an end. Stella has asked to be invited back for dinner, and whatever else I serve, choux pastry will be on the menu. This time I think I'll split the recipe: some for gougères, some for dessert.

Maybe I'll get ambitious and make éclairs, or fill the shells with vanilla ice cream and drench them in chocolate sauce for a dessert called profiteroles. In Italian, that's pronounced pro-fée-the-ROH-lehs, and it's also fun to say. But I suspect I'll indulge in a little nostalgia and stuff the shells the way my mother did, with whipped cream spiked with cocoa. There's nothing like fantasizing about what was and what can be all in a single batch.

Business Briefs

Che Bella has opened at 611 Grand Ave. The boutique sells bridal dresses, lingerie, veils, jewelry and other wedding accessories, custom-designed tiaras and special occasion gifts. A grand opening with live music, live models and refreshments will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14.

The Highland Business Association is seeking volunteers to join its Membership Committee. The time commitment is around one or two hours per month with occasional e-mails or phone calls between meetings. Call membership co-chairs Sylvia Lee at 651-699-4605 or Angel Malone at 651-365-5060.

William Marvy Company, 1540 St. Clair Ave., will be featured in the "How It's Made" program at 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, on the Discovery Channel. The segment will give a behind-the-scenes look at how a barber pole is made. Family owned and operated since 1936, William Marvy is the only remaining manufacturer of barber poles in North America. Two of its poles are in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Midway Chamber of Commerce will hold a membership luncheon on Wednesday, May 20, at Legacy Funeral Home, 225 Eaton St. Featured speakers will be Kou Vang, former Midway Chamber chair and owner of Legacy Funeral Home, and Bruce Corrie, dean of the College of Business and Organizational Leadership at Concordia University. The program opens at 11:30 a.m. with registration. The lunch and program will follow from noon to 1:30. For reservations, call 651-646-2636.

Tom Trutna of Highland Park, president of Big Ink, an Eagan-based graphics company, learned in April that his firm was the winner of 3M Company's nationwide "Wrap to Win a Roush" Contest. Big Ink's fleet of Priuses, designed to promote the sustainability message, "Little things make a BIG difference," was deemed the best by judges from the Society for Environmental Graphics Design and the Small Business Administration. The award came with a new 2009 Stage 3 Roush Ford Mustang worth over \$50,000.

Curves of Minneapolis, 5007 34th Ave. S., raised more than 4,000 pounds of food in March to benefit the Minnehaha Food Shelf.

An Export Essentials seminar on market overviews and trade statistics will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Thursday, May 21, at the Minnesota Trade Office, located on the skyway level of the First National Bank Building, 332 Minnesota St. Taught by professionals, the seminar will cover how to select the most promising international markets using export.gov and other print and online resources. The fee of \$55 includes lunch. For reservations, call 651-259-7495.

A Home Improvement Expo will replace the annual auto show during Highland Fest 2009 on July 17-19. Exhibitor space is limited to the first 30 businesses to apply. The 26th annual festival will also feature live music, a juried art fair, a business fair, a 5K run, a strongman competition and more than 20 food vendors. For information, visit www.highlandfest.com or call 651-699-9042.

The Kiosk

Wednesday/May 6

A GARLIC MUSTARD PULL will take place from 6:00 to 8:00 this evening at the Crosby Farm Park habitat restoration area. Volunteers will be asked to sign a Pledge to Pull, promising to return to remove garlic mustard for an additional six hours before June 1. Those who put in 20 hours will receive a T-shirt. E-mail srich@fmr.org or call 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

Friday/May 8

A FULL MOON WALK honoring the trees will be held at 7:00 this evening at Coldwater Spring in South Minneapolis. From the 54th Street lot off of Hiawatha Avenue, head south past the parking meters, through the cul-de-sac and gates and follow the curving road to the left and then down to the pond, next to the great willow tree.

Saturday/May 9

A WILDFLOWER WALK will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 this morning at Crosby Farm Park. Explore the park's floodplain forests, small ponds and limestone bluffs while searching for early spring blooms with the help of experienced guides from Friends of the Mississippi River and the National Park Service. Register with Sue Rich at srich@fmr.org or 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

A SPRING FEST and flower sale will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today in the parking lot at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Snelling and Goodrich avenues. The day will feature family activities, a garden shop, flowers for Mother's Day and concessions. The Barbary Coast Dixieland Show Band will perform beginning at 3:00 p.m. Call 651-699-5560.

MOTHER'S DAY will be celebrated from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today at historic Fort Snelling. Presentations will be made throughout the day by costumed characters representing famous women who called the fort home, including Abigail Snelling and Harriet Scott. Admission is \$5.00-\$8.00. Call 612-726-1171.

AN ARCHAEOLOGY FAIR and open house will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today and noon to 5:00 p.m. tomorrow at Fort Snelling. The weekend will feature free pottery-making and flint-knapping demonstrations, video and archaeology lab tours outside of the fort, along with historic games, cooking and a scavenger hunt inside. Admission to the fort is \$5.00-\$8.00. Call 612-726-1171.

INTERMEDIATE GENEALOGY classes will be offered this morning at the Minnesota Historical Society Library, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The classes include "Immigration and Naturalization" at 10:00 a.m. and "Migration and Finding European Origins" at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$28-\$32. Call 651-259-3300.

A PANCAKE BREAKFAST will be served from 7:00 a.m. to noon today at Central Baptist Church, 420 N. Roy St. The cost is \$5.00, and free for children 12 and younger with a paying adult. Proceeds will help furnish a new computer lab. A garage sale also will be held until 5:00 this evening.

A MOTHER'S DAY DINNER and dance will be held by St. Francis de Sales and St. James at 6:00 this evening at the St. Francis



Déjà vu?

Castle Building and Remodeling owner Loren Schirber holds a photo of the PT Cruiser that drove into his new studio on Snelling and Jefferson avenues last month. Coincidentally, property manager Mark Nedoroski had a photo of a Model T that crashed into the spot nearly 70 years ago when it was Porte's Grocery.

PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Gym, 426 S. Osceola Ave. Tickets are \$5.00-\$10. Bowling for children is \$5.00. Call 651-228-1169 or visit www.sf-sj.org.

Sunday/May 10

ICE CREAM SUNDAY SUNDAY in celebration of Mother's Day will be held from noon to 4:00 p.m. today at the Gibbs Museum of Pioneer & Dakota Life, 2097 W. Larpentur Ave. Visitors will be able to sample Gibbs homemade ice cream. Admission is \$4.50-\$7.50, but mothers will be admitted free when accompanied by their children. Call 651-646-8629.

A MOTHER'S DAY TOUR focusing on women's roles at the James J. Hill House will be offered at 4:30 this afternoon. The tour will highlight the lives of Mrs. Hill, her friends and daughters, and the many female servants who lived and worked at 240 Summit Ave. Afterward, moms will gather in the drawing room for an hour-long class on modern-day relaxation techniques. Admission is \$10-\$12. Call 651-297-2555.

CASS GILBERT TOURS for Mother's Day will be offered at 2:00 and 3:30 this afternoon beginning at Lookout Park on Summit Avenue and Ramsey Street. The tours are offered by the Cass Gilbert Society and will feature homes that he designed on Summit and Ramsey hills. The cost is \$10-\$15 and includes a tour book. Call Marjorie Pearson at 612-338-1987.

Monday/May 11

THE WEST 7TH/FORT ROAD Federation will hold its next regular board meeting at 7:00 this evening at 974 W. 7th St. Call 651-298-5599.

Tuesday/May 12

THE COMO-MIDWAY LA LECHE League will meet at 7:00 this evening to discuss the advantages of breastfeeding. Current and expectant mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. For meeting location, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

A CONVERSATIONAL SALON will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. The poetry of Mary Oliver will be read. The salon is free, but donations are requested for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE of St. Paul will hold its annual meeting at 7:00 this evening in the new Rossy and Richard Shaller Family Shalom East Campus, 740 Kay Ave. The meeting is free and open to the public. Tours of the Shalom campus will be available beginning at 6:00 p.m. There will be a board election, awards, students presenting excerpts from *Joseph* and *the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and an ice cream social. Call 651-698-0767.

Wednesday/May 13

YMCA CAMPS Widjiwagan and du Nord will hold their annual spring garage sale in the Merchandise Mart at the State Fairgrounds from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. today through Friday, with a bag sale from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Call 651-645-6605.

THE URBAN BIRD FESTIVAL will run from today through Monday, May 18, throughout Ramsey County. The free celebration will feature guided bird

walks at many area parks and golf courses, including one at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, May 16, at Crosby Park. There also will be a bird expo and a spaghetti dinner. Visit www.co.ramsey.mn.us/parks/NaturalResources/urbanbirdfestival.htm.

Thursday/May 14

A WORLD WAR II HISTORY Round Table on "Glider Operations in WWII" will take place at 7:00 this evening at historic Fort Snelling. Gerard Devlin, author of "Silent Wings," will relate how successful German glider operations led to the development of a U.S. Army glider program. Veterans who flew and fought with gliders will tell their stories about the "flying coffins." Admission is \$5.00, or free for students. Call 612-726-1171.

THE GREAT RIVER GATHERING, formerly known as the Millard Fillmore Dinner, will be held by the St. Paul Riverfront Corporation beginning at 5:00 this evening at St. Paul RiverCentre. For information on the 15th annual "town dinner," call 651-293-6860.

Friday/May 15

GRAND OLD ST. MARK'S DAYS will take place from 5:00 to 10:00 this evening and noon to 10:00 p.m. tomorrow at St. Mark's Church, 1983 Dayton Ave. The 10th annual carnival will feature rides, games, a raffle, face painting, homemade pies, a country store, entertainment and more. New this year will be a photo booth, button maker, wine bottle bar and chocolate challenge. Call 651-644-3380.

THE ART OF FRIENDSHIP will take place from 6:00 to 8:30 tonight at Summit Brewery, 910 Montreal Circle. The evening will feature a silent auction with art created by young adults with disabilities as well as local artists. There also will be music, hors d'oeuvres and beverages supplied by Summit Brewery. Proceeds will benefit the Highland Friendship Club, which provides activities for young adults with disabilities and their peers. Admission is free. Call 651-698-4096 or visit www.highlandfriendshipclub.org.

Saturday/May 16

AN ANNIE'S KITCHEN program featuring an old-fashioned breakfast on the front porch of the Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St., will be offered at 9:00 and 10:15 this morning. Participants will make a Swedish omelet on the wood-burning stove and learn about the life of a servant in the Victorian era. Then they will enjoy the results with a full breakfast. The cost is \$17-\$20. Call 651-296-8760.

A KIDSPARK CARNIVAL will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today to celebrate the drop-in child-care center's new home at 525 Pelham Blvd. in Desnoyer Park. The carnival will include games, face painting, spin art, inflatable slides, obstacle courses, food and a silent auction. Call 651-603-0144 or visit www.kidsparkdropin.org.

THE MENDOTA RENDEZVOUS will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today and 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. tomorrow at the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. The afternoon will include

THE O'SHAUGHNESSY
at the College of St. Catherine

Rose

Starring
Olympia Dukakis

Sunday, May 31
at 7:00pm

Academy Award winning star of **Moonstruck** and **Steel Magnolias** comes to the stage in a "dramatic reading" of her West End and Broadway hit **Rose**, the story of a survivor. Inspired by the real story of his maternal grandmother, playwright Mari Sherman has crafted an unforgettable portrait of a Jewish octogenarian looking back on her birth in the Ukraine, her escape from the Nazis, and her emigration to America.

Tickets: \$76 (Golden Circle), Adult \$43, Season Sampler \$39 and Groups +10.

For Tickets Call or Visit The O'Shaughnessy Box Office, at 651-690-6700 or buy online at www.ticketmaster.com
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costumed reenactors, games, contests of strength and cunning, and house tours of the site's historic homes. Historic craft vendors will also be on hand. Admission is \$4.00-\$6.00. Call 651-452-1596.

"WHEN CRISIS OCCURS," a workshop on dealing with a mental health emergency, will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to noon today at NAMI Minnesota, 800 Transfer Road, Suite 31. Call Roxanne Anderson at 651-645-2948, ext. 114.

A "DOCTOR WHO" discussion group will meet at 10:30 this morning in the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The group will watch an episode and then discuss it. All who follow the good Doctor and his amazing adventures are welcome.

THE BREWERY NEIGHBORHOOD Garage Sale will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today on Jefferson Avenue, Duke Street and Colborne Street, just east of West 7th Street at Jefferson Avenue. Several households are participating. Call Denise Wickiser at 651-222-0307.

Sunday/May 17

A **MENDOTA WALKING TOUR** will be offered at 1:00 this afternoon from the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. The 90-minute tour will include many original landmarks in one of the oldest towns in the state. Afterward, light refreshments will be served in the Dupuis house. The cost is \$4.00-\$6.00. Call 651-452-1596.

EUPHORIA SALON, 256 S. Cleveland Ave., will hold its fifth annual Hair Cut-A-Thon to benefit the Breast Cancer Awareness Association of Minnesota from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today. For a \$40

donation, participants will receive a hair cut, style, and hair products. They will also enjoy appetizers provided by ACME Deli, the Highland Grill, Pizza Luce, Punch Pizza and more. Don't need a hair cut? Donate \$10 and you'll still receive hair products and appetizers. Call 651-698-6385.

Monday/May 18

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE support group meetings from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening, and on the third Monday of every month, at Twin Cities Friends Meeting, 1725 Grand Ave. Call 651-642-1313.

A **ST. PAUL JUDGES FORUM** on "Charting the Course of Criminal Justice in an Economic Downturn" will be held at 6:30 this evening at the Western District police Office, 389 N. Hamline Ave. The forum will feature city and county judges discussing proposed changes to state sentencing guidelines to help deal with the state's \$4.6 billion budget deficit and relieve pressure on the court system.

Tuesday/May 19

A **CONVERSATIONAL SALON** will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. Author Frank Shima will read from his published books and may play the button accordion. The salon is free, but donations are requested for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

Wednesday/May 20

A **FREE TOUR OF RICE PARK** will be offered at 10:00 this morning starting from Landmark Center. Tour-goers will hear of the historic secrets of the unique buildings that surround one of St. Paul's most beloved parks. To register, call 651-292-3063.

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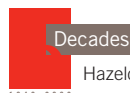


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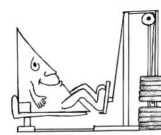
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On the Town

Where Twin Cities meet University and Prior corner's brush with greatness is revisited in exhibit

By JANE McCLURE

With its mix of warehouses, small retail and service businesses, a Menards store, motel and restaurants, the commercial district around University and Prior avenues may not draw much interest today from passersby. However, a little over a century ago it was known as the place "where the Twin Cities meet" and was one of the hubs of what civic leaders of that era thought could be a single great metropolis someday.

University and Prior has "a history that isn't as well known as it should be," said Brian McMahon, who has put together an exhibit on the intersection's storied past. The exhibit, which is being displayed through October 1 at Landmark Center, will also be the topic of two upcoming programs at Landmark Center.

A panel discussion on "Merged Twin Cities: Past, Present and Future" will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 21. Local historian Donald Empson, Macalester College geography professor David Lanegran, St. Paul City Council member Russ Stark and Minneapolis City Council member Cam Gordon will discuss the movement in the late 1880s to merge St. Paul and Minneapolis into a single city.

The movement was largely the brainchild of then-Archbishop John Ireland, who wanted to christen the merged city Paulopolis. He proposed moving the Union Depot, the state Capitol and the St. Paul Cathedral from downtown St. Paul to what is now the Midway area. The Cathedral would have been on Prior Avenue near the present-day University of St. Thomas. The state Capitol would have been on the current site of Town and Country Club golf course, and Union Depot would have been in the West Midway commercial area.

Other civic leaders fancied renaming the merged Twin Cities as Federal City. They saw it as a Midwestern version of Washington, D.C. The name Federal City even briefly popped up on letterhead and postmarks sent from the Merriam Park neighborhood.

"Saddles and Sliders: The History of White Castle in the Twin Cities" will be addressed by Twin Cities corporate historian Jim Graf at noon on Tuesday, June 2. A White Castle restaurant stood for many years at 1945 University Ave. and is fondly remembered by longtime residents of the area.

Another restaurant, this one on the northwest corner of University and Prior,

A factory that was built near University and Prior in the 1920s for the American Radiator Company was converted during World War II for the construction of military gliders. After the war, several former military cryptologists founded technology companies near the intersection that evolved into Remington Rand, Sperry Rand and Univac.

had a plaque on its floor that celebrated the intersection as the place "Where the Twin Cities Meet." The restaurant and plaque are gone, but the area around the intersection is still the geographic center of the Twin Cities and it had a significant impact on how the Twin Cities developed, according to McMahon.

"I'm a strong believer in the value of learning from history and learning how history can shape an area for years to come," said McMahon, who is executive director of University United, a coalition of neighborhood and business organizations headquartered at 1954 University Ave. It is especially important to keep that history in mind during the planning of the Central Corridor, McMahon said, referring to the proposed light-rail line that could pass through the intersection as early as 2014.



Hamburgers were a nickle at the old White Castle restaurant at 1945 University Ave.

The exhibit on University and Prior was funded by a Minnesota Historical Society grant that McMahon sought after learning bits and pieces about the area's colorful past. "History is such a great organizing tool," he said. "There's no better way to get people connected."

Development around the intersection took off in the 1870s and 1880s with the building of Union Park and Iris Park, two adjacent exurban neighborhoods that were linked by train and later by streetcar to St. Paul and Minneapolis. Union Park began as an amusement park, but its developers changed the focus to housing within a few years to take advantage of the burgeoning Twin Cities population.

Railroad yards were developed west of Prior, largely under the leadership of local railroad magnate James J. Hill. The

Minnesota Transfer Railroad yard became a hub for shipping in short order, and a variety of industries sprang up around it.

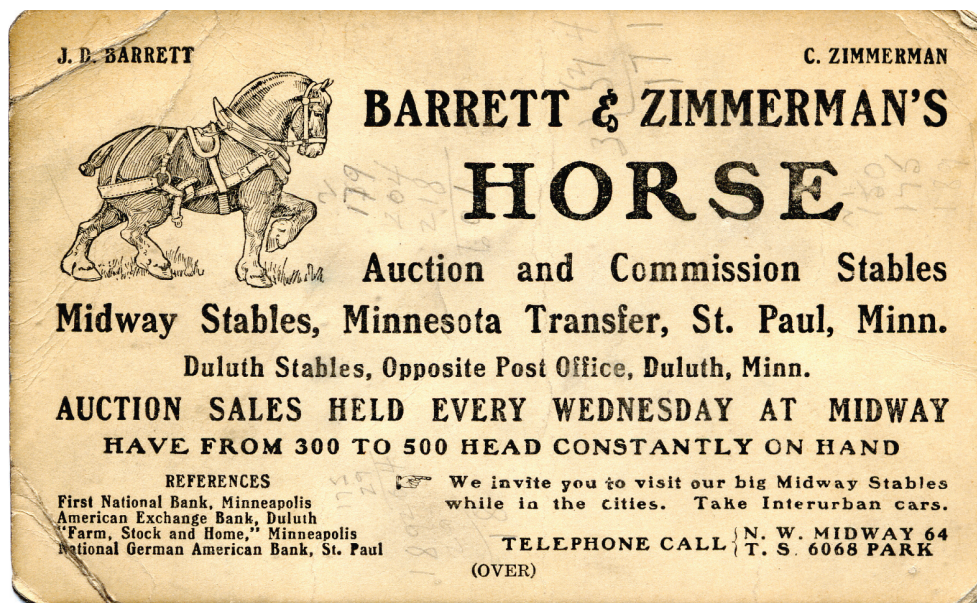
Northeast of the intersection was Barrett and Zimmerman, a large horse trading and livestock business. Barrett and Zimmerman was one of the largest buyers and sellers of horses in the U.S. Four generations of Zimmermans did business on the corner, and the Zimmerman Building still bears the family name.

"So many of the businesses at that intersection have been in the same family for multiple generations," McMahon notes in his introduction to the exhibit.

One current business that has deep roots at the corner is Twin City Saw and Service at 1932 University Ave. It was spun off years ago from Twin City Hardware Company, which first opened in 1883 and is still doing business, though not at University and Prior.

A factory that was built near the intersection in the 1920s for the American Radiator Company was converted during World War II for the construction of military gliders. After the war, several former military cryptologists founded technology companies near the intersection that evolved into Remington Rand, Sperry Rand and Univac and led to the founding of Control Data. Iris Park Place, a building near the intersection that originally housed Krank's Manufacturers, a cosmetics and toiletry company, served for a time as the headquarters of Northwest Airlines.

According to McMahon, the corner of University and Prior can expect to see further changes in the years ahead as a result of the evolving real estate market, the proposed Central Corridor line and other forces. "But if you understand how an area grew and developed," he said, "you can better prepare for the changes ahead."



This turn-of-the-20th-century postcard advertised the weekly horse auction at Barrett & Zimmerman's Midway Stables at University and Prior avenues.

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On the Town *Briefly*

Theater

Merriam Park actress Sally Wingert stars in the one-woman drama *The 2.5-Minute Ride*, playing through May 10 on the Minnesota Jewish Theater Company's stage at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$18-\$25, \$12 for student rush. Call 651-647-4315.

The True History of Coca-Cola in Mexico, a bubbly comedy about hypocrisy and the global economy, is being performed through May 10 by Teatro del Pueblo. Written by Patrick Scott and Aldo Velasco, it follows the antics of two filmmakers and their misguided attempt to expose the exploitation of Mexican workers. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for students and seniors. Call 1-800-838-3006.

The Price, Arthur Miller's penetrating family drama, is playing through May 17 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. It tells of estranged brothers—one a cop who sacrificed his education to care for his ailing parent and the other an eminent surgeon who walked out on the family to concentrate on his career—who meet up after 16 years. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010.

The story of the relationship between a Rwandan genocide survivor and a struggling writer, *I have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to Me by a Young Lady from Rwanda* is playing through May 17 at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. Directed by Warren C. Bowles, it stars Sonja Parks and Patrick Bailey. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$34-\$39 with discounts for seniors and theater-goers age 30 and under. Call 651-291-7005.

20 Days to Find a Wife, a new musical comedy by Laurie Flanigan and Marya Hart about finding true love on a deadline, is being performed through May 31 by the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Based on a true story, it tells of a Lake Michigan lighthouse keeper who is compelled by his boss



Matt and Shannon Heaton (above) headline a night of Irish music beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at the new Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. The Heaton, who hail from Boston, perform both traditional and original songs on guitar, Irish flute and bouzouki. Also performing will be the Twin Cities duo of Brian Miller and Norah Rendell, a 2008 Canadian Traditional Singer of the Year nominee. Admission is \$12, \$10 for students.

to leave his island post for the first time in nine years to search for a wife and is granted only 20 days leave to do so. Show times are 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2:00 p.m. Sunday and Saturday, May 16. Tickets are \$28-\$32, \$25-\$30 for seniors, \$20 for students. Call 651-292-4323.

The legacy of global violence is explored in *He Woke Up in a Strange Place Called Home and Although Looking for Bed He Kept Finding Death Instead*, a production of Skewed Visions that opens on Friday, May 8, at 142 S. Cambridge St. Inspired by George Büchner's *Woyzeck* and *The Odyssey* of Homer, the interdisciplinary drama moves in and out of homes, garages, sidewalks and streets to comment on America's growing desire to escape history. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Fridays through Sundays through May 31. Tickets are \$10-18. Call 1-800-838-3006.

Playlist: America '09, a play by Aditi Brennan Kapil and the Breaking Ice Company, will be presented May 8-23 by the Pillsbury House Theatre, 3501 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The thought-provoking drama tells of four Americans linked by their liking for

the same American radio station and headed on a collision course with change. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 3:00 p.m. Sunday. For ticket information, call 612-825-0459 or visit www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org.

Angels In America: Millennium Approaches, the first play in a two-play set by Tony Kushner, will be performed May 14-24 by People Sittin' Around Doin' Theatre. The drama tells of two couples whose relationships are disintegrating against a backdrop of the greed, conservatism and sexual politics of the 1980s. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Lowry Lab Theatre, 350 St. Peter St. Tickets are \$14, \$12 for students and seniors, or whatever you can afford on May 17 and 24. Call 1-800-838-3006.

Lex-Ham Community Theater will play host to a free reading of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Three Tall Women* by Edward Albee on Friday, May 15. The free program opens with a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. at 1184 Portland Ave. No registration is required. Just bring a dish to share and a copy of the play if you can. Call 651-644-3366.

In Another's Size, a fast-paced comedy about teenagers switching bodies with other teenagers, will be performed at 7:00 p.m. Saturdays, May 16 and 23, at SteppingStone Theater, 55 N. Victoria St. The new play was written and will be performed by the students of SteppingStone's Produce It class taught by Twin Cities playwright and actor Joseph Scrimshaw. Tickets are \$9.00 \$7.00 for students and seniors. Call 651-225-9265.

Music

The a capella ensemble InVocation will blend traditional choral works with expressions of Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Shinto and American Indian faith on Friday, May 8. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at Macalester-Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave. It will include works by Bobby McFerrin, J. David Moore and Tom Keesecker. Admission is free, but donations will be taken for Second Harvest Heartland.

The Black Dog Block Party returns to St. Paul's Lowertown on Saturday, May 9, with an afternoon of live music and street dancing, arts and crafts and roving entertainers. Featured will be the American country, Latin dance and Afro-pop sounds of the Brass Messengers and the funky French band Tarace Boulba. The bands Aviette, Cafe Accordion Orchestra, Farewell Pluto, Junkyard Empire and Maria Isa and El Arco Iris will also perform. The free event will run from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. at 4th and Broadway streets. Beer, wine and other refreshment will be available. Call 651-228-9274.

Great female vocalists of the 1950s will be saluted on Sunday, May 10, with a live performance of the music of Rosemary Clooney, Patti Page, Connie Francis, Doris Day and Peggy Lee. The program will be presented as part of a Mother's Day brunch at the Lowry Theater, 16 W. 5th St. The food will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the show will follow at 12:30 p.m. Tickets at \$49 are available by calling 1-800-982-2787.

"Pretty as a Picture," a free Mother's Day concert, will be presented by the St. Paul Civic Symphony at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, May 10, at Landmark Center. Jeffrey Stirling will conduct a program that includes Virgil Thomson's *Bugles and Birds*, Debussy's *Three Nocturnes*, Piazzolla's *Tango* and

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The Hill House Chamber Players will perform at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 11, in the art gallery of the James J. Hill House 240 Summit Ave. Clarinetist Joseph Longo, violist Nathalie Cruden and violinists Catherine Schubilske and Helen Chang will join the quintet in a program that includes Duo for clarinet and viola by Rebecca Clarke, Concerto for guitar and piano by Ferdinando Carulli, Las Presencias No. 6 by Carlos Guastavino and Clarinet Quintet in B minor by Johannes Brahms. Tickets are \$16, which includes refreshments and a tour of the Hill House. Call 651-297-2555.

Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, promoting their new album "Working on a Dream," return to the Xcel Energy Center at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 11. Tickets are \$67 and \$97. Call 651-989-5151.

American popular music of the 1940s will be performed at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 12, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Singers Andrea Leap and Patty Nieman and pianist Jerry Rubino will play songs by such breakthrough artists as Harry James, Johnny Mercer and Frank Loesser. Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and students, and \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-259-3000.

Pianist Steven C will perform music from his new five-CD set "Got You Covered!" on Friday, May 15, in a benefit for Hearthstone of Minnesota, a residential treatment program for troubled youths. The formal event will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Steven C's home at 340 Summit Ave. For tickets, priced at \$50, call Melissa at 651-457-2629 extension 325. Steven C will also perform at 7:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Sunday, May 16 and 17. The latter three concerts are free, but reservations are required by visiting www.stevencmusic.com.

Ancia Saxophone Quartet, featuring Angela Wyatt, Joan Hutton, David Milne and Matthew Sintchak, will perform works by Chick Corea, Jean Rivier, Jeff Myers, Chris Rutkowski, Richard Rodney Bennett and Ramon Ricker on Friday, May 15. The music begins at 7:30 p.m., at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Pkwy. in Minneapolis. Admission is free.

Macalester-Groveland singer-songwriter Joe Carey will celebrate the release of his new "Sunflower Soul" CD on Saturday, May 16, at Tiffany Lounge, 2051 Ford Pkwy. Backed by a full band, Carey will perform at 10:00 p.m.

Fall Out Boy's "Believers Never Die Part Deux" tour will visit Roy Wilkins Auditorium on Sunday, May 17. Cobra Starship, All Time Low, Metro Station and Hey Monday will also perform in the 7:00 p.m. show. Tickets are \$35. Call 651-989-5151.

Exhibits

Frameworks Gallery, 2022A Ford Pkwy., is showing the hauntingly beautiful figurative photographs of Rhea Pappas through June 2. Call 651-698-3372.

The prints of Jon Neuse and the pottery of Jason Bohnert, Heather Mae Erickson and Peter Jadoonath will be displayed through June 14 at Grand Hand Gallery, 619 Grand Ave. An opening reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, May 8. Call 651-312-1122.

"Saib Kuv (See the Hmong in Me)," featuring digitally altered photos, poetry and prose by emerging Hmong-American artists, is on view through July 24 in the Third Floor Gallery at Metropolitan State University, 645 E. 7th St. An open discussion about what it means to be Hmong in Minnesota will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9.

Laughing Waters Studio, 3718 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. in Minneapolis, will present its second annual student show of Chinese

calligraphy and paintings from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday through Sunday, May 8-10. Call 612-333-1881.

More than 2,500 original paintings, including several by Highland Park artist Barb Parisien, will be on view May 14-16 during the seventh annual Art on a Line show and sale sponsored by the Northstar Watercolor Society. The free event will run from noon to 9:00 p.m. Thursday and from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Fine Arts Building at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

New pottery by McKnight artists Greg Crowe, Andrea Leila Denecke, Marko Fields, Lee Love, Margaret O'Rorke and Alyssa Wood will be shown from May 15 through July 5 at the Northern Clay Center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. An opening reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 15. Call 612-339-8007.

Books

Amy Stewart, author of *Wicked Plants: A Book of Botanical Atrocities*, will speak on Thursday, May 7. From strychnine to castor bean, poison sumac to monkshood, carnivorous plants to weeds that spontaneously combust, Stewart's talk will cover which plant killed Abe Lincoln's mother, which plant has killed 90 million people and which shrub ignited a global war. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. in Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Tickets are \$35. A reception follows. Call 651-643-3601.

Ramsey Hill author Patricia Hampl will read from the anthology *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape* at 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 11, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The book brings together 45 poets and writers to create more than 850 original definitions for words that describe the lands and waters of the U.S. Admission is free. Call 651-222-3242.

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Rita Dove will discuss her new book *Sonata Mulattica* as part of the "Talking Volumes" program at 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 11, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. The narrative tells of mixed-race virtuoso violinist George Polgreen Bridgetower who travels to Vienna to meet Ludwig van Beethoven. Tickets are \$20. Call 651-290-1221.

Minneapolis author Norah Labiner will read from her new book, *German for Travelers: A Novel in 95 Lessons*, on Thursday, May 21. Labiner's third novel follows a Hollywood starlet and a romance writer who travel to Berlin to uncover the mystery surrounding their great-grandfather, a Jewish pioneer of psychoanalysis. The free program will begin at 7:00 p.m., at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. Call 651-222-3242.

Dance

"Flamenco, Heart and Soul," featuring the choreography of Fuego Flamenco's Colette Illarde and guest artists from around the U.S., will be presented May 7-10 at the Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 7:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$22. For reservations, call 612-340-1725.

Ballet Minnesota will present "La Bayadere" on May 8 and 9 at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Professional dancers Oksana Konobeyeva, Andrei Jouravlev and Robert Cleary play the leads in this full-length ballet about a love spurned. Joining them will be company members Julia Heggernes, Jennifer Bennett, Rebecca Pelletier, Allen Gregory and Garvin Jellison. Classical Ballet Academy's "At the Museum" will also be featured in the shows at 7:30 p.m. on Friday

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Circus Juventas, the local youth circus that has been amazing audiences for 15 years with the daring and dexterity of its students, will present its spring show on May 7-17. Performances are at 7:00 p.m. on May 7, 8 and 13-16 and 1:00 p.m. on May 9, 16 and 17 under the big top at 1270 Montreal Ave. Tickets are \$15, \$12.50 for children age 10 and under. Call 651-699-8229.

and Saturday. A third show at 2:00 p.m. Saturday will feature excerpts from "At the Museum," Ballet Minnesota's "La Bayadere" and "Beethoven's 9th Symphony" and Kanopy Dance Company's "Eva in her Garden." Tickets are \$12 to \$26. Call 651-290-1221.

Family

Tiger Tales, a new play about a Hmong-American family struggling to adapt to life in St. Paul, is being presented through May 23 by SteppingStone Theatre in collaboration with Mu Performing Arts. The children in this immigrant family appear stuck until they hear from their grandmother Hmong folktales that connect them to their ancestral culture and help them defeat the "tigers" of American life. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Friday, 3:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and 10:00 a.m. and noon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at SteppingStone, 55 N. Victoria St. Tickets are \$11, \$9.00 for seniors and children ages 2-17. Call 651-225-9265.

"Fidgety Fairytales," a mental health musical for children of all ages, will be presented at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at Monroe Arts Plus School, 810 Palace Ave. Sponsored by the St. Paul Public Schools' Special Education Advisory Council, the hour-long show is produced by the youth of Open Up Theatre. Admission is free. Call Amy at 651-767-8330.

"Saturday Live!" free entertainment for children beginning at 11:15 a.m. Saturdays at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., will feature Bill the Juggler on May 9.

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will play host to T. A. Barron, author of *Merlin's Dragon Trilogy*, at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 6; Patricia Polacco and her books *Thank You, Mr. Falker* and *In Our Mothers' House*, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 9; a publication party for *Tango: The Tale of an Island Dog* with author Eileen Beha, 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9; Rick Riordan, author of *The Last Olympian*, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave.; a publication party for *Paula Bunyan* with author Phyllis Root, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 16; a book-making workshop with artist Ellen Ferrari, author Lisa Bullard and illustrator Derek Anderson, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Saturday, May 16. Admission is free.

"Europe Day," a free family celebration of all things European, will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Sponsored by Concordia Language Villages and the European Union, the program will include educational activities about eco-building and the energy-efficient German Passive House, hands-on art projects, dancing, a jumbo map of the

continent and Eric Dregni, author of *In Cod We Trust: Living the Norwegian Dream*.

"Bodyology," an interactive program that teaches children to understand and care for their bodies, will be presented on Monday, May 11, by Slim Goodbody. Dressed in a colorful body suit illustrated with the organs, skeleton and muscles, actor John Burstein as Goodbody employs a multimedia show to get his message across to children in grades K-5. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Tickets are \$6.50. For reservations, visit www.slimgoodbody.com.

The Loki Puppet Players will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the St. Paul Public Library's Jemne Stage on Saturday, May 16, with a modern retelling of the classic tale "The Three Little Pigs." The program will begin at 11:15 a.m. at the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Then at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 17, "Three Little Kittens" and "Old Mother Hubbard" will be performed with puppets from the library's vintage Steiff collection. Both programs are free. A reception will follow on Sunday. Visit www.sppl.org.

Film

Blessed is the Match, a documentary about World War II poet, paratrooper and resistance fighter Hannah Senesh, will be shown at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. In a mission to rescue Hungary's Jews, Senesh parachuted behind enemy lines and was captured, tortured and ultimately executed by the Nazis. Tickets at \$5.00 are available at the JCC's front desk. Call 651-698-0751.

Et cetera

"Sample Night Live," the monthly cross-section of Twin Cities talent, will return at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, to the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. G-rated Act 1 will feature the traditional Japanese drumming of Mu Daiko; a scene from the History Theatre's current production, *20 Days to Find a Wife*; a preview of Silent But Deadly Productions' film, *Why Am I in a Box?*; the acoustic music of Richard Griffith, Wonder Kid Theatre from SteppingStone Theatre, the band Marvelle and painter Linnea Doyle. Playing in Unrated Act 2 will be a preview of Cricket Films' *The Hagstone Demon*; People Sittin' Around Doin' Theatre doing *Angels in America*; poetry-slammer Inky, improvisational comedy by Splendid Things and the band Capital Sons. Admission is \$20, \$10 for students and seniors, \$5.00 for children ages 5-10. Visit www.samplenightlive.com

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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Ernie Banks would love his idea

Many years ago, Major League Baseball fans would check their teams' baseball schedules in search of the dates for doubleheaders, which Ernie Harwell, the long-time voice of the Detroit Tigers, used to promote as, "two for the price of one today at the ballpark." However, with the exception of rainouts, twin bills have fallen by the wayside. (Minnesota fans, take note: When the Twins get rained out at home next year, they'll likely see day-night games instead of back-to-back afternoon or evening games. The gate, not the game, is the thing with MLB teams these days.)

Longtime Henry Sibley baseball coach Greg Fehrman thinks it's time to introduce doubleheaders at the prep level. "I've proposed this idea before and we'd like to do so again," he said. "What I'd like to see us consider is to follow what the MIAC does—play a midweek doubleheader and then do it again on Saturday as well. If you do that, you don't have to travel as much. Since we play everybody in our league twice, we wouldn't have to go to, say, Mahtomedi every year. It'd be every other year instead."

Sibley plays in the Suburban East Conference, which entails consuming considerable travel expenses.

Fehrman said he's thinking of more than just money and simplifying scheduling. "We need more practice time," he said. "Also, most of us don't have enough pitching to begin with. If you're playing just twice a week, you can save your arms."

Minnehaha Academy athletic director Ken Anderson isn't so sure. "It might work in softball because the games don't take as long," he said, "but I'm not sure you can start baseball games early enough to get two in." According to him, there would also be the issue of having to get kids out of school early at least once a week, which never sits well with school administrators and parents.

Anderson also has a particular reason to be pessimistic about such a plan for his teams. "We play at Fort Snelling and we need to be done by a certain time so they can get their night games in," he said. "We don't have ball fields on campus any more. If we got rained out, we might have trouble rescheduling there."

St. Paul Academy co-athletic director Dave Montgomery sees another problem. "We only play a round and a half in our league (the Tri-Metro Conference)," he said. "I'm not sure how you work it out in that case." Still, Montgomery thinks it's an idea worth exploring. "We have a conference meeting coming up and it's worth discussing there," he said.

Fehrman's idea may gather a bit more steam when school administrators start looking at budgets for the upcoming sea-

WRIGHT CALL ► 33

Stealing the show

Redhawk softball is off and running this season

BY BILL WAGNER

The key for the Minnehaha Academy softball team this year is to not lose sight of the players' strengths. Despite several blowout victories this spring, the Redhawks are not a bunch of fence-busters. They make their living on solid pitching, competent hitting and good speed on the basepaths.

"We're a team built on running—we want to run whenever we can," coach Mike DiNardo said. "We hit well, but to generate runs we need to bunt and we need to steal."

Minnehaha (9-2 overall, 6-0 in the Tri-Metro Conference) is among the favorites to win the league crown this spring. The Redhawks were coming off a 12-1 thrashing of Breck on April 27, and before that had notched lopsided victories of 24-1 over Brooklyn Center and 15-0 against St. Croix Lutheran.

The team pounded out 11 hits in pasting Breck, and the other routs found Minnehaha running the bases almost at will. All of which reminded DiNardo that the Hawks tend to fare best when they are not swinging for the fences.

"We don't really have home run hitters," he said, "but we can be successful if we make contact and use our speed. We have good speed throughout the lineup."

Minnehaha also has been stingy on defense, allowing only six runs in its nine wins to date. Senior Emily Engdahl is the Hawks' ace and has all of their wins to go with an ERA of around 1.10. Engdahl, who has been on the varsity since the 7th grade, hurled a gem against Breck, surrendering only one run on four hits. She is not a flamethrower, but she doesn't have to be.

"Emily's really clicking now," DiNardo said. "She doesn't throw very hard, but she changes speeds well and she doesn't walk people. We have good team defense and she gets the ball over and allows us to use that defense."

Senior Liz Mrozek is solid at shortstop and adds a mean bat out of the No. 3 spot in the order. She can make the plays in the field and can hit for extra bases. She had four RBIs in a game late last month, including a base-clearing triple. Mrozek also pitches some as a closer. She has -



Minnehaha senior AnnaMarie Martino slides home safely during the Redhawks' 10-0 win over Blake on April 29. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

made a nice comeback from a wrist injury suffered last summer.

No matter who pitches for the Redhawks, they have a solid battery mate in senior AnnaMarie Martino, who is solid behind the plate and intimidates would-be base-stealers. She is also very fast, which makes her an ideal lead-off hitter, a rarity for a catcher.

At first base is sophomore Sarah Winter, a prolific hitter who also has a good glove around the bag. Winter, who bats cleanup, has been vying for the team lead in RBIs.

The third baseman is sophomore Margo Lund, who got some varsity experience last year, mostly as a utility player. "She's settled in," DiNardo said. "She's shown us a good glove and she's coming around offensively."

Senior second baseman Sarah Lucht is the model of consistency as a three-year starter. "She's very smart, very steady, and she sucks up a lot of balls," DiNardo said. Lucht bats ninth in the order, but her ability to make contact makes her a "second leadoff hitter," he said.

The Hawks are young in the outfield, but they also have some skill. Freshman left fielder Cyrie Holman is still learning her position, but DiNardo likes what he has seen and believes she may also be a future infielder.

In center, junior Analisa Ballinger can catch everything. She bats eighth, but DiNardo said she has a good swing and power-hitting potential.

Freshman right fielder Andrea Scharf is a converted infielder. DiNardo also has not ruled out returning her to the infield next season.

Martino, Engdahl, Mrozek and Lucht all are bonafide threats to steal at any time.

The Hawks have posted some quality wins this spring, including a 3-2 thriller over annual state contender, St. Anthony Village, and the shutout over St. Croix Lutheran, which was tougher than the score indicated.

"That team is well-coached," said DiNardo about the Crusaders. "They al-

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Talented STA baseballers have big bats, youth on their side

BY BILL WAGNER

Paul Weinberg didn't think about rebuilding when he took over as varsity baseball coach at St. Thomas Academy before the start of this season. He thought about building the program to the same level of some of the academy's other successful sports programs.

"My goal is to elevate baseball at STA," said Weinberg, who had previously served a successful stint as the sophomore baseball coach at Cretin-Derham Hall.

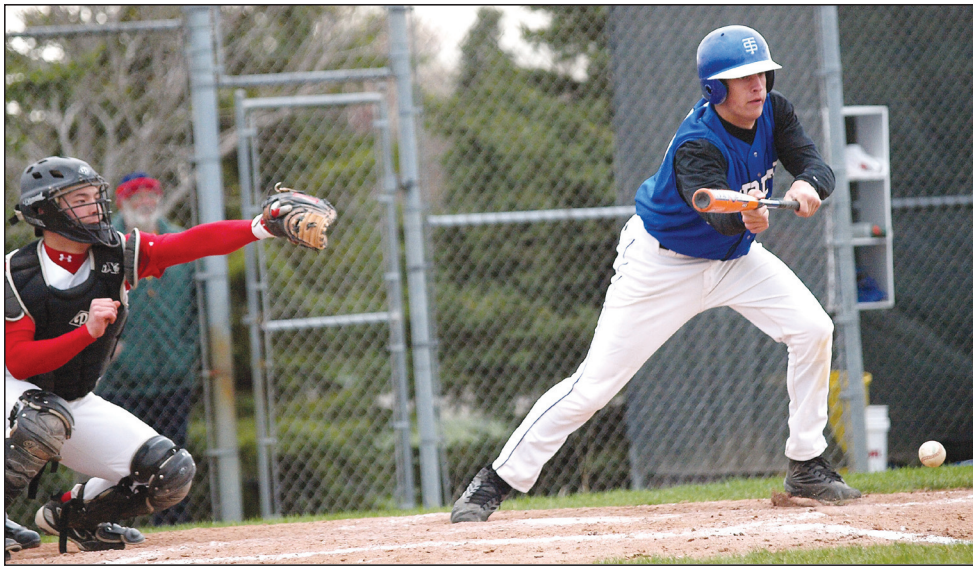
Weinberg already has enjoyed some early success. The Cadets jumped off to a 3-0 record this spring with wins over Sibley, Richfield and Minneapolis North, and were ranked among the top 10 teams in the metro area after the first two weeks of play.

The Cadets are very young, to be sure. They start four sophomores and only one senior among the eight position players. But there is plenty of talent there, Weinberg stressed, despite three consecutive losses over a three-day stretch that left STA with a 7-5 record as of April 29.

"To be honest, I think we should be a little better than that," Weinberg said. "I hold myself accountable for it."

The one game that galled the coach was a 5-4 loss to Burnsville on April 24. "We should've won that game, even though Burnsville is a very good team," Weinberg said. "We lost on a throwing error. But that's what happens when you're young."

The Cadets are blessed with outstanding bats and good speed and were averaging around nine runs a game through most of April. One of their key cogs is junior catcher Alex Jurich, who can hit for both average and



Alex Wynne lays down a squeeze bunt in front of Sibley catcher Jake McHenry to bring home a run in the Cadets' 4-3 win over the Warriors on April 27. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

power. As of April 25, he had a .620 batting average and three home runs. Weinberg also pointed to Jurich's defensive prowess. "He blocks balls in the dirt well," he said, "and nobody steals on him."

Sophomore third baseman A.J. Reid is better known at STA for his hockey abilities, but Weinberg thinks he can be equally good in baseball. "He's a good all-around player," he said, "and he probably has the quickest bat on the team."

The shortstop position is being split between juniors Alex Wynne and John Garry, who both have good gloves and arms and contribute offensively as well. At second is dependable junior Sean Mascia, who also has good all-around skills.

Sophomore Will Ratelle, who has moved

to first base from right field, also is a strong player who hits well.

In the outfield, center is patrolled by junior Patrick Krieger. As of late last month, he was batting .600, including two homers.

At right is sophomore Zack Schroeder, who can also play infield or pitch. "He can run down anything," Weinberg said.

Sophomore Ryan McManus plays left and has racked up a .450 batting average with two homers despite hitting ninth in the order.

Senior Drew Korte serves as a backup catcher and can play first, too. He also is batting over .400 as the designated hitter. Korte also tossed six great innings against Burnsville and has been moved into the starting rotation.

The Cadets have repeatedly shown this year that they can produce at the plate. The big

question is whether they can mow 'em down on the mound.

Weinberg does have a few arms that can get the job done. Senior Blake Fonfara is a 6-foot-5 lefty with decent speed and good control. And Wynne, when he's not playing short, has good stuff and keeps the ball down.

The closer is Ratelle. He throws hard and Weinberg believes he'll be a major force when he gains more control of his location. In an 11-9 win over Richfield on April 8, Ratelle managed to get the save when he got three outs on only six pitches.

The Cadets were 5-2 at one point this year, but got pounded by undefeated Mahtomedi on April 22 and then were blanked 2-0 the next day by Park of Cottage Grove. After the Burnsville loss, STA responded nicely with wins over the Warriors and Richfield.

Despite the losses, the Cadets remain a contender in the well-balanced Classic Suburban and Weinberg believes the team is headed in the right direction. "We just need to mature," he said.

In the 1980s, Weinberg was a solid first baseman for Cretin-Derham Hall before going on to an outstanding baseball career at the University of Minnesota. He was heavily wooed for the STA coaching position and came highly recommended by former CDH coach Dennis Denning (now at the University of St. Thomas) and legendary University of Minnesota coach John Anderson.

"This is the very last place I ever thought I'd be coaching," said Weinberg, alluding to the long-standing rivalry between the Cadets and the Raiders, "but my experience (at CDH and the U of M) should serve me well here. I played for outstanding coaches and I learned a lot from them."

Sports Shorts

A Beep Ball exhibition game will be played at 6:15 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at Midway Stadium before the St. Paul Saints' exhibition game at 7:00 p.m. The St. Paul Midway Fighting Lions, a team of blind players, will play a group of sighted players who will be blindfolded. Donations will benefit Vision Loss Resources, which serves the 10-county metropolitan area. Donations also may be made directly by contacting Stacy Shablott of Vision Loss Resources at 612-871-2225.

Soo Bahk Do, a traditional martial arts program with instructor Jack Kelly, will be offered at 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays for youths and at 7:00 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays for adults at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For information, call 651-695-3706.

Michael Fitzgerald, a senior at St. Thomas Academy, has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, where he plans to compete in basketball. During his senior year, Fitzgerald averaged 20 points a game for STA. He was the sixth Cadet to reach 1,000 career points and finished

his prep career as the second-leading scorer in school history. He also led STA to a state championship in 2007 and a second-place finish in 2008. Fitzgerald was a two-time all-conference pick and was all-state honorable mention. He was also chosen all-conference in soccer for 2007-08.

World No Tobacco Day 5K for nonsmokers, ex-smokers and smokers who like a challenge will be held at 8:00 a.m. Sunday, May 31, along the Big Rivers Trail in Lilydale. Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. Park in the Pool & Yacht Club lot at the bottom of Lilydale Road. The cost is \$17 by May 15 and \$20 on race day. Proceeds will help send low-income children with persistent asthma to Camp SuperKids, a weeklong summer camp sponsored by the American Lung Association in Minnesota. Call 651-789-0036 or visit www.smokefreedakota.org.

Follow the Leaders—Make Strides for Social Change 5K Walk/Run will be held on Saturday, May 16, at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m., with the run starting at 8:00 a.m. and the walk at 8:30 a.m. The 5K

will support the St. Joseph Worker Program continue its full-time volunteer work in 16 nonprofits in the Twin Cities. Visit www.stjosephworkers.org or e-mail kbrady@csjstpaul.org.

AdoptWalk 2009 will take place at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 16, from the Lake Nokomis Community Center in Minneapolis. A free lunch and entertainment will follow. Pledges raised by walking teams will benefit the North American Council on Adoptable Children. Call Nancy Viking at 651-644-3036 or visit www.nacac.org.

Franklin Tawah has been named head coach of the St. Paul Academy and Summit School varsity boys' soccer team for the 2009-2010 year. Tawah has coached the F.C. Internationals, Minnesota's amateur men's soccer team, since 1988. The team has won 11 state championships in the last 20 years, five International Soccer Tournament championships and six Minnesota Cup championships. For 14 years he also coached the Minnesota State Men's Select Team. In the early 1990s he was involved in the formation of the Minnesota Thunder.

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31 ◀ WRIGHT CALL

sons. Finding ways to cut expenses is now a key part of an athletic director's daily routine. "It was always there," said Montgomery, who has been at SPA since the early 1970s, "but now it's more important than ever."

Anderson, who has been at Minnehaha just as long, is all for cutting expenses as well. The school's best basketball gate last winter was for a girls'-boys' doubleheader against DeLaSalle. "In hindsight, I wish we had played St. Bernard's (the state Class AA runner-up) here as well," he said.

Honoring a true pioneer

No sport seems to connect better between its higher and lower levels than college hockey. The latest example was the news that Don Roberts, the former men's coach at Gustavus Adolphus College, will receive the Legends of Hockey award at the Hobey Baker dinner on May 7 at 317 on Rice Park (visit www.hobeybaker.com).

They could hardly have made a better choice. For 33 years, Roberts, who also coached wrestling, football and baseball for the Gusties, ran teams that were perennially among the best in the MIAC—and the country. By the time he retired from the bench in 1997, Roberts had accumulated 532 victories on the ice, and perhaps even more off of it. As many coaches did in that era, Roberts also taught at the college.

Unfortunately, Gustavus—which won 11 MIAC titles in 12 seasons at one point—never won a national title, finishing second three times. One of those runner-up finishes stands out. In 1975, the Gusties were playing St. Scholastica in Superior for the NAIA title. (There was no Division III hockey at the time.) The game was tied 2-2 with time running out when a Gustavus player took a shot from the slot. The Saints goalie gloved it, but couldn't hang onto the puck. It was batted into the net for an apparent winning goal, but referee John Bymark had lost sight of the puck and had blown the play dead.

As they like to note in the Congressional Record, "much discussion ensued," but the call stood. What happened next was almost predictable. A St. Scholastica player broke free and scored on a breakaway. Goodbye national championship.

Naturally, Roberts was unhappy at the time. However, a year or two later when the Gusties traveled to Bemidji for a game, Roberts made a point of going up to Bymark and telling him he had no hard feelings. Mistakes happen, he said. Case closed. It was a classy move by a classy guy.

Roberts joins Ed Saugestad, his longtime foe at Augsburg College, and Bob Peters, who put Bemidji State on the hockey map, as western Division III coaches honored by the Hobey Baker folks. Few coaches ever competed harder than this trio, but it was always done with civility.

Gustavus came close at nationals again

this year. The Gusties finished second in the regular season, but won the league's postseason playoffs and advanced to the NCAA Division III title game before losing to Neumann 4-1.

Bob Gunderson, another one of Roberts' old sparring partners who coached at Hamline University in the 1970s, has also scored an off-ice victory that dwarfs anything achieved on the rink. Gunderson has been battling cancer for some time, but he has improved enough to be sent home to continue his treatments.

Huge off-field loss for Saints

The St. Paul Saints have already played several exhibition games this spring to prepare for their 16th season at Bob Klepperich's playpen, also known as Midway Stadium. But the team suffered a major loss before the players even opened camp. Amy Heimer, the team's always-sunny director of special events, announced she is leaving to become sales manager for the Zuhrah Shrine Center & Harrington Museum in Minneapolis.

Heimer oversaw the team's many off-field events, ranging from the Hot Stove League Dinner to the annual East-West All-Star Game. It's the nature of minor league baseball that players and office personnel come and go. Some are remembered fondly, but many simply are replaced and forgotten. Heimer, who never seemed daunted despite the mountain of work piled on her, always remained friendly and professional. She'll be missed.

Springtime is for football, too

The Gophers, who drew a full house to O'Shaughnessy Stadium at the University of St. Thomas recently for their intra-squad football scrimmage that ended their spring drills, aren't the only ones featuring Minnesotans this spring. Former Cretin-Derham Hall quarterback Joe Springer, who will be a junior this year at Brown, went two-for-nine for 15 yards, but was on the winning side in that school's game that ended their spring drills. The Bears are the defending Ivy League co-champions, going 6-1 in league play last year. Springer is one of three juniors and a sophomore who will compete for the QB job this fall.

Former St. Thomas Academy signal-caller Tim McManus is receiving rave reviews as a senior co-captain and wide receiver this spring at Dartmouth. McManus has gone back and forth between the two positions in the past. This year, he appears set to stay as a wideout in an attempt to bring the once mighty Big Green back to prominence. After going 3-7 in 2007, Dartmouth went winless last year.

Springer and McManus could meet each other when Brown faces Dartmouth on November 14 in Providence.

(Write Dave Wright at dwright53@msn.com.)

31 ◀ MINNEHAHA SOFTBALL

ways play us as tough as they can."

Minnehaha's only losses so far this spring have been to Irondale (7-3) to open the season and to New Life Academy of Woodbury (4-3) on April 21. Even the loss to New Life had some positive aspects. The Redhawks were able to get some solid hits off of Danielle Smith, one of the state's best pitchers, and battled until the end.

"It was a good ballgame and we could have won it," DiNardo said.

The Irondale loss, though, was a disappointment all-around. "That was early on and it was a good wake-up call," DiNardo said.

DiNardo is confident his team will finish strong and be able to build momentum going into the Section 4AA playoffs that get under way next week.



Redhawk Margo Lund calls for time while at bat against Blake. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

"We've gotten off to slow starts in some games, maybe because of overconfidence," DiNardo said, "but we've been really happy with our pitching and defense and team speed. We'll be OK."

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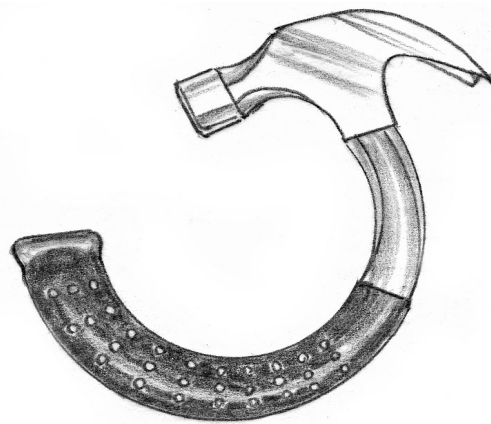
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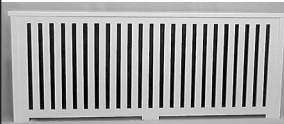
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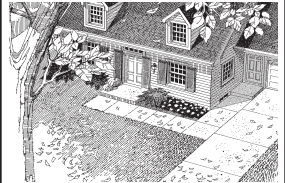
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