

Miracle moss clears the water in city pools

Natural filter supplants the need for so much chlorine

BY JASON PHELPS

Swimmers have had a long love-hate relationship with chlorine. Sure, the oxidant keeps the water in public pools clean, but that cleanliness comes at a price. Besides having a pungent smell, chlorine has been known to turn swimmers' eyes red, make their hair brittle and leave their skin feeling clammy. However, all that could be changing with the introduction of sphagnum moss.

The city of St. Paul started using sphagnum (pronounced SFAG-nuhm) moss as a natural filter at two of its public pools this summer. The experiment began at the Highland Park Aquatic Center at the beginning of the outdoor swimming season. After a month of clear water and less chemical use there, the moss was installed in the pools at the Oxford Community Center.

Immediately, "my complaints about water quality went to zero," said Lynn Waldorf, aquatics supervisor for the city of St. Paul. A veteran competitive swimmer, Waldorf could not believe the new clarity and color of the pools' water. "It's been fabulous," she said.

Waldorf had been involved in discussions early this year about building a new pool in Como Park to replace the aging outdoor facility that closed a year ago. A common theme among Como pool users was a desire for fewer chemicals in the water. Around the same time, Mayor Chris Coleman was asking city employees for any ideas that they might have for making St. Paul more environmentally sensitive.

MIRACLE MOSS ▶ 5



St. Paul aquatics supervisor Lynn Waldorf points out the canisters of sphagnum moss that line the pool filtration room at the Oxford Community Center. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Council approves Snelling median

Ward 3's Harris backs safety measure in hopes that any glitches can be worked out

BY JANE MCCLURE

Six blocks of Snelling Avenue could have a landscaped median a year from now as a result of the St. Paul City Council's unanimous approval of the project following a public hearing that drew about 30 equally ardent supporters and opponents.

Construction of the 10-foot-wide median between St. Clair and Grand avenues is expected to begin in the spring of 2010. The \$1,268,750 project is being paid for with \$543,750 from Macalester College, \$475,000 from the federal government and \$250,000 from the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Macalester, whose campus lies just west of the median, has also agreed to maintain the median's plants and trees.

"This has been a very difficult and very polarizing issue," said Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris. The median as currently designed does not address all of his concerns, he said. For example, he worries that there will be an increase in traffic cutting through the neighborhood to the east of Snelling and that customer access to the shops of Lincoln Commons at Snelling and Lincoln avenues will be compromised.

SNELLING MEDIAN ▶ 2

Schools open new year with lessons in preventing the flu

Rise in flu-like illnesses is attributed to H1N1 virus

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

State health officials were expecting it. Local schools were preparing for it. And sure enough, last week, just a week after classes started in most Minnesota schools, the state Department of Health announced that the incidence of flu-like illnesses in Minnesota was "widespread," meaning that cases of the illness have been reported in at least half of the state's regions.

As of September 16, more than 30 schools in the state had reported a significant incidence of flu-like illnesses among students, according

to the health department. The state health department has asked schools to notify it whenever 5 percent or more of their students are absent, or whenever three or more elementary students in the same classroom are absent, because of possible flu-like symptoms.

Although not all of the flu-like illnesses being reported are believed to be novel H1N1 flu (aka swine flu), officials think that strain of the flu, which first appeared last spring, is playing a significant role in the outbreak.

Administrators at schools across the Villager area have been taking precautions. "It's just an uncertain situation," said Patrick Lofton, principal at St. Thomas More (formerly St. Luke's) Grade School at 1065 Summit Ave. "There's genuine concern, but nobody knows what's really going to happen."

In the first week of school, teachers at St. Thomas More spent "considerable time demonstrating to students the proper techniques of hand washing," Lofton said. Thirty new timed faucets were installed over the summer in lavatories throughout the school, he added. Large containers of hand sanitizer were also ordered for each classroom, and desks, keyboards, doorknobs and other surfaces are being disinfected regularly. "We're also planning on having parents who are health care professionals visit classrooms to reinforce the skills that teachers are demonstrating," Lofton said.

Elementary teachers in the St. Paul Public Schools have been giving students lessons in handwashing, according to Ann Hoxie, the school district's assistant director for Student Health and Wellness. "But that's nothing dif-

ferent than we do every year," she said. This year teachers are also stressing the importance of keeping hands away from the mouth, nose or eyes, she said.

Highland Park High School held assemblies for each grade on each of the first four days of school, according to principal Nancy Katzmarek. "We went over the situation with them and stressed the importance of care in handwashing, sharing of food and drink, and recognizing flu symptoms," she said. "In their advisories, teachers are also helping students understand flu symptoms and what they can do to protect themselves."

Katzmarek said she is "concerned about how fast the flu can spread and that students

H1N1 FLU ▶ 2

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Organ marathon at Nativity Church echoes the sound of 19th-century French composer Charles Marie Widor ▶ 6

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1◀ H1N1 FLU

aren't taking the threat seriously enough." Katzmarek's daughter contracted the H1N1 virus this summer. "High school students are young and probably feel it can't happen to them," she said. "I felt that way at that age. But my daughter is an otherwise extremely healthy young woman in her early 20s, and she had to see a doctor twice. I really couldn't leave her side for four or five days."

When classes opened this fall at Cretin-Derham Hall, students were greeted with posters imploring them to "cover your cough" and "wash your hands," according to associate principal Laurie Jennrich. "We've sent a letter home and posted the letter on our website asking parents to teach their children to wash their hands often, not to share personal items and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues," she said. The letter also asked parents not to send their children to school if they are sick and warned that children who are found to be sick at school will be sent home.

Flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. The novel H1N1 flu has also been known to cause vomiting



While classmate Nick Beaudette (left) waits his turn, Alex Mohs and his 1st-grade classmates their hands prior to lunch at St. Thomas More School. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

and diarrhea. People who have these symptoms are being asked to stay home for at least 24 hours after their fever is completely gone

without the aid of any fever-reducing medication, including aspirin.

So far, the effects of the H1N1 flu have not

been as severe as feared when it first appeared last spring. In most cases, people can recover from the flu at home without seeing a doctor, according to state health officials. However, individuals who are at a high risk of severe illness or complications from the flu should talk to their doctor about what they ought to do if they are exposed to the flu or develop flu symptoms. Those who may be at high risk include children under 5 years old, people over 65 years old, pregnant women and people with medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart or lung disease, or neurologic or neuromuscular disorders.

Antiviral medications are frequently used to treat high-risk patients who come down with the flu, state officials said, but they need to be given to the patients promptly to be most effective. People who do develop severe flu symptoms should seek medical care at once. It is also important to ensure that sick people have enough fluids to drink. Aspirin or medications containing aspirin should not be given to anyone age 18 and under with flu-like symptoms.

For more information about the flu, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-5414 or visit www.mdhflu.com.

1◀ SNELLING MEDIAN

However, Harris, who grew up on Goodrich Avenue just east of Snelling, is also hopeful that any problems that crop up can be resolved. "It was a challenge crossing Snelling (when he was a youngster)," he said, "and it's worse now."

The median will make Snelling safer for pedestrians and motorists, supporters said. "I cross Snelling every day on foot or bicycle," said Joan Pasuik of Macalester-Groveland. "Sometimes it's uneventful and sometimes it's terrifying."

"Snelling Avenue is simply unsafe for pedestrians to cross," said Osceola Avenue resident Nancy Wiens. And it's not practical for pedestrians to walk to Grand or St. Clair to cross at the stoplights, she added.

"It's way too convenient now to drive a semi-trailer 50 miles per hour down Snelling," said Ossian Orr, who lives near Snelling and Portland Avenue where two pedestrians were struck and killed by vehicles in recent years.

Barb Thoman, co-director of the St. Paul-based Transit for Livable Communities, agreed. "Snelling is a problem for pedestrians and bicyclists," she said. "The median will make Snelling less of a state highway and more of a St. Paul main street."

The city has been working on the median

Sue Mellenhaus, who lives on Osceola east of Snelling, was one of several speakers to question the safety of allowing U-turns at Snelling and Lincoln: "The thought of it just makes me cringe."

project for the past four years with representatives of Macalester, MnDOT and the Macalester-Groveland Community Council. According to Dave Pasuik of the district council's Transportation Committee, 79 percent of the people who have submitted comments to the district council on the project support it.

Median opponents at the public hearing questioned its effectiveness at slowing or calming traffic and making the avenue safer for pedestrians. Snelling, a state trunk highway, carries more than 25,000 vehicles per day and, median or not, will continue to be one of the few north-south truck routes in that part of St. Paul.

The median will have openings for turning vehicles at Osceola, Goodrich and Lincoln avenues. Lincoln, currently a one-way for westbound vehicles only, will be made two-way for the half block east of Snelling, allowing vehicles traveling south on Snelling to turn east onto Lincoln or make a U-turn and head north on Snelling to the Lincoln Commons parking lot. Lincoln will also be narrowed mid-block between Snelling and Saratoga to discourage traffic from continuing east beyond the alley.

Sue Mellenhaus, who lives on Osceola east of Snelling, was one of several speakers to question the safety of allowing U-turns at Snelling and Lincoln. "The thought of it just makes me cringe," she said. "Osceola will also get more traffic with the median and we won't see the benefits."

Transit rider Cheryl Talbot said that buses on Snelling already have to slam on their brakes to avoid hitting jaywalkers. "By building a median on Snelling, it's only going to get worse," she said.

"Please don't chase after this project just because the money is available," Goodrich resident Phil Jacobs asked the City Council. Instead of building a median, he said, the city should be doing more to enforce traffic laws on Snelling, and Macalester College should be doing more to alleviate the parking conges-

tion it causes in the adjacent neighborhood.

Jane Prince spoke against the project as a representative of the Coastal Seafoods shop in Lincoln Commons. Lincoln Commons owners Ross Fefercorn and Jim Gelderman also testified against the median. According to Gelderman, the plan to remove the left-turn lane on Snelling mid-block between Grand and Lincoln will "kill" the commercial tenants of Lincoln Commons. Fefercorn agreed. According to him, those businesses could lose 20 percent or more of their gross revenue if access from southbound Snelling is blocked.

Fefercorn reminded the City Council that Lincoln Commons has benefitted from the left-turn lane on southbound Snelling from the beginning. That turn lane became even more important, he said, when access to Lincoln Commons' parking lot from the alley was lost. If the city is going to take away the left-turn lane, Fefercorn said, "at least give us our alley access back."

City officials met with Fefercorn and Gelderman last week to discuss customer access at Lincoln Commons. Their small shopping center has been banned from using the alley behind it since the early 1990s when a fight over alley access went all the way to the City Council. The council ruled in favor of an adjacent property owner at that time and against Lincoln Commons' owners.

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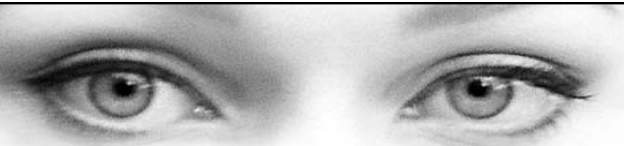
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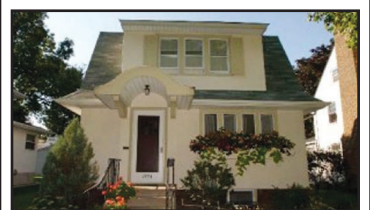
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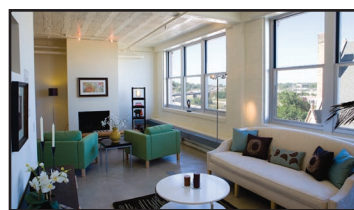
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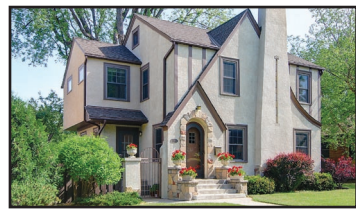
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Council upholds PPL's appeal for new housing on West 7th

Decision overturns BZA's denial of two variances

By JANE McCLURE

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) will be allowed to construct a 44-unit apartment building in Highland Park after all, the St. Paul City Council decided on September 9. The council unanimously upheld an appeal that day by PPL and granted two variances that had earlier been denied by the city's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

The vote came after months of controversy over the project, which would be built at West 7th and Springfield streets near the base of the Snelling Avenue hill. Supporters said the building would bring needed affordable housing to the neighborhood. Opponents said the project is too large for the site and raised concerns about traffic, parking and crime.

Construction of the \$12 million building is expected to start next year. PPL first plans to demolish a video rental business and five homes to make way for the development. The three-story building would provide affordable housing for low-income people, including 10 units for families who are transitioning out of homelessness. It would also provide support services and indoor activity space as well as

a small outdoor playground. There would be 11 outdoor parking spaces for guests and 55 underground spaces for residents.

A lot-size variance was needed because a minimum of 2 acres is required and the site is only 1.23 acres. A second variance was needed for a parking lot along Benson Avenue. A minimum 25-foot setback is required and a 4-foot setback is proposed. The site is currently zoned for multi-family residential use, so no zoning change was required.

BZA staff recommended approval of the variances, citing the property's unique circumstances and the difficulty of meeting the 2-acre lot size requirement. The lot size was a major factor for those BZA members who voted to deny the variances. The Highland District Council, which held six public meetings on the project, also recommended denial of the variances.

"We've won plenty of support, but not from everyone," said PPL executive director Steve Cramer. He said the public meetings resulted in several changes to the project, including a reduction in the number of apartment units from 48 to 44.

The City Council found that the BZA erred when it denied the variances. A formal resolution outlining the errors is to be adopted by the council at a later date.

"It's a challenging project and a challenging

issue," said Ward 3 council member Pat Harris. He argued that the variances should be granted because the type of affordable housing and the level of density proposed by PPL are goals of the Shepard-Davern Small Area Plan, a document that governs land-use decision in that part of the Highland Park neighborhood.

The 2-acre minimum lot size requirement was proposed to discourage piecemeal redevelopment in the Shepard-Davern area and encourage more open space. However, some council members questioned whether anything new could ever be built in the neighborhood given that restriction.

Much of the testimony on the appeal centered on whether or not PPL had made sufficient efforts to buy more property in order to reach the minimum lot size. Cramer said PPL tried to buy more property, but that one neighbor in a key location wanted too much money for his home.

The project generated stacks of letters and petitions to City Council members from both sides of the issue. Members of faith-based organizations and housing advocacy groups turned out to support the project.

"We think this project will bring a really great enhancement to the community," said Vic Rosenthal, executive director of Jewish Community Action and chair of the Temple

of Aaron's Social Justice Committee.

"There's a dire need for us to have quality housing," said Stewart Avenue resident Kelly Jones Hicks. She initially opposed the project, but became a supporter after a friend facing financial hardship turned to subsidized, Section 8 housing.

Richard Strimling, a 36-year Davern Avenue resident, said enhancement of the Shepard-Davern area would continue with the PPL project. "I'm absolutely for it because the city needs it and the city welcomes it," he said.

However, Highland resident Bill Rosenbloom said the neighborhood has "overwhelmingly" voiced opposition to the project. The council was presented with a petition with signatures from 110 businesses and residents opposed to PPL's plan.

Neighbor Chandra Gruber accused PPL of misrepresenting its efforts to acquire enough property for the development. She said there are already plenty of buildings in the area that provide affordable housing and added that the project would be too dense and would not provide enough play area for the children who will live there.

HDC board member Paul Krech said the PPL review process was unfair to the neighborhood. He said the project was "shoved down the neighborhood's throat" and that the proposed site was not a good location.

Commission gives go-ahead for new Walgreens in Highland

City staff believe project will improve traffic flow

By JANE McCLURE

Walgreens' plan to construct a new pharmacy at the northeast corner of Ford Parkway and Finn Street was approved by the St. Paul Planning Commission on September 18 on an 11-6 vote. Unless it is appealed to the St. Paul City Council, the Planning Commission's decision ends the months-long controversy over Walgreens' entrance into Highland Village.

Walgreens intends to build a 9,483-square-foot drug store on the site of the Party City store and a former Oasis gas station and convenience store. The fact that the Walgreens would be a non-union shop located right next door to a Snyders drug store whose employees are unionized had fueled the opposition

to the development.

Opponents of the project say the neighborhood does not need another drug store, with Snyders, Prairie Stone and Fairview Clinic all operating pharmacies within a block of the site. Supporters note that Walgreens is a legal use for the site, the city cannot dictate what type of business locates there and a new drug store is preferable to the vacant and fire-damaged gas station that currently occupies the site.

Walgreens would tear down the two buildings and erect a new brick and stone building on the eastern half of the site. A 41-space parking lot would occupy the western half with a driveway on Ford and a driveway on Finn.

The Planning Commission's Zoning Committee had postponed a vote on Walgreens' site plan earlier this summer, asking for a more detailed traffic study. According to commissioner Steve Gordon, studies have shown that

Walgreens will have an impact on local traffic and could contribute to unsafe conditions for motorists and pedestrians. Gordon also cited design guidelines that recommend that new commercial buildings be located at corners rather than midblock. Gordon questioned why the site plan drawn up by the United Food and Commercial Workers union, which put the new Walgreens at the Ford-Finn corner, could not be adopted.

The traffic studies for the Walgreens site, which were paid for by Walgreens, done by Wenck Associates and reviewed by the city's Department of Public Works, estimated that the new drug store would generate 1,260 car trips each weekday. That compares to the estimated 1,556 car trips per day that could be expected to be generated by a gas station/convenience store and party supply store.

According to commissioner Brian Alton, those figures show that the Walgreens would have a minimal impact on traffic on Ford Park-

way and its intersections with Finn, Cleveland and Cretin avenues. Alton also noted that Walgreens' developer, Semper Development, had testified that moving the drug store to the Finn corner would create problems with loading and unloading, parking and traffic.

To improve local traffic conditions, on-street parking on the Finn and Ford sides of Walgreens' property would be removed and the Walgreens parking lot would have only two driveways, one on Ford and one on Finn. Finn would be widened and restriped just north of Ford Parkway, and it would be realigned with the traffic lanes entering and exiting the shopping center south of Ford Parkway. The one-way alley behind Walgreens would also be narrowed at Finn to discourage vehicles from entering the alley the wrong way.

All of those traffic changes, which would be paid for by Walgreens, could actually improve traffic conditions in the area, according to Monica Beaman of Public Works.

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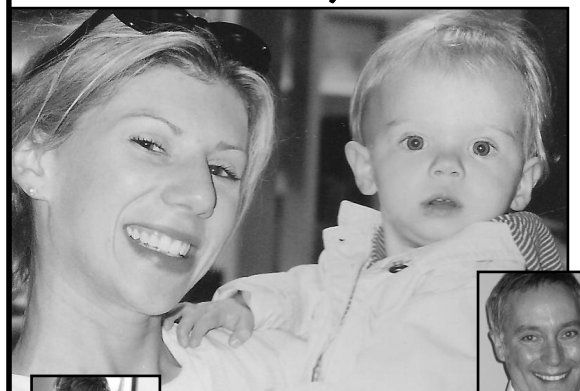
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Using natural sphagnum moss as a water filter has made it possible to greatly reduce the amount of chlorine used in St. Paul's public pools, removing a common irritant for swimmers such as Debbie Townsend (left), who took part in a recent water aerobics class at the Oxford Community Center.

PHOTO BY
BRAD STAUFFER

1 ◀ MIRACLE MOSS

Waldorf had heard about the use of sphagnum moss in residential pools and spas, an idea developed by Dr. David Knighton, CEO of Creative Water Solutions. Last March she approached Knighton about collaborating with the city of St. Paul.

Knighton is something of a modern-day Renaissance man. Besides being a physician and an expert on treating wounds, he holds patents on many medical devices and has founded several businesses. Returning home from Germany a decade ago, he read an *Atlantic Monthly* article about the healing powers of sphagnum moss. The plant, which grows in the far northern and southern latitudes of the earth, had been used during World War I to treat wounds because of its ability to impede the growth of bacteria.

Knighton knew that sphagnum moss grew in northern Minnesota, and he had also noticed while flying his own plane that lakes in the northern half of Minnesota were much clearer than they were in the southern half. He figured that nature was up to something that ultimately might help him reduce the chemicals and improve the water quality in his own home spa. "I have a degree in chemistry," he remembers thinking. "If I can't fix this, no one can."

Knighton and his business partner, microbiologist Vance Fiegel, began experimenting with moss in 2000. Six years and \$4 million later, they found that two out of the hundreds of species of moss could serve as an effective water treatment. They applied for a patent and began marketing the technology in 2006 to the owners of residential pools and spas.

Knighton was as eager as Waldorf to see if sphagnum moss could clean a large public pool. He offered to pay for installing the technology in St. Paul's pools to test its effectiveness.

Chlorine will only destroy the free-floating bacteria in a pool, and "in moist or watery environments, bacteria like to adhere to surfaces and create communities," Fiegel said. Bacteria cling to surfaces with the help of biofilm, a thin layer of matter commonly found in the pipes and the liners of spas and swimming pools. Biofilm shields bacteria from chlorine and allows them to proliferate. According to Knighton and Fiegel, that is why pool and spa owners find themselves having to add more and more chemicals to remove bacteria from the water.

Sphagnum moss limits the growth of bacteria in biofilm and filters out the metals that are found in water, Fiegel said. By reducing the

size of biofilm communities, the moss allows pool owners to reduce the amount of chlorine needed to clean the pool. According to Creative Water Solutions' website, pool chemicals can be reduced by as much as 90 percent.

Creative Water Solutions imports its sphagnum moss from New Zealand. Although there are moss-growing operations in places



A handful of harvested sphagnum moss.

as close as Wisconsin, New Zealand's moss is more reliable, Knighton said, because the bogs there are not trampled, so the moss has a better chance to grow back.

Most of the moss harvested in New Zealand is exported to Japan for use in wrapping orchids, Knighton said. Minnesota harvested sphagnum moss commercially during World War I, he added. However, interest in the plant's healing powers fell off when other treatments, such as penicillin, became popular.

Knighton only uses the leaves of the moss for his filtration system. He sterilizes the leaves and manufactures the filtration containers in Minnesota.

Waldorf expects that the city will be able to save one-third to one-half of the cost of pool maintenance through the use of sphagnum moss. Since the new filtration system was introduced, the tiles in Oxford's main pool look more colorful and the quality of the air has improved considerably, according to Adam Zirzow, supervisor of Oxford's Great River Water Park. "You don't notice the smell of chlorine any more and that makes a real difference," he said.

On a recent afternoon, some Oxford lap swimmers could not have agreed more. "The water is much clearer and it smells great," said Bob Miller.

"Reducing the chlorine has also made the atmosphere safer for young people," added fellow swimmer Cori Olstead, "especially those with asthma."

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True romantic

Recitals echo the original sound of 19th-century French organist

BY LARRY ENGLUND

Warm, lush, romantic. Those are the words Patrick Henning uses to describe the sound of the pipe organ that was installed at Nativity Church two years ago. The music director of the church, Henning used the same words to describe the music of Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937).

Widor was a French Romantic composer and organist, and the Casavant Frères organ at Nativity was "built according to the French Romantic idea of organ-building," Henning said. The two were made for each other, and indeed will be wed over the next five weeks in a series of recitals by some of the Twin Cities' best organists.

Widor was the first composer to write symphonies for the organ. Though he may not be well known outside professional circles, almost everyone is familiar with his Toccata, the closing movement of his 5th Symphony, which is often used as a wedding recessional.

Some of Widor's organ symphonies are almost never heard, Henning said, "so we decided to put together a marathon where all 10 of them will be played on Nativity's organ."

The Widor Marathon will be presented in five free programs beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays, September 27 through October 25. Each recital will feature two of Widor's symphonies performed by two different members of the American Guild of Organists.

"The first four symphonies, Widor's early works, were very much character pieces," Henning said. "They didn't have a real set structure to them. The next four symphonies were much more orchestral-based, with an opening and multiple movements. The last two symphonies are based on Gregorian chant themes."

Widor, who was the organist at St. Sulpice Cathedral in Paris for 65 years, composed his

symphonies on an organ that had a sound much like Nativity's, according to Henning. "Casavant Frères is basically a French organ builder based in Quebec," he said. "Their idea for this instrument was to make it sound as warm as possible."

Nativity's organ and the organ at St. Sulpice in Paris share tonal characteristics, according to James Biery, the organist and music director at the Cathedral of St. Paul who will be playing one of the symphonies during the marathon. "It won't be identical, since no two organs sound the same, but the music will work very well," Biery said. "The sounds that Widor called for will be there."

Helen Jensen, an organist from Macalester-Groveland who regularly accompanies the Oratorio Society of Minnesota, will open the Widor Marathon playing the composer's 2nd Symphony. She chose it because of its variety of sounds. "The six movements are so different from each other," she said. "They show lots of different colors, from very quiet to very full."

While preparing for her performance, Jensen discovered that Widor had written several versions of the 2nd Symphony and that two or three are still in circulation. Composers usually suppress the original version after a rewrite, she said, since they believe the newer version to be superior. Apparently that didn't bother Widor, and Jensen took advantage of the variations. "I'm doing a mix and match of the 2nd Symphony," she said, "using one version for five of the movements and a different version for the sixth."

Pipe organs such as Nativity's are called symphonic, not because they imitate an orchestra but because they "capture the sumptuousness of bringing related sounds forward all at the same time," Biery said. "It's like having 20 or 30 violins in an orchestra."

"The organ is, in reality, an orchestra of wind instruments," Widor once wrote. "An

Widor, who was the organist at St. Sulpice Cathedral in Paris for 65 years, composed his symphonies on an organ that had a sound much like Nativity's.



Musical director Patrick Henning and organist Helen Jensen rehearse with the Casavant Frères organ in the choir loft at Nativity Church. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

organ of 30, 40 or 50 stops is an orchestra of 30, 40 or 50 musicians."

Nativity's organ has 40 stops controlled by knobs on the keyboard console that, when pulled, create the sounds of a flute, trumpet, clarinet, etc. "When you pull out the stop, it allows air to go into a channel below a rank of pipes," Henning said. "They're called stops because, when closed, they stop the air from going into the reservoir below the pipe."

Nativity's Casavant Frères organ, a gift from longtime parishioners Eugene and Faye Sitzmann, replaced a 12-rank pipe organ that had served the church for almost six decades. The new organ has 2,882 pipes arranged in 52 ranks running from the lowest to the highest note. The organ and its pipes were built to fit Nativity's choir loft, and appear as if they are original to the church, which was constructed in the late 1930s.

The new pipe organ took three years to build and six months to install, Henning said.

"When they brought in the pipes, they were scattered all over the church and the pews," he said. "We had Mass downstairs for a number of weeks."

As a church music director, Henning said, "you want to have an organ that's versatile enough to play all the different kinds of organ repertoire. In order to do that, you need specific stops on the organ. This is a good combination of basically everything we need."

The dates, organists and repertoire for the Widor Marathon are as follows:

September 27: Helen Jensen, 2nd Symphony; Steven Self, 7th Symphony.

October 4: Catherine Rodland, 3rd Symphony; James Frazier, 5th Symphony.

October 11: Jeffrey Patry, 1st Symphony; James Biery, 6th Symphony.

October 18: Charles Echols, 8th Symphony; Diana Lee Lucker, 9th Symphony.

October 25: Steve Gentile, 4th Symphony; Allan Mahnke, 10th Symphony.

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PHOTO BY
ANNE BRANDRUD

News Briefs

Council hears nary a peep on proposed chicken ordinance

Regulatory changes that would make it easier to raise chickens in St. Paul may not have legs. Ward 4 City Council member Russ Stark, who authored the changes, laid them over on September 9 when it became clear he lacked the four council votes needed for passage.

No one appeared at a public hearing on September 2 on the proposed changes. The ordinance will return to the council for discussion on October 14. If it is changed extensively, another public hearing will be required.

St. Paul residents may already keep up to three chickens by purchasing a city permit at \$75 per year. They also must obtain signatures from at least 75 percent of their neighbors within 150 feet before applying for the permit. Stark's proposal would eliminate the consent requirement and reduce the permit fee to \$25 per year.

Some council members wondered whether the changes would make it easier for people to keep more chickens than allowed, to keep roosters or to have roosters engaged in cock-fighting.

At the September 9 council meeting, a few chickens did show up at City Hall. Someone left a rubber chicken at Stark's council chair. Ward 2 council member Dave Thune, another chicken advocate, had a chicken figurine left at his chair.

BZA grants parking variance for Grand Avenue birth center

St. Paul's first independent birth center could open on Grand Avenue as the result of a parking variance approved on September 8 by the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

Amy and Tim Johnson-Grass want to convert the building at 968 Grand Ave. into a birth center. Amy Johnson-Grass is a midwife and operates Health Foundations at 333 Grand Ave. She only offers home birthing services now, but would like to provide two birthing suites at the new location.

Because the city has no other birth centers outside of hospitals, the business is being regulated as a medical clinic. Ten off-street parking spaces are required and five are available. However, because only two of the spaces can be used without parking vehicles behind each other, an eight-space variance was needed.

The vacant building at 968 Grand housed a hair salon for many years. Most recently it was used as a home remodelers' showroom.

Johnson-Grass said she plans to expand the building from 943 square feet to 1,936 square feet. A two-story addition will be constructed at the rear of the building. The birthing suites will be on the first floor and an office and support serves on the second.

The space would be shared with a chiropractor who works two days a week. On average Johnson-Grass also works two days a

week. She schedules no more than six births per month. She anticipates that about half of her clients will continue to want home births.

No one appeared at the BZA meeting to oppose the variance. One fellow midwife appeared in support. Supporters also sent letters to the BZA and district council.

The Summit Hill Association's Zoning and Lane Use Committee voted last month to support the parking variance. Most of the discussion centered on the size and appearance of the addition. Johnson-Grass said the addition is needed to make the building more accessible. A certain amount of space is also needed for her to seek national accreditation.

At the committee meeting, neighbor Jim Harrison expressed concerns about parking and the addition's appearance. "It's more than doubling the size of the building," he said.

He and committee members said their concern is not with the birth center, but with any future uses of the expanded space. Johnson-Grass, who lives within a few blocks of the building, said she plans to be in the neighborhood a long time.

STAR board takes shine to pair of local improvement projects

Two area projects have made the cut in the most recent round of Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grants and loans, which are funded through the city of St. Paul's extra half-percent sales tax. The Neighborhood STAR board has forwarded its recommendations to Mayor Chris Coleman, who is expected to present his list of favored projects to the City Council this month.

Altogether, the board recommended 10 projects totaling \$1.3 million. Nineteen other projects did not make the cut.

First Tee of St. Paul has been recommended to receive a \$150,000 grant and \$150,000 loan to help build a 4,240-square-foot golf learning center at Highland National Golf Course. The center would include computer space, a protected driving range and a chipping green. A \$300,000 match has been pledged.

Meefy Beat Inc. has been recommended to receive a \$49,500 grant and a \$49,500 loan to build a handicapped-accessible entrance and restrooms, as well as a remodeled kitchen, dining area and exterior for Shamrock's Irish Nook, 995 W. 7th St. An \$186,159 match has been pledged.

Local projects that failed to make the cut include a University Avenue commercial improvement grant program, remodeling of the Jewish Community Center, wallboards at Higher Ground Academy, theater renovation on University and Victoria, an addition to the Model Cities Brownstone at University and Victoria, rehabilitation of the St. Phillips Garden apartment complex and an elevator for a former restaurant on Selby Avenue.

News Briefs compiled by Jane McClure.

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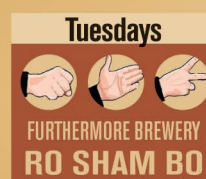


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Viewpoint

Better balloting through IRV

BY ELLEN BROWN

On November 3, St. Paul voters will cast their ballots on whether or not to adopt instant runoff voting (IRV) for future municipal elections. Though the idea of IRV is a new one for many St. Paul voters, it is a voting system that has already proven itself in cities across the country and in democracies around the world. It is fair, it saves money, it increases voter participation, it promotes greater choice and more diverse representation, and it makes elections more civil. But most important, IRV more accurately reflects the will of the people.

Despite these advantages, IRV has its detractors who argue that IRV is unconstitutional or that St. Paul voters will not understand it. While I respect their right to their opinions, I would like to challenge their perspectives and correct their factual errors.

Foremost among the errors is the continued assertion by the Minnesota Voters Alliance, who brought the lawsuit against the city of Minneapolis, that the recent Minnesota Supreme Court decision did not address the constitutionality of IRV. In fact, the unanimous decision written by Chief Justice Eric Magnuson did just the opposite, noting that IRV “is not facially invalid under the United States or Minnesota constitutions.”

The Minnesota Voters Alliance also asserts that voters cannot know that their votes for a candidate will help rather than harm that candidate. To give this argument even the slightest patina of credibility, they posit a balloting ploy of “strategic voting” that is highly improbable in the real world.

In reality, under IRV voters are allowed to rank candidates on the ballot in order of their preference—first choice, second choice, third choice, etc. Voters can cast their ballots for their first preference without fearing that they will throw it away on a candidate who cannot win or help elect the candidate they like the least. IRV simulates a traditional runoff but in a single election. All first choices are tallied and, if no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. The ballots cast for the eliminated candidate are reallocated to the remaining candidates based on the second preferences on each of those ballots. A voter's second choice cannot undermine his or her first preference because it is not counted until his or her first preference is eliminated from the race. In fact, by ranking preferences, voters are assured that their ballots will continue to count until one candidate wins a majority of the votes.

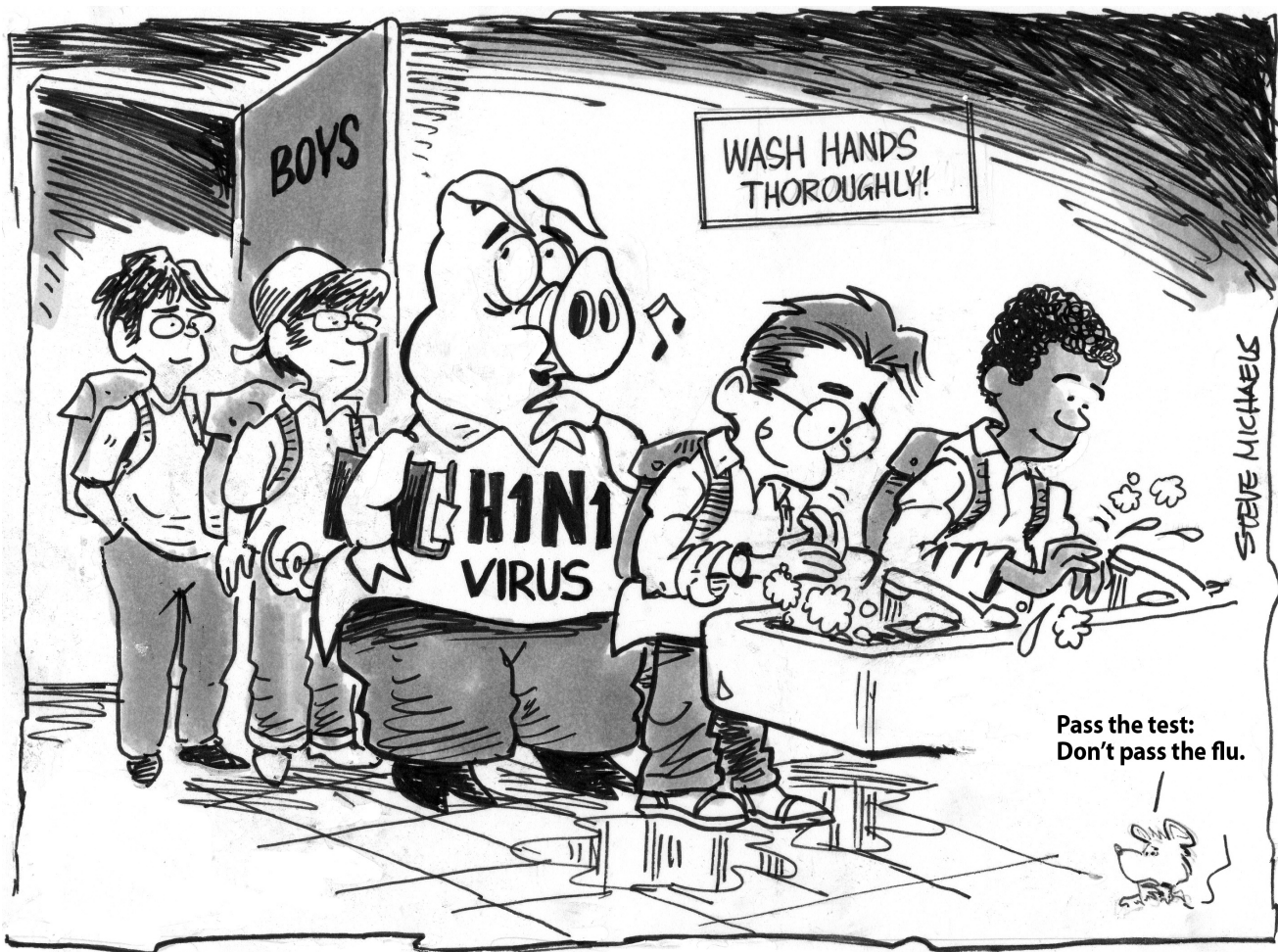
Second among the factual errors is the assertion that St. Paul voters are not smart enough to know how to rank candidates on the ballot. In fact, all evidence shows that if St. Paul voters are as smart as voters in all other jurisdictions in the United States using IRV—and I have no reason to believe we are not—we will easily adapt to the new system. With good voter education prior to the election, voters have overwhelmingly and consistently indicated in exit polls that they understood IRV when using it for the first time.

The Coleman-Franken U.S. Senate race showed us that some voters do not properly follow ballot instructions, but that number was very small: Fewer than 0.01 percent of ballots were marked in error. The rate of spoiled ballots in an IRV election is no greater than in a traditional election. In fact, in the recent 2009 IRV election in Burlington, Vermont, 99.95 percent of the ballots were valid. So concerns that IRV is too complicated for voters, or that voter education has to be expensive, are simply wrong.

The decision to put IRV before St. Paul voters this November was a good one and it invites citizens to learn more about this system and how it can strengthen the electoral process.

St. Paul voters, like Minneapolis voters did in 2006, will have the opportunity this November to decide whether IRV is right for them. We with the St. Paul Better Ballot Campaign believe that if St. Paul voters are given accurate and unbiased facts regarding IRV, they will find this system to be a fair, inexpensive, convenient and wise method of conducting municipal elections.

Ellen Brown is a resident of the Summit Hill neighborhood and the coordinator of the St. Paul Better Ballot Campaign.



Inbox

Yard sale sabotaged

Late last month was the big Macalester-Groveland neighborhood garage sale. Lots of us participated, looking forward to letting go of unneeded household goods in exchange for a little extra cash. This letter is directed at two residents of the area who adversely affected my weekend sale.

First, to the person who stole an expensive hand-beaded leather vest, shame on you! Stealing is never a good idea. You could have tried negotiating a price you could afford, unless free was what you would have offered. Beware of karmic payback.

Second, to the person who removed all three of my garage sale signs from the boulevard—not only once, but again later that morning—what was that about? We had terrific attendance for the first hour of the day. Then all of a sudden, there was no one for 1½ hours. We then discovered that all of our signs had been stolen, so we quickly made two more. Not even an hour later, those two were stolen. Interesting that you left all of the other sale signs alone that were in the same locations.

This was a multi-family sale. Two of us are unemployed and were trying to raise some money for our mortgages. You cost us untold sales. If you are a neighbor and resent the traffic yard sales can create, another route would have been to just come over and let me know how we could work out a solution to your concerns.

Garage sales happen for most of us maybe every three years or so. They take a lot of work. How bad can it be to be inconvenienced for a few hours for the sake of being a good neighbor?

*Robin Sydor
Macalester-Groveland*

Bagging a new customer

I happened to be shopping at Korte's Super Market about a month before the St. Paul Trader Joe's opened. When the bagger picked up my often-used Trader Joe's bag, she looked at the checker and, in a snooty and condescending voice, said, “Ooooooh! A Trader Joe's bag!” I decided to let it slide.

A couple weeks ago I was at Korte's again with a large shopping list and my Trader Joe's bag. At the checkout, the bagger picked up my bags, looked at the checker and said, “Don't these bags not work here? Aren't we not supposed to accept them?” I was so flabbergasted I didn't know what to do or say, so I dumbly took my groceries and vowed to never return to Korte's.

I understand Korte's is concerned about losing business to Trader Joe's, but obviously I'm still shopping at Korte's and insulting me is not the way to keep my business. Looking back, I wish I would have taken my bags and left, taking my business down the street to Trader Joe's.

The other day I went into Whole Foods for items for which I normally would have gone to Korte's. As the checker was bagging my items, he said, “Thanks for bringing your own bag!” I looked down and saw “Kowalski's” written in big letters. Whole Foods can count me as a new and loyal customer.

*Katrina Budde
Macalester-Groveland*

For a greener garbage service

Generally, I am a person who supports more choice rather than less. However, regarding garbage pickup, I have become convinced there is a valid role for local government to play. On my block of 40 homes, I tried to organize a more coordinated use of garbage haulers. I spent several hours delivering an explanatory letter to each of my neighbors, laying out a plan to reduce the number of weekly visits by large polluting garbage trucks from eight or more down to one. The plan would have even provided a discount in fees to each participant.

The noise of these vehicles is a nuisance. Their pollution, with each of them idling at every stop, is giving us a daily toxic dose of deadly particulates in the air we all must breathe.

I'm sorry to report that only eight of my neighbors had the courtesy to return my survey form. I can only conclude that the other 32 were too self-absorbed to be bothered.

Protecting jobs is a fallacious argument. The Blue Green Alliance has projected that moving toward sustainability will create more jobs than it will eliminate. And this is where government can be a useful leader toward a common goal: less pollution and, ultimately, zero waste.

Responsible government can provide incentives and structures that encourage reducing, reusing and recycling our trash. The city of San Francisco has passed enough enlightened laws for its citizens to reach 85 percent recycling. We in Minnesota are at 40 percent at best. Asking our city to synchronize local garbage pickup is a good place to begin.

*Jan Greenfield
Highland Park*

A beautiful alley garden, a beautiful life

BY JOHN BAICHTAL

Tony Grudt didn't count his Alley Garden Awards as much as he counted the year he didn't receive one. The Alley Garden Awards, bestowed annually by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, were instituted in 1992 as a means of deterring crime in the neighborhood. The reasoning was that alley-lurking hoodlums wouldn't want to deface a property or burgle a home or garage if the property was beautifully landscaped. Every Alley Garden Award winner received a laminated flag that was stuck into his or her plot, displayed for all who traversed the alley.

But for Tony, the Alley Garden Awards weren't about crime; they were about being a good neighbor. Having a weedy or garbage-strewn alley simply wasn't an option for him. At least 11 of the laminated flags decorated Tony's garage, though some had been lost over the years. The story was that Tony had received an Alley Garden Award every year except one since 1992, and boy, did that one year stick in his craw.

Tony was my father-in-law, and the day my future wife introduced me to her parents was a typical summer evening for them—dinner served on the backyard deck with meat that had been cooked on Tony's ancient gas grill and one of his legendary salads on the side. Of course, I immediately noticed Tony's lush garden. The greenest of green thumbs would have been impressed by his arrangement of roses, poppies, trumpet vines, delphiniums, tulips, clematises, hibiscuses and geraniums. It was an annual project of Tony's to coax his garden up from the mush and rot of spring. By late summer his garden had achieved an astonishing beauty, and invariably drew visitors to wander along the paver-stone paths of his backyard.

Tony wasn't much for watching television or reading novels. Being a husband, father, grandpa, gardener, cook and singer was enough for him. Most of my memories of him involve him practicing operatic arias—he sang tenor with the Bach Society—while puttering around the kitchen, or weeding his garden while listening to a Twins broadcast in the backyard. Though I wasn't much into plants or cooking, the two of us bonded over those traditional passions of Minnesota men—the Vikings and grilling.



Tony Grudt

As I write this, late summer has turned toward early autumn. We've had some chilly nightss, but there are still many beautiful days ahead. It was a year ago, on a September day just like this, that Tony passed away at the untimely age of 69.

Last fall, looking at the fading glory of Tony's garden, I couldn't help thinking that it would never be the same. His plants had been neglected during his summer-long battle with cancer and had wilted with the approach of fall. Surely, Tony's widow Barbara wouldn't have the time to weed or plant annuals. And gardening, after all, was his hobby, not hers. There was even talk of digging up Tony's climbing roses and heirloom peonies to distribute to friends and family.

The looting never took place. This year Barbara worked on the garden all summer with help from relatives and friends. And as another summer fades into fall, Tony's garden is as glorious as ever. MPR can now be heard over the battered radio as grandchildren scamper around the backyard. The marigolds are in bloom. Honeysuckle and phlox wave in the September wind. And behind the back fence another Alley Garden Award juts proudly from the earth.

8◀ INBOX

Democracy in the 4th District

Surprise, surprise. After Congresswoman Betty McCollum stated that she would not be holding any more town hall meetings, she held another one at Macalester College. The problem was, the only way you could have known about it was if you were on her e-mail list. Fortunately, one of the local radio programs mentioned it at the last minute.

Those of us who found out about the meeting had to deal with very stringent rules in order to get a ticket to get in. For example, there was a special line for those who were not even living in the 4th District. Then there was a maximum attendance number for those who were living in St. Paul or any other city in the 4th District. It was incredibly difficult to get information as to which line you were supposed to be in. Whatever happened to first come, first served?

There were at least 30 people who were preseated in Macalester's Weyerhaeuser Chapel who, for some reason, didn't even need a ticket. So how was the average citizen like me, who lives in the 4th

District, supposed to know about this town hall meeting and be able to attend and have my voice heard? And why was the forum held in such a small venue? There were hundreds who wanted to attend but couldn't get in because they couldn't get a ticket.

Although McCollum is a Democrat, there was certainly nothing democratic about her last-minute town hall meeting.

*D.M. Aliperto
Macalester-Groveland*

Median is an affront to citizens

Snelling Avenue is a state highway. Between Grand and St. Clair avenues it is 60 feet wide and carries 26,000 vehicles per day. To restrict that flow in any way is an affront to the citizens who use it.

How is it that a section of state highway can be changed to accommodate the college students who cross it? Roads are for vehicles. Stoplights and crosswalks are for pedestrians. Macalester

INBOX ▶ 10

VILLAGER

Volume 57, Number 14

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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The Villager serves the Highland Park, Lexington-Hamline, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Summit Hill, Summit-University and West 7th neighborhoods of St. Paul, the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods of Minneapolis, Lilydale, Mendota and Mendota Heights.

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For more information on your participation in this program **call Bonfe's at 651-332-6633.**

9◀ INBOX

College should have no say in the state highway system except for the crosswalks their students use.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation should do its job and not allow this changeover. The solution to the proposed Snelling median? The nearest wastebasket.

*Gene Cilek
Macalester-Groveland*

Median costs councilman a vote

I was very disappointed in the vote by the St. Paul City Council for the Macalester College "traffic obstruction." I probably should have expected it, since we have such a left-wing mayor and City Council and an ultra-liberal college. I have already informed council member Harris that I will not be voting for him in the next election.

*Vernon R. Jorgensen
Macalester-Groveland*

City plays favorites with PPL

On Wednesday, September 16, the St. Paul City Council overrode the decisions of both the Highland District Council and the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals and voted to grant size and parking variances for Project for Pride in Living's (PPL) housing project on West 7th Street. One can watch the October 8, 2008, meeting of the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority on the city's website and know that this was a done deal back then. Our City Council member, Pat Harris, was even then calling it a "phenomenal project."

I guess our city can afford to play favorites. Almost two years ago, Da Vita, a kidney dialysis company, wanted to build a clinic at this same location. It also wanted a variance from the city, but it was turned down.

I'm sure the PPL people were pretty confident they would be given the variances they needed by our City Council. When a City Council member really wants something, the local district council doesn't matter and the Board of Zoning Appeals doesn't matter.

*Georgia Dietz
Highland Park*

Saved by a silver maple

I recently upgraded my Internet service from 640KB to 7MB. I got swept away by the "bundling frenzy" and tacked on satellite TV with 200 channels. As luck would have it, an 80-year-old silver maple blocked the line of sight to the dish being positioned on my roof. I consulted with an arborist, and he said that trimming the branches would compromise the health of my neighbor's tree. I decided to cancel my satellite package.

The beauty of this is that no one in my family really needs 200 channels, many of which are not appropriate for kids. And besides, we sit around too much as it is. Instead, I went with an old-school antenna—they're smaller than they used to be—on my roof. It comes with only a one-time fee to install, and I get higher resolution than cable and satellite television because they compress and decompress their signals. If I really need to view a program, I can rent the DVD or find it on the Internet. And if I'm yearning for a Twins game besides the ones on channels 9 and 29, I can venture over to the Blue Door Pub or the Groveland Tap—if I can find a seat.

*Todd Seabury-Kolod
Macalester-Groveland*

Social Security: A Ponzi scheme

How can you justify printing a ridiculous letter defending the government-run Social Security system as something that "works" (*Villager* Inbox, September 2). Social Security is the single worst-run program the government has ever created and only a complete idiot would argue otherwise. It is a Ponzi scheme no different than Bernie Madoff's, though Madoff made out better with his own than the government has.

When you take from today's "investors" (workers) to pay last year's, it is a Ponzi scheme. It requires taxing about two workers 12.4 percent of their wages to pay one Social Security recipient whose life expectancy is about 12 years beyond retirement. If the average person earning \$75,000 annually invested this money back into our country in the form of U.S. Treasury or municipal bonds earning only 4 percent annually, they would retire with over \$1 million. Continuing to invest at 4 percent would allow them to withdraw more than \$40,000 annually without touching the principal, or enough to pay two retirees at current amounts.

Would you rather retire on \$22,000 per year or twice that? Some teachers who opted out of Social Security many years ago when they still could, and accepted the state teacher

pension plan instead, are collecting close to \$100,000 per year, albeit taxable. Their counterparts who taught the same grades in the same school system for the exact same number of years are collecting the Social Security jackpot of \$22,000 per year tax-free. Social Security isn't successful; the teacher pension plan is.

*Jim Sampair Jr.
Macalester-Groveland*

Work for the city, live in the city

The Minnesota Supreme Court has ruled that residency requirements are in the public's best interest and have a bearing on public safety, employee performance and the economic vitality of a community. At present in St. Paul, 1,900 homes are vacant and as many as 2,000 others are in foreclosure. Thousands of city employees live outside St. Paul and pay their taxes in Minneapolis, a suburb or western Wisconsin. It's time for our City Council to seriously pursue a residency rule for all future public employees in St. Paul.

*Reno Rossini
North End*

Elona is long on experience

It is not easy to summarize Elona Street-Stewart's extensive community experience and her leadership as chair and vice chair of the St. Paul School Board. However, the few lines in a story in the September 2 *Villager* mentioned only her work for her church. After knowing Elona more than 20 years, I am in awe of the depth of her commitment and experience in St. Paul, including her leadership in the St. Paul Children's Collaborative, the American Indian Family Center, the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library and the Council on Urban Boards of Education. To name these few does not begin to describe this incredibly dedicated public servant, but space is always too limited to describe Elona.

*Kathleen Vellenga
Macalester-Groveland*

Elect O'Connell to School Board

My father taught me that education is the great equalizer in life. Our kids deserve a strong educational foundation, and we all count on our great St. Paul Public Schools.

When we vote in the general election on November 3, we can make an excellent choice for our children and our schools. Jean O'Connell is a practical, sensible leader who wants to put her talents to work on the St. Paul School Board. She is recently retired from 3M, has spent time volunteering in classrooms and at science fairs, and helped our district develop its current strategic plan. She is a leader who will hit the ground running.

Our schools have complex issues to address, now and in the future. Jean O'Connell will make a strong contribution to a fiscally sound, learning-based, child-focused district. Our future depends on the success of all our children.

*Catherine Reid Day
Macalester-Groveland*

New threat to earth's ozone

A new study from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicates that increasing levels of nitrous oxide (N₂O) are a new threat to the ozone that protects us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. At low levels, ozone is a pollutant, but in the stratosphere it is an important shield.

During the 1970s, scientists discovered that man-made chlorines, primarily chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in spray cans and refrigerants, contributed to the thinning of the ozone in the stratosphere. This allows more cancer-causing ultraviolet rays to reach earth. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was finally accepted on September 16, 1987. It called for the phase out of CFCs. Worldwide compliance has resulted in stabilizing the ozone layer as new chemistry was developed to replace CFCs. Signed by 195 nations, the Montreal Protocol was called "perhaps the single most successful international agreement to date" by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

There are natural sources of N₂O, but slow natural decay in the atmosphere has kept N₂O at a tolerable level. Now nitrogen fertilizers and the burning of fossil fuels and biomass are raising N₂O levels and depleting ozone. We are using more nitrogen fertilizers to feed the earth's growing population and to make ethanol for our gasoline tanks. N₂O is a greenhouse gas, providing additional incentive for a new international pact to limit N₂O emissions. But getting nations to agree on limiting emissions from nitrogen fertilizer and fossil fuels will be a major challenge.

*Rolf Westgard
Macalester-Groveland*

Low turnout may be biggest surprise in primary election

Top candidates for mayor and School Board will appear in October forums

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Six percent of the registered voters in St. Paul turned out for the September 15 primary election for mayor and School Board, according to Ramsey County elections manager Joe Mansky. That is less than half of the 15 percent who turned out for the mayoral and School Board primary in 2005.

"The big difference this time was that both major parties endorsed a candidate," Mansky said. "In 2005 there were two DFLers (incumbent Randy Kelly and eventual winner Chris Coleman) running against each other in a relatively volatile campaign."

A total of 11,672 votes were cast in the 2009 primary election. Incumbent DFL Mayor Chris Coleman

garnered 68 percent of the votes to Republican Eva Ng's 25.8 percent. Perennial candidates Sharon Anderson and Bill Dahn received 3.9 and 2.5 percent of the votes, respectively. Coleman and Ng now advance to the November 3 general election.

The three DFL-endorsed incumbents topped the primary election field for the three open four-year seats on the St. Paul School Board. Elona Street-Stewart, John Brodrick and Tom Goldstein led with 21.1 percent, 19.5 percent and 16.6 percent of the votes, respectively. Independent challenger Jean O'Connell finished a close fourth with 15.6 percent, followed by the Republican-endorsed Chris Conner with 10.7 percent and the Republican-endorsed John Krenik with 9.8 percent.

Those six School Board candidates will advance to the general election on November 3. The seventh candidate, Republican-endorsed Richard Easton IV, was eliminated from the race with 7 percent of the vote.

In the other School Board race to complete the two years remaining in Tom Conlon's term, DFL-endorsee Vallay Varro topped the field with 45.2 percent, followed by Republican-endorsed Pat Igo with 26.7 percent, Lucky Rosenbloom with 15.8 percent and Quyen Nguyen with 12.2 percent. Varro and Igo will advance to the general election.

The mayoral and School Board candidates still in the race have been invited to debate the issues in two forums that will be presented in the coming weeks by the League of Women Voters of St. Paul.

The first one, on Thursday, October 1, will feature the eight candidates who will appear on the November 3 general election ballot for



Eva Ng



Chris Coleman

the four open seats on the St. Paul School Board. That candidate forum will run from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. at the Hubbs Center, 1030 University Ave.

The second forum on Tuesday, October 6, will feature mayoral candidates Chris Coleman and Eva Ng. It will run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

At both forums the candidates will be invited to make introductory remarks and closing statements, and they each will have an equal opportunity to answer written questions submitted by those attending the forums.

West 7th brewery's public tap will again dispense glacial water

BY JANE MCCLURE

Cold, clear water drawn from 1,000 feet beneath the surface of the earth will soon be available once again for public purchase at the former Schmidt Brewery, 882 W. 7th St. Construction has begun to replace the old pumping system and update the public water tap. By next month, residents will once again be able to fill containers with the glacial water for 50 cents a gallon.

The West 7th/Fort Road Federation, which is working with property owner BHGDN to redevelop the former brewery, will share in the proceeds from the water sales.

The public water tap opened at the brewery in the early 1980s, but has been closed for the past five years. The public water tap was shut off when the Gopher State Ethanol plant closed in 2004. The brewery stopped producing beer at the site in 2002.

"People still pull up, looking for that water," said Dave Kreitzer, who is managing the property for BHGDN. "It still has its original flavor and purity. Nowhere else in the area can you get such pure water."

Federation executive director Ed Johnson said his office still hears from people asking about the water. "It's something people really miss and will be happy to have back," he said.

Johnson said people will be able to buy the water with coins and small bills, as well as coupons that can be purchased at local businesses.

The old pumping system, which could draw a million gallons of water a day for the brewery and ethanol plant, will be replaced with a smaller, more efficient one. The structure that holds the tap will be gutted and all of its piping and vending equipment will be replaced.

The work is being done with the assistance of \$85,000 in Neighborhood Sales Tax Revi-

talization funds that were awarded by Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune and come from the city's half-percent sales tax.

The federation board has discussed ways to market the water for months. The name Schmidt cannot be used because it is owned by Pabst Brewing, which bought the Schmidt brand years ago. Other names that have been discussed include Fountain Cave Water and Cascade Falls Water to honor two long-gone area landmarks. The board finally decided on calling it Jacob Schmidt Glacier Water.

Bottling the water at the former brewery was also discussed, but the idea was dropped due to cost and regulatory issues. There was also the environmental issue of selling water in plastic bottles that would end up in landfills. Instead, Johnson said, a label is being designed for reusable water containers that the public can purchase to fill at the tap.

BHGDN, a group that includes former

Minnesota Brewing Company owners Bruce Hendry and Glen D. Nelson, is continuing its effort to sell the 15-acre brewery property for redevelopment. A \$200 million plan by Brewtown LLC—composed of developers Jeff and Craig Cohen and the federation—to redevelop the site as a mix of housing, retail, office and entertainment space fell victim to financial constraints last year. Now the federation is working with Kreitzer on ways to market the property or find interim uses for the buildings.

Dominium Development has had plans to develop the old bottling house into 115 artists' lofts and to build 16 townhouses on a nearby vacant parcel. However, it is unclear when its plans will go forward, given the stagnant housing market. Earlier this year, the brewery site was placed on the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's list of the 10 Most Endangered Historic Places.

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St. Paul sets 6.1% levy increase; School Board OKs 4.5% bump

By JANE MCCLURE

The pieces of St. Paul's property tax picture for 2010 are falling into place now that the St. Paul City Council, Ramsey County Board and St. Paul School Board have set their maximum levies. The levies, and the budget each supports, can be decreased by the end of the year but not increased.

City, county and school district officials will also adopt a joint levy by the end of the month. Property taxpayers will get their estimated tax notices starting in mid-November.

One key change this year is that there will be no joint truth-in-taxation hearing for the city, county and school district. Those hearings were instituted beginning in 1993 as a result of a state law, but the law was changed during the 2009 legislative session. The joint hearing, held in December, was criticized by elected officials and the public as being too late in the budget process to have an impact.

Each local governing body will still hold its own public truth-in-taxation hearing before adopting its 2010 levy.

City Council

The St. Paul City Council voted unani-

mously on September 9 to approve a 6.1 percent maximum levy for 2010 to support a \$538 million budget. The maximum levy is \$92.5 million, up from \$87.1 million for 2009. That includes the amounts levied for the general fund, general debt service and the library agency.

The proposed levy increase is the city's smallest in four years. "People citywide have been affected by the economy," said Ward 3 council member Pat Harris. He would like to see the levy reduced before the end of the year, but admits that will be difficult.

Other council members noted that further budget cuts will mean more difficult choices. The budget calls for closing eight recreation centers, cutting library hours, increasing various city fees and reducing some services.

The council also adopted the 2010 maximum levies for the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the Port Authority on September 9. For the HRA, the council set a levy of \$3.2 million, up 39.5 percent from the 2009 levy of \$2.3 million. The Port Authority levy is unchanged at \$2.1 million for 2009 and 2010.

In total, St. Paul's portion of the property tax picture increases 6.8 percent if all of the

various city levies are factored in. For all city functions, \$91.5 million was levied for 2009 and \$97.8 million is proposed for 2010.

St. Paul residents will have several chances to weigh in on the budget and on proposed fees from the city. The right-of-way maintenance fees, which cover the cost of snow plowing, street sweeping, tree trimming, street lighting and sidewalks, will be the topic of a public hearing on October 4. A public hearing on the city budget itself will take place on October 28. The city's water board will hold a hearing on its proposed 2010 fees later this fall.

The impact of the various city levies depends on the value of a property, the property's classification and whether or not the property has seen any improvements.

The median single-family home in St. Paul is valued at \$168,100. That mythical home has seen an 8.2 percent decrease in taxable market value. Property taxes were \$2,034 on that home for 2009, but will drop by \$117 next year due to changes in homestead credit, fiscal disparities and other tax shifts. The city's maximum levy would bring taxes on the home to \$1,967 in 2010, without factoring in the county and school district levies.

The median commercial property in St.

Paul is valued at \$442,600. That mythical property owner would have paid \$13,238 to the city for 2009. Various tax shifts would add \$289 to the property tax bill for 2010, and the city's maximum levy would add another \$160. That brings St. Paul portion of the property tax to \$13,696 in 2010, without factoring in the school district and county levy impacts.

School Board

The St. Paul School Board voted 5-0 on September 17 to set a maximum levy of \$111.8 million for the 2010-2011 academic year. That is a 4.5 percent increase over the \$107 million levied for this school year. Factor in fiscal disparities and the increase drops to 2.4 percent.

The owner of a median-valued home of \$168,100 will actually see a \$1.00 decrease in school taxes, from \$40 in 2009 to \$39 in 2010. The School Board will hold a budget hearing on December 1 and approve its levy on December 15.

County Board

The Ramsey County Board approved a 2.7 percent levy increase for 2010 on September 8, with no increase in the Regional Rail Authority levy. (See story on next page.)

Highland generates biggest chunk of city property tax dollars

By JANE MCCLURE

Dramatic changes in property values throughout St. Paul will be reflected in 2010 property tax bills. While many homeowners are seeing decreases in housing values and what they will pay as the city's share of the 2010 bill, that may not be the case in Highland Park.

That worries Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris, who represents an area whose residential, commercial and industrial property owners pay some of the city's highest property taxes. "This year, the impacts are going to be quite pronounced," he said.

Harris said neighborhood-by-neighborhood comparisons of where St. Paul's property tax dollars come from show that Ward 3 carries a greater burden than other parts of the city. "People shouldn't assume that my constituents are going to get their bills, light a cigar and write a check," he said. He has heard from many constituents who have been laid off or had salaries cut and cannot afford large property tax increases.

St. Paul City Council members reviewed neighborhood-by-neighborhood property tax impacts as they prepared to adopt the 2010 maximum levy on September 9. One of the issues city officials are scrutinizing is where property tax dollars are generated, both by dollar amount and classification of property.

Chris Samuel of Ramsey County Property Records and Revenue is tracking the trends in the real estate market. Many neighborhoods have seen significant reductions in market values, he noted. Other neighborhoods have remained stable or seen only slight reductions.

"People shouldn't assume that my constituents are going to get their bills, light a cigar and write a check," said City Council member Pat Harris.

For 2009, the city levied \$69 million in property taxes. Of that amount 69.2 percent was generated by residential property, 19.3 percent by commercial and industrial property, and 11.5 percent by apartments.

Highland Park generated nearly \$8.8 million or 12.6 percent of the city's portion of 2009 property taxes. That is the highest amount citywide. Highland Park generates the most residential property taxes in the city at \$6.44 million, the most apartment taxes at \$1.1 million and the fourth-highest commercial and industrial property taxes at \$1.2 million. In the latter category, Highland is only behind St.

2009 city taxes by planning district

Planning District	Residential	Commercial industrial	Apartment	Total	% of total
8. Summit-University	\$3,040,288	\$ 316,211	\$ 717,552	\$4,074,051	5.9%
9. West Seventh	1,639,759	1,274,468	279,842	3,194,069	4.6%
13. Union Park	4,060,115	837,309	701,730	5,599,154	8.1%
14. Macalester-Groveland	6,290,444	349,522	409,398	7,049,364	10.2%
15. Highland Park	6,438,241	1,171,426	1,147,083	8,756,750	12.6%
16. Summit Hill	2,701,471	565,834	409,184	3,676,489	5.3%
17. Downtown	658,651	1,443,835	582,692	2,685,178	3.9%

Anthony Park (\$1.8 million), downtown (\$1.4 million) and the West End (\$1.3 million.)

Samuel said he was initially surprised to see Highland Park's percentages so high. Typically, a city's downtown drives its property tax engine. However, much of downtown St. Paul is in tax-increment districts where increased tax revenue derived from redeveloped property is diverted to help pay redevelopment costs.

St. Paul property taxes collected for 2009 in Macalester-Groveland totaled \$7 million or 10.2 percent, the second-highest figure in the city. At the low end was the Thomas-Dale neighborhood at a total of \$1.8 million or 2.7 percent.

All of the city's 17 planning districts saw

drops in the median taxable value of residential property from 2008 to 2009. The greatest percentage change, 17.1 percent, was in Thomas-Dale, where the median property value fell from \$136,300 to \$113,000.

Highland Park had the smallest percentage decrease, 1.5 percent. Values fell from \$271,950 to \$268,000.

Other area neighborhoods saw varying decreases in median taxable values: 8 percent in the Union Park neighborhoods of Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline (from \$282,200 to \$259,500), 7.7 percent in Summit-University (\$204,500 to \$188,700), 7.1 percent in Summit Hill (\$380,300 to

PROPERTY TAXES ► 13



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County Board proposes maximum property tax hike of 2.7% for 2010

By JANE McCLURE

Ramsey County commissioners unanimously approved a 2010 maximum property tax increase of 2.7 percent on September 8, the smallest increase county officials have proposed in a decade.

County administrator Julie Kleinschmidt unveiled a 2010 budget of \$569.5 million, an increase of nearly \$4.6 million or 0.8 percent over 2009, as part of the biennial budget plan. The 2011 budget is for \$582.7 million, an increase of \$13.2 million or 2.3 percent over 2010. The 2011 property tax increase is proposed at 2.7 percent.

The county plans to levy \$259.9 million in 2010, a \$6.9 million increase over 2009.

A zero percent increase is proposed for both 2010-2011 for the Regional Rail Authority. Commissioners will levy \$19.9 million in both years to pay for regional rail operations.

Commissioners said the choices to balance the budget in the weeks ahead will not be easy. "There'll be some pain with this budget," said commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, who chairs the county's budget committee.

Kleinschmidt warned that the budget will require difficult cost containment measures, service reductions and fee increases. "This will impact real people and the services they need," she said.

The budget was prepared against a backdrop of financial difficulties for many county residents, Kleinschmidt said. Between 2003 and 2008 the county saw requests for public assistance climb 34 percent. Food shelf use throughout the county has risen 31 percent since 2006. Even more troubling, foreclosures have skyrocketed by 670 percent between 2003 and 2008.

"People need vital services, yet at the same time people have less ability to pay," Kleinschmidt said.

The 2010 budget also has to be prepared with an \$18 million gap in mind. The county took a \$10 million hit due to the unallotment of various program and categorical aids by Governor Tim Pawlenty to balance the state budget. The remaining \$8 million is attributed to rising costs.

Some of the measures that will be taken to balance the budget include service cuts in children's and adult mental health programs, programs for people with developmental dis-

abilities, and programs for child placement and protection. Road maintenance will be less timely. Library hours will remain the same next year, but could change in 2011. Operating hours at the Aldrich and Harding ice arenas will be reduced. A dorm at the county correctional facility and another at the juvenile detention center will close as inmates are transferred to other facilities.

"There'll be some pain with this budget," said county commissioner Victoria Reinhardt.

The county will trim 109 positions, but because of a hiring freeze only about a dozen people will be laid off. Five new positions will be added in emergency communications.

Health and human services will sustain some of the biggest staff cuts, with about 40 full-time equivalent jobs eliminated over two years. Most of the cuts will be to administration to protect direct services. Health and human services will benefit from added state and federal funding for some public health and workforce services.

When the county's 2010 budget is viewed as a whole, property taxes make up 44.5 percent of the total. Another 28 percent is from inter-governmental revenue, and 18.8 percent from fines and charges for services. The rest comes from the use of property and sales, as well as fund balances.

Major budget expenditures include 47.2 percent for health and human services, 28.5 for public safety and justice, and 9.6 percent for administration and taxpayer services. Smaller amounts are spent on general county purposes and transportation, recreation and culture.

Public hearings on the 2010 budget will be held at 8:30 a.m. on October 30 at the County Courthouse and at 6:30 p.m. on November 30 at Roseville Senior High School. Commissioners plan to adopt a final levy and budget on December 15. The levy increase can be cut, but not increased by the end of the year under state law. Truth-in-taxation notices go out in mid-November.

12 PROPERTY TAXES

\$353,400), 6.6 percent in Macalester-Groveland (\$281,500 to \$262,900) and 6 percent in the West End (\$177,200 to \$166,500).

For property taxes payable in 2009 and 2010,

that translates to a decrease for every neighborhood except Highland Park, which will see a 4.9 percent increase, or an additional \$158, from \$3,200 in 2009 to an estimated \$3,358 in 2010. The 2010 amount does not factor in any school district or county increases.

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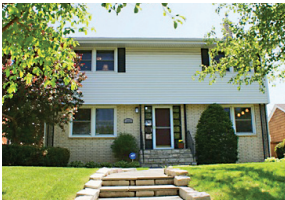
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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Robbery—Six juveniles robbed a boy of his bicycle on St. Paul Avenue around 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 4. One of the suspects struck the boy in the back with a baseball bat.

Burglary—Brabazon Pump, 2232 Benson Ave., was broken into between 5:00 p.m. Wednesday and 7:00 a.m. Thursday, August 19-20.

—A purse was taken from a home on the 1800 block of Bayard Avenue between 12:30 and 1:45 p.m. Thursday, September 3. The suspect entered the house while the owner was working in her yard.

—Cash was stolen from a wallet in a home on the 1700 block of Sunny Slope Lane around 3:30 a.m. Sunday, September 6. Entry was gained through a kitchen window.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred on the 2000 block of Bayard Avenue between 10:00 p.m. Sunday and 1:00 a.m. Monday, August 16-17.

—A theft from auto occurred at the Highland Ice Arena, 800 S. Snelling Ave., between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 25.

—A purse was stolen from an office at St. Catherine University between noon and 3:15 p.m. Monday, August 31. Stolen credit cards were then used fraudulently.

—More than \$1,000 was stolen from McDonald's, 2322 W. 7th St., between 9:30 and 10:00 p.m. Thursday, September 3.

—A bicycle was stolen between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. Saturday, September 5, at Ford

Man admits to West End coffee shop fire

A Brooklyn Park man recently pleaded guilty to setting a fire that damaged a West End coffee shop last winter.

Phuc "Joey" Vo, 18, was accused of using gasoline and molotov cocktails to set fire to Rudie's Coffee House, 1169 W. 7th St., at 2:00 a.m. on January 21, according to St. Paul Fire Marshal Steve Zaccard. Damage to the first floor of the building was estimated at \$75,000. Firefighters were able to keep the flames from spreading to the apartments

upstairs where the residents were asleep.

"Anytime someone intentionally sets fire to a building where people are living—especially in the middle of the night—they're trying to kill someone," said St. Paul Fire Chief Tim Butler. "It's just like attempted murder."

The Ramsey County Attorney's Office charged Vo in May with first degree arson, a felony that is punishable by up to \$35,000 and 20 years in jail. Sentencing is scheduled for October.

Parkway and Cleveland Avenue.

—Items were stolen from a locker at Lifetime Fitness, 2145 Ford Parkway, between noon and 12:30 p.m. Sunday, September 6.

Sex crimes—Officers found a parked car near Cretin-Derham Hall and cited the man and woman inside for indecent exposure around 11:00 p.m. Saturday, August 15.

—A 39-year-old Highland Park man was arrested for attempted rape, assault and false imprisonment on the 1300 block of West Maynard Drive around 7:30 p.m. Saturday, September 5.

Miscellaneous—An intoxicated man was swearing at customers and throwing chairs at Bruegger's Bagels, 2136 Ford Pkwy., around 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 7. He was taken to detox.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—An attempted bank robbery occurred at TCF Bank, 459 N. Lexington Pkwy., around 11:45 a.m. Monday, August 31. Surveillance video showed two male suspects preparing to rob the bank, but they were

scared off by an exiting customer.

Theft—A wallet was stolen at Concordia University between 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 26. Stolen credit cards were then used fraudulently.

—A GPS unit was taken from an unlocked car on the 1200 block of Dayton Avenue between 1:00 and 8:00 a.m. Friday, August 21.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A computer and other items were stolen from a home on the 1200 block of St. Clair Avenue between 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Friday, August 21.

—A computer was taken from a home on the 1300 block of Palace Avenue between August 21-25.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred at the St. Clair Broiler, 1580 St. Clair Ave., between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m. Thursday, August 20.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A man was robbed at knifepoint at Dewey Street and Feronia Avenue around 11:15 p.m. Sunday, August 23.

—A man was robbed of his backpack on the 1800 block of Marshall Avenue around 12:30 a.m. Thursday, September 3.

Burglary—A safe was stolen from Porky's Drive-In, 1890 University Ave., between 1:00 and 9:00 a.m. Sunday, August 16.

—A home was burglarized on the 1700 block of Iglehart Avenue around 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 18.

—A home was broken into on the 1600 block of Hague Avenue sometime before 3:45 p.m. Thursday, September 3.

—A home was burglarized on the 2000 block of Selby Avenue around 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 9.

Theft—Two Merriam Park men in their 20s were arrested for theft from auto and criminal damage to property at Fry Street and Carroll Avenue around 5:30 a.m. Sunday, August 16. Neighbors spotted the men carrying backpacks and using flashlights to look into cars.

—A bicycle was stolen at the University of St. Thomas around 4:30 p.m. Monday, August 17.

—A purse was taken from a vehicle on the 300 block of North Mississippi River Boulevard between 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Monday, August 17. A credit card was then used fraudulently.

—Credit cards were stolen from a home on the 400 block of Herschel Street, it was reported on Thursday, August 20.

—The right rear window was smashed and a laptop computer and subwoofer were taken from a vehicle on Moore Street and Ashland Avenue between 1:00 and 6:00 a.m. Sunday, August 23.

—Nearly \$10,000 was stolen from a home on the 200 block of Montrose Place between noon and 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 25.

—A theft from auto occurred at Cretin and Marshall avenues between 11:30 p.m. Tuesday

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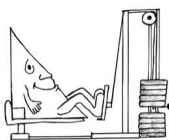
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and 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 25-26.

—More than \$300 was stolen from Twin Town Treatment Center, 1706 University Ave., between 5:00 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 4-8.

Sex crime—Undercover police arrested 11 men for indecent exposure at Eustis Street and Mississippi River Boulevard on Thursday, August 27.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A home on the 1500 block of Carroll Avenue was burglarized between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 7.

Theft—A utility trailer was stolen from the 1300 block of Laurel Avenue between midnight and 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 20.

—A wallet was stolen from an office on the 1400 block of Marshall Avenue between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 25.

—A video camera and flute were stolen from a home on the 1300 block of Summit Avenue between 10:00 p.m. Saturday, August 29, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 9.

Summit Hill

Robbery—Two male juveniles robbed a woman of her purse in the alley near St. Albans Street and Summit Avenue around 8:30 p.m. Monday, September 7. The woman suffered minor injuries. Police later arrested the juveniles.

Burglary—A home on the 1000 block of Fairmount Avenue was burglarized between 6:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 18. A metal box containing coins and bonds stolen in the burglary were later recovered in the Nativity Church parking lot.

—Oxford Hill Condominiums, 1060 Grand Ave., was burglarized between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. Monday, August 17.

—Credit cards, bus passes and a cell phone were stolen from a home on the 1000 block of Lombard Avenue between 10:00 p.m. Friday and 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 28-29.

—Items were stolen from a construction trailer on the 900 block of Fairmount Avenue between 5:00 p.m. Thursday and 8:30 a.m. Friday, September 3-4.

Theft—A man and woman fraudulently received seven free phones between 6:00 and 8:30 p.m. Monday, August 17, at the AT&T store, 1064 Grand Ave.

—A wallet was stolen at William Mitchell College of Law, 875 Summit Ave., between noon and 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, August 25.

—A rock was thrown through the window of a vehicle and an iPod was stolen on the 1000 block of Lombard Avenue around 2:45 a.m. Friday, August 28.

—A bicycle was stolen from a vehicle's bike rack on the 400 block of Summit Avenue between 10:00 p.m. Wednesday and 6:00 a.m. Thursday, September 2-3.

—A theft occurred at Caribou Coffee, 757 Grand Ave., between noon and 4:00 p.m. Saturday, September 5. The victim's stolen credit card was then used fraudulently.

Summit-University

Robbery—A man sprayed Mace in the face of a woman and stole her purse on the 300 block of North St. Albans Street around 11:30 p.m. Thursday, August 20.

—Three masked suspects robbed the occupants of a home at gunpoint on the 900 block of Laurel Avenue around 11:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 26. A safe was taken from an upstairs bedroom.

—A woman was robbed at Kent Street and Selby Avenue just before midnight Saturday, August 29.

—A suspect stole a man's wallet at the bus stop at University Avenue and Dale Street around 9:00 a.m. Monday, September 7.

Burglary—Two homes were burglarized on the 800-900 blocks of Ashland Avenue between 11:00 p.m. Saturday and 7:30 a.m. Sunday, August 15-16.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a home on the 800 block of Iglehart Avenue between 11:30 p.m. Thursday and 4:30 p.m. Friday, August 27-28.

Theft—A window was broken and a GPS unit was stolen from a vehicle on the 800 block of Hague Avenue between midnight and 6:45 a.m. Monday, August 17.

—An employee's wallet was stolen from a back room at the Happy Gnome, 498 Selby Ave., between 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 23.

Assault—A 60-year-old Summit-University man was cited for assault at the Attucks-Brooks American Legion Hall, 976 Concordia Ave., around 8:45 p.m. Sunday, August 30. The suspect allegedly poked the security guard with a knife and was brought to detox.

—A male suspect reportedly sliced a man with a knife outside Wolter Brothers Pharmacy and Liquors, 438 University Ave., around 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 2. A security officer disarmed the suspect.

—A suspect allegedly assaulted a victim with a broken beer bottle near Farrington Street and Selby Avenue around 4:30 p.m. Thursday, September 3. The suspect was gone when police arrived.

West End

Robbery—A man was robbed at gunpoint on the 100 block of West 7th Street around 8:00 p.m. Monday, August 17.

—Two female juveniles were arrested for strong-arm robbery on the 1100 block of West 7th Street around 4:00 p.m. Monday, August 17.

—Three suspects stole a car at gunpoint in the parking lot at Bonfe Auto, 380 W. 7th St., around 11:30 a.m. Thursday, August 27.

Burglary—Hinding Heating, 915 W. 7th St., was broken into between 6:00 p.m. Tuesday and 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 25-26.

Assault—A man was beaten on the head with a metal pipe and found bleeding behind a house on the 900 block of Bayard Avenue around 2:00 p.m. Sunday, August 16.

—A person was assaulted in the alley on the 700 block of Juno Avenue around 6:30 p.m. Sunday, August 16.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred at Forepaugh's, 276 S. Exchange St., between 6:45 and 8:45 p.m. Monday, August 17.

—A \$350 diamond ring was stolen at Sophie Joe's Emporium, 453 W. 7th St., between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 18.

—A theft from auto occurred at Famous Dave's, 1930 W. 7th Street, between 6:15 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, August 23.

—A woman's purse was stolen at the Lucky Foxx Bar, 731 Randolph Ave., around 10:00 p.m. Sunday, September 6. Her stolen debit card was then used fraudulently.

—A theft from auto occurred on the 900 block of Palace Avenue around 3:00 a.m. Friday, September 4.

Fire Calls

The following calls were gathered from recent reports by the St. Paul Fire Department.

Lexington-Hamline—A kitchen fire was reported in an apartment at Skyline Towers, 1247 St. Anthony Ave., around 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 7. The resident took a flaming pan from the kitchen into the living room, where she tried to put it out with water. The oil flared up and set off the sprinkler, which extinguished the fire. Two people were taken to the hospital for evaluation.

Macalester-Groveland—A 54-year-old man severed a portion of his thumb while using a table saw on the 1500 block of Sargent Avenue at 10:45 a.m. Thursday, August 27.

Merriam Park—A 60-year-old man suffered cardiac arrest while driving his car on the 1600 block of Hague Avenue at 7:31 p.m. Thursday, August 27. Two nurses living nearby performed CPR until paramedics arrived.

Summit-University—Firefighters responded to a house fire at 10:14 a.m. Monday, September 14, on the 300 block of Aurora Avenue. Plastic baby bottles that were being heated in a pan on the stove caught fire, causing an estimated \$100,000 damage.

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• **Propane tanks**
• **Car batteries**

Brush/Compost

(call Ramsey County at 651-266-1155)

Waterbeds

Mini Blinds/Shades

If you bring your appliance to the Clean up it is a \$10 fee to dispose of it and \$10 for each additional.

They will still do Curbside pick up on the following Monday, October 12 with a \$25 fee for the first appliance and \$10 for each one after.

There is an up charge of \$5 on Water softeners and air conditioners.

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www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org

www.macgrove.org

District Council

Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Fall cleanup—Volunteers are needed for the Highland Park neighborhood cleanup that will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 10, in the parking lot of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant, 966 S Mississippi River Blvd. This year, residents will be able to drop off appliances at the cleanup site for \$10 each. Volunteers will be provided with lunch and will receive a voucher to bring in one carload of items for free. For information, call the HDC office.

Board vacancy—A special election will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 1, to fill the at-large board position previously held by Dan Smith. All Highland Park residents, property owners and business owners over the age of 18 may vote in the election, which will take place before the regularly scheduled HDC board meeting at the Hillcrest Recreation Center.

Senior forum—A task force of the Highland District Council will hold forum on Wednesday, September 23, on improving the neighborhood for senior citizens. Based on comments at the meeting, a group of service providers, educators and neighborhood groups will continue to meet and on how best to meet seniors' needs. The forum will be held from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Call community organizer Kathy Carruth at the office or e-mail hdc@visi.com.

Mark your calendar—discussion on senior services in Highland, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 23, Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave.; Transportation Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; special election for an at-large director at 6:30 p.m. followed by the HDC board meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 1, Hillcrest.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Fall plant share—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Beautification Committee invites residents to share their extra perennials with other local gardeners at its annual fall plant share on Saturday, September 26. Those who do not have plants to share may purchase them at a suggested donation of \$2.00 per plant. For plant share locations and other information, check the community council's website.

Become a neighborhood rep—Block clubs serve as the building blocks for maintaining the strength and safety of a neighborhood. The key is the role played by the neighbor rep who starts a block club, hosts a block party, creates a block map with contact information for block residents, and serves as a liaison between the block, the district council and the police. For information on becoming a neighbor rep, call the community council or e-mail afton@macgrove.org.

Native Garden Awards—A map with the location of the winners of the second annual Native Garden Awards is now available on the community council's website. Residents are invited to take their own native garden tour. For information,

call the community council office.

Crime updates—Interested in receiving e-mailed updates on crime in the neighborhood? Macalester-Groveland Community Council's crime updates are based on news releases, tips and information received from the St. Paul Police Department. Contact Afton Martens at afton@macgrove.org to be added to the e-mail list.

Mark your calendar—Housing and Land Use Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 23, Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Summit Hill celebrates—The Summit Hill Association will hold a neighborhood celebration and board elections at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 8, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. The celebration will include volunteer recognition, information tables featuring SHA committees and events, elections for several open seats on the SHA board, and a dessert reception with musical accompaniment. All Summit Hill neighbors, business people and property owners are invited to attend. For information on running for the board, contact the SHA office or visit its website.

HourCar hub sought—The SHA board has voted unanimously to help raise the remaining \$8,000 to sponsor an HourCar hub in the neighborhood. Tax-deductible donations may be made out to the Summit Hill Association and mailed to 860 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.

Worm composting workshop—Due to popular demand, the SHA Environment Committee is sponsoring another free worm composting workshop at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 7, at the Linwood Recreation Center. One winner will receive a ready-to-use worm bin during the evening.

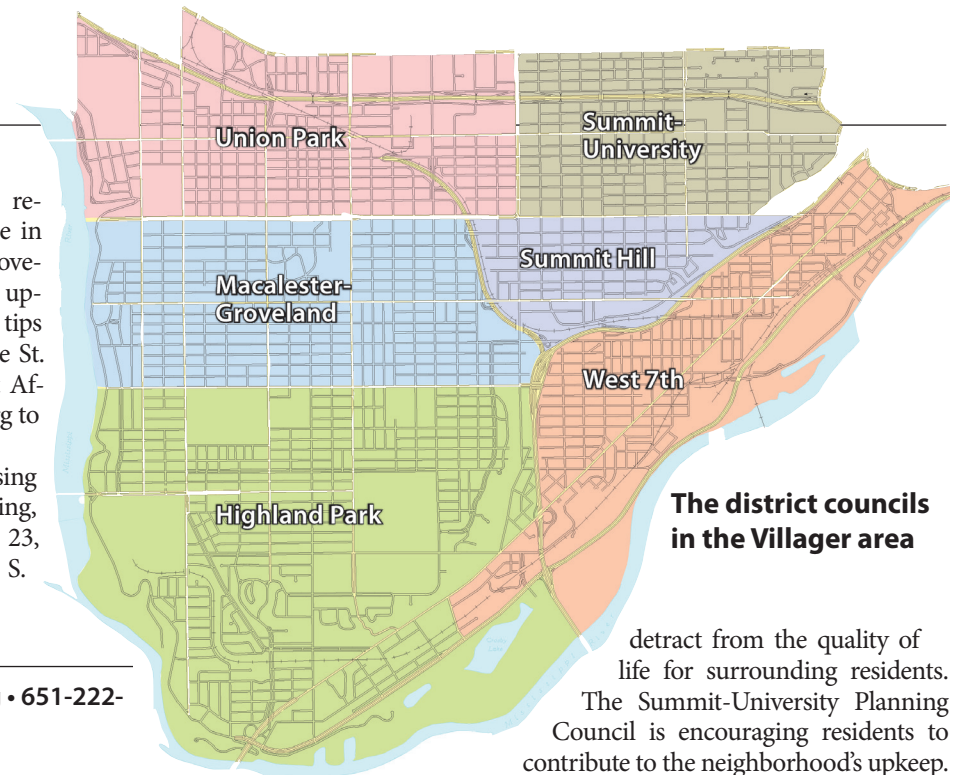
Keep in touch—Check out the SHA's website for updates on neighborhood happenings and volunteer opportunities. There is also information on how to sign up to receive the SHA's electronic newsletter.

Summit-University

www.Summit-U.com • 651-228-1855

Summit-U's upkeep—Hamline University's class of 2013 kicked off the school year by cleaning up and landscaping a vacant Selby Avenue lot that had been the site of the old Pyramid market before it was torn down four years ago. The students improved the property, but without a plan for new development neighbors fear it may again become an eyesore.

This lot is not alone in the Summit-University neighborhood. Unkempt properties—both vacant and occupied—can



The district councils in the Villager area

detract from the quality of life for surrounding residents. The Summit-University Planning Council is encouraging residents to contribute to the neighborhood's upkeep.

Among the steps they can take include:

- Contacting the property owner if you notice garbage, unmowed lawns, or other issues that detract from the neighborhood. Those who need help in determining who owns the property may call the Summit-U council office.

- If the property owner won't respond, contact your block club chair and the St. Paul Department of Safety and Inspections (651-266-8989).

- If all else fails, consider some volunteer action to solve the problem. Block clubs can adopt vacant properties to ensure they are kept free of litter and don't become nuisances.

- Help Summit-U's new Vacant No More program get the property back into productive use. Vacant No More works with neighbors to promote the reuse of vacant buildings through social networks such as Facebook. Search for Summit-University on facebook.com to be a part of that effort.

Union Park

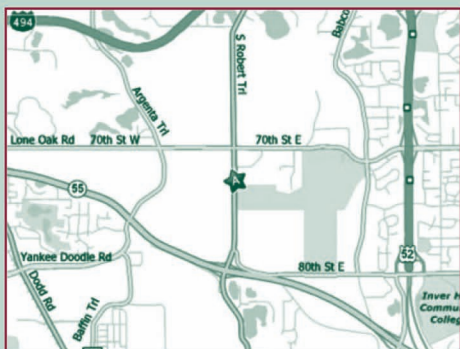
www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Neighborhood cleanup—A joint neighborhood cleanup will be hosted by the Union Park, Como Park, Hamline-Midway and St. Anthony Park district councils from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 26, at the State Fairgrounds' Camel parking lot off Larpenteur Avenue. Details of the event, price lists and vehicle slips have been sent to all Union Park residences. The mailing also acts as a registration slip. Those who did not receive one should contact Julie Oney at julie@unionparkdc.org or call 651-645-6887.

Annual meeting—The Union Park District Council will adopt a "green" theme for its annual meeting that will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, October 8, at Bethel Christian Fellowship, 1466 Portland Ave. The free event will include updates from city representatives and information on coordinated garbage hauling. For information, call the district council office.

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Food

New name, new menu aside, Cherokee still has room for sirloin

Renovation honors origin of popular West St. Paul eatery

An e-mailed message a decade ago played a significant role in this summer's rebranding of the Cherokee Sirloin Room as the Cherokee Tavern. Cherokee Tavern was the name of the establishment when it was founded 76 years ago. "We got the e-mail from someone in some western state—Montana, I think," said Jim Casper, 44, who with his brother Rick, 53, owns the restaurant at 886 Smith Ave. "The sender had a ribbon and a jacket patch from the original Cherokee Tavern."

The brothers acquired the memorabilia and recently used the design from the jacket patch as the logo for their newly renovated restaurant. "We wanted to return to our roots as a neighborhood restaurant, rather than someplace people only went for special occasions," Rick said.

The roots to which Rick referred run deep in the neighborhood. The original bar, which still stands along the north wall of the restaurant, served its first drink after Prohibition ended in 1933. The bar was eventually acquired by a gangster named Johnny Quinn. "He was given the bar as a reward for serving time in prison for a crime he didn't commit," Jim said.

Quinn's likeness now graces the front of the Cherokee's new menu, but the Cherokee Tavern had a succession of owners in its first dozen years. A couple of Army buddies purchased the eatery after World War II, renamed it the Cherokee Sirloin Room and ran the establishment until 1970 when the Casper brothers' parents, Bob and Dorothy, bought it.

In 1977 the senior Caspers purchased the liquor store next door and the building immediately to its south, moved the liquor store to the south end and expanded the restaurant. When the Casper brothers took over the operation in 1987, they sold the liquor store, expanded the restaurant further and added windows along Smith. In 1991 they opened a second restaurant in Eagan under the same name.

The latest renovation has unified and brightened the bar and restaurant. "We took out a half wall in the bar and opened the wall between that and the dining area so that people can see into the bar," Rick said. The brothers also refurbished the original terrazzo tile floor in the bar, replaced the carpeting in the middle dining room with hardwood, exposed the original copper ceiling and added new lighting. Booths along the south wall were moved to the west wall to create space for a stage.

"We're going to try to have live music a couple nights a week," Rick said, along with karaoke on Fridays.

The brothers have hired Wayne Romehilt as the new beverage director at the bar. Among other things, "he takes different spirits, like vodka and tequila, and infuses them with spices and herbs from the St. Paul Farmers' Market," Jim said. One of Romehilt's specialties is a Bloody Mary made with bacon-infused vodka.

So far, the changes appear to be successful. Customers have reported visiting the Cherokee as many times in a month this summer as they had over the previous several years, the brothers said.

Head chef Derek Houtkooper has created an entirely new menu for the Cherokee Tavern filled with appetizers, sand-



Second-generation owners Rick (left) and Jim Casper in their newly remodeled and rechristened Cherokee Tavern.



Hot Dish By Morgan Smith

wiches, soups and salads. All of the offerings are homemade with fresh ingredients. "We basically threw out the freezer," Rick said.

However, longtime customers can rest assured: The Cherokee continues to serve its traditional favorites such as the onion rings (\$7.00), the walleye dinner (\$19) and the Steak of the Millennium (\$22). The Caspers have also retained the party rooms, and they'll continue their 25-year practice of serving free meals on Thanksgiving Day—an annual tradition that has grown from 200 to more than 3,000 holiday meals served on the fourth Thursday of November.

When my dining companions and I arrived at the Cherokee on a recent Saturday night, I couldn't help but notice in the vestibule all of the awards the restaurant has received over the years, including *City Pages'* designation as the best steakhouse in the Twin Cities in 1997 and *Minnesota Monthly's* recognition as a "Top Spot for Carnivores" in 2008. So I ordered the Steak of the Millennium with the 1933 recipe for potatoes au gratin on the side.

When I order steak, I always ask for medium rare but rarely

get what I consider that to be: pink with little or no red on the inside and a seared outside. In this case, the Cherokee didn't disappoint. My steak was exactly as I like it: pink, tasty, tender and seared.

Though the au gratin potatoes weren't the best I've ever had, they were certainly near the top, and I'd gladly order them the next time if two of my dining companions hadn't raved so much about the mashed potatoes.

Another companion ordered the BBQ Pork Loin Ribs (\$14 for a small portion, \$17 for the full rack). He asked for the small portion, but the ribs still extended out over both ends of the plate. I could tell they were fork-tender, and he obviously liked them because he didn't offer me any to try.

His better-half ordered the Harvest Salad (\$10), an eye-pleasing concoction of diced chicken, squash, raisins, roasted onions, sliced Granny Smith apples, crumbled goat cheese, spring greens and maple vinaigrette.

My other guest ordered the Margherita Chicken Sandwich (\$8.00), a chicken breast infused with garlic olive oil, then grilled, topped with fresh mozzarella, tomatoes and basil and served on a ciabatta hoagie. He's a pretty picky eater and likes to take home leftovers, but he gobbled up the whole thing.

His partner went with the Seven-Spice Salad (\$10), a generous portion of pan-seared prime rib with green peppers, mushrooms, onions and bacon prepared in a blackening spice, deglazed with a sweet and sour sauce and served on greens with tomato wedges and ranch dressing. The beef was too spicy for her, she said, and she offered me a taste. I thought it was terrific and looked forward to finishing what she didn't eat. The next time I looked, however, she'd cleaned her plate.

We also ordered the Cherokee's steak soup (\$4.00) and veggie quesadilla (\$7.00). The former was something I'd recommend anytime. The latter was fresh, but I think the chef forgot to include the red pepper hummus, which would have given it the kick it needed.

None of us were particularly thrilled with the Cherokee's famous onion rings or fries. The rings were perfectly prepared, but they didn't have the zing we were looking for, and the fries might have spent a little too much time in the kitchen.

The Cherokee Tavern has an extensive wine list but no official dessert menu. If the Casper brothers ever decide to offer a dessert menu, they'd better include the champagne lemon cream cake. The generous free samples we were given by our server as a *mea culpa* for the staff's slight oversights were delicious.

We had arrived at the Cherokee at 5:00 that evening, and the dining room was almost empty. When we left about 6:15, all of the tables were taken and the kitchen was dishing out plate after plate of the Steak of the Millennium. So while the Cherokee's new look and new menu may be luring new customers, I'm guessing it's the old standbys that are still luring longtime customers them back.



The Cherokee Burger at the newly remodeled and rechristened Cherokee Tavern, dressed up with bacon, fried onions and cheese and served with French fries, a side salad and pickle.

PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

The Kiosk

Wednesday/September 23

A BICYCLE REPAIR WORKSHOP will be offered by Smart Trips Union Park at 6:00 this evening outside the Dunning Recreation Center, 1221 Marshall Ave. Flat tires and other basic repairs will be discussed by members of the Sibley Bike Depot. A free tire repair kit will be given to the first 20 people. Call 651-224-8555.

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today in the ballroom at Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave. Call 1-800-448-3543.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS will offer a program on Instant Runoff Voting at 6:00 this evening at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The audience will be able to participate in a light-hearted experiment that provides practice for ranking individual choices. Call 651-450-6477.

Thursday/September 24

A FREE SEMINAR FOR VETERANS on homeownership will be held at 6:30 this evening at the Fort Snelling Officers Club on Highway 5 and Post Road. Veterans will learn about VA mortgage benefits and home inspections. A \$50 cash drawing will be held. E-mail Skaja@exitinnovationrealty.com or call 651-263-2138.

Friday/September 25

A NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUSE will be open for refreshments, live music, board games and conversation from 7:00 to 10:00 this evening at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Call 651-698-9443.

A FLEA MARKET will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. today and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. tomorrow at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. A free musical performance by Amy & Adams will run from 6:00 to 8:00 this evening. Concessions will be sold during the flea market and performance. Call 651-699-5560.

A RUMMAGE SALE will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today and tomorrow and from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday in Carolyn Hall at St. Mark's Catholic School, 1976 Dayton Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be sold. Call 651-644-7724.

Saturday/September 26

FALL MUSHROOMING will be explored during a program at 10:00 this morning at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Species will be collected, identified and even sampled. The program is recommended for adults. The cost is \$5.00-\$7.00. Call 651-455-4531.

A LITTLE HOUSE CAMP sampler for grownups will be offered from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at historic Fort Snelling. Adults will sing songs, play games and make food and crafts that Laura Ingalls Wilder learned while growing up on the western frontier in the 19th century. The cost is \$45-\$49. Call 612-726-1171.

SEEDING OF THE OAK SAVANNA near West River Parkway and 36th Street in Minneapolis will be conducted by Friends of the Mississippi River from 9:30 to 11:30 this morning. Carolyn Carr of Ecological Strategies will train volunteers on preparing



Sam Levine and Zachary Glaser marvel at a massive bubble created during a Bubble Festival on September 4 to kick off the new year at the Talmud Torah of St. Paul Day School. Below, Zoe Glaser makes a huge bubble with the help of Highland Park neighbor and Zubbles inventor Tim Kehoe. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

the site and spreading native seeds. To register, contact Sue Rich at srich@fmr.org or 651-222-2193, ext 14.

A PAM-O-RAMA TOUR of Fort Snelling's Upper Post will be offered by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota at 10:00 this morning. The "behind the fence" walking tour will look at one of the nation's most endangered properties and will include information on plans to reuse the dozens of historic structures on the site. The cost is \$15. Visit www.mnppreservation.org or call 651-293-9047.

AN AUCTION OF VEHICLES and equipment will be held by the St. Paul Department of Public Works at 10:00 this morning at its maintenance facility at 891 N. Dale St. The auction items will be available for inspection beginning at 9:00 a.m. A complete list of items may be found at fwr-auctioneers.com/upcomingauctions.htm.

"UNAUTHORIZED DESIGN: Challenging Lowertown" will begin at 9:00 this morning at Mears Park in downtown St. Paul. The charrette is being hosted by the AIA St. Paul and will look at how light rail and the possibility of a new Saints baseball stadium will increase the importance of pedestrian-oriented amenities in Lowertown. Solutions will be presented at 4:00 p.m. to members of the public. Contact Erin McKiel at emckiel@bwbr.com.

A FAMILY FUN DAY will be hosted by Cub Scouts from the North Star District from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at the state Capitol. There will be free guided tours and a chance to scout for treasures in the Capitol while parents and guardians learn more about Cub Scouting.

THE MINNESOTA AIR GUARD Museum will honor veterans and their families during an open house from 11:00

a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today. The afternoon will include refreshments, entertainment and a chance to view the open cockpits of vintage aircraft. The museum is located on the guard base off of Highway 55. Visit www.mnangmuseum.org or call 612-713-2523.

Sunday/September 27

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PAUL Parish Festival is back after an 11-year hiatus and will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. today at the corner of Summit and Selby avenues. The festival will include traditional carnival games, a petting zoo, games of chance, a cake walk, bottle blast, cotton candy, ham dinner and dessert table loaded with home-baked pies. Call 651-228-1766 or visit www.cathedralsaintpaul.org.

SUNDAYS AT LANDMARK will resume with the third annual Mid-Autumn Moon Festival from 4:00 to 6:00 this afternoon at Landmark Center. Visitors will hear moon tales from Asian storytellers, make a storybook, decorate a lantern, play twilight games, enjoy a taste of moon cake and join in the lantern parade through Rice Park. Admission is free. Call 651-292-3276 or visit www.landmarkcenter.org.

Monday/September 28

NERDS AT HEART will present the inaugural Twin Cities edition of Dating for Nerds from 7:00 to 10:00 this evening at the Chatterbox Pub, 800 S. Cleveland Ave. Smart singles are invited to play board games and show off their skills at trivia quizzes in the first local installment of an event that has been matching up Chicago area nerds for more than three years. Admission to the event is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door and includes a cocktail, a complimentary pocket protector and prize giveaways. Call 312-265-6085 or visit www.nerdsatheart.com.

Tuesday/September 29

A MERRIAM PARK WALKING TOUR featuring parks, alleys, architecture and sidewalk poetry will be offered by Smart Trips Union Park at 6:00 this evening from Trotter's Cafe, 232 N. Cleveland Ave. The tour will be led by a photographer and a poet. Bring a camera and e-mail the best picture to julie@unionparkdc.org for public display and entry in a prize drawing. Free cookies will be given to the first 20 people. Call 651-224-8555.

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today in Rauenhorst Hall at St. Catherine University. Call 1-800-448-3543 or visit givebloodgivelife.org.

Wednesday/September 30

"PUTTING DOWN ROOTS: Raingardens in Residential Settings" will be discussed during a free workshop offered by Friends of the Mississippi River from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the new Mississippi Market on West 7th Street and Otto Avenue. Contact Sue Rich at srich@fmr.org or 651-222-2193, ext 14.

Thursday/October 1

THE MOTHER EARTH BANQUET will be hosted by the Women's Environmental Institute at Amador Hill from 6:00 to 9:00 this evening in the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. The fundraiser will include a silent auction and an hors d'oeuvres buffet featuring organic foods from area farmers. The keynote speaker will be Erika Allen of Growing Power Inc.-Chicago. Tickets are \$50. Contact Blake Traylor at 651-209-3934, ext. 1, or visit www.w-e-i.org.

Saturday/October 3

A LITTLE HOUSE DAY PROGRAM will be offered from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at historic Fort Snelling. Children ages 7-11 will experience life described in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House* books. They will sing songs, play games and make food and crafts that Wilder learned while growing up in the 19th century. The cost is \$40-\$45. Call 612-726-1171

Sunday/October 4

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon at the VFW in Mendota for a walk along the rivers. Call 651-646-6021 or visit stpaulhike.org.

Tuesday/October 6

THE DESNOYER PARK Improvement Association will hold its annual meeting from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening in the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The topic will be "Sidewalks, Bikepaths and Roadways—Transportation Issues Affecting Desnoyer Park." Residents will be able to vote on new board members. Representatives of the Met Council, the St. Paul traffic engineering department and the Bike/Walk Central Corridor group will discuss transportation issues affecting Desnoyer Park and adjacent neighborhoods.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening at Nova Classical Academy, 1688 Montreal Ave., for a hike through residential areas. Call 651-646-6021 or visit stpaulhike.org.

Home Improvement



Wooden mantels are displayed in Tom Schoeller's Highland Park showroom.

On the beam

Mendota Mantels marks 10 years of reclaiming America's historic timbers

BY FRANK JOSSI

When Tom Schoeller heard the beams that once supported the old "Big Jo" Flour Mill were headed for a landfill a decade ago, he decided to take action. He drove to Wabasha and negotiated to purchase more than 500 of the mill's beams that had been hewn from trees up to 600 years old.

"We couldn't see them go to waste," said Schoeller, a Highland Park resident who owns Mendota Mantels with his nephew Dan Guion. "We stored the beams and eventually sold them to the Minneapolis Children's Theater for the ceiling of their lobby. They con-

sulted with us on the design and invited us to the grand opening where we got to meet the building's architect, Michael Graves."

Schoeller, 57, retired a few years ago after nearly 30 years as a Ramsey County social worker. Looking around for other career opportunities, he stumbled into saving old growth beams from demolished barns, mills and warehouses and turning them into unique fireplace mantels.

"We're both tree huggers," said Schoeller. "Really, Dan is an artist and I'm a frustrated artist. This is a way to express ourselves."

In a small showroom behind Schoeller's Norfolk Avenue home, the two men talked

about their first big score of beams from the Wabasha flour mill in 1999. Guion said for weeks on end family members were recruited to pull nails out of the beams before they could be milled for the Children's Theater and other clients.

"It was calling all family members on weekends to get them de-nailed," said Guion, 34, who has a background in art, interior design and carpentry. "There were a lot of nails."

Business has grown steadily since then, Schoeller said. The company has sold almost 470 fireplace mantels to date. Recent sales include a client who purchased four mantels for a large home in White Bear Lake and a woman

from Georgia who bought one for her boat.

"We're usually working with 12 to 15 clients at any one time," Schoeller said.

Initially, Schoeller sold most of their mantels to clients in other states through his old-growthwoods.com and mendotamantels.com websites. However, in the past two years local buyers have stepped up. The company's business is now evenly split between local and national clients, Schoeller said.

Though a majority of the beams become fireplace mantels, a handful of them have also been turned into tables, floor boards, furnish-



Mendota Mantels president Tom Schoeller examines lumber taken from an old grain elevator that will be sculpted and finished into a fireplace mantel. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

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19◀ MENDOTA MANTELS

ings or art. The company, which specializes in using timbers from trees that were harvested in the mid- to late-1800s, has even crafted a mantel out of wood estimated to be 1,200 to 1,400 years old.

Though they still keep a studio in Highland Park, Schoeller and Guion have moved Mendota Mantels' workshop to a larger space in the Pacal Business Center in Roseville. There the nails are removed and the beams are cut to size and milled to remove old coats of paint.

The beams eventually are varnished with boiled linseed oil, tung oil and urethane to reveal the rich, deep grain. "It's hard to find something totally green, but we're trying," said Schoeller, in part because the veneer has to be able to withstand the heat of a fire.

Clients may select the color tone for their mantel, ranging from blond to a dark, rich veneer. Some of the mantels have intriguing embellishments, included one embedded with rough-hewn historic masonry stars. Others are decorated with complex inscriptions, such as ships or nature scenes. The wood retains the nicks and cuts that add to its character. Since it has been air drying for 100 years or more, Schoeller said, the wood is much more stable than younger wood.

The finished mantels generally sell for \$150 to \$300 a linear foot, depending on the kind of wood.

Mendota Mantels has a wide selection of timbers available and each beam tells a story. "We're history buffs," said Schoeller, who has documents detailing the history of the reclaimed lumber.



Dan Guion shapes a historic timber in the Mendota Mantels workshop.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MENDOTA MANTELS

Lately, the company has been specializing in making mantels out of huge beams that were taken from the old Globe Grain Elevator that is now being dismantled in Superior, Wisconsin. Constructed in 1877 with rare virgin white pine harvested from the shores of Lake Superior, the Globe Grain Elevator was once the biggest grain mill in the world.

Finding stock these days is not as easy as it used to be, so the men are always on the lookout for sources of wood. Schoeller and Guion used to offer to take down barns for farmers in return for the beams they recovered. However,

as reclaimed wood prices have increased, farmers have been less willing to trade work for wood. Schoeller also has been less inclined to do that kind of salvage work himself after breaking an arm and a leg in past jobs.

"We deal with other people who are doing that now," he said.

Remembering America's history by restoring old timbers continues to keep the two men, well, beaming.

"Maybe," Guion said, "these mantels, like the trees and the buildings that they came from, can last another century or three."



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KAT BOURQUE
651-695-3495



JIM BURTON
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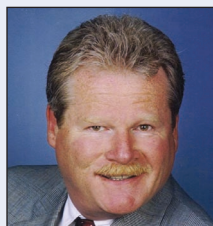
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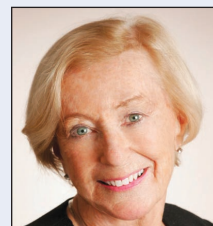
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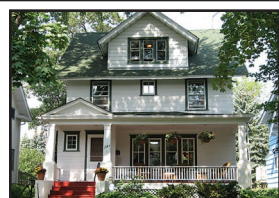
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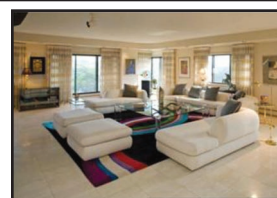
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Arts and Crafts show returns to fairgrounds

Homeowners who are interested in learning more about period furnishings for their turn-of-the-century bungalow or craftsman-style home may want to attend the 10th annual Twin Cities Arts and Crafts Show and Sale on September 26 and 27. The largest event in the Midwest dedicated to the furniture and accessories of the American Arts and Crafts Movement of 1900-1920, the show and sale will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday at the Progress Center on

the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

Antiques from such makers as Stickley, Limbert, Roycroft, Rookwood and the Minneapolis Handicraft Guild will be available along with high-quality reproductions of antique furniture, metalwork, pottery, textiles, art and lighting. Approximately 50 dealers from across the U.S. will take part, including such local retailers as Century Studios, 1816 St. Clair Ave.; Eastwood Gallery, 404 S. Snelling Ave.; and Prairie Woodworking, 3535 E. Lake St. in Minneapolis.

A special program on "The Handi-

craft Guild: Minneapolis and the Arts and Crafts Movement in Minnesota" will be presented at 10:30 a.m. Saturday. It will include rare examples from the personal collection of a local collector.

The producers of a new PBS documentary on Elbert Hubbard, the founder of the Roycroft artisans in upstate New York, will be on hand to discuss the movie and show segments of it at 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

Admission to the show and sale is \$7.00. Parking is free.

Outdoor upkeep for chilly seasons

It's hard to think about winter right now, but soon enough the temperature will drop and most people will be spending more time indoors. Just don't forget that the changing seasons also take a toll on your home.

"The fall is an excellent time to make your home ready for the long winter ahead," said Robin Peterson, president of Coldwell Banker Burnet. "This is especially true when your home is on the market and critical buyers are walking through your front door."

Here are three ways to prep your home for winter:

- Leafy things. Breezy tree-lined streets create the rustling leaves of fall, which can clog gutters and clutter your walkways and patios. Keep walking areas

swept and collect lawn debris well before the first snowfall. Leaf guards keep gutters empty and easier to maintain.

- Warm it up. Check working fireplaces for loose mortar and debris before setting the first fires of winter. Have the home's heating system inspected and stock up on filters for regular changes throughout the season.

- Wrap it up. Hot water pipes lose heat when they pass through unheated areas. Insulating your pipes can keep temperatures consistent for energy efficiency. Pre-formed pipe insulation sleeves offer a simple solution.

- Seal of approval. Snow, ice and salt do the most damage to driveways. Protect yours by caring for any cracks and holes before the freeze sets in. Also check for drafty doors or windows that allow heat to escape. Replace seals where needed.

Homeowners may want to consider lightening their energy load this winter by replacing incandescent bulbs with

energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs. Programmable thermostats also make it easier to conserve, and families can shave 5 percent off their energy bills for every degree they turn the thermostat down below 70 this winter.

Compost site hours

Ramsey County's seven compost sites are open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays; and from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sundays.

Leaves, grass and other soft-bodied plant material may be dropped off at the sites for free. Brush may be taken to the Midway compost site on Pierce Butler Route. Mulch also is available at that site.

Proof of residency is Ramsey County is required to access the sites. Call 651-266-1155.

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Century Studios' Irwin Terry and Bill Campbell. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Let there be color

Partners in stained glass, Century Studios' Terry and Campbell set up shop on St. Clair

BY JUDY WOODWARD

The first thing you notice about Irwin Terry and Bill Campbell is that they finish each other's sentences. Stick around a while longer and you learn that they laugh at each other's jokes, sometimes before anyone within earshot realizes that anything funny has been said. The two dress alike—in jeans and identical green cotton aprons. They're both 48 years old, and they both have short clipped hair, glasses and placid expressions. Campbell's hair may be a little fairer and Terry's face a little fuller, but that doesn't detract from the obvious: "People think of us as a unit," they said.

Terry and Campbell could be exceptionally amiable fraternal twins, but

in fact they have been life partners for 30 years and business partners for 23 years. They live together, work together and come up together with some of the most exquisite solutions to the problem of what to do with a window when you don't want to reveal too much of the room it illuminates.

Terry and Campbell own Century Studios, a Tiffany glass workshop and showroom they recently relocated from the warehouse district of Minneapolis to 1818 St. Clair Ave. in St. Paul. There they create stained-glass windows and colorful glass lampshades using methods devised by the brilliant American designer Louis C. Tiffany at the end of the 19th century.

On a recent morning, Terry and Campbell were working on a window

panel for an out-of-state client. The two men sat opposite each other on high stools, deftly wrapping irregular shapes of opalescent blue and green glass with copper foil and fitting each piece into a pattern which, when completed, will re-create a well-known pre-Raphaelite painting from the 19th century of a dreamy damsel floating downriver in a canoe. The pieces had yet to be fused together with solder, but someday soon, the partners promised, this glass reproduction of "The Lady of Shalott" will find itself encased in a window frame in Wyoming.

Terry and Campbell have a hand in nearly every job Century Studios undertakes. When it comes to issuing orders,

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however, they take turns.

"When we work on a project," Campbell said, "one of us has the final say."

"We give each other suggestions," Terry said, "but we don't always take them."

The division of labor works almost as smoothly as their overlapping conversations. Campbell tends to take the lead on window design; Terry is in charge of the lamps.

The lamps are Century Studios' specialty. They are reproductions of original Tiffany designs and come in 120 different patterns. However, color variations and the qualities of handmade glass make each lamp one of a kind.

As Campbell said, "If you fall in love with one of our lamps—"

"Buy it," Terry finished, "because the next time we make that pattern it won't be the same."

When it comes to windows, the range of their creativity is even broader. "We use Tiffany for inspiration," Campbell started.

"But we hand draw everything," Terry finished.

Their clients come from as far away as Australia, and their artistic reach is limited only by their clients' imaginations. Campbell and Terry relish the challenge of creating windows that are unusual if not downright eccentric. For example, there was the window panel commissioned by a client who wanted to honor the varied collecting interests of a married couple he knew. One spouse collected Pierrot clown figures, the other pink lawn flamingoes. The resulting panel managed to incorporate both interests into an aesthetic whole of color and composition.

Another client asked for a glass representation of Humpty Dumpty's great fall.

"If somebody has something that really won't work," Campbell began.

"We usually can work around it," Terry finished.

Tiffany pieces were never meant to be bargains, and Century Studios' reproduction of a 14-inch dragonfly lampshade, for example, sells for \$2,340. But that might not be bad, considering that a Tiffany original went for six figures at Sotheby's a couple of years ago. In fact, in constant dollars, the prices of the Century reproductions may even be lower than the originals' sale prices around the turn of the 20th century, according to the partners.

Tiffany glass and a lifelong relationship were



The Oz sun catchers created by Century Studios.

probably not what Terry and Campbell had in mind three decades ago when they met as 18-year-old roommates at a Philadelphia art school. The following year, they both transferred to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, where Campbell majored in painting and Terry in printmaking. Terry also studied collage, "but my strong suit was color," he said. "Stained glass was my outlet."

"We became a business in 1986 because people were asking us to make things," Terry said. For the first three years, they ran the business out of their home. "One of the hard things about having the studio at home was that I could never relax," Terry said. So they moved the business to Minneapolis' warehouse district in 1989, and when construction of the new Twins stadium drove up rents and changed the character of the neighborhood, they relocated to Macalester-Groveland.

Terry and Campbell spend practically all of their waking hours together, most of them thinking about their current projects.

"Most projects require a gestation time," Campbell said.

"You have to walk the dog sometime," Terry added.

And while they're out walking, they're also talking about solutions to problems of color and shape.

"Everything is a choice and a decision," Campbell said.

"It's what keeps us excited when we unlock the door (to the shop) each morning," Terry said.



Surrounded by stained-glass lamps and other decorative art, Bill Campbell and Irwin Terry busy themselves creating new pieces in their St. Clair Avenue workshop.

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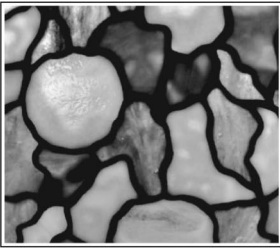


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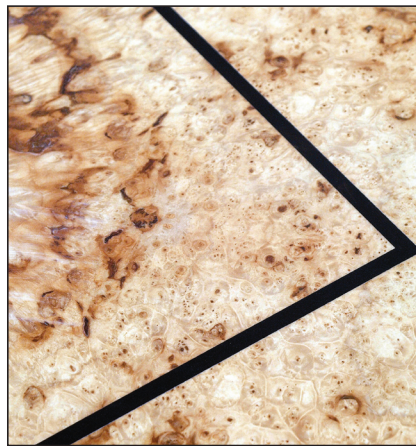
Third Street Studios' Russ Tillotson, Linda Cassone and Bob Agnew in their Merriam Park shop. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Selby Avenue studio creates custom furniture with flair for the dramatic

BY NANCY CROTTI

Pamela and Daniel Weisdorf couldn't find a china cabinet to fit a narrow space in their Summit Avenue townhouse. So Pamela, who is not one to settle for cookie-cutter furniture, turned to a Merriam Park company that designs furniture from scratch.

That company, Third Street Studios, occupies most of an unassuming commercial building at 1759 Selby Ave. Its principals—Linda Cassone, Robert Agnew and Russ Tillotson—didn't set out to get into the custom furniture manufacturing business 31 years ago. Connecticut natives Cassone and Agnew came to Minnesota in the 1970s to pursue their passion for theater set design. A native Minnesotan, Tillotson's background is in English and theater.



Burl maple grain patterns mingle with straight-line accents in this tabletop by Third Street Studios.

"We worked in every theater in town except the Guthrie," Cassone said. "Then

we opened the shop."

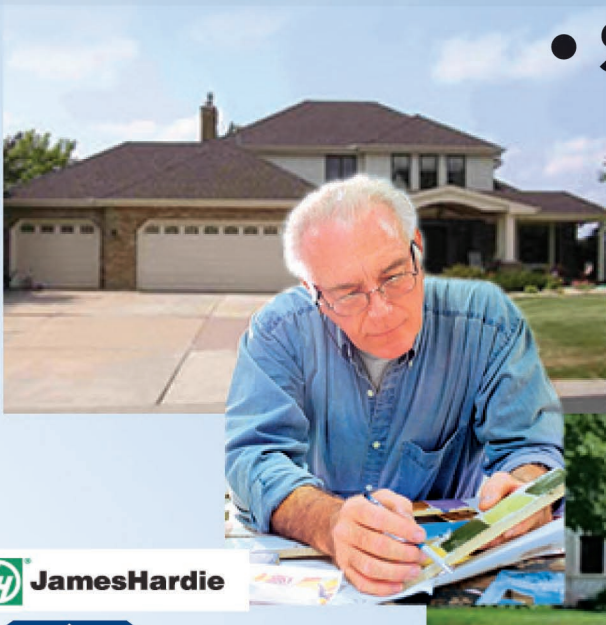
They also designed and built sets and props for film and video early on, then turned to retail display design, but ultimately tired of seeing their work discarded. So they moved into furniture and cabinetry.

"We'd run into people who wanted to know if we could build a sofa, table, whatever," Agnew said. "We started taking in those kinds of work and began doing it full time."

The Weisdorfs were amazed at what Third Street Studios could do for them. "Linda is an extremely creative woman," Pamela Weisdorf said. "She came up with three different designs and we were blown away by her ability to convey what something would look like

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three-dimensionally."

After the Weisdorfs moved to La Rive condominiums in Minneapolis in 2005, they called on Third Street once again, this time to make vanities for two bathrooms. Pamela Weisdorf also asked Third Street to submit designs for La Rive's front desk when she was on the condominium association's design committee. The company first built two scale models, which helped it win the job.

"Some people can visualize what something will look like, but many people can't," Weisdorf said. "It's unique, yet it fits with the building."

Although Third Street Studios sometimes works with interior designers, Cassone and Agnew said most customers are local people who find them independently.

"They're generally couples who really care about what their house looks like," Cassone said. "They're well-educated. They're the kind of people who might buy clothes at a craft fair as well as furniture. They're interesting. We never have boring clients."

Like the Weisdorfs, most of Third Street's customers are looking for something unique or cannot find something to fit a specific space. "We look to match the home first," Agnew said.

"It really helps to see the other things that they like," added Cassone, who generates three or four designs for each piece.

"Ninety-five percent of the time, they'll like one of those and we'll take it and flesh out the design of the whole piece," Agnew said.

According to Cassone, most people are unaware that a lot of mass-produced furniture is stained to look like more expensive oak or cherry. "I think even people who are aware of how much good craft, good art and good design exist are just used to settling for what's available," she said.

"The other thing that most people don't realize is that cost-wise, custom furniture is more often than not comparable to good-quality commercial furniture like Gabberts sells," Agnew added. "It's not twice as much as buying it off the shelf."



A maple and brass foyer table featuring chemically induced, metal patinas created by Third Street Studios.

Third Street has designed and built dining room tables that cost from \$2,500 to \$14,000, according to Cassone. "It's a pretty wide range, depending on how involved the design is," she said.

Third Street will design and build anything but chairs, and over the years has produced everything from period pieces to a whimsical tree house and bridge for a boy's bedroom. It also has created custom-crafted kitchens, from tiny to spacious.

"There's no material we can't use," Cassone said. "We're an unusual shop." (The firm even designed and built the giraffe and polar bear sculptures for the Como Zoo.)

Furniture-making has become an increasingly high-tech field over the years, but Third Street has not gone that direction, according to Tillotson. "We're pretty low-tech," he said. "No computer-controlled woodworking machines."

"They have a tremendous team," Pamela Weisdorf said. "They're consummate carpenters, real craftsmen. They know wood and their finish work is just exquisite."

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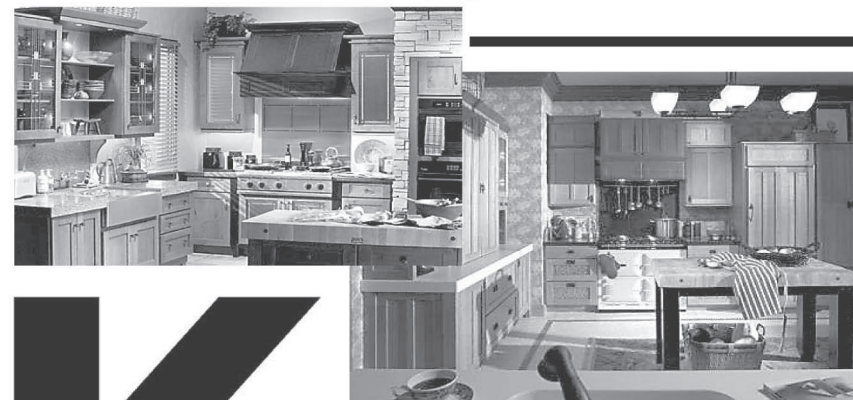
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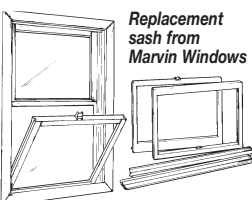
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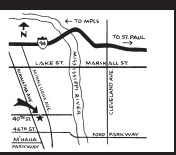
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Business Briefs

La Patisserie, 1570 Randolph Ave., will hold a fundraiser from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 6, to benefit employee Mary Plaster, who was severely injured last summer when a motorist fleeing police crashed into a parked car, pushing it into her as she stood behind another vehicle. Plaster, who was celebrating her 21st birthday that day, has had multiple surgeries since then. Proceeds from sales on October 6 will help pay her medical bills. For information, call 651-690-8973.

A "Financial Management of Your Business" seminar will be offered by SCORE small business counselors from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, at University Bank, 200 University Ave. The seminar will cover financing and loan alternatives, financial accounting and cash flow management. The cost is \$40. Visit www.score-stpaul.org.

Free job search assistance will be offered by Goodwill-Easter Seals from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. each Wednesday in October at the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Help will be available on looking for a job, filling out applications, and writing resumes and cover letters. Call 651-266-7000, ext. 5.

A **Business After Hours** event will be held from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, in the Progress Center at the Stage Fairgrounds. The event will feature a business expo, food and networking activities. Admission is free. Call the Highland Business Association at 651-699-9042.

Religious Notes

"Your Spiritual Autobiography" will be taught by Rabbi Sharon Stiefel from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on six Wednesdays beginning September 23 at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The cost is \$45. Call 651-255-4737.

The **Minnesota State Sacred Harp** singing convention will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, September 26, at St. Sahag's Armenian Church, 203 N. Howell St., and on Sunday, September 27, at the Landing in Shakopee. Admission is free. Call 651-457-7762.

A discussion on "The Faith Community's Role in Health Care Reform" will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, September 27, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Call 651-699-1378.

Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis, will celebrate its designation as a National Historic Landmark on Sunday, September 27. Worship at 9:30 a.m. will be followed by a

luncheon and a presentation by the National Park Service. Call 612-721-6611.

The **Lawyers' Guild of St. Thomas More** will hold its 59th annual Red Mass at 9:00 p.m. Sunday, September 27, at the University of St. Thomas chapel. Brunch will follow. Call 651-962-6437.

Transcendental meditation will be introduced on Monday, September 28, by Jim Horwath of the Maharishi Invincibility Center. The free program will run from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

"Religion and Sustainability: How Caring for Creation Benefits Our Spiritual Life, Finances, Business, Community and Planet" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 29, in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. Call 651-962-5780.

A **Blessing of the Animals** will be held at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, October 4, at St.

Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. Call 651-228-1164.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel's Third Order Community will hold an open house at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, October 4, at Nativity Church, 324 S. Prior Ave. Call 651-454-6123 or 952-941-6896.

Yom Kippur services will begin with Kol Nidre at 6:00 and 8:30 p.m. Sunday, September 27, at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. Services will continue at 7:30 a.m. and noon Monday, September 28. Monday's observance will also include a family service at 11:00 a.m., "Ask the Rabbi" at 3:00 p.m., a healing service at 4:30 p.m., Mincha at 5:00 p.m., Neilah at 6:30 p.m., Maariv-Havdalah at 7:00 p.m. and the blowing of the shofar at 7:30 p.m. Call 651-698-8874.

A **Festival of Tabernacles** service will be held at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, October 4, at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. A free Sukkot salad bar luncheon will follow. Call 651-698-8874.

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On the Town

An eye for Paris

Photographer O'Toole boldly goes where so many have gone before

BY BILL STIEGER

Paris may be the most photographed city on earth, and with good reason. Few cities offer as much history, culture and beauty. Nearly all of the world's great photographers have documented Parisian life: Eugene Atget, Andre Kertesz, Henri Cartier-Bresson and Brassai took many of their greatest pictures there.

Thus, to undertake a photographic documentary of Paris, as Peter O'Toole of Highland Park has done with his self-published *Paris Photos, Paris Walks*, is akin to a high school ballplayer attempting to break into the starting lineup of the New York Yankees. O'Toole's new book succeeds because of his humble and honest eye, a gift that eludes lesser though perhaps more highly trained professional photographers.

"I started out by taking a photo class at the University of Minnesota back in 1992," said O'Toole, who works as a resource coordinator for the city of Minneapolis. "A friend loaned me his 35-millimeter camera

so I could enroll."

O'Toole grew up in Crystal, a small town in extreme northeast North Dakota, and before 1992 had very little experience in the arts. He had earned his college degrees in economics and finance, and at the time was working at the chancery of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

"The class at the U was on documentary photography," O'Toole said. "I got a lot of encouragement from the instructor and the other students. Digital photography hadn't really yet taken hold, so I learned the old way—developing negatives and printing black-and-white pictures in the darkroom."

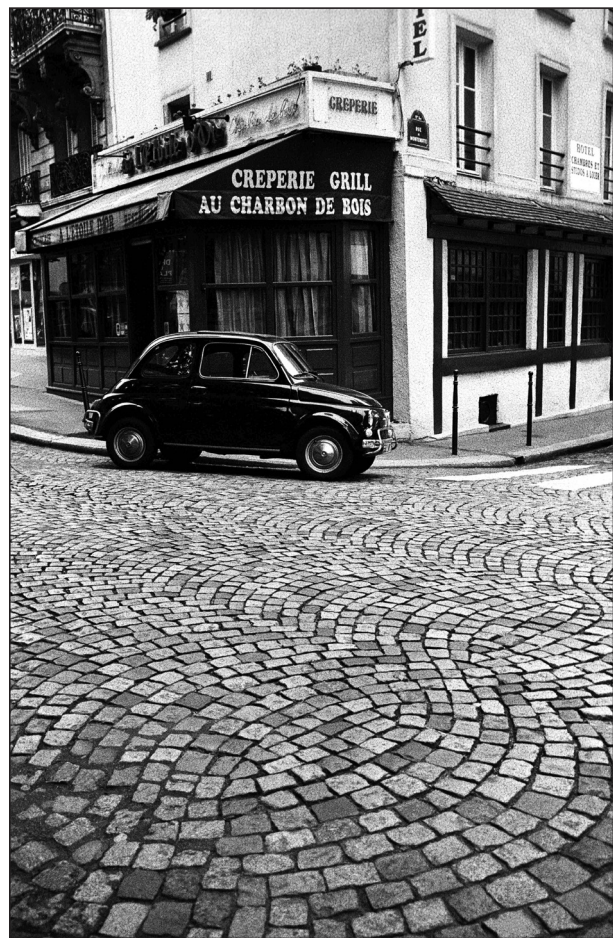
What began as a mild interest soon became an obsession, which led to O'Toole's first trip to Paris. "I was talking about my photography with one of the nuns who worked at the Chancery," he said. "She told me that I had to go to Paris, that every artist has to go to Paris."

By chance, John Elsing, a friend from the U of M's University Club, invited O'Toole to accompany him on a trip to France.

"That's how the traveling began," O'Toole said, "and I've been going to Paris every year since."

O'Toole photographed all of the obvious sights—Père Lachaise Cemetery where many of the great artists of the 19th and 20th centuries are interred, the parks such as Buttes Chaumont, the storied sidewalk cafes and the artists at their easels beside the Seine. Student photographers back in the 1960s used to call the requisite trip to Paris "the Tri-X Tour," after the ubiquitous high-speed black-and-white film manufactured by Kodak.

O'Toole returned to Paris again and again with his partner Tim Shultz, and the photos began to pile up. "Peter wanted to arrange his photographs in some kind of portfolio," said Shultz, who works at the Walker Art Center as the accounting manager. "When we visited Paris, Peter would just want to go out and take pictures. But I'm a more organized type of person. I wanted to know where we were going to walk. That was the origin of the concept of 'Paris walks.'"



A Paris street scene through the lens of Peter O'Toole.



Highland Park photographer Peter O'Toole. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

The 135 black-and-white images in *Paris Photos, Paris Walks* are organized around 14 different walking tours of Paris and a 15th tour of its surrounding suburban area. Each tour begins with a description of the walk, the various landmarks that they pass, their history and a hand-drawn map of the course actually taken. The photos that follow were all taken on that particular tour.

The walking tours help lift O'Toole's 176-page book from a collection of photos of Paris into a shoe-leather guide for those who are bent on discovering Paris for themselves.

"Tim organized the walks," O'Toole said. "I like to say that he was the book's navigator. I couldn't have come up with the concept without him."

Variations of O'Toole's images appear in the portfolios of many photographers. What sets his apart are their utter lack of guile. O'Toole doesn't attempt to capture the "decisive moment" of Cartier-Bresson—people captured in acts that mirror the surrounding landscape, a cliché that nearly every street photographer falls into. And he doesn't strive for the "irony" sought by so many camera slingers—the bum passed out on the bench as an oblivious woman clad in mink strolls by.

Paging through *Paris Photos, Paris Walks*, you get the sense that O'Toole is just a man with a camera walking around Paris, albeit with a finely tuned eye for composition. And

that is quite enough.

"Finding out how to produce the book was much harder than making the photographs," said O'Toole, who spent two years learning the ins and outs of computer graphics, the techniques for organizing the pictures into a coherent whole, and the computer software that enabled him to transfer his traditional black-and-white prints into a digital format and to produce the maps that illustrate each of the walks. "I then hired a book editor and finally got it finished," he said.

O'Toole's book, which is narrated in both English and French, won the Printer Industry of Minnesota's 2008 Star of Excellence Best of Merit award, placing second in a field of more than 500 books and journals. O'Toole sold out the first edition of 500 copies, and *Paris Photos, Paris Walks* is now in its second printing of 2,500 copies.

"I'm selling a lot of books through Amazon.com and my website (peterotoolephoto.com)," he said. The book is also available at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and Common Good Books in St. Paul.

With Paris under his belt, where will O'Toole focus his camera next?

"You know, I haven't any idea," he said. "Maybe I'm done with photography. This was so much work—a whole decade. I'm just glad to be done with it."

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On the Town Briefly

Theater

Becky's New Car, Steven Dietz's wacky and wistful drama about the road not taken, is playing at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. Directed by Peter Moore, it stars Virginia Burke as a 40-something office manager whose life takes some unexpected turns when she meets up with a love-struck millionaire. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday through October 4. Tickets are \$15-\$40. Call 651-291-7005.

"Aphra's Attic," featuring the short comedies *Overtones* (1916) by Alice Gerstenberg and *The Coach* (1540) by Margaret of Navarre, is being presented through October 4 by Theatre Unbound. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Lowry Lab Theater, 350 St. Peter St. Call 612-721-1186.

Much Ado About Nothing, Shakespeare's rollicking romance about love and courtship transported to 1950s Italy, is being staged through October 4 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Directed by Craig Johnson, it stars Wade A. Vaughn, Amanda Whisner and Tim Jopek. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2:00 p.m. Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 1. A discussion with Johnson and the cast will follow the matinee on September 27. Tickets are \$20 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010.

Actors Theater draws a bead on your funny bone with *Deer Camp*. The musical comedy about four hapless hunters returns to the wilderness of St. Paul's Lowry Theater from September 24 through November 22. The problem is, after decades of hunting trips, the guys have yet to bring home a single deer and the wives are getting suspicious. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 5:00 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday and 5:00 p.m. Sunday on the stage at 16 W. 5th St. Tickets are \$29-\$39. Call 1-800-982-2787.

West Side on the South Side, a new play inspired by the stories of longtime denizens of St. Paul's West Side, will be performed on September 25-27 at the Wellstone Center, 179 E. Robie St. Written by Al Justiniano with music by Becky Dale and Brandon Nam, the world premiere production features a cast of professional and local actors. Show



Director Jordan Sramek (foreground) and his Rose Ensemble will present hymns, dances and motets that have been composed over the centuries in honor of St. Francis of Assisi on October 2 and 3. The music will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Friday at Nativity Church, 1900 Wellesley Ave., and on Saturday at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. Joining the ensemble will be Milanese virtuoso Isacco Colombo on Italian bagpipes, shawm, fife and tabor. Tickets are \$35, \$25 and \$17. Call 651-225-4340. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HAUGHIES

times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10. Call 1-800-838-3006.

Canadian playwright Judith Thompson's *Palace of the End* will be performed from September 25 through October 18 by Frank Theatre, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The drama is composed of three imagined monologues by such historical figures as Army Private Lynndie England of Abu Ghraib fame, British weapons inspector David Kelley and Nehru al Saffarh of the Communist Party of Iraq. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$16-\$20. Call 612-724-3760.

The Pearl Fishers, the opera by Georges Bizet about a dangerous love triangle among two lifelong friends and the mysterious priestess who reignites their rivalry, is playing September 26 through October 4 on the Minnesota Opera's stage at the Ordway. Jesus Garcia, Phillip Cutlip and Isabel Bayrakdarian star in this San Diego Opera production, which will be sung in French with an English translation projected above the stage. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. September 26, 7:30 p.m. September 29, October 1 and 3, and 2:00 p.m. October 4. Tickets are \$20-\$150. Call 612-333-6669.

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, a musical drama about Charles Hardin Holley, the

rock 'n' roll pioneer whose meteoric rise to stardom ended tragically in 1959 in a plane crash, will open a month-long run on Saturday, October 3, at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$28-\$32, \$25-\$30 for seniors, \$15 for students, \$10 for children. Tickets for opening night are priced from \$75-\$125 and include a preshow '50s bash with live music, hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, a conversation with Peggy Sue herself and a postshow party. Call 651-292-4323.

Music

Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending will be featured in St. Paul Chamber Orchestra performances on September 24-26 under the baton of Douglas Boyd. Britten's *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge*, Beamish's *Under the Wing of the Rock* and Haydn's *Symphony No. 96 in D, The Miracle*, will also be performed in concerts at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, at 10:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Friday at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie and at 8:00 p.m. Saturday at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. Tickets are \$11-\$59 for adults, \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

Nashville-based finger-style guitarist

Pete Huttlinger will perform alone at 8:00 p.m. Friday, September 25, in Hamline University's Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Winner of the 2000 National Fingerpicking Championship, Huttlinger's latest CD is "Fingerpicking Wonder: The Music of Stevie Wonder." Tickets are \$22, \$17 for students and seniors. Call 612-677-1151 or stop by Cadenza Music, 149 N. Snelling Ave.

Concertos, sonatas and suites by two of England's greatest composers—Henry Purcell on his 350th birthday and George Frederick Handel on the 250th anniversary of his death—will be performed on Saturday, September 26, by the Lyra Baroque Orchestra. The concert will begin at 8:00 p.m. in Sundin Hall at Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Call 1-800-595-4849.

The Oslo Chamber Choir, under the direction of Håkon Daniel Nystedt, will present a concert of Norwegian folk music at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, September 26, in Hoversten Chapel at Augsburg College, Riverside and 22nd avenues in South Minneapolis. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, with discounts for students and seniors. Call 1-800-838-3006.

The Rose Ensemble will offer a free preview of its new CD, "Il Poverello: Medieval & Renaissance Music for St. Francis of Assisi," at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 29, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.

Armenian pianist Nareh Arghamanyan, winner of the 2008 Montreal International Piano Competition, will perform at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, October 4, in the concert hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Sponsored by the Frederic Chopin Society, Arghamanyan's program will include Mendelssohn's *Variations Sérieuses*, Beethoven's *Sonata in A-flat Major*, Chopin's *Polonaise-Fantaisie* and Schumann's *Humoreske*. Tickets are \$20, \$12 for full-time students ID. Call 612-822-0123.

The Legacy Ensemble—flutist Barb Holm, violinist John Holm and cellist Daryl Carlson—will present the world premiere of "Hiawatha Blues" on Sunday October 4. The concert, which begins at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St. in Minneapolis, will also feature folk songs and music by Corelli, Bach and F. Danzi. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. Call 612-729-8358.

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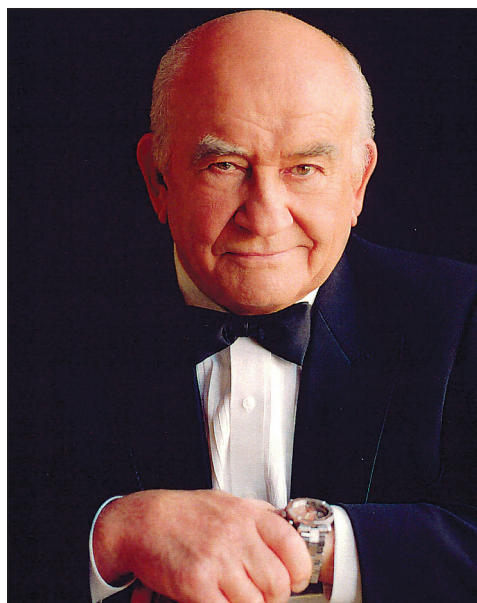
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Actor Ed Asner will introduce his latest movie, *UP*, at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 29, at the Riverview Theater, 3800 42nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Asner voices the part of Carl Frederickson in the new animated flick, which deals with issues of aging, grief, regret, change and the intricacies of intergenerational relationships. Asner will lead a discussion of those issues after the screening, which is sponsored by Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly. Tickets are available in advance for \$15, or \$25 for two, by calling 612-746-0752. Tickets also may be available at the door for \$20.

Film

Minnesota's National Park Legacy, a new film by Twin Cities Public Television about the significance of Minnesota's national parks, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 24, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. The film's producer, Steve Spencer, will speak after the show and then lead a tour of the Bell Museum current exhibit on the national parks. The film is free with museum admission, which is \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16.

Guatemalan filmmakers Luis Argueta and Vivian Rivas will show a portion of their documentary, *abUSed: The Postville Raid*, about U.S. Immigration's 2008 raid of an Iowa kosher meat processing plant, at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 6, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The film examines the issues of undocumented workers in the U.S. Admission is free. A panel discussion will follow.

The Devil Came on Horseback, a documentary on the widespread killing taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan presented through the eyes of former U.S. Marine Captain Briand Steidle, will be screened at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 7, in Giddens Learning Center at Hamline University, 1536 Hewitt Ave. Admission is free. A discussion will follow.

Books

Imprisoned: The Travails of a Trafficked Victim, a true story of modern-day slavery, will be discussed by author Bukola Oriola on Thursday, September 24, at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. The program begins at both 3:00 and 5:30 p.m. A reception and book-signing will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Call 612-521-6850.

Merriam Park-grown author Eric Dregni will discuss his new book, *Never Trust a Thin Cook and Other Lessons from Italy's Culinary Capital*, at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 24, at Barnes & Noble in Har Mar Mall, 2100 N. Snelling Ave. and at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 15, at Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave. Call 651-639-9256.

Local historian Curtis Dahlin will discuss the Dakota Uprising of 1862 in a free

program at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 27, at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. The author of *Dakota Uprising Victims: Gravesites & Stories* and *The Dakota Uprising: A Pictorial History*, Dahlin grew up on an Indian reservation in South Dakota and is now working as a planner and analyst for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Barbara W. Sommer will discuss her book, *Hard Work and a Good Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Minnesota*, in a free program at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 4, at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Born out of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, the Civilian Conservation Corps put more than 77,000 Minnesotans to work at the height of the Great Depression. Call 651-266-7000 extension 5.

Dance

A choreographed performance of John Cage's landmark 1948 piece, "Sonatas and Interludes for Prepared Piano," will be presented on September 26 and 27 at Macalester College. Macalester professor Mark Mazullo will play Cage's 70-minute piece on a piano whose strings have been altered with bolts, screws, mutes, rubber erasers and the like. Dancers include Becky Heist, Krista Langberg, Christopher Watson, Wynn Fricke and Eric Boone. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in the theater of Macalester's Fine Arts Center. Admission is free. For reservations, call 651-696-6359.

Exhibits

"America's Best Idea: A Photographic Journey Through Our National Parks" is being offered through October 4 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Featured are panoramic prints of America's 58 national parks taken by noted landscape photographer Stan Jorstad. Christopher Stein, superintendent of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and Ed Cushing, a national expert on ecology and climate, will lead a tour of the exhibit from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 1. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16, free to kids under 3 and free for all on Sundays. Call 612-624-7083.

"Encounters: The Past Reconfigured," featuring paintings by Chinese artists Li Shuan and Liu Xuguang, is on view through October 8 at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery in the Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Admission is free.

"Shiny is My Favorite Color," more than 70 works by nine artists ranging from metal and glass sculpture to illuminated manuscripts and textiles, are being displayed through November 13 at the University of St. Thomas. A public reception for the artists—Carolyn Halliday, Alan Honn, Melinda Kordich, Nicholas Legeros, Bernadette Mahfood, Don Paul, Robyn Beth Priestley, Marlene Regan and Jo Wood—will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 3, in the Lobby Gallery of the St. Thomas' O'Shaughnessy Educational Center. Admission is free.

The best in graphic design, advertising art, illustration, photography and interactive design is being shown through October 17 in the gallery at the College of Visual Arts, 173 N. Western Ave. An opening reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 23. Call 651-757-4000.

"Legacy of an Ecocide: Agent Orange Aftermath," black-and-white photos by Petronella Ytsma that document the deformities and maladies suffered by the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the Vietnam War generation, is on view through October 28 in the Catherine G.

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Murphy Gallery at St. Catherine University. A symposium on the issues raised by the exhibit will be held on Sunday, September 27. Call 651-690-6644.

"Artability," the 15th annual exhibit of art by people with mental illness, will open with a public reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, October 1, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St. The show and sale of visual art and writing by 90 artists continues from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 1, and from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, October 2. Call 651-227-6321.

Art Affair 2009, a show and sale of paintings, sculpture, photography and pottery by more than 60 Minnesota artists, will be held October 3 and 4 in Episcopal Homes' Cornelia House and Coventry Chapel, 1840 University Ave. The event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. A portion of the proceeds from each sale will help support Episcopal Homes' programs.

Family

Stories, rhymes, songs and activities for children from birth to 2 years old will be offered at 10:30 a.m. Friday, September 25, at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Admission is free.

A half-hour program for preschoolers and their families featuring stories, finger plays, rhymes and songs will begin at 10:30 a.m. Friday, September 25, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The Highland Library will offer a similar program for infants and toddlers at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 29. Call 651-695-3700.

"Saturday Live!," free entertainment

for children at 11:15 a.m. Saturdays at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., will feature Latin American music by Leo and Kathy Lara on September 26 and the Loki Players in "The Poetry of Puppetry" on October 3.

A traditional Vietnamese Harvest Moon Lantern Festival will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, September 27, at Landmark Center. Participants will be invited to create their own lanterns out of bamboo or origami paper, design a miniature storybook that tells the Vietnamese legend of the moon and listen to traditional folk tales. Vietnamese food will be available for purchase. A traditional lantern parade around nearby Rice Park will end the fest.

Practice howling like a wolf, make wolf prints and a wolf puppet to take home, and handle a real wolf skull on Thursday, October 1, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. The hour-long program for 2- and 3-year-olds and their families begins at 10:00 a.m. The museum's "Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century" exhibit will also be open for touring. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 3-16. To register, call 612-624-9050.

Sing the songs, play the games and make the food and crafts that Laura Ingalls Wilder did back in the 1800s in a *Little House on the Prairie* sampler from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, October 3, at Historic Fort Snelling. The cost is \$45. Call 612-726-1171.

An Apple Festival with hayrides, apple games, crafts and treats, homemade ice cream and a hay-bale maze will be held October 3-4 at the Gibbs Farm

Museum, 2097 Larpenteur Ave. Visitors may also tour the Heritage Orchard where apple varieties once favored by Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and Ben Franklin are grown. The fun will run from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$6.50 for seniors and \$4.50 for children. Call 651-646-8629.

Et cetera

The Canvas, a new arts center designed by and for St. Paul teenagers, is now open in the Hancock Recreation Center, 1610 Hubbard Ave. Sponsored by the city of St. Paul and COMPAS with the support of the St. Paul and Bigelow foundations, the Canvas offers children in grades 6-12 work space, workshops and seminars in the arts and events around issues important to youths. The hours are 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Admission is free, though some programs may require a small fee. Visit www.stpaul.gov/parks.

"Sample Night Live," a cross-section of what's happening in entertainment in the Twin Cities, returns at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 7, to the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Emceed by Foxy Tann, it will feature the jazz of the Atlantis Quartet, magician Star Michaelina, a preview of the film *The System*, singer Aria Souder, escape artist Jonathon Bryce and the vocal ensemble Caritas in G-rated Act I; and Theatre Or, comedian Bill Young, Table Salt Productions, poetry-slammer Moira Pirsch, Survivors of the Undead Plague and the band the Smarts in unrated Act II. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for students and seniors, \$5.00 for children ages 5-12. Visit www.samplenightlive.com.

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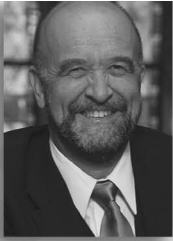
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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Murray grad gets to join 'C' Club Hall

St. Paul Central's "C" Club banquet is always a rollicking affair. The 91st edition of the annual gala is set for Tuesday, September 29, at O'Gara's Bar and Grill where, for the reasonable admission price of \$20, Central fans can dine on roast beef and turkey while they honor the newest inductees into the high school's storied athletic hall of fame.

And for dessert, those in attendance may get a sanitized sample of what was one of the best prep sports shows around for 16 years.

Oh, proper homage will be paid to Central grads Bonnie Lubben Vogel, who played on the school's first girls' basketball championship team in 1976; Phillip Webb, a three-sport star in the 1960s; and Bob Hill, a 1950s version of Dick Beardsley who later had a sideline as a Golden Gloves boxer.

However, it's likely that Dan Brink, the fourth hall of fame member to be inducted that evening, will steal the spotlight. Brink, who paced the sidelines as Central's boys' basketball coach for 16 seasons, can't help himself. Some people just have a knack for putting on a good show.

When he arrived at Central in the fall of 1978, Brink had an inkling of what he was getting into on the court because he had played against the Minutemen in the late 1960s during his prep days at Murray and had coached against them for six seasons at Monroe. What he didn't know was that the Central school building was in the process of a major makeover that required his team to be a traveling road show.

"The first year we played our home games at Como Park and practiced in the old gym," Brink said. "The next year we practiced at Monroe. I bought an old school bus to haul us around. The thing was probably built to handle 12-16 grade school kids."

Whether it was the adversity or simply the coach's determination, the Minutemen's on-court fortunes improved quickly under Brink. In his first season as head coach, Humboldt edged out Central by a game for the City Conference crown. The next year, the Minutemen, who hadn't won a city boys' hoop title in a decade, went undefeated until losing to Duluth Central in the Class AA state title game, 62-54.

"We probably made a mistake that year we went to the finals," Brink said. "At the time, the State High School League

WRIGHT CALL ► 34

Boys' soccer preview

New shin guard rule keeps players' safety in mind

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

Measures are being taken on a national level this year to help protect high school soccer players from shin injuries. Earlier this year, the National Federation of State High School Associations approved a new policy that requires the front of shin guards to be permanently marked with the NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) seal and height range to ensure teens are playing with the proper equipment.

The associations' Soccer Rules Committee has emphasized placing the shin guard no higher than 2 inches above the ankle to reduce the risk of injury. The policy will go into effect beginning with the fall 2012 season. The delay is expected to give manufacturers time to get the new shin guards to retailers.

Cretin-Derham Hall boys' soccer coach Mike Huber said he thinks the shin guard rule will be hard to enforce. "I understand that they don't want high school kids wearing grade school-size shin guards," he said. "It's just hard to pull down their socks after they've taped them up to show that you have the NOCSAE symbol. It won't be not easy to police."

Highland Park coach Chris Anderson agrees. "It's a good rule to help protect the players, but it's difficult to enforce, mainly because the shin guards are covered," he said. "It's hard to see if they're wearing the proper size or not."

Minnehaha Academy coach Bassam Banat said he does not believe the shin guard rule will be an inconvenience. "When I played, we had no shin guards," he said. "This generation is used to playing with shin guards from when they were 5 years old. You don't want to play a sport and not look out for the safety of the player."

The 2009 boys' soccer season is now under way. Here's a look at how the eight teams in the *Villager* area stack up:



Highland goalie Casey Hewes breaks up a scoring attempt by Central's Brian Rosenthal as defender Kevin Murphy looks on during the Minutemen's 4-0 win over the Scots on September 16. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 14-4-2

Coach: Jorey Erickson

Key players and their strengths:

- Brian Rosenthal, senior defender. A varsity player since 9th-grade who is versatile, physical and smart. Contributes on both offense and defense.

- Matt Muraoka, senior defender. Started as a forward and is now a leader on defense. A hard, good tackler whose engine never stops.

- Jake Wythers, junior center/midfielder. His skill level increases every year and he puts his big frame to good use.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Central has good defense, depth and a winning tradition. It lost its two big offensive guns from last year and is trying to fill those holes with some young players.

Outlook: The Minutemen got off to a slow start, but five of its first six games were against top 10 teams. The team, which improved to 3-4-2 with a win

over Highland Park on September 16, will battle with Como Park and Harding for another conference title.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East Conference

Last year's record: 13-7

Coach: Mike Huber

Key players and their strengths:

- Neil Bartholomay, senior defender. A tall, strong and tenacious defender who plays the ball well in the air.

- Vince Vik, senior midfielder. A third-year varsity player who has a great shot and good touch on the ball.

- Anthony Calderon, senior forward. A strong finisher who shields the ball well. Should score and assist on a lot of goals.

Team strengths/weaknesses: CDH is good at controlling the ball. "We can knock the ball around and use our skills to possess," coach Huber said. "We should be able to score goals." The team wants to improve defensively from '08.

BOYS' SOCCER ► 33



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Girls' soccer preview

Area prep teams enjoy youth kick

BY DAVE WRIGHT

There are days when Visitation soccer coach Carle Cheesebrough looks out over the field and shakes her head. It wasn't all that long ago that she was a prep player herself in Racine, Wisconsin. Her teammates were all around her age. Now she looks at her Blazer team—a definite candidate to make the Class A state tournament—and sees 7th-graders playing against seniors.

"It seems to me we're getting younger and better players every year," said the third-year head coach. "Many of these girls play in traveling leagues during the spring and summer, and some of them have been playing since they were 5."

To coaches like Mark Anderson, now in his 27th year at Minnehaha Academy, that's a good thing. "They're coming to us better prepared," he said, "and they understand what we're talking about a lot quicker."

Cheesebrough agreed. "They certainly know a lot more than I did at their age," she said. "Some of them have played against boys and have been toughened up a bit. When I started out, the coaches were just looking for athletes. The game has progressed quite a bit."

However, sometimes schools have little choice but to use younger players. Minneapolis Roosevelt coach Joe Rosenfield considers himself fortunate that senior Corrin Cook, one of the better goalies in the state, has been in the net for the Teddies since 7th grade. Roosevelt doesn't have much of a feeder program.

"If she hadn't gotten hurt, Alison Futch would've probably been the only player we would had from a traveling team," he said.

Roosevelt has two 7th-graders and two 8th-graders playing regularly. "They're eager, but inexperienced," Rosenfield said. "When we play against teams with a lot of seniors and juniors, we struggle. As long as they learn and get a little better each game, that's OK though."

The girls' soccer season is still young. Here's a look at the local teams:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 13-5-1

Coach: Peter Beck

Key players and their strengths:

- Kylie McMahon, junior forward. A converted defender who is very skilled with the

ball. "She makes things happen," said coach Beck.

- Pia Richardson, senior midfielder. A leader on and off the field

- Betsy McDonald, freshman midfielder. A very good offensive and defensive player. One of five freshmen seeing considerable playing time this season.

- Edith Emmings, freshman forward. A quick, solid athlete who can find the net.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Central is a prime example of the youth movement in girls' soccer. With only six or seven returning players from last year's team that went undefeated in City Conference play, Beck was thrilled to find five freshmen who could step in and play. A pair of sophomores, Melissa Anderson and Perrin Jackson, have moved up from last year's freshmen team to split time in goal. "Both have been good at times," Beck said. "We're still looking for one of them to step up and take charge."

Outlook: The new players required Beck to make a few changes. "We're certainly more defensive than we were last year," he said. "We still think we're one of the better teams in the City Conference, but there's no question the league is stronger this year."

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East Conference

Last year's record: 5-13-1

Coach: Stephanie Aumann

Key players and their strengths:

- Maria McLeod, senior defender. Solid player who provides a spark "anywhere on the field," according to coach Aumann.

- Nina Behrenbrinker, senior goalie. Excellent netminder who recorded her first shutout of season in a scoreless tie with highly regarded Centennial.

- Alex Gergen, senior midfielder. Distributes the ball well from the middle.

- Michelle Fischer, senior midfielder. Another solid passer who also covers the outside well.

Team strengths/weaknesses: With several returning juniors and seniors, there was every reason for the Raiders to be optimistic as the season began. Unfortunately, they played six of the state's top 10 Class AA teams in their first nine games. Some of those games, such as a 1-0 loss to Woodbury, one of the best girls' team in the country, gives coach Aumann hope her team will be ready when section play



Minnehaha Academy defender Sarah Scholl tried to keep St. Paul Academy's Anne Walli from driving to the goal in a 4-1 loss to the Spartans on September 15. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

begins at the end of October.

Outlook: Games like a 4-1 win over SPA and a 4-3 loss at Armstrong indicate some offensive potential. "We're in one of the toughest conferences in the state," Aumann said. "Every game in the SEC is a great game and it helps us get prepared for post-season play."

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 12-6-2

Coach: Michael Sampson

Key players and their strengths:

- Ali Miller, senior defender. A four-year player and captain who has good awareness on the field. "She's the epitome of what a coach looks for," said coach Sampson.

- McKenzie Chase, senior midfielder. Another four-year starter and excellent one-on-one player. May be the team's best playmaker.

- Erica Dombro, sophomore forward. A Class A champion in track who is learning to use that speed on the field to her advantage.

- Margo Lee, junior midfielder. A returning starter who has improved greatly from last year. A hard worker.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Scots were hit hard by graduation. That, plus a rugged first-week schedule that included games against St. Paul Academy and Visitation, made for a 0-3 start. But the Scots and senior goalie Kimmy Andrews rebounded nicely with three shutouts in a row. "We're getting better," said Sampson, who is in his first year as head varsity coach. He ran the 9th-grade and JV teams before that, so he came to camp with a good feel for his team.

Outlook: Sampson predicted that the race for the St. Paul City Conference title will be wide open this fall. "Our defense has to be strong and we need a little more production from our forwards to succeed this year," he said.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 11-7-1

Coach: Mark Anderson

Key players and their strengths:

- Anna Krieger, senior forward. A smart, quick player who has adapted well to forward after starting at defense the last three years.

- Rachel Hansen, senior midfielder. An excellent passer. Has been playing since 8th grade and is now one of the most skilled players in the state.

- Sarah Scholl, senior defender. A hard-nosed, quick, extremely strong player who is often assigned to the other team's top scorer.

- Nicole Roth, junior defender. Had five goals in the academy's first six games of the season. Led the Redhawks with 12 goals and 11 assists last fall.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The numbers are high at Minnehaha, with 56 players showing up for the first day of camp, including 17 who were around last season. Coach Anderson expects only one new player will break into the lineup.

Outlook: "This could be one of our better teams," said Anderson, now in his 27th season as coach. "We should be very good offensive-

GIRLS' SOCCER ► 35

"What's great about St. Paul?"

The Villager reader asks, Any Unusual Facts?

NAMIWalks is the largest anti-stigma event in Minnesota with over 2000 walkers expected to participate at Minnehaha Park on Saturday, September 26th at 1:00 p.m. Join them in an inspiring demonstration of compassion and action. With a festival atmosphere, the event features local food vendors, the soul band, *High and Mighty* and other local musicians along the route. Check out information booths, free give-aways and prize drawings for top fundraisers. Reach out to your family, friends and community to ask for their support. Check out the kids' tent with face painting and art projects. Visit www.namihelps.org and click on the NAMIWalks logo. In 2004, The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Minnesota moved to their new headquarters at 800 Transfer Road in St. Paul. In 2007, NAMI along with public TV, produced the video, "Coming Home-Support Your Soldier." In 2008, national insurance parity for mental illness was signed into law-largely through a nationwide effort by NAMI and the leadership of Minnesota's Jim Ramstad and the late Sen. Paul Wellstone.



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31 ◀ BOYS' SOCCER

Outlook: CDH looks to be a strong contender in the tough Suburban East. "We should be competitive in our conference and hopefully make a run at the state tournament," Huber said.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: Classic Suburban Conference

Last year's record: 4-10-3

Coach: Terry Doud

Key players and their strengths:

- Tom Perillat, senior center/midfielder. A hard-working player who's all over the field.
- Ryan Menssen, senior goalie. An impressive shot blocker who has been tested and has come up big.
- Justin Zeis, junior defender. The defensive anchor every team needs.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sibley has shown steady improvement in key areas. The players are pressing better as a team, working well with possession of the ball and getting better at playing the ball in the air, coach Doud said. However, the team is rather young.

Outlook: The Warriors dropped their first six games to start the season, but showed improvement with a 2-0 loss to a tough St. Thomas Academy team. With a young squad, "it takes a few games to get going, especially when you play some of the better teams," Doud said. St. Thomas, Richfield and Simley are among the conference favorites.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 1-16-2

Coach: Chris Anderson

Key players and their strengths:

- Casey Hewes, senior goalie. Has great reactions and has stymied multiple breakaways. A team leader.
- Sam Sevett, senior forward. The team's leading goal scorer is equally skilled at passing the ball.
- Phil Berg, senior midfielder. Helps out on both the offense and defense.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Scots are a balanced lot this year, with strong defense and goalkeeping and a capable offense. The team is still a bit on the young side, however. "With that youth, we've been trying to work out some bugs," coach Anderson said.

Outlook: Highland has shown signs of improvement in the early season. Central and Como Park are tough in the conference, but "if we continue to play our brand of soccer, I think we can play with any team in the conference," Anderson said.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 8-8-2

Coach: Bassam Banat

Key players and their strengths:

- Ben Wadsworth, senior goalie. An athletic player, strong leader and one of the best goalies in the conference. "He always brings his A game," coach Banat said.
- Spencer Summers, senior forward. Has good speed, a great shot and good scoring potential.
- Tyler DeBois, senior sweeper. A smart and aggressive sweeper.
- Robbie Beveroth, senior midfielder. A skilled center who has good vision and distributes the ball well.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Minnehaha has "speed almost everywhere and our game transition is very good," coach Banat said. However, the Redhawks will field a young team this year.

Outlook: Minnehaha has good players all over the field. The team looks to improve game by game. "As we go along, we're going to get better and better and by playoff time we should be a good team," Banat said. The teams to beat in the conference this year are Breck and Blake.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City Conference

Last year's record: 8-9-2

Coach: Gordon Olsen

Key players and their strengths:

- Mohamoud Abdi, sophomore midfielder. Can put the ball in the net. Scored both of Roosevelt's goals in a 2-0 win over Edison.
- Christian Tigre-Lazo, senior midfielder. An all-conference selection who scored the Teddies' lone goal in a 1-1 early season tie with Andover.
- Abshir Kodah, senior defender. Another all-conference standout who is a big contributor on defense.
- Other players to watch include senior defenders Rafael Anodere and Ricky Armenta.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Defense looks solid for Roosevelt, which has three starters back from last year and two promising newcomers. Goalkeeping is also strong. Scoring is a big question mark and coach Olsen would like to see more finishers.

Outlook: The Teddies may have their best team in years, according to Olsen. They are off to a 4-2-1 record as of September 16. Roosevelt looks to battle with Southwest and South for the top spot in the conference.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 8-10-1

Coach: Franklin Tawah

Key players and their strengths:

- Zack Brown, senior goalie. One of the best high school goalies Tawah said he has seen.
- Luke Bruggemann, senior midfielder. Has great skill and loads of talent.
- Conor Perkio, junior midfielder/defender. Not the biggest guy on the field, but he has ample skills and toughness.
- Nick Forsgren, junior midfielder/defender. A talented athlete who consistently plays at a high level.
- Ian Middlebrook, senior attacking midfielder. A versatile player who can easily adjust from left to right.
- Mac Stringer, junior midfielder/forward. Has good size, strength, ability and potential.

Team strengths/weaknesses: SPA has good goaltending and loads of talent. Tawah would like to see the team do a better job of building on its team spirit. "I want them to translate it into action," he said.

Outlook: Tawah, who brings more than 30 years of experience to his role as the Spartans' new head coach, is hopeful, but he warned that this could be a rebuilding season.

ST. THOMAS ACADEMY

League: Classic Suburban Conference

Last year's record: 15-2-2

Coach: Julius Tangwe

Key players and their strengths:

- Ben Lemay, sophomore forward. An outstanding forward and one of the team's biggest scoring threats.
- Michael Neuberger, senior defender/midfielder. A terrific ball handler.
- Cody Lemay, senior midfielder. Handles the ball well in the middle.
- Jack Clancy, senior midfielder. Another starter who performs magic with his feet.
- Also: senior defenders David Drake, Andre Bartol and Ryan Heide; junior midfielder Nicholas Devetter; sophomore defender Alex Barth; and junior goalie Alvaro Pinto.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Cadets are strong on defense and in the middle. The defending conference champs know how to win and have bought into Tangwe's system. The coach would like the team to get better at finishing plays up top.

Outlook: After winning the conference crown a year ago, STA would like to take the next step—a strong run in the post season and a state tournament berth. "Our goal is to go to state," Tangwe said. Simley, Mahtomedi, South St. Paul and Tartan are the other conference teams to watch.



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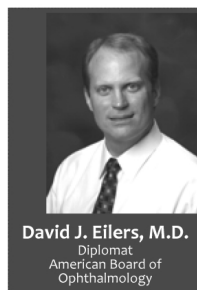
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Kuk Sool Won of St. Paul, 1920 University Ave., will hold an open house with free mini-classes in the traditional Korean martial art system from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, September 26. Call 651-645-1455.

The SweatShop Health Club, 167 N. Snelling Ave., will hold an open house and conduct free classes on Saturday and Sunday, September 26-27. Call 651-646-8418.

The Twin Cities VisionWalk will be held at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, September 27, from the Lake Harriet Bandshell in Minneapolis. Since its inception in 2006, the program has raised more than \$9 million to benefit the Foundation Fighting Blindness. Visit www.VisionWalk.org.

Give Us Wings, 450 N. Syndicate St., will hold a Wings in Motion 5K Walk for Water from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 26. The family walk will start at the Ford Dam overlook across from the Ford plant and will follow Mississippi River Boulevard. The registration fee is \$15. Participants are asked to raise \$100. Proceeds will help provide clean water in the village of Nyaoga, Kenya. Call 651-789-5606 or visit www.giveuswings.org/5K.

The 20th annual Wally World Classic, an 18-hole golf scramble for men and women, will return on Sunday, October 4, to Highland National Golf Course. A shotgun start will take place at noon. A party and awards ceremony will follow at Plum's Bar and Grill, 480 S. Snelling Ave. To register, send \$300 per foursome or \$75 for individual golfers to Joe Delaney, 634 S. Brimhall St., St. Paul, MN 55116. Call 651-690-1341.

The Target Health & Fitness Expo will return to St. Paul's RiverCentre on Friday and Saturday, October 2-3. The free event will feature hands-on exhibits of products and services and information on the latest equipment and nutritional advances. Held in conjunction with the Twin Cities Marathon, the event will run from noon to 8:00 p.m. Friday and from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday. Tickets for a pasta party from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday are \$15.

31 ◀ WRIGHT CALL

would give you money to stay in a hotel. We decided to bank the money for future expenses and went home. We probably should have stayed downtown—for a variety of reasons—but that was a great Duluth team we played."

Central made seven more state tournament trips and won a dozen conference titles in Brink's years at the helm, but never returned to the state title game. "You get there with talent and I think we made the most of what we had," Brink said. "When you have guys like Ricky Suggs, Stacy Robinson and John Williams, you can win a lot of games."

Unfortunately for the Minutemen, Williams got sick and missed a couple of section games the next season. Central returned to the state tournament, but lost by one point to St. Louis Park in the quarterfinals.

University of St. Thomas men's basketball coach Steve Fritz, who later hired Brink as an assistant, was always impressed with Brink's work with the Minutemen. "The greatest gift he gave them was a sense of discipline," Fritz said. "He gave them the structure to be successful. He knew his Xs and Os, too, but you can't make them work if you don't have discipline to go with it."

In 1981, Central finished third at state. Coaches typically don't like to rank one team over another, but Brink admits partiality toward that bunch of players. "That club did better than its talent level indicated it should have," he said. "That's a credit to the kids."

Central roared through, over and around most of its competition for Brink's 16 seasons. Coincidentally, his first season as Central coach came the year Cretin, St. Thomas and Hill-Murray entered the City Conference. Only the Raiders ever finished ahead of Central during Brink's tenure there, and it took them a dozen seasons before they tied for their first conference title.

Meanwhile, the Minutemen made life miserable for everybody who played them. "It was a lot of fun," Brink said. "When you win, everything seems easy. When you don't, it's suddenly a difficult game."

As befits a coach's dreams, the Minutemen generally did it with several movable pieces. During Brink's tenure there, he only had two players—Juriad Hughes and Sly Johnson—who led the league in scoring.

After Brink moved on, Central stayed a contender, but only returned to one state tournament.



The St. Paul Blackhawks' U16 Girls' soccer team participated in Sweden's Gothia Cup in July, finishing among the top eight of 100 teams in its age bracket. The team later joined 170 teams in CUP Denmark and placed first in its division, defeating the United Kingdom's Worthing Minors in the final game. Teammates pictured above, left to right, are (back row) Caedy Barth, Kiersten Johnson, Kelsey Vandegrift, Kristina Kramarczuk, Ali Ellison, Kylie McMahon, Elizabeth Gapp, Samantha Berger, Kimberly Hart, Ellie Jimenez and Coach Victor Kasanezky; and (front row) Margo Lee, Julia Carpenter, Mari Marcotte, Katelyn Niemeyer, Fiona Cummings, Becky Engeleiter and Sara Luby. Not pictured is McKenzie Chase.

The St. Paul Basketball Association will hold its 2009-2010 traveling team tryouts on the weekends of September 26-27 and October 3-4. Teams are being formed for boys and girls in grades 5-8. Visit www.saintpaulbasketball.org or call Steve Otto at 651-645-4764 or Jay Johnson at 651-690-9834.

The Concordia University-St. Paul Dance Team will host a youth dance clinic from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, October 10, as part of the homecoming celebration in the university's new Sea Foam Stadium. The clinic is open to all boys and girls in grades K-8. Participants will work with the dance team to learn a routine that they will perform at halftime during the Concordia football game that day. The cost is \$20, which includes a T-shirt and pizza party before the game. Call Natalie Cochrane at 612-715-1346 or visit www.csp.edu/News/Community_Dance_Clinic_2009.html.

Following the 1994 season, Brink decided it was time to try a different coaching tack. He left Central and moved 2 miles west to the University of St. Thomas. On first blush, it seemed to be college coaching's odd couple—the quiet, reserved Fritz who expected his players to know their assignments and perform them, and the vocal, animated Brink who offered defensive advice in a voice that could have been heard in the library across campus. In reality, the two got along famously because they both believed in one basic concept—good defense wins a lot of basketball games.

"We had different styles, but Fritzie and I got along fine," Brink said. "We went as far as our talent took us."

"Our philosophies are a lot alike," Fritz agreed. "Our personalities are a bit different."

After eight years as a college assistant, Brink got the head coach's itch again and returned to the sidelines at Como Park for six seasons. The Cougars never won a conference title in his time there, but they did advance to the state tournament twice—their only two appearances ever. By the time he stepped down at Como Park, Brink's 275 conference wins were 39 more than his own high school coach, Ron Causton, who also spent many years coaching at Highland Park.

To the casual observer, it might look like Brink has mellowed a bit over the years. John Vosejpka, the St. Paul City Conference historian who's a longtime friend and golfing partner of Brink's, laughed at the suggestion. "Dan still doesn't handle adversity well on the course," Vosejpka said. "He's an 8-10 handicapper who thinks he should play better. I think he handled adversity a lot better as a coach."

One ex-Cadet in, one out for Dartmouth

It's good news and bad news for two St. Thomas Academy grads who were hoping to help Dartmouth's football team bury the memory of last year's winless season. Sophomore Foley Schmidt, who was the team's main placekicker last year, is expected to handle those duties again, although he's being pressed by a freshman R.C. Willenbrook. Unfortunately, junior wide receiver Tim McManus is out with a leg injury. McManus, who caught 60 passes last season, may be sidelined until the Big Green's Ivy League opener against Penn on October 3.

Dave Wright can be reached at dwright53@msn.com.

32 ◀ GIRLS' SOCCER

ly." Hansen, who has already committed to Concordia University-St. Paul to play basketball, is highly skilled. Senior Collette Devereaux, who was the backup last year, is expected to battle sophomore Gabby Stienstra for goalie.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City Conference

Last year's record: 9-9-0

Coach: Joe Rosenfield

Key players and their strengths:

- Corrin Cook, senior goalie. Has been playing since 7th grade. Picked by conference coaches as the league's most valuable player last fall.

- Jessenia Espinal, senior forward. Scored four of the five goals that the Teddies recorded in their first five games of season. "She can play forever," coach Rosenfield said.

- Daniella Zavala, sophomore midfielder. An excellent passer who "creates offense," Anderson said.

- Jessica Patino, senior defender. Four-year player who anchors the defense. A returning team captain.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Roosevelt had 35 players come out this year, a high number for a school that doesn't have much of a feeder program. The most notable of the players is probably Cook, who returns in nets for her sixth year. "Some days she has to make 30-35 saves," Rosenfield said, "but she's always steady for us back there."

Outlook: Outside of Espinal and Zavala, the Teddies have few proven offensive threats. "We have a lot of young players, some of whom are just learning

the game," Rosenfield said. "But they're eager and coachable. We're adding a few things every day." The goal is to finish in the upper half of the conference.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 11-6-4

Coach: Ben Danielson

Key players and their strengths:

- Maren Flom-Staab, senior forward. A very quick player and the team MVP last year with 11 goals scored.

- Bri Rick, senior defender. A four-year starter who was chosen first-team all-state last fall. A strong, 6-foot tall, athletic defender.

- Megan Leslie, senior midfielder. A fifth-year player and great ball handler.

- Cece Dicaprio, senior goalie. Posted nine shutouts last season in her first year as a starter. Has good footwork and excellent hands.

Team strengths/weaknesses: SPA has 15 returning players, which gives coach Danielson considerable hope. Flom-Staab is an outstanding scorer and Dicaprio has turned into an excellent goaltender. Injuries, however, could change the optimism in a hurry. "The biggest thing for a school like ours is keeping everybody together," Danielson said. "If we do that, we'll be tough to handle."

Outlook: In any other conference, SPA would be considered a favorite to win its section and make the state tournament. But the Spartans are locked in with Blake, Visitation, Minnehaha Academy and Breck in what might be the best conference in the state. A year ago, they advanced to the section semis.

VISITATION

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 15-4-2

Coach: Carle Cheesebrough

Key players and their strengths:

- Marie Martine, sophomore defender. A second-year starter who is already an anchor on defense.

- Clare Robinson, senior goalie. An all-state pick. Recorded 10 shutouts last fall.

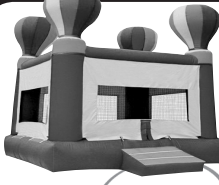
- Kate Ruble, senior forward. Scored nine goals last season. Has a hard shot and a knack for the net.

- Mara Wangen, junior forward. Scored two goals in the first two games of this season. A good passer who sees the field well.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Blazers graduated their top three scorers, but Cheesebrough said there were players waiting to move in. That's good news, since midfielder and captain Becca Frenz is out for a few more weeks with a stress fracture. Another one of last year's starters, Elaine Stokes, is gone for the year due to a knee injury. Robinson, a converted forward, has become a solid goalie.

Outlook: With seven returning starters, coach Cheesebrough is reasonably hopeful the Blazers can go one further than last year, when they lost to Holy Angels in the Section 1A title game. "We'll have a different dynamic this year," she said. "We're actually trying to be more offensive because we've got a lot of speed and we're deeper."

Henry Sibley did not respond in time to be included in this preview.



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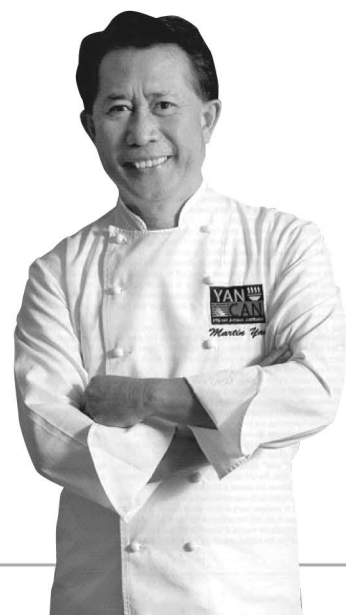
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Staff member Tammy explains CEREC

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