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Ryan's revision of Ford site plan receives broad public support

By Jane McClure

yan Companies' proposed amendments to the city of St. Paul's Ford site master plan drew a large crowd of supporters to a January 25 hearing before the St. Paul Planning Commission. More than two dozen people testified, and all of them were in full or partial support of the proposed changes. Whether it was enough to turn the tide in favor of the master developer of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant in Highland Park remains to be seen. City planning staff and several members of the Planning Commission have objections.

Disagreements remain over several of Ryan's amendments, including the single-family homes along Mississippi River Boulevard, the additional rowhouses or townhouse on the west side of the man-made stream through the site, the additional off-street parking for commercial property and parks near Ford Parkway, and the realignment of several short streets. City planning staff and Ryan agree on most of the 40-plus pages of master plan amendments. However, without city approval of the remaining amendments, the project cannot go forward, Ryan has said.

The Planning Commission's Neighborhood

FORD SITE MASTER PLAN ▶3



Cool way to fly. The St. Paul Bouncing Team thrilled those who turned out for the King Boreas Grande Day Parade on January 26. The 133rd St. Paul Winter Carnival continues through February 3. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Racial segregation hits close to home in new play

By Frank Jossi

Filliam and Nellie Griswold Francis may not have expected a welcome party when they moved into their new home in St. Paul's Macalester Groveland neighborhood in 1924. But they probably did not expect a cross-burning in their front yard either, nor a plea from the mayor to reconsider their purchase of the two-story home.

A downtown attorney and Republican Party activist who would go on to become U.S. minister to Liberia, William Francis and his politically active wife were black. They lived at 606 St. Anthony Ave. before purchasing the home at 2092 Sargent Ave. However, their new neighbors objected to their living in the area, touching off a series of racial incidents that revealed the depths whites would go to fight racial integration in

St. Paul.

This unseemly chapter in the city's history is portrayed in Not in Our Neighborhood!, a new play by Eric Wood and Tom Fabel that will be performed at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, February 14-16, in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center.

Fabel, a member of the Ramsey County Historical Society board, learned of the incident through an article by Paul Nelson in the society's quarterly magazine in 2017. "It was like a punch in the stomach," Fabel said. "That terrible incident happened in a part of the city where I lived for many years. It captivated me and horrified me, and I immediately thought there was a play in this."

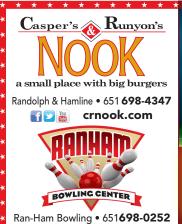
Fabel called Wood, who like him is a native of two years, drawing from Nelson's article and St. Paul now retired and living in the suburbs. They became friends through their participation

in community theater, though they had known each other as students at Central High School in

Wood, who directs the play, was employed as a purchasing agent for the St. Paul Public Schools for many years. As a sidelight, he performed in professional and semi-professional theater. Fabel, the scion of a family that owned Fabel's Orthopedic Boot Shop on West Seventh Street, worked as a lawyer for 45 years in the offices of the Minnesota Attorney General, the Hennepin County District Attorney and the law firm of Lindquist & Vennum (now Ballard Spahr). He served as St. Paul's deputy mayor under Norm Coleman for a year.

Fabel and Wood wrote the play over the past

'NOT IN OUR 'HOOD' ▶2







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an earlier one by Professor Douglas R. Heidenreich published in the William Mitchell Law Review.

William "Billie" Francis had moved to St. Paul from Indiana in 1887. He got a job as a messenger and then a clerk in the legal department of Northern Pacific Railroad. He earned a law degree at William Mitchell (now Mitchell Hamline) School of Law and eventually took over the law office of Minnesota's first African-American attorney, Fred Mc-Ghee, following McGhee's death. Francis helped found the St. Paul chapter of the NAACP. He ran for city assembly and lost, and as a Republican was nominated for the Minnesota Legislature but lost that race, too.

Nellie Francis was a civil rights activist and women's suffragist. After moving from Tennessee to Minnesota, she attended Central High School where she "gave a remarkable graduation speech" that was noted in the local press, according to Fabel. She and William were married in 1893 and became sought-after speakers, singers, actors and civic leaders. They were "the Barack and Michelle Obama of their time," Wood said.

The couple, who had no children, first looked at a house on James Avenue that Nellie liked before learning it had been sold. The builder, George L. Olson, told them he had a house on Sargent Avenue that was available, and the Francises decided to buy it for \$7,500.

When the neighbors learned a "colored family" was moving in, Oscar Arneson and two other representatives of the Groveland Park Improvement Association visited William Francis at his law office and told him that if he moved in, other African-American families would follow and property values would decline.

They really tried to talk him out of it," Fabel said. "They made two trips to his downtown office, and both times he rebutted them and assured them that he and his wife would make good neighbors."

A meeting was held at Groveland Park Grade School that drew around 75 neighbors. They discussed how to keep the Francises out of the neighborhood, according to Fabel, and drew up a petition with 300 signatures. The neighbors also organized a parade and a political demonstration against the couple as well as a cross-burning before they moved into the house.

St. Paul's Republican Mayor Arthur Nelson and NAACP president and retired Judge James Willis met with Arneson, William Francis and a few neighbors. On behalf of some neighbors, Arneson offered to purchase the Sargent Avenue home from Francis so they could find a home in another neighborhood. "Francis said he really didn't want to do that, but the mayor pushed him to accept the deal," Fabel said.



Not in Our Neighborhood playwrights Eric Wood (above left) and Tom Fabel, and William and Nellie Griswold Francis (below). PHOTO ABOVE BY BRAD STAUFFER



That effort failed, and the Francises moved into the home in November. The neighbors greeted the couple with another cross-burning in December and 10 days of intimidating postcards sent to Francis' office and home. More threats came by telephone. Local church and school leaders offered their support to the Francises. The NAACP paid to station a guard inside their home at night.

Another meeting in Mayor Nelson's office led to more threats, but this time they were leveled against Arneson. William Francis was the chairman of the colored division of the Republican National Party in the western United States when Calvin Coolidge was elected president. "He was a big shot, a lawyer downtown, a big-time Republican, and the Republicans had just won the White House," Fabel said. "They leaned on Arneson and his pals real hard. Things started settling down then."

The Francises' time as Macalester-Groveland residents was short-lived. In 1927 William was appointed by President Coolidge to serve as the minister



and chief consul to Liberia, and he and Nellie moved to the West African country. The second African American ever appointed a U.S. ambassador, Francis died in 1929 of yellow fever he contracted in Liberia and, following his funeral at Pilgrim Baptist Church in St. Paul, Nellie moved back to Tennessee.

Fabel considers the story of William and Nellie Francis a timely reminder that Minnesotans in many cases did not treat blacks any better than Southerners did. "We want people to understand this part of the country was as complicit in the disgrace of racism as the South," he said. "We should recognize it and deal

Wood hopes the play will convince people that "we can't move forward if we don't understand our history or aren't at least aware of it."

Not in Our Neighborhood! is produced by Minnesota Landmarks. A panel discussion with legal professionals will follow Friday's performance. For tickets, priced at \$10, call 651-292-3063 or visit landmarkcenter.org.



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City drawing up design standards for Ford redevelopment

By Jane McClure

s St. Paul officials consider possible amendments to the city's master plan for redeveloping Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant in Highland Park, work continues on the design standards for new buildings and public parks on the 122-acre site.

While the master plan established half a dozen new zoning districts for the site, each with its own set of land uses, building heights and setbacks, the design standards will address everything from exterior building materials and landscaping to the overall size and placement of windows and doors, parking access and energy efficiency.

The standards are being drawn up by staff from the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) in consultation with LHB Architects and master developer Ryan Companies. Their intent is not to dictate detailed designs, but to regulate the general appearance of the buildings and how they function in the larger neighborhood, according to city planner Mike Richardson. Outlining which materials can be used for buildings is important, Richardson said. So is having windows as opposed to large blank walls. Pedestrian and bicycle safety can also be at odds with the placement of driveways.

"We don't want to be too prescriptive," Richardson said. "Ryan has a great team and they've been great to work with."

Ryan Companies representatives have said that their vision for the Ford site involves more traditional architecture to reflect the surrounding neighborhoods. While there has been support for that concept at public meetings in the neighborhood, not everyone is on board. "Some of us were hoping for some more exciting, cutting-edge designs," said Jim Schuttler, a member of the Highland District Council (HDC) Community Development Committee

That committee discussed the review and

approval process for the design standards with city staff and consultants on January 15. A public open house on the standards is planned for March. Meanwhile, the city has set up a small focus group with representatives of the HDC and the Highland Business Association. "The intent is for us to have a small group to check in with from time to time to make sure we're thinking about everything and not forgetting anything," Richardson said.

The draft design standards will be brought back to the HDC for recommendations before they are reviewed by the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council. The city's goal is to have the standards ready for Planning Commission review in late April.

Ryan Companies has organized focus groups over the past several months to look at building design for the Ford site and has collected public comments at a series of community meetings. At one meeting, people were asked to respond to various questions on design with their cell phones. "A more tradi-

tional feel and a design that is more consistent with the neighborhood was very much a preference," said Tony Barranco, Ryan Companies' senior vice president for development.

"We saw a strong aversion to more modern building designs," said Mike Ryan, president of Ryan Companies. According to him, the people at these meetings had a strong preference for the more traditional architecture of brick, glass and stone. As for parks and open space, they asked for a mix of natural and formal design. Extensive streetscaping is already planned, with more than 1,000 trees.

Barranco noted that the city's master plan includes ambitious goals for environmental sustainability, and Ryan has been discussing ways to incorporating sustainable design and the use of renewable energy in the redevelopment project. Designs to accommodate solar energy and tap into a district energy system are also under consideration. However, few specifics are available for public review.

1 ◄ FORD SITE MASTER PLAN

and Comprehensive Planning Committee will hear a presentation by Ryan on the amendments on February 20. The full Planning Commission is likely to make a recommendation to the City Council in March.

The full package of amendments has the support of the Highland District Council (HDC), Highland Business Association and Macalester-Groveland Community Council Housing and Land Use Committee. Representatives of the local building trades spoke in favor of the roughly 14,000 construction jobs the Ford site development is expected to generate. Affordable housing advocates praised the plan's focus on blending affordable apartments into the development. Highland Ball parents touted Ryan's intent to save two of its three playing fields on the site.

Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert supports the amendments. "The city has a great master plan for the Ford site," he said in an interview, "but we have to remember that it's essentially a framework. The City Council adopted it with the expectation that when a master developer was chosen, we'd see changes. And I think the Ryan changes are reasonable."

Ryan's amendments would allow about three dozen single-family homes on Mississippi River Boulevard. However, those houses could still be split into as many as four units. In fact, much of what happens with that housing and the 3,800 other proposed units on the site depends in large part on market demand and the development partners Ryan brings in, though Ryan has promised to provide over 700 affordable housing units scattered throughout the site.

Ryan has also requested more structured parking in the area closest to Ford Parkway, increasing the maximum allowable parking from one space per 400 square feet of gross floor area to one space per 200 square feet of gross floor area. Ryan's goal is to concentrate



An artist's rendering of the retail area in Ryan Companies' plan for the Ford site redevelopment, looking east along Ford Parkway (left).

the commercial and visitor parking in one area of the site, so that traffic is more concentrated. Still, every block on the 122-acre Ford site, other than the parks and open spaces, would have structured parking. Ryan's plans call for 5,490 parking spaces in the entire development, which under the master plan could have as many as 10,000 spaces.

Ryan would also like to remove an east-west section of Hillcrest Avenue between Cretin Avenue and Finn Street and add a north-south connection between Ford Parkway and Bohland Avenue. The city's plan was to extend Hillcrest through the Highland Village Center, but Ryan objected to disrupting what is a thriving shopping center.

Ryan representatives testified that its proposed amendments are critical to the plan going forward. The January 25 hearing was the developer's third public meeting in a week, which included a January 19 informational session with about 100 people at Central Baptist Church and a January 23 meeting with the Macalester-Groveland Community Council Housing and Land Use Committee.

Many area residents, including members of

the group Neighbors for a Livable St. Paul, testified in favor of the amendments. The Neighbors group had opposed the city's master plan last year. But several of its members stood up on January 25 to praise Ryan for its willingness to meet with members of the community and discuss their objections. They said they like the Ryan amendments reducing housing density from 4,000 to 3,800 units, providing more rowhouses and townhouses, and adding off-street parking to accommodate the events that would be held in two planned parks south of Ford Parkway.

"(Ryan) has done a very good job of pulling the community together," said Highland resident Tim Morehead.

"Ryan has taken this plan and turned a potential disaster into a probable success," said Highland resident Howard Miller. He and others asked the Planning Commission to consider Ryan's experience in commercial and residential real estate development when addressing the requested amendments.

"They have the best interests of the neighborhood at heart," said Kathy Soderberg, property manager for the Sibley Manor

Apartments on West Seventh Street. "They've worked to bring a divided neighborhood together."

HDC Community Development Committee chair Frank Jossi said that of all the developers the HDC has worked with over the past decade, Ryan rises to the top. A plan that once generated "very testy and difficult" discussions is now embraced by the neighborhood, he said.

Soderberg and others said they fear that if Ryan's amendments do not win City Council approval, the developer would pull out of the project. The city could end up with an out-of-state developer who is not interested in working as closely with the neighborhood, they said.

"Ryan has built trust," said Highland resident Bruce Hoppe. If the company pulls out of the Ford development, "this will push us back years," he said. "We don't want to lose this opportunity with Ryan."

Highland resident Scott Andresen, who works in real estate and construction, also spoke for the amendments. If the project does not move forward under Ryan and another developer comes in, he said, "as sure as I'm sitting here, they're going to ask you to do the same thing."

Morehead noted that some of the additional structured parking that Ryan is proposing would be designed so that it could be converted to other uses in the future.

Ryan's amendments did receive some pushback from the St. Paul Public Housing Agency and the Cleveland High-Rise Residents' Council. The developer has asked to turn the small Village Lane access street into an eastwest through street. That has been opposed by the housing agency and the high-rise residents because it would put a busy street close to residents' gardens, green space and parking. The potential for heavy traffic there is a worry, said John Cardoza, who chairs the residents' council for the building at 899 S. Cleveland Ave.

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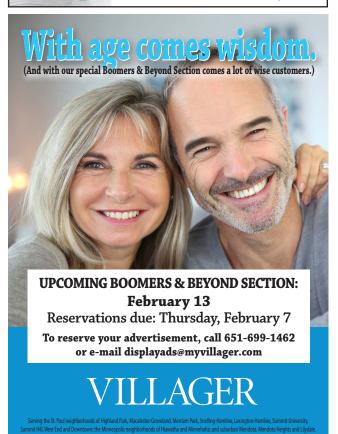
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Funding lines up for Lexington Pkwy. reroute

By Jane McClure

The Metropolitan Council is expected to approve \$1.5 million on February 13 toward extending Lexington Parkway between West Seventh Street and Shepard Road. The council's Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval in mid-January.

A second phase of the project will involve extending Lexington through the former Riverside School property at 900 Albion Ave. to connect with West Seventh. That will eventually allow Ramsey County to dead-end Lexington before it reaches Montreal Avenue.

The Highland District Council (HDC) has worked for the past few years to reroute the parkway and change the dangerous Lexington-Montreal-West Seventh intersection. While the total project will take a few years to complete, HDC board members and staff said it is good to see the work move forward.

"We didn't know if this would get funded, so this is great news," said HDC executive director Kathy Carruth.

The bulk of the work is expected to be done in 2022, but a small portion is slated for this fall on the street section on the old school site as part of a new senior housing development going up there called Lexington Landing.

The new Lexington will cross West Seventh to a short stub of Elway Street and continue south to Montreal Avenue and eventually to Shepard Road. Lexington will have traffic signals at West Seventh and at Montreal, while the current signal at West Seventh and Albion will be removed.

The Lexington reroute involves three government entities, since West Seventh and part of Montreal are state highways, Lexington is a county road and Elway is a city street.

The change will continue the Lexington bike lanes to Montreal on what will be vacated street right-of-way, as well as to the Samuel Morgan Trail along Shepard Road and connections to Crosby and Hidden Falls parks.

The Lexington reroute is part of the county's 2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Plan. The county and its partners have worked with TKDA on the plans and have hosted two open

Above is a rendering of the first phase of the Lexington Landing senior complex that recently broke ground on the old Riverside site at 900 Albion Ave. At right is how Lexington Parkway would be rerouted to connect with Montreal

Avenue and Shepard Road.

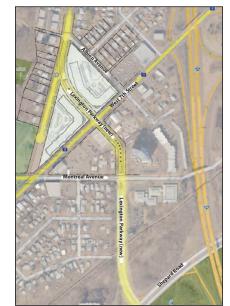
houses. They also have met with HDC and West Seventh/Fort Road Federation. Design work is underway, according to county staff.

The project also has a longer-term view of helping shift traffic from West Seventh Street to Shepard Road, "thus assisting the future operation of the Riverview Corridor," said Joe Lux, senior planner for the county's Department of Public Works. A modern streetcar is proposed for the Riverview Corridor, which would travel along much of West Seventh Street on its way between downtown St. Paul and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Mall of America.

Along with the money from the Met Council, the .29-mile Lexington reroute project is in line to receive a match of \$383,855 from state aid, county-state aid and other funds. The total project cost is \$1,919,275.

The city also may have to buy some right-of-way for the project and is looking for funding, according to St. Paul Public Works spokesperson Lisa Hiebert.

The J.A. Wedum Foundation closed on its purchase of the former Riverside School property from the St. Paul Public Schools in mid-January and site work has begun on construction of a five-story senior apartment building on the southern part of the 5.4-acre site. It is the first of two buildings planned for Lexington Landing. EDI and Pope



Architects are project partners. Work on the first building is expected to be completed in the summer of 2020.

Wedum received City Council approval last summer to rezone the site from single-family residential to Traditional Neighborhoods 3. The change allows building heights of up to 55 feet. A conditional use permit also was approved, since the developers estimated that the first building will be about 58

The first phase is expected to house 98 senior apartments for independent living, 36 assisted living units and 21 memory care units. The complex will include a two-story Town Center with gathering spaces, restaurant-style dining, bistro, wellness center and other amenities. Underground heated parking will also be available.

A second senior building is expected to be constructed closer to Albion. When that building goes up and what it looks like are expected to be influenced by the demand for the first building.



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Event center planned for Dayton Ave. Church

By Jane McClure

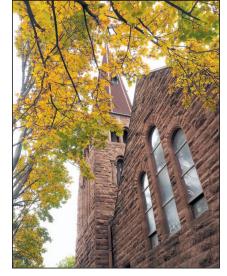
The former Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church could house a banquet and event center if its new owner can obtain a conditional use permit from the St. Paul Planning Commission. The Summit-University Planning Council (SUPC) voted on January 22 to recommend the permit for the historic church at 217 N. Mackubin St.

The district council's Neighborhood Development Committee on January 15 voted to recommend approval to the full council. When the request will get to the Planning Commission is unknown.

Buyer Mohammed Thabet is still seeking consent signatures to formally apply for the permit. As of last week, he had 15 signatures and needed at least five more. One challenge in obtaining signatures is that the church is near several apartment buildings. Thabet is working with the city to see if there are other ways to submit an application without all of the required signatures.

The conditional use permit would be used to set hours of operations and other conditions on how the proposed banquet and event center would be run. The SUPC did not suggest any conditions. City planning staff will outline possible conditions before the permit request goes to the Planning Commission.

Thabet would like to use part of the building as an adult and child daycare. The property is zoned for residential



The steeple of the former Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church at 217 N. Mackubin St. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

use, so it can be used for daycare with proper permits from Ramsey County. No city zoning changes are required.

Mary Morris, who chairs the Neighborhood Development Committee, said Thabet is also working with the city's Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) to make needed exterior building repairs. The church, which was dedicated in 1888, is in the Historic Hill District. It was designed by prominent architect Cass Gilbert, who also designed the state Capitol. Gilbert's mother was a founding member of the church.

The sandstone church of Richardson

Romanesque design replaced a woodframed building on the same site that dated from 1873. It once had one of the largest memberships of Protestant churches in the Ramsey Hill area.

The church's membership had declined for several years and the congregation held its last service there in December 2018. The congregation and almost all of the programs and groups it hosted have moved to other sites. Its longtime clothing giveaway program, the Clothes Closet, has closed.

Thabet and church representatives told the Neighborhood Development Committee about the general plans for the structure. The building has enough off-street parking to accommodate the proposed new uses.

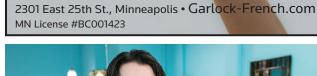
The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area approved the building sale in May 2018. The building was on the market for several months.

"It was a difficult decision to sell our beautiful, beloved building," said congregation member Darlinda Coe in a letter to SUPC. "We hoped to sell the building to another faith group, but while many toured the building, none have made an offer."

Thabet plans to work on the interior, but not change the building's exterior other than to make repairs in conjunction with the HPC. Morris said she believes the new uses should be allowed.

"It's very hard to find new uses for these older churches," she said.

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Concordia's purchase of Central Medical hits snag

By Jane McClure

oncordia University's plans to purchase the former Central Medical building at 393 Dunlap St. have run into an obstacle. Citing concerns about more commercial property going off of the property tax rolls, the St. Paul City Council laid over a vote on January 23 regarding a \$5.5 million conduit bond issue for the purchase.

The vote was postponed until February 6, which puts Concordia in a bind since it hoped to close on the sale of the building on January 31. "The parties will have to meet and assess what that means," said Eric Larson, legal counsel for the St. Paul Port Authority.

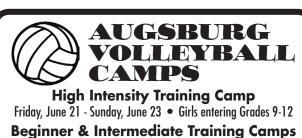
The Port approved the bond issue on January 22, but needs City Council approval to issue the bonds so Concordia can purchase the building.

Council president Amy Brendmoen noted that the change of ownership could mean a loss of \$46,000 per year in city property taxes alone. However, Port Authority's vice president Peter Klein said that portions of the building with taxable tenants would still pay a fee in lieu of taxes.

Klein said the university wishes to purchase the building to meet its growing needs. The building is just across I-94 from the campus. "It makes sense to own the building and not lease space," he said

Concordia has leased space in the building since 2015, currently using three floors and a portion of a fourth for its doctor of physical therapy and nursing programs, and office of advancement, office of alumni relations and several graduate program faculty offices. Some medical tenants remain in the building.

University officials signed a purchase agreement for the building and its adjacent parking lot last October. University officials did not answer questions from the *Villager* prior to the deadline of this issue about the purchase and why the property is not within a city-approved campus boundary.



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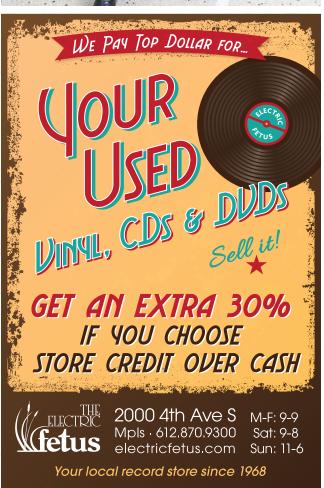
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Riverview streetcar debate persistsWest End holds roundtable on transit January 30

By Jane McClure

The Metropolitan Council is expected to vote in February to add the proposed Riverview streetcar line to its 2040 Transportation Plan for the region. The vote will open the door to more detailed engineering and environmental studies for the 11.7-mile transit line between downtown St. Paul, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. Including Riverview in the region's 2040 Plan will also make the project eligible for the federal funding that local officials hope will cover half of the estimated \$2 billion cost.

About 40 people attended the Met Council's public hearing on the Riverview line on January 9. Representatives of Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul's RiverCentre, the Minnesota Wild and Highland District Council all testified in favor, citing the benefits of the modern streetcar line. Terry Mattson, CEO of Visit St. Paul and RiverCentre, called the project "a must for our region," one that would help bring more conventions to the city. The streetcar plan already has the support of the cities of St. Paul and Bloomington, Ramsey and Hennepin counties and the Metropolitan Airports Commission.

Much of the Riverview route is on West Seventh Street. The streetcars would cross the Mississippi River on a new bridge adjacent to Highway 5 and pass through a new tunnel under Fort Snelling. The streetcars would use the light-rail Green Line tracks in downtown St. Paul and the light-rail Blue Line tracks between Fort Snelling and the Mall of America.

All Aboard Minnesota, a transit advocacy group, testified on January 9 for further consideration of routing Riverview along the old Canadian Pacific Railroad spur into Highland Park to a new Mississippi crossing further upriver to connect with the Blue Line at the 54th

Street Station.

Lisa Moe of Stuart Corporation asked that a station be placed at West Seventh and Madison streets, citing the large number of apartments in the area.

"I'm incredulous about the cost," said Highland Park resident Carol Kist. She and others argued for a new bus rapid transit line as a less costly and more flexible alternative.

West End resident Tyler Blackmon urged the Met Council to speed up the improvement of transit on West Seventh Street. The proposed streetcar line may not begin operating until 2031. "Residents need a dramatically better transit option now," Blackmon said. "The buses are packed."

Blackmon is one of the six members of the Joint Riverview Task Force created last summer by the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation and the West Seventh Business Association to coordinate communications on transit, establish a new strategy on transit needs and formulate a unified position for the two neighborhood organizations to present to city, county and regional officials.

In forming the task force, "we wanted to see what we could agree on rather than disagreeing," said federation board president Becky Yust. To that end, the task force will host a roundtable discussion about West Seventh Street transit from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 30, at the Palace Community Center, 781 Palace Ave.

The January 30 meeting is not a public hearing but a listening session around nine tables, each with a different principle to be discussed. Participants will move from table to table to comment on such issues as how to support local businesses, slow down traffic, maintain parking capacity, improve bicycling and walking facilities, improve the streetscape, promote housing and better connect people to the Mississippi River.

Ward 4 folks trash organized system

By Jane McClure

ore than two dozen people filled a Merriam Park Library meeting room on January 17 to discuss problems with St. Paul's new organized residential trash collection system. The meeting was the first of three hosted by Ward 4 City Council member Mitra Jalali Nelson. Others will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, February 7, at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave., and 6 p.m. Thursday, February 21, at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave.

"We're here tonight because the system isn't working for everyone," Nelson said. Any changes to the system will have to be made through negotiations with the haulers, she said, but she will forward the complaints to the city's Department of Public Works.

Organized collection was approved by the City Council before Nelson took office. However, since she joined the council last September, it has been the most frequent topic in complaints to her office.

Before October, St. Paul residents could shop around for their own trash hauler and negotiate a price and level of service. Organized collection has divided the city among seven private haulers, establishing uniform rates with three different sizes of carts and four main levels of service. That has brought lower costs to some, but others are paying more for the same or even less service.

Several people at the January 17 meeting complained that they can no longer share a trash cart with a neighbor. "There's absolutely no incentive to recycle," one man said.

"I'm just being gouged (for trash collection)," said Merriam Park resident Paula Laudenbach, who generates very little trash each week.

"I'm paying more for half of the service,"

said Hamline-Midway resident Rosie O'Brien. "I'm making it work, but I resent it a lot."

The owners of duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes are having to pay for a separate trash cart for each unit, forcing them to pay two or more times what they used to pay for trash collection. Landlords say they have had to pass these increased costs on to tenants. And in alleys where several apartment buildings back up against each other, the number of carts can be overwhelming.

January was supposed to be the time when residents could change the size of their trash cart. However, several people at the meeting said they have not been able to switch to a smaller cart; their haulers told them there is a shortage.

"There's just no coordination of responsibility," said Hamline-Midway resident Alice Williams, whose household got the wrong size cart in October. "We were told to call the city, so we did. Then we were told to call the hauler," Williams said.

The city's organized system aimed to preserve the market share of the 15 private haulers that were operating in St. Paul at the time. However, since the contract was signed, the number has dropped to seven as haulers sold their routes to other haulers. "Half of the companies you were trying to protect are gone," said landlord Joe Stinar.

City officials and members of St. Paul Haulers LLC will meet soon to review the system. The ordinance establishing organized collection calls for a meeting every February.

The term of the current trash contract is five years. While it calls for an annual review, "to make any changes will require agreement from both sides," said Ellen Biales, who oversees special projects for the St. Paul Department of Public Works.

Comments sought on landscape plan for Historic Pilot Knob

By Kevin Driscoll

The final draft of a landscape plan for improving Historic Pilot Knob, or what is known to the Dakota people as Oheyawahe "the hill much visited," in Mendota Heights has been released for public review.

The plan envisions "minimal trails, a gracious entryway, 16 parking spaces at the most, some handicapped-accessible loop trails all built with natural materials to help tell the story," said Deborah Karasov of Great River Greening, which was hired by the city of Mendota Heights in 2012 to restore the hill's vegetation to an oak savanna.

Other changes found in the landscape plan feature new signage, including the site's recognition on the National Register of Historic Places, artwork by a Dakota artist, and a stairway on a steep, eroded portion of the trail.

The part of the site being redeveloped is managed by the nonprofit Pilot Knob Preservation Association, which was formed in 2003 to save the site from a developer's plans to build townhomes there and to eventually get the land into public hands.

"We were successful in stopping the builder and convinced the city of Mendota Heights to buy 25 acres of the 112-acre site," said Chris Soutter, an association member active on the project.

The city bought 7 acres of the site in 2006 and 18 acres in 2008, which together are referred to as Historic Pilot Knob. Other portions of the hill are located in Acacia Park Cemetery, are privately owned or are part of an off-leash dog area owned by the city.

"Those 25 acres are at the highest point of the hill and are where the trails and best views are," Soutter said. As part of the landscape plan, she said there also will be several gathering places where individuals and groups can come together to learn of the historical and



The project site known as Historic Pilot Knob is outlined by the white dotted line.

spiritual significance of the area.

Pilot Knob, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2017, is a site of historical, cultural and environmental significance situated on a hilltop on the east end of the Mendota Bridge.

The site has served for centuries as a sacred gathering place for the Dakota people, who refer to it in tribal history as "the middle of all things" and "the exact center of the earth."

It was referred to as Pilot Knob by riverboat captains for its role as a prominent landmark overlooking the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers.

The view from the hill was frequently referenced in the writings of early explorers and settlers. It is also where the 1851 Treaty of Mendota was signed that ceded 35 million acres of Dakota land to the United States.

According to Great River Greening ecologist Wiley Buck, more than \$100,000 from the city of Mendota Heights and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund has gone toward the restoration of the site. That includes seeding of native plants, prescribed



Students from All Nations School visit the overlook featuring the names of the seven council fires of the Dakota Nation atop Pilot Knob. PHOTO FROM GREAT RIVER GREENING

burns, conservation grazing and haying, bumble bee monitoring, public and private volunteer events, and burying of utility lines to restore the historic view.

The site also includes several overlooks, including one featuring carved stones with the names of the seven council fires of the Dakota Nation.

In 2014, Buck implemented the conservation grazing program using horses and goats to control invasive plant species. The horses roam relatively freely, but the goats are limited to a smaller area near Acacia Cemetery where a lot of undesirable Canada goldenrod is spreading in a forested area.

Since then, bobolinks, meadowlarks and dickcissels are now raising families there. Buck said there are many wild turkeys and signs of coyotes as well.

The landscape plan was conducted by SRF Consulting and funded with \$40,000 from the American Express Foundation. Karasov said

implementation of the plan is expected to run close to \$1 million.

Both Karasov and Soutter said fundraising plans will not take shape until the public has responded to the draft plan, any changes are incorporated and it is presented to the Mendota Heights City Council for approval.

Those interested in commenting on the draft plan can visit pilotknobpreservation. org/wp or greatrivergreening.org. The deadline is February 20. For more information, email info@pilotknobpreservation.org or dkarasov@greatrivergreening.org.

Correction

The St. Paul Public Schools' Mandarin language immersion program is offered at Highland Park Middle School and High School as well as Jie Ming Academy elementary school in Highland Park. The school district also offers a Hmong dual language program.

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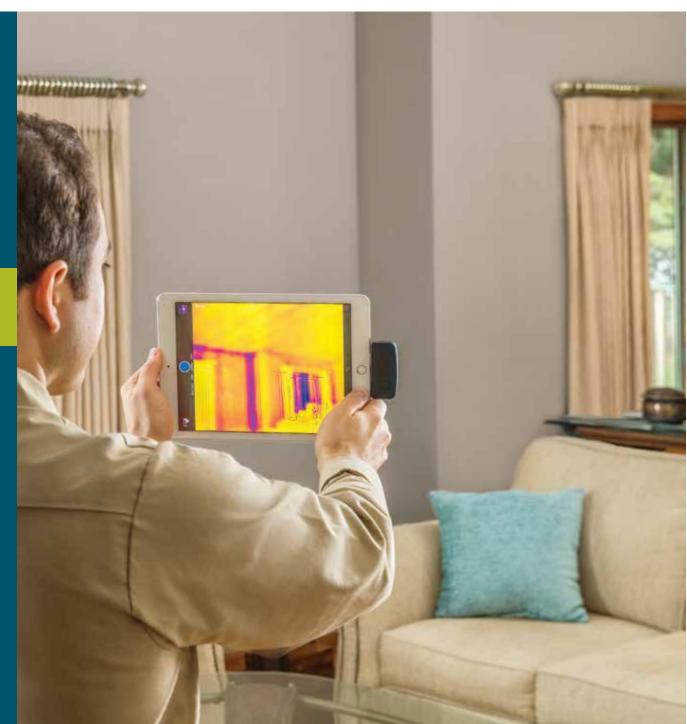
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Viewpoint

Where have all the neighbors gone? Turning inward everyone

By Kathleen Deming

Porty-nine years ago, my husband and I, both captains fresh out of the Air Force, moved into the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood of St. Paul. Minnesota was a state we both liked, and the neighborhood was in transition. The original occupants of the 1920s-era houses in the area had started moving out about four years earlier.

Our house was definitely a fixer-upper. It was all we could afford at the time. But we liked the location and the possibilities that could be brought out with lots of sweat. Back then, our neighbors on all sides were in their 50s, 60s, and 70s, but they took us into the neighborhood like, well, neighbors. Our age made no difference to them. We were welcomed with homemade treats and warm greetings, were lent tools, told where shopping was available, and invited to pause in our yard work to share a glass of beer or iced tea.

We were invited to dinners and included in their parties, even to celebrations at the St. Croix River cabin of one couple in the neighborhood. We felt like we belonged to the community. And we reciprocated with invitations to our home-in-progress.

For the 48th wedding anniversary of the couple next door, I made a decorated wedding cake, a miniature of my own wedding cake, and when I gave it to them she cried. They didn't have a cake at their own wedding; they had been too poor. Their 48th was the last wedding anniversary the couple had together before she died.

We neighbors would dog-sit each other's dogs. We would check on our neighbors' houses whenever they went away, and they would do the same for us, even taking our dog along on one of their camping trips. There was no such thing as going home at night and closing out everyone around you.

Nowadays, everyone lives in his or her own cyber cubicle, whether at work or at home. It doesn't matter how many times I've reached out to neighbors new and otherwise, simply to be a good neighbor, nothing comes back. If parents aren't watching over their kids and visiting with each other while their kids play, discussing the merits of various schools, there is very little interaction.

A yearly block party and an e-mail network to warn neighbors of a recent garage break-in or a stolen bicycle do



not make a neighborhood. Houses these days might as well be sealed boxes wired for electronic gizmos. We don't share the common threads that people once had of watching the same television programs on the few channels available or reading the same newspapers or magazines. We keep getting divided into smaller and smaller boxes with our paid television networks and programmed music lists until there isn't much to unite us as a community.

I'm now 74 and limp around, walking with ski poles and often in considerable pain while I wait for my knee replacements. I have no spouse, no children, no close relatives. Most of my peers and older friends have died. I haven't had a car since 2000, yet no one has ever offered to take me grocery shopping or asked if they could pick up something for me while they were shopping—something

neighbors used to do as a common courtesy.

I've had to rely on the Neighborhood Network for Seniors to provide a human being to visit with me, talk to me and take me on errands. What's wrong with our culture that we must have organizations to look out for our elders? We should be ashamed. Years ago we may not have had so many fancy play things, but we had neighbors who were also friends.

I'd like to see everybody turn off their electronics for two days each week and get to know the real people living around them. Amazing things happen when communities come together in the true sense of the word.

Kathleen Deming still lives in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood of St. Paul.

<u>Inbox</u>

We must do better by our trees

I am old enough to remember St. Paul and Minneapolis forestry crews painting red rings around our elms and going up and down our streets cutting down pretty much all of our boulevard elms and a substantial number of elms in private yards. We went from having a beautiful tree canopy arching over each and every street to a desert of stumps lining our boulevards.

That devastation was caused by the dreaded Dutch elm beetle. We have now entered the era of the emerald ash borer, an invasive Asian beetle. These insects will kill every ash tree that is not treated. The cruel irony is that we've replaced many of our beautiful American elms with ash trees. Many of us grew up as these ash trees matured and formed a new canopy.

Understanding the value of these trees that give us so much in producing oxygen and removing carbon dioxide from our air is becoming more important each day as our population grows and we put more and more poison into our environment. These natural calamities are difficult enough to deal with, but through blind ignorance or willful stupidity we are watching many other mature and beautiful trees falling victim to the developer's axe under the guise of senior living, affordable housing and just plain selfishness. Make no mistake, these trees are contributing members of our community.

Our trees are under siege, and each one we lose hurts us. St. Catherine University wiped out a full acre of woods in the heart of our community to make room for 257 parking stalls. The St Paul School Board sold 5.4 acres of land at the former Riverside Learning Center on West Seventh Street for redevelopment, so say goodbye to the 100-year-old trees

that framed those grounds. There is little to no forest canopy left in Highland Park where recreational activities have superseded the woods, and now there's talk of redeveloping the nine-hole golf course.

We must stay vigilant. We can and must do better to protect our trees.

Gregory Nayman Highland Park

Reach out to student renters

As we approach the end of January, we begin to see many college students return to the neighborhoods near the college campuses of St. Thomas, St. Catherine's, Hamline, Concordia and Macalester. Although the weather often keeps students indoors, this is a good time to get reacquainted. Let's make a sincere effort to welcome them back.

There are many reasons to do this, but one follows from a few well-publicized hate crimes this fall at some of the colleges in the Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods. St. Thomas administrators, students and neighbors have been meeting to find ways to encourage more positive interaction among students and neighbors and to ensure that our neighborhood is a welcoming place.

One suggestion was to name a homeowner in each block to be block captain. Block captains are encouraged to meet with students living on their block and share contact information such as emails and telephone numbers. In winter there are opportunities for students to help with snow removal and homeowners to remind students about winter plowing rules when the city calls a snow emergency. Neighbors help one another. This is true not only for permanent residents but

also for student renters.

Block captains can be a point of contact between students and permanent residents. Yard and window signs can identify neighbors who are accessible and welcoming. Students have baked cookies for neighbors, and neighbors have invited students to block parties and other gatherings. We're sure students would welcome treats at exam time.

Several neighbors at these meetings have noted that the better acquainted they become with students in their neighborhood the fewer problems they have. Let's make the word "neighbor" a verb. Reach out.

> Sharon and Joe Reid Merriam Park

For a more vibrant Grand Ave.

The article "Grand Avenue's Retail Landscape is Changing" (*Villager*, January 16) misses the mark. There was little mention of the other side of the story. St. Paul's Grand Avenue has recently seen, and will see in the very near future, a great number of "new kids on the block."

The Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA) is thrilled about all of the new businesses choosing to open on Grand, including Red Rabbit, Hyacinth Restaurant, Kinderberry Hill Childhood Development Center, Grand Catch Seafood Boil and Seasoned Specialty Food Market. Also, Good Things is purchasing Bibelot's Grand Avenue store.

No one can deny the retail landscape is changing as more

8◀ INBOX

and more customers go online. Our community must focus on supporting new and existing business neighbors.

GABA is working with city officials, the Summit Hill Association, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council and Grand Avenue building owners to promote positive growth on Grand by forming a community task force. To contribute to the solution and support a vibrant local business community, please consider joining the task force. Contact connie@grandave.com to learn more.

> Jason Koenig, President Allison Penner-Hurst, Vice President Andrew Gesell, Treasurer Connie DeLage, Executive Director Grand Avenue Business Association

A new chapter opens on Grand

In "Grand Ave.'s retail landscape is changing" (Villager, January 16), you quote Sixth Chamber Used Books' owner James Williams: "When we opened in 1995 there were seven bookstores on Grand, and of those it's just us and the Red Balloon who are left."

That is true, but it omits two bookstores that have since opened: Against the Current, which sells used books at 1658 Grand Ave., and Common Good Books, a few steps off Grand at 38 S. Snelling Ave., though owner Garrison Keillor hopes to sell it.

Hal Davis Hiawatha, Minneapolis

Alley captain returns the kindness

As an alley-plow captain myself, I was interested to read Neal Bernards' column about his annual experiences collecting from neighbors to cover the cost of each winter's snow removal ("Be kind to your alley-plow captain," Villager Viewpoint, January 2). I was sorry to learn that some of his neighbors are less than prompt or even unwilling to pay their share. His article prompted me to make a public shout out to my good neighbors on Ashland and Portland avenues. For the five years that I have been in charge of collection, our alley friends' participation rate has been 100 percent.

> Ann Scott Summit-University

Support Minnesota Health Plan

The state of health care in Minnesota is stark: 350,000 people are uninsured and 400,000 are underinsured, meaning they aren't going to the doctor at times because of the cost of copays and deductibles. The United States spends more on health care per person than any country in the world, and the quality is not the best. We can and must do better.

The one solution to this we cannot take is another "reinsurance" program like that adopted by the state in 2017 and 2018. This program gave \$542 million over two years to health insurance companies in hopes of lowering rates without making sure that actually happened. It was a massive giveaway to large companies with taxpayer dollars. And because of this, Minnesota lost access to \$100 million in federal subsidies. Total cost of the program was around \$642 million. Minnesota can achieve better things with an investment of over half a billion dollars.

The solution is the Minnesota Health Plan. This bill would create a Minnesota health service and would guarantee health care to all Minnesotans. It would eliminate the expensive middlemen of insurance companies and decrease overhead costs for health care services. This would create a better, more efficient and fairer health care system. I encourage you to contact your legislators and ask them to support this bill.

Stuart Orlowski Macalester-Groveland

Giving the vote to illegals

"Send us your huddled masses" is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. "One man, one vote" is written in our Constitution. Do you know which one is an objective law of our land and which one is a subjective ideology?

As a citizen of the U.S. who was born and raised five miles from our southern border in San Diego County, I find it a bit odd that folks from up north seem to think they have a better idea of what's going on on our southern border, better than their fellow countryfolk living on the border. If you were paying attention to California policymakers over the last few years, you would know that the Democrats from that state have an agenda to give legal IDs and driver's licenses to illegal aliens. This grants them the ability to vote in

Silly me, I always thought the main responsibility of government was to protect the rights of its citizens, not ignore them and replace their votes with the votes of illegals living in impoverished lands of corruption. The message is clear: If Dems can't manipulate you into voting as they want, then they will go outside our nation and replace you with many more who will.

So I ask you, which is more important to you, your vote maintaining its power or words on a statue?

> Steve Duke Summit Hill

A superb school program

Many thanks to Anne Murphy and the Villager for the fine article on Mme. Peltier and her superb leadership as a teacher at Central High School and as an advocate developing and nurturing the French immersion program in the St. Paul Public Schools (Villager, January

My two sons have attended L'Etoile du Nord, Ramsey Middle School and Central, and it has been a wonderful experience. The kids speak French fluently, have had the chance to travel to France and have hosted French interns and students over the years. They have been taught by native French speakers from all over the world, as well as by Americans who love and are skilled in the language. The article also drew attention to Adams Spanish Immersion, which flows into Highland Park Middle and High Schools. What a gift, to be bilingual

Our family and friends have sadly read numerous negative articles about our public schools over the years. It is a pleasure to see a solid article on just one of the many profound strengths in our schools. My husband and I are in the schools often and can attest to the fact that languages are not the only interesting thing going on. These kids are amazing, and they come together daily to learn with an unbelievable array of backgrounds, skills and interests.

> Dr. Cheryl Bailey Merriam Park

Volume 66, Number 25

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116 myvillager.com 651-699-1462

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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CIRCULATION

The Villager is published every two weeks by Villager Communications Inc. The paper has a press run of 60,000, including 50,000 copies delivered to households and businesses and another 10,000 copies distributed via newsstands. Mail subscriptions are available at \$38 per year for those living outside the area.

Next Issue: February 13

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Highland Groveland Recreation Association Where kids learn to be team players

t's cold outside, but not for long. It's time to fire up the Internet and register the kids for soccer, baseball and/or track programs offered this spring and summer by the Highland Groveland Recreation Association (HGRA).

According to HGRA president Dennis Merley, a youngster doesn't have to be an accomplished athlete to succeed in HGRA programs. They exist to introduce kids to activities in a positive environment without intense pressure to perform. Kids learn how to be a part of a team and make connections they can take with them to school in the fall. Meanwhile, parents get to socialize with neighbors and families while also making new friends.

"To have fun – that's the experience," said Merley. "This is where a lot of kids get their start in sports. A few may go on to do great things in high school and college. But most just come to learn, play and have fun, and that's OK. HGRA is here for everyone"

Merley said HGRA, a nonprofit, mostly volunteer organization, was created in 1957. At the time, the neighborhood didn't have a city-sponsored recreation program.

"Some forward thinkers got together and created their own organization that included football and hockey programs. Eventually, hockey morphed into baseball and football morphed into soccer. Track came along later when an experienced track coach moved into the neighborhood. She wanted to start a running program and HGRA picked it up. Track is now our fastest-growing program."

HGRA is funded primarily through \$80 registration fees; in 2018, more than 2,000 kids signed up. Some participants may qualify for scholarships to pay only \$15. HGRA also relies on voluntary donations and a growing sponsorship effort.



Registration for track (April to June) and the baseball and soccer (May through July) opens on February 1. Go online, www. HGRA.org, and click on Register to start the simple process.

HGRA is about togetherness, said Merley. "What could be better on a beautiful, balmy summer evening than hanging out with friends and neighbors watching your kids have fun?"

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Summer Camps

Tailored for kids

Students learn the ins and outs of sewing at Treadle's summer camps

By Melenie Soucheray

ewing machines are whirring all the time at Treadle Yard Goods on Grand and Hamline avenues. This summer, back by popular demand, kids will once again be in the drivers' seats. The shop is offering sewing camps for youngsters ages 9-15.

"We've been doing it for at least 15 years," said Treadle owner Michele Hoaglund. "It started because we were getting requests. As sewing is now enjoying a Renaissance, parents and grandparents are understanding the value of kids learning to do something with their hands and be creative."

Treadle is offering youth summer sewing camps for beginners and advanced beginners as well as a Kids' Summer Sewing Club, each of which are limited to six students. The teachers are Kristin Henak and Debbie Petersen, who go by the nickname the Material Girls. They have years of experience teaching students of all types—girls and boys, beginners and more advanced sewers, in schools and in shops.

Hoaglund noted that Treadle's camp for beginners is designed for kids who may never have even turned on a sewing machine.

"Often, they don't know the front from the back," she said. "Debbie and Kristin manage to keep things under control and make it fun. It's a wildly creative circus with that many kids"

The students are reserved at first, explained Henak, but before long they break loose. "We do projects that give them some basic skills like sewing straight lines," she said. "And, they get to feel fabric."

According to Petersen, kids ages 9 and older aren't usually too intimidated by sewing machines. "Younger than 9, the machine can



Maria Lemmons, 13, follows closely as mentor Kristin Henak shows her how to thread a sewing machine.

get away from them pretty quickly and that can be frightening," she said. "But it's amazing how quickly they learn."

Treadle Yard Goods supplies sewing machines for students to use in-house, but those who have their own machines may bring them to class

"We always suggest that if you have one bring that, because you're going to get more comfortable with the tool you have at home," Hoaglund said.

Students who have already passed beginners can sign up for advance beginners, where they will learn about more complicated techniques, such as installing zippers and facings. They'll soon be ready to sew using patterns.

"They make a few more choices about what



Young seamstress Maya Giefer Johnson, 10, is assisted by Debbie Petersen during an afterschool sewing club at Treadle Yard Goods on Grand Avenue. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

they're going to do on their own," Henak said.

When students sign up for camp, they are given a list of basic supplies that they ought to have in their sewing boxes, such as scissors and pins. The Material Girls will help students pick out their tools and supplies.

"They need to have a seam ripper," said Hoaglund. "That's a rule. If you have it, you might not need it. If you don't have it, you'll invariably need it."

The teachers say it is never too early or too late to learn how to sew. They contend attending sewing classes are better than watching YouTube videos, some of which are pretty good.

"You could do YouTube, but some people can't learn visually," Petersen said. "They have to actually do it."

"With YouTube, (students) can't ask questions," Hoaglund added. "I love it when they make mistakes, actually. You don't learn if you don't make mistakes."

Participants may choose from several scheduling options. The summer camp for beginners will meet from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on June 17-21 (Session I), July 15-19 (Session II) and August 5-9 (Session III). Advanced beginners will meet on the same session dates from 1:30-3:30 p.m. The fee is \$125 per session. The cost for supplies is extra.

For students who can't attend camp for an entire week, Treadle offers two sessions of the Kids' Summer Sewing Club for either beginners or those who may already have more developed skills. The sessions will be held from 4:15-5:45 p.m. on select Tuesdays. Session I will meet June 18-25 and July 9-16. Session II is scheduled for July 23-30 and August 6-13. The charge is \$60 per session, not including supply costs.

All sessions will be held at Treadle Yard Goods, 1338 Grand Ave. To learn more about the sewing camps and club, visit treadleyard-goods.com or call 651-698-9690 to register.



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Location: 1524 Summit Ave, St. Paul

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Chef Cynthia Maxwell leads a cooking class for youngsters at Cooks of Crocus Hill.

Cooks' camps help feed creative spark of young chefs in training

BY ANNE MURPHY

looks of Crocus Hill will again be offering a full menu of camps for kids and Iteens this summer, according to Susie Tucker, director of catering sales for the St. Paul culinary institution at 877 Grand Ave.

In fact, Tucker said, the camps will be available during June, July and August at all three Cooks of Crocus Hill locations, including those in Minneapolis and Stillwater. Camps run for three consecutive days for two-and-ahalf hours each day and are offered for youths ages 8-12 and 13-17.

The camps "cover a variety of themes ranging from baking, culinary foundations, ethnic cuisines to cook-off competitions," Tucker said. "It's a hands-on experience that combines camaraderie with culinary education and rewards students with tasty menus to eat."

The students receive recipes to take home and re-create. They also will learn culinary tips and techniques, proper kitchen etiquette and how to read recipes.

"Students can expect a fun environment designed for learning how to blend, chop, mix and bake their way to a life of culinary exploration," Tucker said.

Cooks got its inspiration for putting together the summer camps from a variety of areas, such as current culinary trends, ethnic and regional cuisines, and students who have taken classes with them in the past.

"Regardless of the camp theme, we always want to ensure kids are engaged and having fun so they continue their culinary journey when they leave our kitchens," Tucker said.

"We've always kept a strong focus that our classes all share discoveries about food," she continued. "TV and social media along with more conversation at all levels about food have definitely supported a growth in the kids and teens segment of the culinary world. We've been able to expand our camps to cover more than just the basics of cooking and baking, and go into cooking competitions, ethnic foods and candy making."

For example, there are global-themed classes with a Latin American, Asian and American or French focus, Tucker said. In some classes this summer, they also will create recipes with Parisian and New York City flavors.

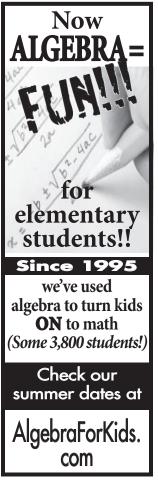
"We do have a camp that is themed after the many TV kids' cooking competitions," she said. Such camps in the past that have been a hit include Global Top Chef, Cook-Off in the Kitchen, Best Bakeries and Teenage Takeover.

Tucker said all of the summer camp instructors have taught at Cooks for three or more years and have culinary degrees from various accredited schools, such as Le Cordon Bleu and the Culinary Institute of America.

"(The chefs) use whole ingredients and demystify the cooking process, which adds big

YOUNG COOKS ►14





Kids can explore fort's great outdoors

By Dave Page

Nort Snelling program director Tom
 ✓ Lalim calls the Outdoor Explorers
 Day Camp at the historic fort and surrounding area a "great wilderness experience for urban kids."

Although the day camp operates in the Twin Cities, it can provide participants with a feeling of distance from the hustle and bustle of city life by introducing them to the slower pace at Historic Fort Snelling and immersing them in outdoor activities at adjacent Fort Snelling State Park.

The camp goes from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays. There are four different sessions, running from June 18-21, July 9-12, July 23-26 and August 6-9.

"We call it a camp for the active child," said Lalim, who has spent 19 years at Fort Snelling, including stints of portraying a soldier, blacksmith and fur trader. "It will involve lots of exploration, hiking and other outdoor experiences."

Boys and girls ages 9-12 are invited to participate. They will have to bring their own lunches, but a daily snack is

"Sometimes we may pop corn over an open fire," Lalim said. "Other times we may make apple turnovers."

Each day the kids will gather at the Fort Snelling Visitors' Center. From there, they usually will be involved in one main activity and several smaller ones each day. For example, participants will be able to try their luck at catching Bluegills and Yellow Perch from the fishing pier at Snelling Lake.

They're not very big," Lalim said of the fish in the lake, "but there are plenty of them."

Bait and cane poles, the kind used by the original settlers at the fort, will be provided. In Minnesota, children under 16 do not need a fishing license. Kids can also bring their own rods and reels if they desire.

'We emphasize catch and release, and if someone doesn't want to fish, we're fine with that, too," Lalim said.

Snelling Lake is also where day campers will learn how to canoe.

The main goals of the camp are to expose participants to the outdoor skills needed in the early 1800s and the area's



Boys and girls can canoe, hike and have other adventures during the Outdoor Explorers Day Camp at Fort Snelling. MN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTOS

history. According to Lalim, the kids will visit some of the interpretative stations at Fort Snelling, where they will learn about the Dakota people, slavery, and the Europeans who built the fort and settled there.

For example, the fact that Dred and Harriet Scott resided at Fort Snelling for a spell in 1836 provided the basis for their claim that they should be freed from slavery. Their court case eventually led to the infamous Dred Scott Supreme Court Decision of 1857.

Participants also will discover what daily life was like for those who occupied the fort 200 years ago by doing such things as working on a project at the fort's carpenter shop.

Lalim emphasized that participants should bring comfortable shoes or boots, long pants, a lightweight shirt, hat, bug spray and sun screen.

The camp is limited to 16 participants per session and people have already begun signing up. In case one of the desired sessions fills, Lalim recommends the Back to the Past 4-Day Camp as an



alternative. That camp is for children ages 7-11 and also offers four summer sessions of games and activities.

"It's new this year," he said, "and is similar to the Outdoor Explorers Day Camp but focuses on what children would have done in the 19th century. Both of these are unique, fun summer experiences for urban kids."

The cost of both the Outdoor Explorers and Back to the Past camps is \$275. Minnesota Historical Society members receive a 20 percent discount.

For details, visit mnhs.org/fortsnelling/activities/youth/camps, call 612-726-1171 or email ftsnelling@mnhs.org.



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District Council News

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Winter recreation—Community Recreation Night will take place from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, February 8, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Rotating activities include gymnasium games, board game tournaments, bingo, art experiences and other surprises. Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Visit the center or call 651-695-3706 for more information.

Pedestrian Plan—The St. Paul Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the draft St. Paul Pedestrian Plan at 8:30 a.m. Friday, February 8, in Room 40 of City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd. Written comments may be submitted by visiting stpaul.gov/walking.

Upcoming meetings—Board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, February 7; and Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 12. All meetings are held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Nail down your spot—This is the last chance for businesses and organizations that want to participate in the Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair on March 16 at Cretin-Derham Hall. For more information, visit macgrove.org/hif.

Upcoming meeting—Community Building Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 11, Edgcumbe Recreation Center.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

SHA/GABA task force—The Summit Hill Association and Grand Avenue Business Association are forming a task force to brainstorm ideas for contributing to a city policy on how to support a vibrant local business community on the east end of Grand Avenue.

The task force will include members from the associations. There also will be four community members, who can apply by filling out a form at tinyurl.com/yc7yp5rk. The application deadline is February 4. For information, email connie@grandave.com or director@summithillassociation.org.

Book club—The second book for the SHA book club is *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. The club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. A pizza dinner is provided and childcare is available. Register by emailing director@summithillassociation.org.

Watershed outreach—The SHA's Water Wise program was named the winner of the Watershed Outreach Program Award from the Capitol Region Watershed District. The program reached out to 90 second-graders at Linwood Monroe School, who planted a rain garden at the Linwood Community Center, learned about the Adopt-A-Drain program, and worked with artist Annie Hejny to create paintings using river water and sediment.

Summit-University

summit-university.org • 651-228-1855

Board members sought—The Summit-University Planning Council is looking for neighbors to join its board of directors. All skills are welcome and needed. For information, call the office or email Jens Werner at jens@summit-university.org.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 11, 1821 University Ave., Suite 127; and Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 18, location TBA.

Stay in touch—The public is invited to "like" the Union Park District Council on Facebook, follow it on Twitter @UnionPark-DC and subscribe to its e-newsletter by emailing alexa@unionparkdc.org.

12**◀** YOUNG COOKS

value versus purchasing processed foods," Tucker said. "Chefs discuss portioning as it relates to serving sizes and ingredient substitutions, too. At the end of every class, students sample all of their hard work."

It is an extra dollop of fun for their efforts, Tucker said. Parents and guardians who pick up children from the camps are always invited into the kitchen. Jokingly, she added, "They can have a taste if there's anything left on their child's plate"

Chef Cynthia Maxwell is an instructor for

the summer camps and also is teaching an evening Kids Cook: Cupcake Wars class on February 18 at the Grand Avenue location.

"Teaching kids how to cook is incredibly rewarding because they're so excited to learn," Maxwell said. "No one else gets as excited to sauté and chop. Cooking is a basic life skill and it's amazing to watch them gain confidence. Kids will put it all out there on a plate and I love fanning their creative spark."

Details on Cooks' summer camps, which cost \$225 per session, will be available beginning in February at cooksofcrocushill.com/classes/kids.



The Kiosk

Wednesday/January 30

DISTRICT 65A REPRESENTATIVE

Rena Moran and Minnesota's new Attorney General Keith Ellison will hold a Community Listening Session from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 N. Kent St.

THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL

aspects of retirement planning will be discussed from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. Parichay Rudina, a social worker and caregiver consultant at Wilder Foundation, will lead the program. Call 651-224-5809.

Friday/February 1

DR. BILL MCGUIRE, owner of the Minnesota United Major League Soccer team, will speak at the First Friday luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Alumni Hall on the third floor of the Anderson Student Center at the University of St. Thomas. The cost including lunch and parking is \$35. Visit alumni.stthomas.edu/firstfriday.

Saturday/February 2

RACE AND CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

in antebellum America will be discussed by author and professor Martha S. Jones of Johns Hopkins University from 10-11 a.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended. Call 651-259-3015 or visit cart.mnhs.org.

FROSTY FUN FESTIVAL, an afternoon of sledding, snowshoeing, ice bowling, ice mini-golf and puppet theater, will be offered from noon-3 p.m. at Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. in West St. Paul. Hot food and beverages will be available. The cost is \$5 at the gate, \$4 in advance at dodgenaturecenter.org. Call 651-455-4531.

Monday, February 4

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be accepting blood donations from 2-7 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling



Model engineer. Colin Klugherz, 2, and his mom Kate track the engines chugging through the "Night Trains" layout at the Twin City Model Railroad Museum, 668 Transfer Road. The event runs from 6-9 p.m Saturdays through February 23.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Ave. The drive is sponsored by Gloria Dei, Mount Zion Temple and Holy Spirit Church. To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter "SP Circle of Faith" or call Jane Stendahl at 651-699-2257.

Tuesday/February 5

A MEMOIR WRITING workshop will be conducted by Margaret Kinney from 10 a.m.-noon at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. The cost is \$19. To register, call 612-716-5803.

Wednesday/February 6

THE CARD CLUB will meet for games of bridge, 500 and cribbage beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. New members are welcome to join in the competition every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. An optional lunch is served at noon for \$10 per person.

HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVES, the power of attorney and wills will be discussed from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. Parichay Rudina, a social worker and caregiver consultant at

Wilder Foundation, will lead the program. Call 651-224-5809.

Saturday, February 9

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be accepting blood donations from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the basement of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 515 S. Albert St. Walkins are welcome, but reservations are recommended. Visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code COHS or contact Chris Lyons at cssmlyons@gmail.com.

THE U.S. AND RUSSIA, 1917-2017, a 90-minute forum on the relationship between these two superpowers, will be conducted by history professor David C. Engerman of Yale University at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The cost is \$16. Call 651-259-3015 or visit cart.mnhs.org.

Sunday/February 10

DISTRICT 64B REPRESENTATIVE Dave Pinto invites his constituents to stop by and chat with him about the new legislative session between 1:30 and 3 p.m. in the

Village View Room at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Tuesday/February 12

MUSHROOMS 101, or basic mushroom identification, will be addressed by John Lamprecht of the MN Mycological Society at a meeting of the Northstars Cross Country Ski Club beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. The public is invited.

THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA in

Minnesota will be discussed by Augsburg University history professor Bill Green in a free program at 7 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Call 651-259-3015.

THE LOCAL LA LECHE LEAGUE will hold its monthly meeting for pregnant

and nursing mothers from 7-8:45 p.m. at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Topics in breastfeeding, parenting and pregnancy will be discussed. Babies, toddlers and support persons are welcome. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

HOW SEXISM and the harassment of female politicians in West St. Paul led to the election of women will be addressed in a free program at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of Owens Science Hall at the University of St. Thomas. Call 651-962-5725.

"RACE, RAGE AND VULNERABILITY:

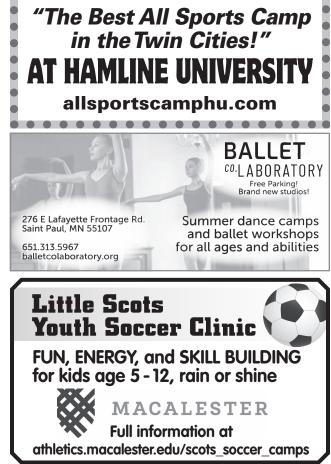
The Politics of Millennials in the Era of Trump" will be addressed by Professor Cathy J. Cohen of the University of Chicago in a free talk at 4:45 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Campus Center at Macalester College. Call 651-696-6290.

Wednesday/February 13

"THE UNIVERSE BENEATH Our Feet: Restoring Soil Ecosystems" will be discussed by the Longfellow Garden Club at 7 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. Minneapolis. Kassie Brown of Renaissance Soil will explain how to promote healthy soil in a garden. Visit tinyurl.com/LGCminnesota.







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Crime Report

The following crime incidents were compiled from St. Paul and Mendota Heights police department reports and other sources.

Highland Park

Burglary-Yarmo Liquors, 2489 W. Seventh St., was broken into during the evening of January 12-13.

-A home was broken into on the 2100 block of Bayard Avenue between 5:30-10:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 16.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1500 block of St. Paul Avenue on January 13 and on the 1700 block of Morgan Avenue on January 20.

—An iPad, laptop computers and headphones were reported stolen at St. Paul Academy, 1712 Randolph Ave., around 5 p.m. Monday, January 14. A purse and iPhone also were reported stolen from a vehicle there at 8:39 p.m. Wednesday, January 16.

—A briefcase, laptop computer and wallet were stolen from a vehicle on the 600 block of South Cleveland Avenue between 4:50-6:05 p.m. Thursday, January 17.

-Several boys reportedly stole a handful of Juul e-cigarette cartridges from Walgreens, 2099 Ford Pkwy., around 12:45 p.m. Friday, January 18. One of the suspects walked behind the counter and another jumped over the counter to get the items.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 2500 block of West Seventh Street at 11:39 a.m. Wednesday, January 2.

<u>Lexington-Hamline</u>

Robbery—A 27-year-old woman was arrested for trying to forcefully take more than \$1,000 in items from the Midway Target at 10:40 p.m. Monday, January 14. She also was wanted for a felony theft warrant out of Washington County.

Theft—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on Hamline and University avenues between 9:25-10:25 a.m. Tuesday,

—A purse, gift cards, wallet and sunglasses were stolen from a vehicle on Hamline and Selby avenues between 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, January 11.

Assault-Students were suspended for fighting at Central High School around 12:15 p.m. Friday, January 18. Two juveniles who were not students there also were arrested for assaulting a victim at the school around 2 p.m. that same day.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A home was broken into on the 1600 block of James Avenue between 4:59-5:20 p.m. Thursday, January 10.

Theft—A laptop computer, drug and lab kits, and a blood pressure machine were stolen from a vehicle on the 1600 block of Grand Avenue during the evening of January 10-11.

Assault —A victim was assaulted in the area of Amherst Street and St. Clair Avenue at 11:18 a.m. Monday, January 7.

—A male victim said he was threatened by a man holding a metal pipe at the west end of the alley behind his house on the 2100 block of Wellesley Avenue around 3:39 p.m. Thursday, January 10.

-A laptop computer, engagement ring and wedding band, knife, wallet, clothing and passport were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1300 block of Grand Avenue at 6:43 p.m. Thursday, January 17.

<u>Mendota Heights</u>

Theft—A victim reported at 11:19 a.m. Saturday, January 12, on the 700 block of Mohican Lane of being swindled out of nearly \$20,000 in cash by a caller posing as a family member needing help to get out of a jam.

—A victim reportedly saw a male inside her vehicle on the 700 block of South Plaza Drive at 10:02 p.m. Monday, January 14. The suspect took a wallet containing \$600 in cash and ran off with a female when confronted.

Assault—A nude male reportedly tried to break into a residence on the 1000 block of Trail Road at 7:10 a.m. Sunday, January 13. He refused to comply to police demands and struck an officer in the head. He was tased and taken into custody.

Miscellaneous-The motorist who had stopped in the police department lot at 1101 Victoria Curve was arrested for DWI at 1:31 a.m. Friday, January 11. The driver reportedly had a blood alcohol level of .306, or nearly four times the legal limit.

<u>Merriam Park</u>

Burglary-An occupied residence was burglarized on the 1800 block of Portland Avenue around 10:54 p.m. Saturday, January 12.

-Storage lockers were reported broken into in an apartment on the 300 block of North Cleveland Avenue at 12:17 p.m. Thursday, January 17.

Theft—A delivered package containing a

1700 block of Carroll Avenue at 3:50 p.m. Friday, January 11.

-Vehicles were reported stolen at Four Seasons Elementary on 318 Moore St. on January 14, on the 1600 block of Iglehart Avenue on January 15 and on the 1700 block of Carroll Avenue on January 21.

—A purse, cellphone and passport were reported stolen on the 400 block of North Prior Avenue at 6:04 p.m. Monday, January 14.

—Plumbing tools were reported stolen on the 1500 block of Laurel Avenue at 11:24 a.m. Thursday, January 17.

Weapons—A man with a gun reportedly assaulted another male at University and Snelling avenues around 8:30 a.m. Saturday, January 12.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—An occupied apartment was broken into on the 1500 block of Hague Avenue around 1:30 a.m. Saturday, January 12.

Theft—A 28-year-old woman was arrested for trying to steal more than \$700 in items from the Midway Walmart at 1:55 p.m. Sunday, January 13.

-More than \$500 in merchandise was reported stolen from T.J. Maxx, 1410 University Ave., at 9:09 p.m. Tuesday, January 15.

-Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1400 block of Carroll Avenue on January 17-18 and on the 1400 block of Hague Avenue on January 18.

Assault—A male was taken to the hospital after he was reportedly kicked in the head by another male when a fight broke out during a soccer game at Concordia's Sea Foam Stadium around 7:57 p.m. Saturday, January 12.

Miscellaneous—Police received a report of a male slumped over in a vehicle at 8:41 p.m. Thursday, January 10, on Concordia and Snelling avenues and arrested a 39-year-old man for DWI. He registered a blood alcohol level of .38, or nearly five times the legal limit.

Summit Hill

Burglary—An apartment was broken into on the 600 block of Lincoln Avenue between January 1-10.

Three burglary suspects were reportedly heard inside a garage on the 1000 block of Linwood Avenue at 3:50 a.m. Thursday, January 10. A red sedan drove away from the scene.

Theft—Thousands of dollars in DJ equipment was stolen from a vehicle in the area

laptop computer was reported stolen on the of Grand Avenue and Victoria Street around 7:30 a.m. Saturday, January 12.

> -Vehicles were reported stolen on Benhill Road near Lombard Avenue on January 17-18, on the 700 block of Grand Avenue on January 20 and on the 1000 block of St. Clair Avenue on January 20.

Summit-University

Burglary—Capitol Guitars, 644 Selby Ave., was broken into around 6:45 a.m. Sunday, January 13.

Theft—A laptop computer and other items were stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Iglehart Avenue on January 11-12.

-Vehicles were reported stolen on the 500 block of Laurel Avenue on January 12, on the 200 block of Dayton Avenue on January 12-14, on the 400 block of Selby Avenue on January 12, on the 900 block of Marshall Avenue on January 20 and on the 200 block of Dayton Avenue on January 21

—A purse and MacBook computer were reported stolen from a vehicle at Sweeney's Saloon, 96 N. Dale St., around 5 p.m. Monday, January 14.

-A projector and laptop computer were stolen at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 N. Kent St., on January 14-15.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 400 block of Marshall Avenue at 11:10 a.m. Wednesday, January 9.

Weapons—Bullet holes were discovered in a home's windows and in two vehicles parked behind the property on the 600 block of Marshall Avenue on Saturday, January 19.

West End

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 300 block of Fulton Street on January 10-11, on the 400 block of Superior Street on January 11, on Leech and McBoal streets on January 12, on the 800 block of James Avenue on January 17 and on the 300 block of North Smith Avenue on January 19.

-Tools valued at more than \$2,500 were stolen from a vehicle on the 300 block of North Smith Avenue between 10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday, January 14.

—The tailgate was stolen from a vehicle on Daly Street and Palace Avenue during the evening of January 14-15.

—A 21-year-old man was arrested for auto theft and fleeing a police officer around 9 a.m. Tuesday, January 15, on the 400 block of Superior Street.

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On the Town

'Hair' with a few streaks of gray

Anthem of the '60s counterculture is revived by a cast of actors who lived it



The cast of *Hair*, which will be performed by Theatre 55 from January 31 through February 10 at Mixed Blood Theatre.

By Janet Lunder Hanafin

ost Americans of a certain age can sing along to the soundtrack of *Hair*. The rock musical, which premiered on Broadway in 1968, is emblematic of the generation who came of age a half century ago. Now it is being reprised by the performers who lived it. Theatre 55, a company founded last fall by Macalester-Groveland resident Richard Hitchler, will present a vibrant staging of the period piece from January 31 through February 10 with actors who may be young at heart but are almost all old enough for the senior discount.

Hitchler, 55, will direct the musical. A veteran thespian who served for many years as executive director of SteppingStone Theatre for Youth Development and now works for the Minnesota State Arts Board, he had become increasingly aware of the shortage of roles for older actors and felt compelled to fill the void.

Launching Theatre 55 and choosing *Hair* for its first show was a combination of inspiration and serendipity, he said. Hitchler knew that *Hair* had opened on Broadway 50 years ago, but it was while riding his bike past the Minnesota History Center and its sign for the "1968" exhibit that it hit him: "68 was the year of everything," he said. "A lot of stuff happened then."

Hair tells the story of three hippies and their friends, called the tribe, who contend with family expectations, the sexual revolution and a nation divided over the Vietnam War. Hitchler planned to audition 40 people for the show, but 60 prospective cast members showed up and 26 were eventually selected. Most of the actors are 60 plus, with the oldest being 79. They include theater professionals, dancers and musicians as well as those who have never before performed on stage.

In casting the show, Hitchler said, "it was fun to see the true hippies come out of the woodwork." Because of their age, he made a few adjustments. A couple of the songs have been arranged in a lower key. The original production had actors doing back flips and bouncing off scaffolding. "We're not doing that," he said, "though the staging is still active. These aren't actors playing 20-year-olds. These are people playing their own age. It's a different sensibility."

Rod Kleiss, who plays Woof in the play, completed a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968. While on leave in San Francisco, he met some hippies, applied for and received conscientious objector status, and the following year attended Woodstock with his girlfriend.

Several cast members are professionals who are well-known to Twin Cities audiences, including Patty Lacy, Jeff Goodson, Angela Walberg, Lawrence Hutera, Lee Engele and Esther Ouray. The production's choreographer Sandy Agustin and musical director Stephen Houtz were colleagues of Hitchler at SteppingStone, and Houtz, Mick Labriola and J.D. Lee play in the

band that will provide the live musical score.

Pete Keith and his wife Bebe are in the show. Veterans of community theater, they recently moved to Macalester-Groveland from Lanesboro and liked the idea of performing with people in the same age group. "I also love the idea of people doing a show like *Hair* age-blind," said Bebe, who plays the principal role of Chrissy.

Engele's mother took her to see a performance of *Hair* at the old St. Paul Auditorium in 1972, when she was 17. "It was shocking, amazing and eye-opening," she said. "It was a world I had very little exposure to. I loved the music, so I bought the album and had every song memorized in a short time. When I saw the audition notice, I knew that I had to be involved."

For those who came of age in the turbulent '60s, revisiting those days is often a moving experience. "I lived through the black power and civil rights movements," said cast member Brenda Starr, who grew up in Washington, D.C. Starr has a long resume of choral singing, but *Hair* was her first theater audition. A resident of Summit-University, she said this was "something in my heart of

hearts I wanted to get back to. I decided to participate in this adventure because *Hair* was about accepting what and who you are."

Actor Tinne Rosenmeier refers to herself as an aging hippie. "Whenever I can make theater that ties to my personal commitment to social justice, I feel like my life is in proper alignment," she said. "At the heart of the play are issues of personal freedom, political actions taken by individuals in the face of social injustices. To

burn your draft card was an act of protest with significant consequences. 'Peace now, freedom now' is no empty chant of mindless, stoned youth. It is the wrenching cry of pain at the heart of the movements of the '60s and beyond."

As far as hair is concerned, "part of playing their age is going with what they've got," Hitchler said. "Guys asked if they should let their hair grow, and I said go for it. But some of the actors have no hair at all, so it's a matter of singing the song whether they've got it or not."

The mission of Theatre 55 is to enrich the lives of its members and audience through theater, Hitchler said. After *Hair*, he will be working with Episcopal Homes to create a short play for their 125th anniversary. He also intends to conduct theater classes and residencies in senior housing facilities and then stage another production in the fall.

Fifty years on, the issues raised by *Hair* have not been resolved, according to Hitchler. The musical, he said, "is about the struggle between fighting the system and joining the system by going off to fight in the war. I think everybody wants to leave the world a better place, and as you get to a certain age there is less time to do that."

Hair will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and on Friday, February 8, at Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. Fourth St. in Minneapolis. An additional senior matinee will be offered at 1 p.m. Wednesday, February 6. Tickets are \$25, \$15 for the senior matinee. For reservations, visit theatre55.org.

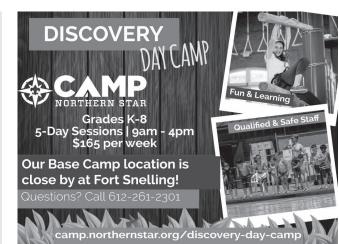
A 1969 dance party and fundraiser will follow the evening show on February 1. A discussion with the director and the choreographer will follow the matinee on February 9.

Hitchler cautioned that *Hair* has a mature theme and may not be suitable for grandchildren under the age of 13.



Brent Berheim (left), Jeff Goodson and Angela Walberg play Claude, Berger and Sheila in Theatre 55's production of *Hair*.









On the Town Briefly

Books

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will present authors Michael Brodkorb and Allison Mann discussing The Girls Are Gone, their book about the 2013 disappearance of sisters Samantha and Gianna Rucki, on January 30; author Daisy Johnson and her New York Times notable novel Everything Under! with reception at 6 p.m. and reading at 7 p.m. February 5 at Black Dog Café, 308 E. Prince St.; author Sandy Allen reading from A Kind of Mirraculas Paradise, a true story about schizophrenia, February 7; and poets Adrienne Novy, E.J. Schoenborn and Valin Paige reading from their verse, February 14. The programs are free and begin at 7 p.m. at Subtext unless otherwise indicated. Call 651-493-2791.

Re-Verb, an open mic for spoken-word artists of all ages, is offered from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, now through May 30, at Golden Thyme Coffee and Cafe, 921 Selby Ave. The program has a different theme each week, including Danami on January 31, narrative poems on February 7 and love poems on February 14. Call 651-645-1340.

The First Friday storytelling series continues from 6:45-7:45 p.m. February 1 at Coffee Bene, 53 S. Cleveland Ave. Master storyteller Richard Rousseau will be joined on stage by fellow raconteurs Amy Salloway and Mike Finley. Admission is free; donations will be accepted. Visit coffeebene.com.

Be Heard, a poetry slam open to youths ages 13-19, will open with preliminary bouts at 7 p.m. Saturday, February 2, at Twin Cities Public Television, 172 E. Fourth St.; 7 p.m. Saturday, February 9, at Third Space Gallery, 3730 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis; and 7 p.m. Friday, February 15, at Black Dog Cafe, 308 Prince St. The winners will advance to the semifinals on March 8 and 16 and the finals on March 30. Visit truartspeaks.org.

The Twin Cities art scene in the 1920s and '30s, when so many Minnesota artists who had run off to Paris following World War I returned home, will be explored by Catherine Goertz from 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, February 3, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. The free program is sponsored by Fitzgerald in St. Paul. Call 651-642-0385.

Two short stories, "Greasy Lake" by T. Coraghessan Boyle and "The Baby" by Mary Gordon, will be explored by the Great Books Discussions Group in a free program at 5 p.m. Wednesday, February 13, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave.

Celebrate Valentine's Day the old-fashioned way by listening to a reading of classic 19th-century poetry from 7-8 p.m. Thursday, February 14, in the drawing room of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Clad in period wear, actors Craig Johnson, Laura Salveson and Ann Daly will recite the verse of Dickinson, Poe, Longfellow, Browning and others that deal with love, romance, temperance, sports and war. Admission is \$12. Light refreshments and tours of the Hill House are included. Call 651-297-2555.

Exhibits

"ISIS Is Not," art by Shiloh Clamons of Merriam Park, is on view through February 13 at the East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St. Clamons draws on stories told to her by refugees she has worked with in France, Belgium, Greece and Italy and uses the art as therapy for those who have experienced trauma. She will talk about the exhibit from 5-7 p.m. Monday, February 4. People are invited to share their stories as part of a peace circle from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, February 13. Call 651-230-3294.

"Fire & Ice," the Winter Carnival art show, is on view through February 17 at AZ Gallery, 308 E. Prince St. The juried exhibit features 94 works by 47 local artists as well as replicas of the original designs for the 2019 Winter Carnival buttons by John Kocon. A public reception for the artists will be held from 5-9 p.m. Friday, February 1. The gallery is also open from 5-8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

The St. Paul Art Collective's Winter Showcase, a juried exhibit featuring 36 paintings, sculptures and mixed-media works, is on view through February 24 at the Show Gallery, 346 N. Sibley St. A public reception for the artists will be held from 6-9 p.m. Friday, February 1. Call 651-419-8022.

"Hysteria," works by 25 members of the Women's Art Resources of Minnesota, are being shown through March 8 in the Larson



Summit serenade.

The OK Factor, the genre-bending duo of cellist Olivia Diercks and violinist Karla Colahan, will perform in the next installment of No Vox on February 14. The Minnesota Music Coalition's free concert series runs from 6-8 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Ratskellar at Summit Brewing, 910 Montreal Circle. Admission is free.

Gallery, 2017 Buford Ave. A public reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. Friday, February 1. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and until 6 p.m. Thursday. Admission is free.

"Below the Surface," abstract paintings and sculpture by Daren Hill, will be displayed from February 2-23, at Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. An opening reception will be held from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, February 2. The gallery is otherwise open from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Thursdays and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays. Call 612-728-5745.

"Strange Place," ceramics that draw on video, audio, photography, performance, sculpture and mixed media to traverse a landscape of imagined realities, will be displayed from February 8 through March 31 in the Law Warschaw Gallery in the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Included are works by Neha Kudchadkar

of Mumbai, Jason Lim of Singapore, Jason Lee Starin of Philadelphia, Allison Schulnik of California and Eva Vogelsang of Switzerland. An opening reception will be held from 6-9 p.m. Friday, February 8. Admission is free. For gallery hours, call 651-696-6416.

Works by ceramicist Monica Rudquist and her mentor, sculptor Judy Onofrio, will be displayed from February 9 through March 30, in the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at St. Catherine University. An opening reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, February 9. Admission is free. Call 651-690-6644.

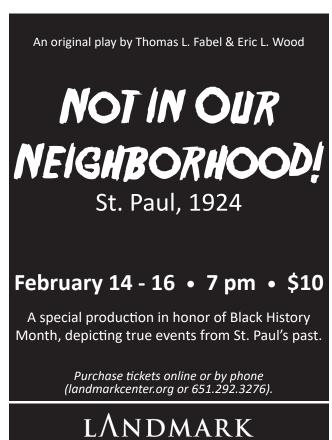
"Winter Nights/Summer Light," a solo show by botanical printmaker Linda Snouffer featuring images of the brilliant days ahead, will be displayed from February 10 through March 3 in the Cloister Art Gallery at House of Hope Church, 797 Summit Ave. Call 651-227-6311.

Family

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters, a lush adaptation of the Caldecott Award-winning book with new music and choreography, will be presented in 26 morning, afternoon and evening performances from February 1-24 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. The drama tells of an African father who journeys to the capital city with his two daughters certain that one of them will catch the fancy of the Great King. Ansa Akyea and Charla Marie Bailey direct. Tickets are \$12-\$16. Call 651-225-9265 or visit steppingstonetheatre.org.

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will host the following free events: launch party for H.M. Bouwman's *A Tear in the Ocean* at 3 p.m. February 2; Joanna Hathaway discussing her debut novel, *Dark of the West*, 6:30 p.m. February 5; story time with *Bearnard's Book* author Deborah Underwood, 10:30 a.m. February 6; launch party for author-illustrator Mike Wohnoutka's *Croc & Turtle*, 10:30 a.m. February 9; and a launch party for Anne Ursu's *The Lost Girl*, 6:30 p.m. February 12. Call 651-224-8320.

Travel the world without leaving town through the Urban Expeditions at Landmark Center. The arts, crafts, music, dance and food of Palestine will be featured from 1-3



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p.m. Sunday, February 10. Admission is free.

The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra will present "A Dinosaur Extravaganza" in a free concert at 2 and 4 p.m. Sunday, February 10, at the Church of St. Matthew, 510 Hall Ave. The hour-long show will feature John Williams' score for *Jurassic Park*, Morton Gould's "The Jogger and the Dinosaur" and Bernstein's Candide Overture.

Music

"Music for a King," a CD of concerti by C.P.E. Bach, will be released with a live performance by harpsichordist Jacques Ogg, flutist Wilbert Hazelzet, violinist Marc Destrube and the Lyra Baroque Orchestra from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, January 31, in the Zen Room at Black Dog Cafe, 308 E. Prince St. A cash bar and appetizers will be available. Call 651-228-9274.

Cajun power trio T'Monde will perform for a pre-Mardi Gras dance party from 8-11 p.m. Friday, February 1, at the Eagles Club, 2507 E. 25th St. in Minneapolis. The doors open at 7 p.m. A free dance lesson will be offered at 7:15. Admission is \$20.

"Music for Baroque Spas," a concert by the Lyra Baroque Orchestra with baroque flutist Wilbert Hazelzet, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 2, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St. The program includes Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, Handel's Concerto Grosso No. 8 in C Minor, Telemann's Sabbato from the "Pyrmonter Korwoche" and Johann Joachim Quantz's Flute Concerto in G Major. Tickets are \$5-\$25. Call 651-321-2214.

"Breaking Barriers," songs from such groundbreaking musicals as *Rent, Showboat, In the Heights, South Pacific, Avenue Q, West Side Story* and *La Cage aux Folles*, will be sung by Fernando Collado, Brianna Graham, Leo James, John Jamison, Suzie Juul, Ileri Okikiolu, Rudolph Searles III, Dane Stauffer and Allyson Tolbert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 31, at the Ordway Music Theater. Tickets are \$37. Call 651-224-4222.

Beethoven: The Late Piano Sonatas, the maestro's musical meditations on death and transcendence, childhood and memory, love and loss, pain and recovery, will be performed by Macalester College professor and pianist Mark Mazullo at 3 p.m. Sundays, February 3 and 10, in the Concert Hall of Mac's Fine Arts Center. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6194.

"Playing it Close to Home," the music of native Ethiopian bassist and composer Yohannes Tona and Eric Stokes Song Contest winners Debbie Cushman, Ryan David Stevens and Dominic Cudd, will be performed by Zeitgeist at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, February 8 and 9, in Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St., and at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, February 10, at Ras Ethiopian Restaurant, 2516 W. Seventh St. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for students and seniors, \$20 for the concert and the 6 p.m. buffet meal on February 10. Call 651-755-1600 or visit studiozstpaul.com.

Two University of St. Thomas teachers, guitarist Chris Kachian and harpsichordist David Jenkins will perform the music of J.S. Bach and sons in a free concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, February 9, in St. Mary's Chapel at the St. Paul Seminary, 2260 Summit Ave. Call 651-962-5850.

Alto saxophonist Michael Attias will join the Ellen Lease/Pat Moriarty Quartet featuring Chris Bates on bass and Davu Seru on drums in concert at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, February 9, at the Black Dog Cafe, 308 E. Prince St. The Roseville Area High School Jazz Combo will play an opening set at 7 p.m. Admission is by donation.

Unity Through Music, a benefit concert for the Minnesota chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, will be held at 3 p.m.

Sunday, February 10, at Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave. Featured will be solo and ensemble pieces by members of the Minnesota Orchestra, the Macalester Asian Music Ensemble and the Macalester African Musical Ensemble. Tickets are \$30, \$10 for students. Visit aclu-mn.org.

Theater

'Til Death: A Marriage Musical returns from February 1-23 to the Bucket Brigade Theater at Art House North, 793 Armstrong Ave. Written and performed by Jeremiah and Vanessa Gamble and co-starring Damian and Anna Leverett, 'Til Death tells of a married couple in midlife crisis who get snowed in at a remote cabin with two newlyweds who are too perfect for each other. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and on Thursday, February 14, and at 3 p.m. February 16. Tickets are \$20-\$27 with a \$3 discount for seniors and students or whatever you can afford for the additional show at 7:30 p.m. Monday, February 11. Cupcakes, coffee and love songs performed live by Michael Pearce Donley are included. Visit bucketbrigadetheater.com or call 800-838-3006.

Antigone, a modern-language adaptation of the Greek tragedy about family loyalty and civil disobedience, will open on February 8 on the thrust stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Directed by M.J. Kedrowski, the last of Sophocles' Oedipus plays features an all-women cast, including Lauren Diesch as Antigone, Laura Leffler as Creon, Kelly Nelson as Eteocles and Antonia Perez as Polynices. Following the previews from February 1-7, show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 3. Tickets are \$20-\$60 with discounts for seniors, military and those under age 30. Call 651-291-7005.

Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize winner of 1943, The Skin of Our Teeth will be performed by Girl Friday Productions from February 7 through March 3 on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. A comedy about resilience and hope, the drama follows the adventures of the eternal American family that prevails over a series of catastrophes. Directed by Joel Sass, it stars Alayne Hopkins, John Middleton and Kirby Bennett. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20-\$60 with discounts for seniors, students, active military, anyone under age 30 and for the pay-what-you-can show at 7 p.m. Monday, February 25. Call 651-291-7005.

Stewardess!, a new play by Kira Obolensky directed by Noël Raymond, will open on February 9 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Set against the backdrop of the women's and civil rights movements, the drama tells of Northwest Orient stewardess Mary Pat Laffey and her epic fight against the airlines industry for the fair treatment of female employees who were subjected to weight checks, prohibited from marrying or wearing glasses and forced to retire at 32. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 and 4 p.m. Sundays through March 3. A discussion will follow each Sunday matinee. Tickets are \$20-\$42, \$15 for students. Call 651-292-4323.

Benevolence, a sequel to Ifa Bayeza's award-winning play about Emmett Till, the black teenager whose lynching in Mississippi in 1955 sparked the civil rights movement, will open on February 14 at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Directed by Talvin Wilks, the drama tells of a small, segregated town in the South that is turned upside down when a young boy from Chicago visits. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, and 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through March 10. For tickets, call 651-224-3180.







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Sports



The Wright Call
By Dave Wright

The NFL, upon further review...

Tell, it turns out that Vikings fans had something to cheer about the NFL playoffs after all. Oh, it was nothing their heroes did. Rather, it was something a group normally detested around these parts—NFL officials—didn't do.

In case you weren't glued to your TV at the end of the NFC title game between Los Angeles and New Orleans on January 20, you missed the following. The game was tied in the late going. The Saints were well into Rams territory when their elderly quarterback, Drew Brees, lofted a pass in the direction of wide receiver Tommylee Lewis. The ball never arrived because LA defensive back Nickell Robey-Coleman headbutted Lewis and then knocked him down. To the millions watching, it looked like a grievous foul. Alas, the officials on the spot didn't see the same thing.

New Orleans ending up kicking a field goal. The Rams did likewise and kicked a 57-yarder to win the game. As a result, LA will be playing in Super Bowl LIII on February 3 and New Orleans will be home pouting.

There was the usual howling about instant replays after the incident. A pair of New Orleans folks got the novel idea to file a lawsuit asking to go back to that point of the game and start again. It made for good sound and fury, but nothing more.

While this was going on, several Vikings fans were jubilant. Apparently, there was a call of some sort a decade ago in the same type of game in the same city that didn't go Minnesota's way. Later, the Vikings' own elderly quarterback, Brett Favre, threw an interception and Minnesota's hopes of getting to the Super Bowl went down the drain.

Vikings fans, still apparently smarting a decade later, filled the talk show airwaves and the Internet with their unmitigated joy at the Saints' misfortune. Three days after the fact, callers to talk radio shows around the area were still happy about it.

NBC football commentator Mike Florio opined, "It's a shame that it took a championship-deciding call to get the league's attention, but it's not a surprise. The league rarely takes proactive steps to prevent bad outcomes, waiting instead for the bad outcome to happen and then making a commitment to keep that specific bad outcome from happening again. This time around, the NFL needs to look broadly at what caused today's bad outcome, and to ensure that clearly bad calls and non-calls always will be fixed."

It perhaps has escaped Florio's attention that games are played by humans who are trying as hard as they can to get things right. Game officials are, as far as we know, trying to do likewise. Since human beings are not perfect, mistakes are made. Replays were supposed to be the answer, but it turns out they are not for this reason: officials still have to make judgment calls. If they're wrong, they're stuck with it, just as Brees is stuck with the fact that 13 other passes he threw that day missed their mark, including his last effort of the season that was intercepted.

Players who make too many mistakes go into a different line of work. The same standard should be applied to officials. That's not as easy to do because officiating is the only job I know of where you have to start out perfect and then improve.

What is a bad call to one is a great call to another. Are we really going to question every single call made? It's a game, folks. It's important at the time. When it's over, it's over. The sun will rise tomorrow. Move on.

An American thriving in Canada

Jack Branby is still riding buses to hockey games. Last year, it was to places like Pine City, Austin and Moose Lake

Minnehaha girls are hitting their stride

By BILL WAGNER

he Minnehaha Academy girls' basketball team has a new coach this season, but beyond that very little has changed for a team that has been to the state tournament 11 of the last 14 years. Through mid-January, the Redhawks were just where they usually are—firmly entrenched among the state's top 10 in Class AA.

New head coach Matt Pryor, a former Minnehaha athlete himself, came over from Concordia Academy to succeed Josh Thurow. Pryor and the Redhawks got off to a somewhat rocky start this winter, but now appear to have smoothed out any kinks.

Minnehaha (14-5 overall, 5-0 in the Independent Metro Athletic Conference) was riding an 11-game winning streak through January 25 and has quite a few significant wins to its credit. While Pryor does some things a little differently than Thurow, he knows he was handed the keys to a pretty neat sports car and seems to have it purring.

"It's been a blast," Pryor said about coaching Minnehaha. "We did get off to a slower start, but I knew there'd be some growing pains. You can always improve. Now everybody's chasing us. As we'll as we're playing right now, I think we're going to have an even higher ceiling. We're getting comfortable in a new system."

The Redhawks logged an emphatic 84-50 win over Heritage Christian, rated second in the state at the time, just before the holidays, which convinced Pryor they were performing like he knew they could. Minnehaha also logged big wins over New London-Spicer, Willmar and Concordia Academy, and drubbed Central 91-20 in mid-January.

"The girls might have been a little nervous early," Pryor said about the start of the season, "but you could see in that Heritage game that they're getting more comfortable."

He has some talented players to put on the court. Junior guard Mia Curtis has a great all-around game and is very hard to stop when she gets hot. Curtis averages 20 points, five assists and five rebounds a game. "She's everything you could hope for," Pryor said.

Senior guard Taytum Rhoades con-



Minnehaha Academy junior guard and captain Mia Curtis races around head coach Matt Pryor during a recent practice. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

tributes 16 points, six rebounds and six assists per contest. Pryor called Rhoades a bonafide Division I college prospect and said she is "our best perimeter defender and does a lot of things that don't show up in the stat sheet."

Rhoades usually gets the task of defending opponents' best scoring threats. In the victory over Concordia, for example, she held Concordia's talented shooting guard Lydia Lecher to just 10 points.

Senior Nevaeh Galloway provides outstanding strength at power forward for the Redhawks. Galloway, who hit her 1,000 career point against Central, can both pass and shoot from three-point range. She averages 10 points and around four rebounds a game. Pryor referred to her play as nothing short of "fantastic."

Senor center Avery New averages about 6 points, but her nine rebounds and 2.5 blocks a game reflect what she means to the club. "She doesn't need to score a lot of points because of her defense," Pryor said.

Junior Tanna Gallo is a small forward, but also plays like a point guard much of the time. She has a great three-point shot and knows how to pass, which earned her a starting role this season.

Pryor likes to go deep into a rotation of eight or nine players. First off the bench is freshman forward Telia Graham, who has solid athleticism and a great jumping ability. Graham averages four points, five rebounds and two steals a game despite limited minutes.

Junior guard Kate Pryor, the coach's sister, is just getting back into action after shoulder surgery. She can shoot from long range and also is tough on defense.

Freshman Penny Sedgwick provides good relief at the point guard spot with her great defense and solid playmaking. Junior Tessa Leiner gets some time in the post and also shows a nice shooting touch from around 15-feet out. Pryor said Leiner is a good candidate to take over the post after New graduates.

Pryor said his relationship with Thurow couldn't be better. "Josh has been fantastic," Pryor said. "I talk to him almost every day."

There is one thing he does differently than Thurow, though. "We play a lot more man-to-man," Pryor said. "Josh didn't play anything but zone, but I think playing man-to-man allows us to show more of our athleticism."

Hottinger sizzles for CDH girls' basketball

By BILL WAGNER

Frannie Hottinger is facing quite a different situation this year. Last winter, the 5-foot-11 forward helped lead the Cretin-Derham Hall girls' basketball team to a 23-7 record and the state Class AAAA consolation title.

Hottinger, who is second in total points on the all-time list for CDH, is off to another good start this winter, averaging 27 points and 13 rebounds a game through mid-January. However, the Raiders lost several key players to graduation from last year's team and have gotten off to a rugged start this season as younger players try to get up to speed.

That has taken a toll as CDH has lost several close games and was 9-9 overall and 5-5 in the Suburban East Conference through January 25.

Losing makes Hottinger a bit testy and it doesn't matter that she has already settled on attending Lehigh University in Pennsylvania next season on a full scholarship. What matters most is helping point the Raider ship toward the right port.

"I'd like to be winning a little bit more," Hottinger said. "We need to finish games out."

First-year CDH coach Crystal Flint said Hottinger has scored at least 25 points in nearly every game this winter. But unlike last year's senior-dominated squad, Hottinger is being called out to be a team leader. It's a role she's trying to embrace as the Raiders' only returning starter.

"I'm not only a senior, but a captain

now, Hottinger said. "What this means for me is, 'How can I make myself and other players better?"

Last year, Hottinger received all-state honorable mention. This season, she hopes to make the progression to full all-state status.

She admitted that she's still adjusting to new coach Flint, who came to CDH following a distinguished tenure at Minneapolis North. Hottinger described Flint as a little more animated than former coach Joe Lynch. She said Flint also favors a more uptempo style that seeks to capitalize on the team's athletic skills.

"They are very different people," Hottinger said. "Coach Crystal is a lot (more vocal), and she doesn't hesitate to

20◀ WRIGHT CALL

for games with his Highland Park High School teammates. This year, it's to lesser known places like Portage, Winkler and Waywayseecappo, a metropolis of roughly 1,200 about three hours away from home.

Branby is a member of the Winnipeg Blues of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. He is one of two goalies on the team and has, at this writing, appeared in 13 games with a goals-against mark of 3.83. Perhaps even more important, he is a rarity as an American-born goalie playing in a Canadian junior league.

"It's been great so far," Branby said while home for the holidays. "It's a different part of the world, but everybody there has been very welcoming."

Like many high school players with aspirations of playing in college, Branby hoped to hook up with a junior team somewhere. What he didn't know was that it would be north of the border in a league where the level of play is akin to the top Division III teams in the country.

"You don't know until you get there, but the pace of the game is so much faster," Branby said.

There is also the adjustment of going from 24 high school games to a 60-game schedule complete with road trips when you might get back home at 3 a.m. If that isn't enough, Branby is sharing space in goal with Jeremy Link, a 20-year old Winnipeg native who has been playing in the league since the 2014-15 season and has seen the majority of playing time for the Blues so far.

As for the future, Branby is playing it by

ear. He knows he can be called upon at any moment to step in if Link falters, gets hurt or is traded. He just gets himself ready to play whenever summoned and, at the end of the season, will assess his next move.

For now, though, this Yankee is enjoying himself in the Great White North. "My foster family has been great," he said. "So far, this has been a fantastic experience."

CAA honors swim pioneers

The Catholic Athletic Association swimming prelims are March 23 at Skyview Middle School in Oakdale. The boys' finals are two days later and the girls go the day after the boys. Three people who have helped make the programs what they are today will be honored with induction into the CAA Hall of Fame on Monday, February 11.

Kathy Hanousek and Marilyn Berg played integral roles in starting the girls' program. Being the first is never easy. Swimming is a sport that often gets shunted into the background, but these two persevered and they are very deserving of the honor. Unfortunately, Berg recently passed away. However, the memory of what she and Hanousek did lives on.

Dan Schneeman, who helped start the program at St. Joseph's and coached there for many years before passing the mantle to his sons, is also going into the hall.

The event will be at the Mendakota Country Club in Mendota Heights. The cost is \$75, with a cash bar at 5:30 p.m. and dinner starting at 6:30. There also will be several great auction items for sale.

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20◀ HOTTINGER

give it to us straight."

Flint knows full well what a good asset she has in Hottinger. "She leads by example," she said. "She's an extremely hard worker. She can play almost any position on the floor."

Hottinger is most effective around the basket, both for her shooting and rebounding. However, she can also hit from three-point range "and is probably hitting 90 percent on her free throws," Flint said.

Hottinger comes from an athletic family. Her brother,

George, played football and basketball for CDH and went on to play football for the University of St. Thomas. Her father, David, played football for St. Thomas Academy and then UST. Her mother, Mary, played basketball at Northfield High and then for the Tommies. Hottinger doesn't play a spring sport, but has been a talented soccer player in the fall for the Raiders.

When it comes to basketball, Hottinger said she is probably most proud of her work on the boards."I feel I have a knack for rebounding, both offensively and defensively," she said. "A



CDH senior forward Frannie Hottinger. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

great deal of it is anticipation—getting yourself into the right position to get the ball."

There's one facet of her game that Hottinger knows must change, especially with a collegiate career looming. "I need to pay more attention to detail on defense," she said.

One thing is for sure, Hottinger has gained confidence in her own offensive game, even from just a year ago when she was key in so many Raider triumphs. "I've gotten better with my shot," she said.

There also is something she wants to continue to develop. "I want to be more of a leader," she said. "I want to be more vocal."



The Villager's upcoming Home Improvement issues will reach over 106,000 readers at a time when they're ready to start getting busy around the house. According to a recent survey of Villager readers,* 56% planned to purchase

home furnishings in the next 12 months, 33% home improvements, 26% major home appliance, and 33% lawn and garden supplies. And they'll be looking to the Villager for ideas on where to go to purchase them. Placing your ad in front of them now would be like hitting the nail on the head.

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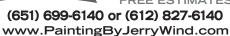
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WELCOME HOME TO 1347 WHEELER STREET S! This two-story home features, original woodwork, three bedrooms on one level, wood burning fireplace and main floor den/family burning tireplace and main floo room. Situated on a corner double lot, this is a unique private setting in convenient Highland Park location. Newer mechanicals and roof.

MORAGHAN Derosia 952-486-3697 • \$285,000

LOCATION, LOCATION...!

maple kitchen, updated baths, finished lower level, large back

porch and conveniently located to everything! Call Lolly for details.

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN

612-810-4138



Classic Summit Hill 4 BR/3BA with gleaming hrdwd floors throughout this spacious home. Large new paver patio in the fully fenced back yard. Unbeatable location vith all the amenities of Grand Ave a few blocks away

MICHAELA TOOHEY Philip Wahlberg 651-282-9617 \$495,000

COMING ATTRACTION!!

for price and details

state of the art kitchen and adjoining family/sun room. All the charm of the era! Call Lolly

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN

612-810-4138



ed privacy, coasts an open noorpain with olas of rhat ural light. & peaceful views. Living room with fireplace dream kitchen, luxurious owner's suite. Family room & Patio, attached garage. 2410 Edgcumbe Rd. "click on www.teamedelstein.com" **HENRY EDELSTEIN CRS** 651-270-1667 • \$395,000

NEW YEAR. NEW PRICE!

Exceptional 3BR, 3BA two story jewel, nestled in wood-

ed privacy, boasts an open floorplan with loads of nat-





landscaped yard. JIM BURTON 651-690-8556 • \$429,900



JUST LISTED!!!

743 Goodrich Ave: Stunning 5BR brick home designed by Clarence Johnson with a recent addition and kitchen complete renovation designed by Charlie Simmons and constructed by John Kraemer. Amazing home for entertaining as

well as every day living JIM BURTON 651-690-8556 • \$1,600,000



DAVID NOYES, JR. REAL ESTATE GROUP 651-233-0748



SUE DRUDE NOYES

651-248-2077

DANIEL BUCHEN 651-431-8833



In the heart of Macalester Groveland is this charming 20's built 3BR, 2BA, 2-story. All new windows, gleaming hrdwd floors, granite and

ON THE EDGE OF DESNOYER PARK. Is this "50's quality built 3BR 2 BA stucco bungalow with many new improvements including granite and stainless kitchen, remodeled full bath, furnace and more! Three finished levels. Easy access to both downtowns! F37 Bellows Bltd No.

towns! 587 Pelham Blvd No. **LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN** 612-810-4138 • \$244,900



TWO STORY BRICK COLONIAL!

In the heart of famed "Tangletown" near Macalester College is this authentic arts and crafts themed bungalow with beautiful

Home features custom patterned hardwood floors, curved staircase, a wonderful mix of natural and enameled woodwork. Grand entertaining

spaces. Brick paver driveway & heated garage. Newer windows throughout. Finished lower level. www.NorthOaksDream.com KRISTA WOLTER

612-247-5106 • \$1,175,000



ACCESSIBLE TOWNHOME!

Spacious townhome in The Summits of North Oaks This property features an open flr plan that includes hrdwd flring, custom cabinetry, FP, and main flr deck

Master suite has a large closet and private master BA. This accessible home has a lift & a roll-in shower. www.TownHomeCharmer.com

KRISTA WOLTER 612-247-5106 • \$545,000



COMFORTABLE ITALIAN FARMHOUSE Interior Designer's home that has been featured in many publications including Perspectives in Design & built by Cates Fine Homes. This Italian Farmhouse

is detailed beyond compare & sits just off Deep Lake and features an open floor plan with abundant light. www.NorthOaksPrivateEstate.com

KRISTA WOLTER 612-247-5106 • \$1,495,000



MARY MCNANEY

651-690-8578

651-282-9621



JIM BURTON 651-690-8556

952-486-3697



SUNNY 2ND FLOOR CONDO! This 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo has fabulous views. Harwood floors, wood burning fireplace, 3rd floor guest suite. 302 Summit Ave unit F.

SARAH KINNEY 651-282-9621 • \$392,000



STUNNING 3RD FLOOR CONDO! This delightful 2BR/2BA condo, in the historic Horace Rugg house, is open and airy with huge windows and fabulous views,

a balcony, a 1 car garage and a building elevator. This is a charming treetop retreat with all the amenities. Must see. **SARAH KINNEY**

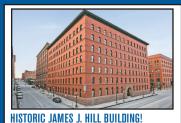
651-282-9621 • \$415,000



HOME OF FRANK B. KELLOGG! This stately Crocus Hill home features 9,000 sq ft, breathtaking interiors, inlaid and pegged floors, a ½ acre lot with reflecting pool and a carriage house. This was an ASID showcase home in 2004 and is a designated National Historic

Landmark. 633 Fairmount Ave.

SARAH KINNEY 651-282-9621 • \$2,295,000



This fabulous 2BR/2BA condo is open, airy, sunny and bright. Features include rare barrel

ceilings, arched windows, pristine tile & hard-wood floors, updated kitchen and baths, a master BR suite, multiple walk-in closets, a gas fireplace and 2/C garage. 300 Wall Street.

SARAH KINNEY 651-282-9621 • \$525,000



KAREN KELJIK 612-414-3245



651-447-9776



HENRY EDELSTEIN 651-270-1667



TOM EDELSTEIN 651-695-4300



GARY FABEL 651-334-3659



ROBBIE GROSSMAN 651-434-7887



ANITA C. HILL 651-707-6408



MIKE JAMBOF 612-889-9773