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Former Winter Carnival Klondike Kates Britt Wells (left, 2006), Kim Tsoukalas (2003) and Shar Salisbury (1997) helped ring in the holiday spirit and donations for the Salvation Army during the Grand Meander on Grand Avenue December 1. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Truth hurts

Joint hearing reveals sting of 2008 property tax hikes

BY JANE MCCLURE

Rising property taxes are expected to draw a crowd to this year's annual truth-in-taxation public hearing for the city of St. Paul, Ramsey County and the St. Paul Public Schools. The hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 11, at Arlington Senior High School, 1495 Rice St. After information on the city's, county's and school district's proposed 2008 budgets and levies is presented, the public will get to weigh in. Property taxpayers can also meet one-on-one with staff from the county assessor's office and obtain information on how to appeal their assessments.

The 2008 property tax estimates were mailed out in November. If subsequent calls to local government offices and comments at a city budget hearing last month are any indication, elected officials could be facing some unhappy property owners on December 11.

In September, the St. Paul City Council adopted a 14.6 percent levy increase and the St. Paul School Board adopted a 3.8 percent hike. The Ramsey County Board had adopted a 5 percent increase,

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Snelling Avenue median gaining support

Mac-Groveland committee favors project if city can work out issues

BY JANE MCCLURE

More than 100 people filled a lecture hall at the University of St. Thomas on November 26 to debate a proposed median on Snelling Avenue between Grand and St. Clair avenues. After hearing more than three hours of testimony, the Transportation Committee of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council unanimously moved to support the plan, but only if four issues receive more study from the St. Paul Department of Public Works. The issues include:

• Providing better access to Lincoln Commons near the southeast corner of Grand and Snelling. The median as currently configured would make

it impossible for southbound motorists on Snelling to turn into the retail center.

• Allowing more space for Metro Transit passengers to get on and off the bus. Under the current plan, buses stopping for passengers could block a lane of traffic in each direction on Snelling. Public Works will determine if cut-ins in the boulevard would allow sufficient space for buses. Macalester College already has proposed a cut-in in front of the new athletic facilities now under construction on the west side of Snelling for team and inter-campus buses.

• Making Lincoln Avenue east of Snelling a two-way rather than a westbound one-way street. Residents got the City Council to turn the street into a one-way in 1992. It would take a vote of the council to rescind that decision.

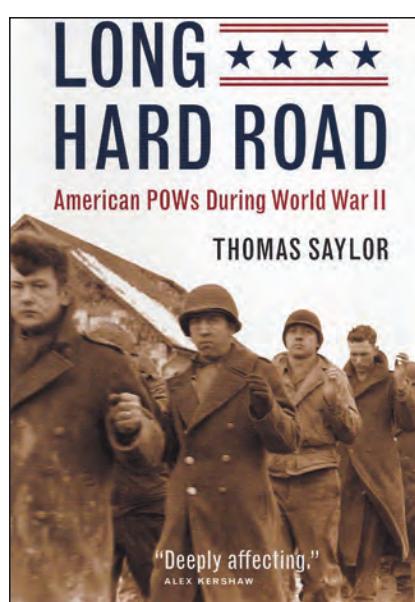
• Installing a left-turn arrow at St. Clair for vehicles traveling southbound on Snelling to im-

prove traffic flow.

Public Works wants to install a 10-foot-wide landscaped median with no widening of Snelling, said city traffic engineer David Kuebler. Breaks in the median would be at Grand, Goodrich, Osceola and St. Clair avenues, but not at Lincoln, Fairmount or Sargent. Parking would be banned on both sides of Snelling except for customer parking at St. Clair. Space would be provided for left-turn lanes at both St. Clair and Grand.

Because Snelling is a state highway, the Minnesota Department of Transportation must agree to the plans before it provides any funding. A basic median would cost about \$170,000, with about 80 percent from the state and 20 percent from a local match. Landscaped 10-foot medians could

SNELLING MEDIAN ▶4



Bravery behind barbed wire

BY DAVE PAGE

Wannabe authors are regularly told that publishers do not come looking for them. Concordia University history professor Thomas Saylor is an exception. His second book, *Long Hard Road*, about American POWs in World War II, has just been released by Minnesota Historical Society Press, and he's now at work on a third about postwar Richfield. Remarkably, he has yet to write a query letter to a publishing house.

Saylor, 49, taught a class on World War II seven years ago at Concordia. "I had my students interview people who lived during WWII," he said. "I created a website for these oral histories. Someone from the Minnesota Historical Society asked if I was going to

do anything further with the website. I really hadn't thought about it."

The Historical Society convinced Saylor to apply for grants to travel around the state collecting oral histories of WWII. The result was *Remembering the Good War: America's Greatest Generation* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2005). Some of the people with whom Saylor spoke had been POWs during the war. Their stories, though compelling, didn't quite fit into that book, Saylor said, so he researched and wrote *Long Hard Road*.

"People always ask me how I found the POWs," Saylor said. "POWs have their own networks. There are national and state organizations. Once I was able

'LONG HARD ROAD' ▶4

1 ▶ TAX HEARING

but trimmed it to 4.8 percent on November 27. Final levies — and final 2008 budgets in the case of the city and county — will be adopted after the public hearing. The school district adopts its budget in June, since its calendar year begins on July 1.

The levy hikes do not translate into the same percentage increases in property tax bills. Changes in property valuation, limited market value caps and homestead credits on single-family residential property and changes in the property tax system at the state level are among the many factors that affect what property owners ultimately will pay.

Only St. Paul, Ramsey County and the St. Paul Public Schools are required by the state to have a joint hearing to address property tax issues. That decision was made after a near-revolt at the city's truth-in-taxation public hearing in 1993.

More than two dozen people attended a City Council public hearing on property taxes and the 2008 budget last month. Some homeowners questioned why their property taxes were increasing by 10-20 percent despite a sagging housing market and declining property values. The property tax increases are on top of city maintenance fees, which have risen by more than 10 percent in some cases.

"It's difficult to keep up with all of the taxes and fees that have been raised," said West End resident Jo Heinz.

"My taxes have skyrocketed," said Highland resident Marvin Wolf. "With the housing market dropping, are my taxes going to drop? I

don't think so."

One factor hitting homeowners is the phase-out of limited market value, a statewide program that caps the amount property taxes may increase each year. The cap slowed the growth in a property's taxable value, helping homeowners during the years when property values rose sharply. The end of that program in 2009 means a home's taxable value is rising to catch up with its actual market price. All properties must be at their full market value for taxation purposes in 2010. The taxation notices over the next two years may have the greatest sticker shock for some homeowners.

Commercial property owners are also raising concerns about the tax hikes. "Large property tax increases unfairly burden building owners," said Curt Milburn, executive director of the St. Paul Building Owners and Managers Association.

Pat Wolff, who owns two downtown buildings, said her property taxes and city fees already amount to \$500,000. Proposed fee increases alone will add more than \$50,000 to that amount, she said, and she had not even seen her 2008 property tax assessment yet.

Downtown property owners not only pay maintenance fees for streets and sidewalks, but for such expenses as skyways and pigeon control. Wolff said the city needs to work with downtown property owners to relieve the tax burden.

For more information about the truth-in-taxation hearing and the 2008 proposed property tax, call Ramsey County at 651-266-2000, the city of St. Paul at 651-266-8797 or the St. Paul Public Schools at 651-767-8250.

County trims levy increase

BY JANE MCCLURE

Ramsey County trimmed its proposed 2008 property tax levy increase from 5 percent to 4.8 percent, an almost \$460,000 reduction, after county commissioners debated more than two dozen budget amendments on November 27.

Much of the discussion centered on spending for the Ramsey County Detention Center and the Sheriff's Department. The recent death of a jail inmate due to an untreated diabetic condition has focused attention on the need for 24-hour nursing care at the jail. Commissioners agreed to immediately approve budget shifts to free up \$163,232 to increase the nursing staff. A broader policy discussion of health care issues at the jail is expected to begin soon.

"We don't want an incident like this to happen again," said commissioner Rafael Ortega. Some commissioners were surprised to learn that 24-hour nursing coverage was not provided for the jail, which houses about 500 inmates.

The other issue that generated considerable debate was whether the county should subsidize bus passes for its employees. Commissioner Janice Rettman brought

forward 15 budget-cutting recommendations in an effort to drop the levy increase to 3.5 percent. Most of her motions died for lack of a second, but she did manage to get a vote on the bus pass subsidy. That motion failed on a 2-5 vote.

Rettman questioned why the county would subsidize a program that gets so little use. Out of 3,000 county workers, only about 100 use Metro Pass.

Most of the budget amendments discussed by the board passed with little or no debate, covering issues ranging from restructured golf course fees to technical changes in department operations.

The proposed 2008 budget was at \$566.9 million in September, a \$15.7 million increase over this year's budget. The changes approved on November 27 add about \$2.6 million. The additional funding comes from a combination of internal shifts and cuts, as well as outside grants and revenue increases.

The budget amendments include about 35 additional full-time equivalent positions spread throughout several departments.

Ramsey County operates on a two-year budget. The proposed levy for 2008 is \$242 million, up 4.8 percent or \$11 million over the amount levied for 2007. In 2009, another 5 percent or \$12 million levy increase is projected, bringing the levy to \$254.5 million. The levy only pays for part of the budget. State and federal aid, fees and charges for services make up the rest.

Study says St. Paul needs to work on allowing equal access to city contracts

BY JANE MCCLURE

The city of St. Paul must do more to ensure that women, minorities and disabled people have equal access to city contracts and service agreements. That was a key conclusion of a 120-page study on equal access to city contracts that was released by the City Council and Mayor Chris Coleman on November 28.

James Hall Jr., a Milwaukee attorney whose firm compiled the report, said that although city officials have attempted to improve the track record of the Vendor Outreach Program, its efforts are still "wanting." The city awarded \$220 million in various contracts last year, but less than 7 percent of those contracts went to firms owned by women, minorities and disabled people. The city's stated goal for such contracting is 10 percent.

The report made 44 recommendations to

ensure there is no discrimination when the city chooses service providers and product suppliers. Many firms have complained over the years that they have been shut out of city bid processes. Two lawsuits are currently pending against the city for alleged discrimination.

Mayor Chris Coleman noted that St. Paul is one of the first cities in the nation to voluntarily examine its contract practices. "We want to make sure that all have equal and open access," he said.

Although the equal access study indicated that past practices exhibited no ill intent on the city's part, "the report makes it very clear that we need to do better," Coleman said. One immediate need is to centralize contract monitoring, one of the key recommendations in the study. That responsibility is currently spread among several city departments.

Coleman has appointed City Attorney John

Choi to develop a plan to implement the report's recommendations. Choi will work with a task force that should have its recommendations in place by the end of February.

Choi said he is looking forward to the challenge, but cautioned that there is a "whole host of issues" to be addressed before any of the report's recommendations can be implemented.

The City Council also approved a disparities study last December to determine whether businesses owned by women, minorities and disabled people have had equal access to city-subsidized projects. That study is due to be released later this year or in early 2008.

The issue of who gets and doesn't get contracts with the city and city subsidies for development has generated controversy for years. A 1989 U.S. Supreme Court decision involving the city of Richmond, Virginia, forced states and local units of government throughout the

country to change how they dealt with minority and women contractors.

St. Paul's own studies in the mid-1990s showed that the city was discriminating against minority and women business owners. In 2003 the City Council formed the Equal Access Working Group to study allegations of discrimination and make recommendations to the city. Its members were also involved in the preparation of the Hall report.

Members of the Equal Access Working Group said they were pleased with the report. They would like the task force to continue and focus on specific city programs, said Clifton Boyd, a member of the National Association of Minority Contractors.

That organization was represented on the working group, as were the NAACP, Jewish Community Action, the Community Stabilization Project, Kaposia Inc., WomenVenture and the St. Paul Urban League.

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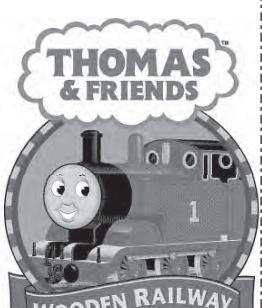
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Tab for bar and restaurant licenses to rise, but not as much

City scales back proposed fee increases, especially for the smaller establishments

BY JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul's bureaucratic food fight over bar and restaurant license fee increases may be coming to an end. A proposal to raise those fees 20 percent or more in 2008 as a way to raise \$324,000 in additional city revenue has been scaled back following an outcry by representatives of the city's hospitality industry. However, double-digit increases are still expected to cover the city's costs of enforcement and other services to those businesses.

The City Council on November 28 approved several changes to the proposed fee schedule to ease the burden on smaller bars and restaurants and on bars and restaurants that have fewer violations.

The new package of permit and license fee increases for 2008 could be approved by the City Council as early as December 5. "After

12 years of not raising the license fees, we're going to have to (increase them)," said Bob Kessler, director of the city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). Additional increases can be expected in 2009 and 2010, according to Kessler and city finance director Matt Smith.

Along with the increases, the City Council is expanding the classifications for restaurant licenses from two to five according to the number of seats a restaurant has. In 2007 restaurants with 12 or fewer seats paid \$400 for a license and restaurants with 13 or more seats paid \$575 for a license. Under the current proposal, the annual license fee ranges from \$450 for carryout-only restaurants to \$750 for restaurants with 151 or more seats.

The City Council is also considering expanding the number of classifications for on-sale liquor licenses from three to four based on the number of seats in an establishment. The intent is to spread out those costs and ease the burden on smaller establishments.

The new package of permit and license fees would have varying effects on bars and restaurants depending on the types of licenses

and permits they have.

Mancini's Char House and Lounge at 531 W. 7th St., for example, paid \$6,960 for its eight licenses and permits in 2007. That would have increased 23.8 percent to \$8,619 under the original proposal. The latest revision has cut that to \$8,034, a 15.4 percent increase for 2008. As a comparison, the same permits and licenses would cost Mancini's \$11,701 in Minneapolis and \$11,571 in Bloomington, according to DSI.

Skinner's Pub and Eatery, 919 Randolph Ave., paid \$5,745 for eight city licenses and permits in 2007. The original DSI proposal would have raised that 23.4 percent to \$7,088 in 2008. The latest proposal reduces that to \$6,465, a 12.5 percent increase. The same licenses and permits would cost Skinner's \$8,083 in Minneapolis and \$10,861 in Bloomington.

O'Gara's Bar and Grill, 164 N. Snelling Ave., paid \$7,371 in 2007 for 10 city licenses and permits. The fees for the same licenses and permits would have increased to \$9,092 under the original proposal for 2008. The revised proposal puts them at \$8,507. The same licens-

es and permits would cost O'Gara's \$12,500 in Minneapolis and \$11,711 in Bloomington.

Costello's Bar and Grill, 393 Selby Ave., paid \$5,248 for six city permits and licenses in 2007. DSI's original proposal for 2008 would have increased those fees to \$6,531. The current proposal increases them to \$5,908. That compares to \$10,682 for same licenses and permits in Bloomington and \$8,016 in Minneapolis.

The City Council has also approved a change in how the city penalizes bars and restaurants that violate food safety regulations. The new penalties make a distinction between critical and noncritical food code violations. The fines are higher for the critical violations. Bar and restaurant owners lobbied for this change, arguing that law-abiding bar and restaurant owners should not have to make up for the higher enforcement costs caused by problem businesses.

Even with the revised permit and fee increases, the city still expects to collect an additional \$323,900 in 2008 for all permits and licenses. About half of that amount is from the extra fees charged to bars and restaurants.

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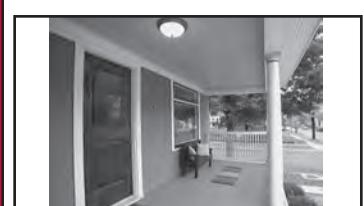
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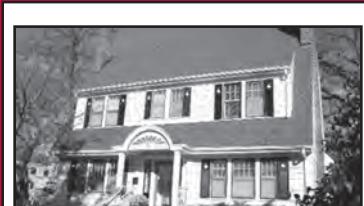
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1 ▶ SNELLING MEDIAN

cost as much as \$400,000. Macalester College has offered to assist with the additional costs and possibly maintain the median.

Tom Welna, director of Macalester's High Winds Fund, which works to maintain the beauty and security of the neighborhood surrounding the campus, said the idea for the median came out of focus groups of college students, faculty, staff and neighbors. "One issue that came up in all of the groups was to do something about Snelling—make it safer to cross, make it easier to drive," he said.

Supporters of the median at the meeting outnumbered foes about two to one in a show of hands. Supporters said the median would improve pedestrian safety and make Snelling more attractive. "Snelling is like the Grand Canyon in my neighborhood," said Osceola Avenue resident Nancy Wiens.

Merriam Park resident Tom Brown, who lived in Lexington-Hamline when the Lexington Parkway median was installed more than a decade ago, said he found the median

annoying at first. "But after we got used to it, it was wonderful," he said.

Laurie Hamre, vice president of student affairs at Macalester, said the landscaped median that was installed on Grand just west of Snelling a few years ago has made it a lot safer for students to cross from the north and south parts of the campus. "The safety is worth the extra time it takes to drive through the area," she said.

Residents living east of Snelling were mixed in their opinion of the median. Some said they could put up with the inconvenience for the trade-off in public safety. Others said that when temporary barricades went up on Snelling during a test of the median from late September through October 22, more vehicles were diverted to their street and the alleys.

"We moved the safety issues off of Snelling and into the neighborhood," said Goodrich Avenue resident Wendy Merrell. Neighbors described vehicles making U-turns in the street, using driveways to back up or taking alleys as shortcuts. Others expressed skepticism that the median would benefit pedes-

"One issue that came up in all of the groups was to do something about Snelling — make it safer to cross, make it easier to drive."

trian safety.

During the median test, traffic on Goodrich Avenue between Snelling and Saratoga Street jumped from 374 vehicles a day to 573. Other blocks saw smaller increases or even decreases. On Saratoga, the greatest increase in traffic was between Goodrich and Lincoln.

Still, Kuebler noted that the traffic volume on all of the blocks east of Snelling were well below the St. Paul average of 800 to 1,500 vehicles per day on residential streets.

Some residents asked why the median could

not have an opening at every east-west street. However, city traffic engineer Paul St. Martin said the state would be much less likely to pay for such a plan. Transportation Committee members said openings at every block also would reduce the public safety benefits.

Preserving access to the shops at Lincoln Commons was a concern voiced by both sides. Coastal Seafoods owner Susan Weinstein said she saw a downturn in business when the median test was conducted this fall. She feared that customers will drive to other stores if access to Lincoln Commons becomes more restricted.

Businesses at Snelling and St. Clair voiced fewer concerns about the median project. John Walters, owner of Healthpoint Oriental Medicine, said he appreciated the retention of on-street parking in front of businesses at Snelling and St. Clair.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is expected to vote on the median on January 10. By then, council members said they hope to have answers to the questions raised by area residents.

1 ▶ 'LONG HARD ROAD'

to show the leaders of those organizations what I was doing, they gave me lists of names and addresses."

Saylor sent each former POW a description of his project, sample questions and letters of recommendation. Some of the former POWs didn't want to participate, Saylor said, but many were "very pleased that someone wanted to record their stories," Saylor said.

Though 110,000 Americans were captured and imprisoned by the Germans and Japanese between 1941 and 1945, Americans flush with victory after the war generally weren't interested in their stories. "Everyone wants to think that all American POWs were outsmarting their captors or trying to escape," Saylor said. "That was simply not the case."

Marcus Hertz of Highland Park, who served as an officer in the Air Corps, was shot down over Germany and spent 10 months at Stalag Luft III. He told Saylor how he had been told, "don't try to escape; a Jewish flyer identified by the Germans has no chance of survival."

Ernest Gall, a resident of St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood, pondered escaping after his capture at the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, until the bodies of five fellow soldiers who escaped from a work detail were brought back and dumped in front of his barracks. "They were dead, sure," Gall told Saylor. "(The Germans) brought them back and they left them there so no one else would get the idea to take off."

Despite the hardships, if a POW in Europe made it to a fixed German prison camp, he was pretty much guaranteed to survive the war,



Long Hard Road author Thomas Saylor in the stacks at the Concordia University library. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

according to Saylor. POWs in Germany had shelter, adequate medical care, regular if meager meals and occasional Red Cross packages.

"For the most part, Jews and African-Americans were treated no differently from other prisoners in the German camps," Saylor said. However, one infantryman he interviewed told of the German officers at Stalag XIII-C who asked all Jews to step forward. If no one did, the officers would just select prisoners who looked Jewish. The men who were taken away, whether or not they were Jewish, were never heard

from again.

POW camps in the Pacific Theater, on the other hand, were universally brutal. The Japanese never signed the Geneva Convention that laid out the rules for POW treatment, and they offered prisoners little in the way of food or water. Japanese prison guards were sometimes sadistic. The forced labor was literally backbreaking. And escape was even harder than in Europe. Most of the camps were on islands in the ocean, American prisoners rarely spoke the local language, and they had little chance of disguising

themselves as anything but an American combatant.

Harold Kurvers of Highland Park survived the Bataan Death March and spent 2½ years in a Philippine prison camp. "You were hungry all the time," Kurvers told Saylor. "Even when you were full, you were hungry.... Rice doesn't cut it."

Despite their travails, two-thirds of the American POWs in the Pacific Theater survived and many of those who didn't were killed by friendly fire. As Saylor explained, "Most POWs who died in the Pacific died by our own hands. We didn't

want the Japanese to know we had cracked their codes, so we didn't tell our submarine commanders which transports were carrying POWs. That way the Japanese wouldn't suspect."

The weeks just before the end of the war were a dangerous time for American POWs in Germany. When the advancing Soviet Army got close to the camps, the Germans fled with their prisoners, marching them long distances with no destination in mind. "They probably wanted to use them as bargaining chips," Saylor said. "Occasionally, Allied planes would strafe the columns. The stories about Allied prisoners lining themselves up to form the initials 'POW' are based on fact."

Richard Ritchie, a former POW in Germany who is now living in Plymouth, told Saylor how he trudged for months in the brutal cold of early 1945 with almost no food. He played dead, was left by the side of the road and eventually found by U.S. forces. "He was given C-rations," Saylor said, "and he was so grateful that to this day he has kept one of the cartons."

Coming home was hard for some POWs. Earl Miller of Highland Park told about meeting his parents after returning home from 19 months in a German POW camp: "My father said, 'It's all over. We'll forget it now. Even before I could say a word. That bothered me for years."

Saylor will discuss *Long Hard Road* at a meeting of the World War II History Round Table beginning at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 13, at the Fort Snelling History Center. He will share the stage with Pearl Harbor historians Jim Johns and Robert Stinnett.

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Neighbors debate where to take fight against college rentals

BY JANE MCCLURE

The University of St. Thomas has been buying and rehabilitating deteriorated student rental housing around its St. Paul campus as part of a program to return them to owner-occupancy. However, exactly where the university should be buying those homes has generated debate for months. The debate could come to an end in December when the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) and area district councils weigh in on proposed boundaries for the housing buyback program.

The District 13 Council will vote on the issue on December 5, and WSNAC could vote as early as December 11. The issue will also be discussed by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, though no date for that discussion has been set.

The St. Paul City Council amended St. Thomas' conditional use permit in 2004 to allow for the expansion of its campus boundaries to encompass the two blocks south of Summit between Cleveland and Cretin avenues. In return, the university agreed to meet several conditions, including the purchase and rehabilitation of 30 student rental homes in

the Macalester-Groveland and Merriam Park neighborhoods. The intent was to convert the rental properties into owner-occupied housing over a 12-year period.

Since the agreement was signed, eight dwellings have been purchased and rehabbed by St. Thomas. However, earlier this year controversy flared over the university's purchase of a student rental house on Stanford Avenue, eight blocks south of the campus. Some members of WSNAC believed the house was too far from campus to meet the goal of restoring rental houses around the university to owner-occupancy.

St. Thomas officials said they should have the flexibility to address problem properties, like the one on Stanford, case by case with the understanding that most properties would be closer to campus.

A housing subcommittee of WSNAC has considered various boundaries within which houses should be bought and rehabbed. "But we can't decide, so we're sending back four recommendations," said WSNAC member Alyssa Rebensdorf.

WSNAC reviewed the four options on November 13. Currently, the highest priority is the acquisition of at least 10 rental properties

along Cleveland Avenue between Marshall and Goodrich avenues. An additional 10 houses would be purchased in the area bounded by Wilder Street and Cretin, Marshall and Goodrich avenues. The remaining homes would be purchased in the area bounded by the Mississippi River, Marshall, Fairview and Goodrich avenues.

Two other options move the south boundary down to Fairmount Avenue and the west boundary to Cretin Avenue. The exception is a pocket of rental homes just west of the main campus between Cretin and Exeter Place. One of the options calls for purchasing 10 houses on Cleveland, 10 west of Wilder and the rest east of Wilder. Another eliminates the specific focus on Cleveland and calls for purchasing 20 houses between Wilder, Fairmount, Cretin and Marshall, and the rest in the neighborhood to the east.

A fourth proposal expands the boundaries south to St. Clair Avenue and north to I-94. Fifteen houses would be purchased in the area bounded by Cretin, Marshall, Goodrich and Prior avenues, and the remaining houses elsewhere in the neighborhood.

Rebensdorf said there is no one right answer to the housing buyback issue. "The

question is, do we use our limited resources to make individual blocks whole again," she said, "or do we help the blocks that are starting to tip so that people feel like they have a fighting chance?"

Some WSNAC members question whether targeting properties along Cleveland Avenue near the campus is a good idea. Cleveland is currently a mix of apartments, rental houses, St. Thomas-owned properties and fraternities.

"Between Summit and Selby on Cleveland there's just one owner-occupied property," said St. Thomas neighborhood liaison John Hershey.

The university did buy a home at the intersection of Cleveland and Selby that was sold to an owner-occupant and rehabilitated. However, the family is moving due to concerns about traffic. The home will have to be sold to a new owner-occupant because of restrictive covenants placed on all of the homes that the university is buying.

A few committee members questioned why they were focusing on houses at all. "The problem isn't really about houses," said WSNAC member Les Metzler. "It's about the behavior of the people who live in them."

Randolph-Lexington rezoning and site plan to get two public hearings

BY JANE MCCLURE

The city of St. Paul has scheduled two public hearings in December on a plan to redevelop the small block at the southeast corner of Randolph Avenue and Lexington Parkway with 20,000 square feet of new retail space, including a Trader Joe's grocery store.

The first hearing will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 19, before the City Council, which will rule on the developer's request to rezone the 1.2-acre parcel from single- and multi-family residential to Traditional Neighborhoods, which allows for a mix of residential and commercial uses.

The project's site plan will be the topic of a second public hearing at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, December 20, before the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee. The site plan addresses such issues as traffic flow, lighting and landscaping. The full Planning Commission is scheduled to rule on the site

plan at 8:30 a.m. Friday, December 28.

The plan by partners Meridian Management and TOLD Development includes a 14,420-square-foot Trader Joe's and two smaller retail shops in two buildings separated by a surface parking lot. A conditional use permit and zoning variances for the project have already been approved by the Planning Commission on the condition that the rezoning is approved by the City Council. A site plan decision by the Planning Commission is final unless it is appealed to the City Council.

The Highland District Council's Community Development Committee will meet with the developers on Thursday, December 13, to discuss the site plan. That meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Last month the HDC recommended rezoning only the northern half of the property because of concerns raised by nearby residents of Juno Avenue about lighting, noise and traffic. The Macalester-Groveland Community



An aerial view of the Randolph and Lexington redevelopment project looking northeast.

Council's Housing and Land Use Committee on November 28 decided to forward to the City Council their concerns about the project's use of Traditional Neighborhoods zoning and the number of variances needed.

Despite the needed variances, city staff had recommended Traditional Neighborhoods zoning because a commercial classification would have had the potential to bring in a more intensive land use in the future.

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Elizabeth Schoening, left, shoveled the sidewalk outside of the Chatterbox Pub, 800 S. Cleveland Ave., while Sara Engel, age 5, looked on during the Highland Business Association-sponsored Breakfast with Santa on December 1. Schoening, who recently moved back to the Twin Cities from Hawaii, is currently a student at the College of St. Catherine and a Chatterbox employee. A second breakfast with the jolly ol' elf will be held at the restaurant from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 8. Admission is free with a food shelf donation or a new toy for Toys for Tots. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

News Briefs

St. Paul allows bingo games in neighborhood watering holes

The St. Paul City Council unanimously adopted an ordinance on November 28 to allow bingo to be played in bars where charitable gambling is already allowed. The games should begin by early 2008.

No one appeared at a November 21 City Council public hearing to speak against the bar bingo ordinance. Testimony in support of it was offered by the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association, which raises money for charities at a handful of bars in the city.

The change comes at a time when the city of St. Paul has no licensed bingo parlors. The city's last parlor, Midway Bingo on University Avenue, closed several months ago. Charities that offer pull tabs and other forms of gambling in bars have reported flat or declining revenue in recent years, and are hoping bingo will generate more income.

Ward 5 council member Lee Helgen brought forward the ordinance to allow bar bingo. He said another city ordinance is in draft form that would allow bars to sell pull tabs even when the charity does not have staff on hand to conduct the sales.

Selby restaurant fined \$500 for unlicensed sidewalk cafe

A Selby Avenue restaurant owner must pay a \$500 fine for putting tables and chairs on the sidewalk in front of his business without a sidewalk cafe license and proof of insurance. Issam Alhuniti, owner of Chicago Submarine, 614 Selby Ave., was unable to persuade the St. Paul City Council on November 21 that he was not operating a sidewalk cafe. The council voted 6-1 to impose the fine, with Ward 2 council member Dave Thune casting the dissenting vote.

Alhuniti has operated his 12-seat restaurant on Selby for the past decade. He told the council that the tables and chairs were set up in an alley adjacent to the restaurant during the spring and summer, and that city inspectors only saw the tables and chairs on the front sidewalk when he was hosing down the alley.

However, city inspectors said the tables and chairs were seen on the sidewalk on at least three occasions this year, and they did not observe the driveway area being cleaned at those times. An administrative law judge sided with the city, stating that leaving the tables and chairs on the sidewalk even for a short time

violated the city's sidewalk cafe ordinance.

Thune said the fine was excessive. Other council members noted that the dispute could have been avoided if the \$31 sidewalk cafe permit fee would have been paid after the first warning.

Commission allows continued use of Fairmount Ave. triplex

The St. Paul Planning Commission unanimously approved a legal nonconforming use status on November 16 so the building at 1880 Fairmount Ave. can continue to be used as a triplex. The decision was made on the condition that property owner Dean Willer make improvements to the property to ensure it meets building codes. He has been given until December 18 to install egress windows and a fire alarm system.

The Planning Commission's Zoning Committee recommended approval of Willer's request for nonconforming use status on November 8. The matter was laid over in October to give Willer more time to gather evidence of the property's past use as a triplex. He was able to supply the city with letters from past owners and public records showing the building was used as a triplex for at least a decade. The property was a residence for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd from 1970 to 1986 and had two subsequent owners before Willer bought it in 2005.

The property is zoned for single-family use. Willer said he bought the property as a triplex and only found out about the actual zoning when he applied for a permit to remodel his apartment in the building.

Since September 2006, the city has received three complaints about the property's use as a triplex. City planning staff and the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee both recommended denying Willer's request. They argued that the lot does not meet the minimum size requirement for a triplex and that its use as a triplex was out of character for the neighborhood.

Zoning Committee members asked if a condition could be placed on Willer's permit that would only allow the triplex use to continue only as long as he owns the property. However, the city attorney's office recommended forgoing that condition because tying the use to a specific owner could create problems for the city later.

News Briefs compiled by Jane McClure.

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Viewpoint

A tale of two developments

BY MICHAEL MISCHKE

The two projects could hardly be more different. However, the seven-year saga that culminated in the recent opening of SteppingStone Theater's new home at Holly Avenue and Victoria Street has something to say in the debate over the proposed retail development at the corner of Randolph Avenue and Lexington Parkway.

In July of 2002, SteppingStone signed a purchase agreement to buy the Highland 2 Theatres for \$1.35 million. The intent of the children's theater company was to invest as much as \$2.3 million more to renovate the 1930s-era movie house as a 400- to 500-seat performance space and drama school.

The response from residents and businesses in the Highland Park neighborhood was immediate. SteppingStone withdrew from the purchase agreement amid howls of protest over the prospect of losing a neighborhood icon—one of only two remaining movie houses in the city—and of creating a parking nightmare with all the school buses SteppingStone would attract to already congested Highland Village.

With the support of city leaders and Summit-University neighborhood residents, SteppingStone subsequently opted to buy and renovate the former Grace Community Church, a historic structure that at one point had been destined for demolition. The much larger 1908 Classic Revival building will allow SteppingStone to accommodate bigger audiences, more young thespians and more diverse programming as well as outside arts organizations. Parking should not be a problem since SteppingStone has made arrangements with nearby churches and William Mitchell College of Law for shared off-street spaces.

The denouement of this two-act play could not have been more felicitous for all concerned—neighbors, businesses, historic preservationists, SteppingStone, its students, their audience and the city as a whole. Bravos, all around.

Felicitous is not a word that springs to mind at the prospect of razing and redeveloping the block at the southeast corner of Randolph Avenue and Lexington Parkway for 20,000 square feet of new retail space. Meridian Management Inc. and TOLD Development, Meridian's partner in Randolph Hill LLC, want to bulldoze four single-family homes, a fourplex and a car audio and security business and in their place build a 14,420-square-foot Trader Joe's grocery store and a separate 5,330-square-foot building for a handful of other retailers. The necessary conditional use permit and zoning variances for the project have already been approved by the St. Paul Planning Commission on the condition that the rezoning is approved by the City Council.

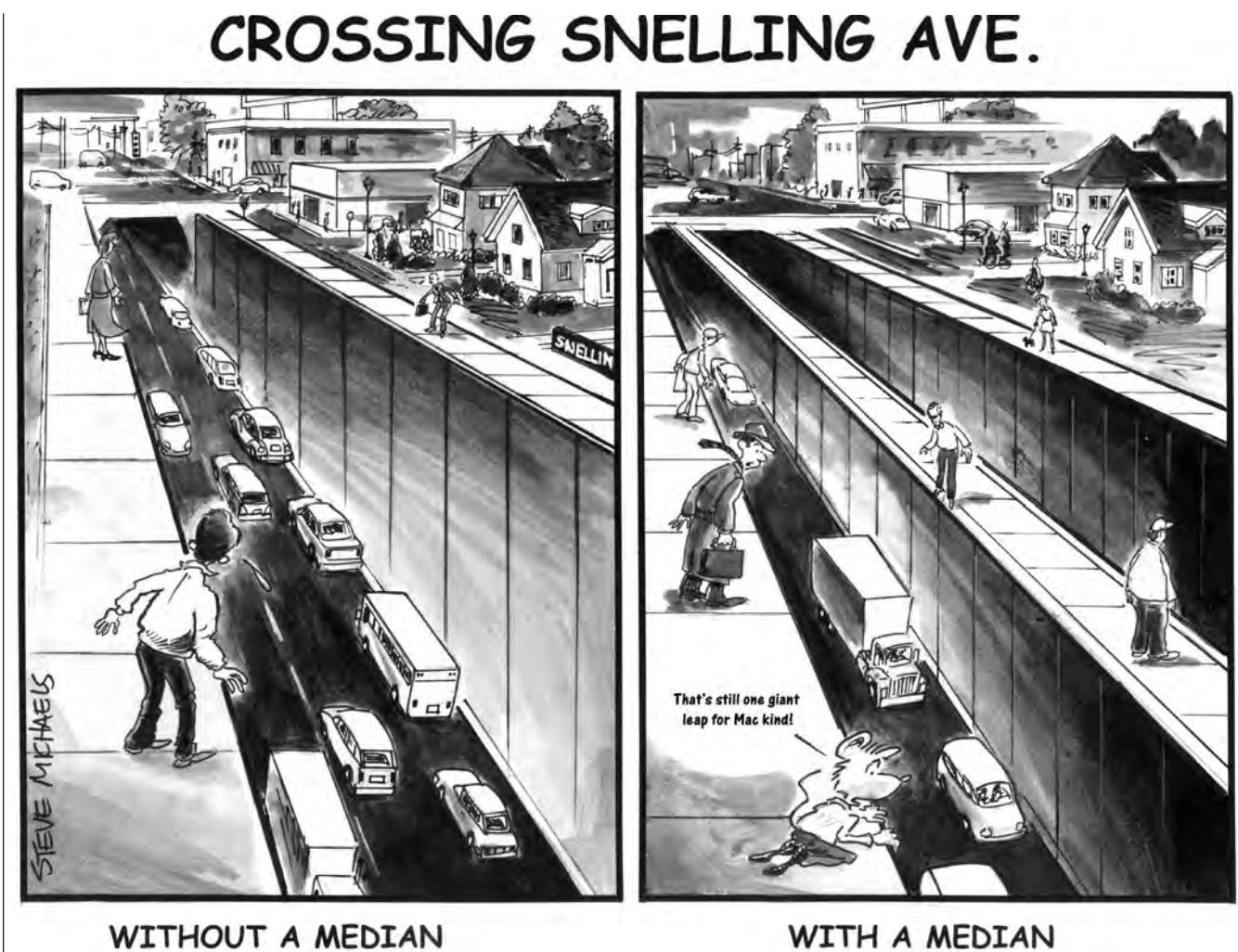
The problem with Randolph Hill's proposal is not the loss of the residences and the forced relocation of Mach 1. Nor is the problem the new buildings and businesses that development would bring in. The problem is the site itself.

According to the developers, preliminary engineering has shown that the project would have little impact on the heavy rush-hour traffic in the vicinity of Lexington and Randolph, which is just a stone's throw from the I-35E entrance and exit ramps. "In part, the traffic level there speaks to the nature of the corner," said Stephanie Sundberg of TOLD. "We didn't create the traffic that's there now."

No, they didn't—and that's precisely the point. It's hard to imagine an intersection more ill-suited to accommodate the additional traffic that this development would bring to the hillside corner. Despite the opening of the connection between I-35E and Ayd Mill Road four years ago, Randolph and Lexington continue to be backed up for blocks at rush hour. In the wintertime especially, traversing the intersection can be a harrowing experience.

The Randolph Hill development would include off-street parking for 75 cars, but the site plan provides no vehicle access to the parking lot off Randolph because the city's Public Works staff believe any curb cut there would be too close to the I-35E ramps to be safe. They're no doubt correct, but vehicular access off of Lexington poses its own problems.

There are any number of other locations in the southwest quarter of St. Paul far better-suited to Randolph Hill's plans and to the future success of its future commercial tenants.



WITHOUT A MEDIAN

WITH A MEDIAN

Season's gratings: Scrooged again

BY BILL STIEGER

Lately I've noticed a Charlie Brown sensibility creeping into my writing. "Good grief!" I seem to be saying. "Look at this life!" With the holidays approaching, I had hoped to offer some words of encouragement, some comforting examples of genuine goodness in the world, a heartwarming story perhaps. The problem is, each day offers up fresh hells to cloud my snow globe.

Vulgarity and rudeness top the list this week. The other night while flipping through the channels, I came across a story on "Entertainment Tonight" about a cable television show called "Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew." Dr. Drew makes his millions filming washed-up celebrities in rehab. One episode featured some guy who'd been an actor on the television show "Taxi" weeping as he hallucinates. Nice.

That piece was followed by a commercial that I could scarcely believe. In the commercial, a motorist is speeding down a country highway in a new Jeep singing, "Rock Me Slowly." Suddenly, a squirrel drops through the sunroof, like the guy in the old Hertz commercial. The squirrel begins singing along with the driver. They're soon joined by two songbirds. Finally, a coyote drops into the back seat, eats one of the birds, then pukes it back out with a retching sound familiar to anyone who has ever suffered from the flu. The coyote then joins in the chorus.

That's got to be a first—a car company trying to sell new vehicles by having a coyote vomit in one.... I ask you: How is a coyote upchucking in a Jeep going to help Detroit get back on its feet?

Last Saturday, I saw the film *No Country For Old Men* at one of those suburban cinaplexes. I don't know what I was thinking, going to a movie on a Saturday night. It seemed like everyone in Woodbury was there. I was miffed at the long lines at the concession stand, but when I finally got close enough to read the selections and the prices—the cheapest was a cup of popcorn for \$4.50—I bailed out.

Still looking forward to the flick, I proceeded down the hallway to the fourth theater on the right. It was mobbed. I finally found a seat just as the house lights dimmed. What

followed were 11 previews for upcoming movies. The effect of the theater's sound system was as if someone had pulled the pin on a concussion grenade. I kept my palms clamped over my ears for what must have been half an hour.

As the movie opened, a younger fellow across the aisle began chatting with his girlfriend. "Dope!" he said when the movie's protagonist pulled back the canvas on the back of a pickup truck. "The dog's dead, too!"

I kept waiting for the guy to settle down, but he wouldn't stop yakking, announcing to everyone within earshot the play-by-play as if it were a football game.

I coughed. "Excuse me, sir," I said, "could you please keep it down? I'm trying to watch the movie."

Just then, the film cut to a scene in the desert at midday, illuminating the entire theater. I could see the guy across the aisle grimacing at me. "No!" he said, with rage in his voice. "Shut up!"

"I was—"
"Just shut up!"

I felt the muscles in my jaw tightening. I swear, I experienced myself hovering over my seat. I kept telling myself that I would immediately be hauled off to jail if I got up and slapped the fellow on the ear. Wisely, I waited for the adrenaline to settle. I told myself, if this lout kept yapping, I'd just move to another seat in the theater. Then I took a few deep

breaths and lost myself in the film.

No Country For Old Men is a wonderfully made movie, but the plot is as bleak as it gets. It's basically about a psycho who kills everyone and gets away with it. Meanwhile, all the good men are murdered or retire. I found the story much like my own experience at the cinaplex. This was obviously no theater for old men.

From now on, it's the Highland or Grandview for me.

Cell-phone blabbers. Too many electronic gadgets. That irritating Verizon dude in the black glasses with the quizzical expression on his face. Ninety-million-dollar athletes. Reactionary radio talk show hosts. Michael Jackson, Robert Blake and Phil Spector all walking around scot-free.

Folks tell me to be more positive, that I need to think of the glass as half full. Well, I do think of the glass as half full. I won't tell you what I think it's half full of.

Happy holidays, anyway. I mean it.

Inbox

Making a bad intersection worse

Dear editor,

The public hearing on the site plan and city traffic study for the proposed redevelopment at Randolph Avenue and Lexington Parkway seems to be a moving target. Though I have tried to follow the progress of the matter and attend all meetings, I keep hearing conflicting dates for the public hearing. Residents not just of Highland Park but also of Macalester-Groveland should turn out to speak their piece.

Let's consider not how much we like the idea of being able to buy Two-Buck Chuck, but how much we would like to negotiate the I-35E/Randolph exits with the increased traffic that a Trader Joe's store would bring. Study the site plan to see how cars coming off of I-35E would need to turn left onto Lexington, then left into the store parking lot, and imagine the backup this would cause at rush hour each afternoon. I've been at that intersection in the winter when a fire truck coming up the Randolph hill couldn't break through the logjam created by slipping and sliding cars and city buses.

The developers are quoted as saying that the development would have little impact on traffic. (The corner is rated now as grade-D for congestion.) At the same time, they say that the new store would be able to take advantage of the traffic that is already on nearby I-35E. Drawing this traffic to Randolph and Lexington certainly isn't going to improve the D grade!

Marge Senninger
Macalester-Groveland

Editor's note: A story on the redevelopment proposed for the southeast corner of Randolph Avenue and Lexington Parkway appears on page 6 of this issue. Public hearings on a rezoning and the site plan for this redevelopment are scheduled for December 19 and 20, respectively.

Gordon Parks' local connection

To the editor:

Once again you have printed a story that pushed my nostalgia button. Lisa Heinrich's "Close to Home" story about Gordon Parks and his early years in St. Paul (*Villager*, November 21) sent me to my library shelf of autographed books and treasured audio and video tapes to retrieve a tape titled, "A Conversation with Gordon Parks." It was a program at the annual convention of the North American Nature Photography Association in 2001 in Las Vegas. I was the president of NANPA that year and I had the privilege of introducing Parks when he spoke.

During the convention, I spent over an hour talking with him. I discovered that we had both attended Central High School and that we had both worked on Northern Pacific Railroad dining cars. I also learned that he had been a good friend of Jimmy Griffin, a well-known St. Paul police officer who also served on the St. Paul School Board. They had played together on a pickup basketball team.

I knew Griffin, first as the police officer who provided security at Park Liquor Store where I worked during high school, and later in the 1980s when we traveled to New York together to sign and deliver school district bonds—Griffin as the district treasurer and me as bond counsel for the district. Griffin later told me that he had been traveling with Parks when Parks bought his first camera in Seattle. They went down to the docks so Parks could try it out. Griffin said

that he was watching a ferry pull away from a nearby dock when he heard a splash. He turned around to find Parks had stepped off the pier into Puget Sound. Parks explained that he had been trying to properly frame a photo and had taken one step backward too many.

Parks was a remarkable human being. He was a photographer, a writer of plays, biographies and novels, a painter, a poet, a composer of classical as well as blues and popular music, a musician, a choreographer and a filmmaker. In his 88th year, when he suffered a minor injury to his Achilles tendon, he complained that it would interfere with his annual downhill ski trip to Colorado.

Parks was married three times and his ex-wives remained friends of Parks and one another throughout his life. Though he never received a high school diploma, before his death at 93 last year he had been awarded 46 honorary degrees from institutions of higher education. Gordon Parks was truly a Renaissance man.

In the fall of 2004, Parks was inducted into the Central High School Hall of Fame. Because of his health at the time, his niece, Robin Hickman, also a Central graduate, accepted the honor on his behalf. At the time, I was a member of the hall of fame committee and emcee for the ceremony.

Not overlooked in reading the *Villager* article was the reference to Parks having attended Mechanic Arts High School and a lack of any reference to Central. Perhaps he attended both, though that seems unlikely. I just replayed the tape of his 2001 NANPA program, and in it he refers specifically to attending Central and makes no mention of Mechanic Arts.

Bernard P. Friel
Mendota Heights

Editor's note: A timeline of Parks' life by the State Library of Kansas states that he attended Mechanic Arts High School in 1928. Other Internet sources state that he attended both Mechanic Arts and Central high schools.

Adversarial fear-mongering

To the editor:

Community discourse over Rock-Tenn's prospective "burner" should ideally be well-informed. Neighbors Against the Burner (NAB) criticizes biomass as fuel because it may contain 30 percent refuse-derived fuel (RDF), which could possibly be laden with pollutants (*Villager*, November 21). But using RDF does not translate into unlimited emissions. In addition to allowed fuels, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency also regulates emissions. Both federal and state law limit emissions of dioxins, mercury, lead and a variety of other less familiar—if no less threatening—pollutants.

NAB has not presented any economically viable plan for Rock-Tenn. Natural gas, their proposed solution, is not a renewable resource and is not sustainable. If Rock-Tenn is forced to move to where there are no neighbors, pollutants will come from transporting urban waste paper instead. We need clear alternatives, not adversarial fear-mongering.

Having taught environmental ethics at Cornell University, I can attest to widespread but utopian preoccupation with pristine environments. NAB-sponsored speaker Paul Connett is correct that any kind of burning emits pollutants. That includes the burners one

INBOX ▶ 10

VILLAGER

Volume 55, Number 19

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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9◀ INBOX

finds in car engines, home furnaces and power mowers. Backyard grills, fireplaces and even environmentally friendly wood stoves emit particulate matter.

I find it ironic that nearly half the NAB signs I pass in my neighborhood have SUVs or other gas-guzzlers parked in front of them. Managing trash and securing clean air and water, while important, are ripples among our current environmental challenges. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists' *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices*, the two most important things Americans can do are ditch the car and eat vegetarian. Let's hope that all our choices and actions, individually and collectively, are well-informed by context.

Douglas Allchin
Merriam Park

An expensive mistake

Dear editor,

Thank you for your continuing coverage of the issue of the Rock-Tenn company and its proposed garbage burner. As a person with asthma, I am appalled that city officials want to use my tax dollars to build a burner that would send deadly pollutants into the air. A few minutes on-line will turn up studies that show that cancer and other disease rates increase around incinerators. A garbage burner would be an expensive mistake in terms of both health and money.

Libby Frost
Merriam Park

Wasting other people's money

To the editor:

Mark Paske's letter to the editor (*Villager* "Inbox," November 21) makes at least two of us who see the grandiose plans for University Avenue as Stark-raving madness. The only vision City Council member-elect Russ Stark and other light-rail supporters have is how to spend other people's money.

Ignoring for the moment the gazillion-dollar price tag of the project, have Mr. Stark and like-minded supporters considered the other costs of such a public spending

boondoggle? Construction itself should be sufficient to doom the small businesses that have blossomed on the currently light-rail-free University Avenue. And how many people will want to live in the renovated lofts along the construction route, much less the actual train line?

No one of course. So perhaps we can go back to the beginning and inquire as to what the goal of light rail on University is if it's not to waste other people's money. Mr. Stark won't be the person to start with, as his entire career has been canted to this very outcome. Too bad he and other "community organizers" never experienced an actual productivity requirement at a real job so as to learn the difference between earning and spending.

Katherine Kennedy
Macalester-Groveland

In praise of older teachers

To the editor:

Regarding John Fisher's letter to the editor (*Villager* "Inbox," November 21): I find it sad when he states, "...let's start with the underperformers, not the youngest, brightest and most motivated new teachers. Has anyone heard of tenure in the private sector?"

There are so many fabulous older, experienced teachers who clearly love their jobs and the children they teach. Let's not assume for a minute that the best is always the youngest. Our children would clearly miss out if they did not have the wisdom, background and motivation of these "older" teachers.

Mary Beth Stupka
Macalester-Groveland

Thank you, District 197 voters

To the editor:

On November 6, residents of School District 197 supported extending the current excess levy that would have otherwise expired. This is greatly appreciated. During my 35 years of teaching in the district, I have felt that our community has been supportive of our schools, and I hope they will continue to be in the future.

In the last issue of the *Villager* ("Inbox," November 21), a resident of our district attacked our schools and the teachers' union of which I am president. Our district does an excellent

job of educating students. Our ACT scores have been rising for the past few years, and last year our composite score of 23.5 was one point higher than the state average of 22.5 and 2.3 points higher than the national average of 21.2. We also had two National Merit Scholars and the College Board has recognized Henry Sibley High School for its excellence in Advanced Placement science, math and technology courses. This success has to be attributed to all of our schools.

In regard to union issues, last year our district applied for the state's pay-for-performance plan, but the state rejected items in our plan that they accepted in other districts. The *Villager* letter writer also attacked continuing contract rights, or tenure as he called it. This does not prevent districts from getting rid of incompetent teachers; it just requires districts to prove incompetence, instead of not giving a reason for dismissal. In regard to competency testing, our union has never taken a position on this issue.

The staff of School District 197 is proud of the education we offer our students, but we also realize there are areas we need to improve as we continue to provide a quality education for our students.

Lee Huenecke, President
West St. Paul Federation of Teachers

Editor's note: The writer is also a health teacher and head track and field coach at Henry Sibley High School.

Excessive levy criticism

Dear editor,

On behalf of the many campaign volunteers who worked hundreds of hours in order to secure basic education funding for their children in School District 197, I need to respond to a few of the misstatements of fact in John Fisher's letter to the editor in the November 21 *Villager*.

I have a different interpretation of his negative conclusion that "the voters finally said no to more tax increases without accountability." The replacement levy passed by a comfortable margin, and the second levy request failed by only 58 votes. These results were obtained despite a record turnout for a school district election.

Fisher's statement about "an endless supply of funds" for the Vote Yes campaign was also erroneous. We reused lawn signs purchased in previous levy campaigns, and we had

INBOX ▶ 11

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10 INBOX

hundreds more sign requests than signs. In order to save money, we didn't create a brochure, we did minimal mailings and we only printed a flyer and a postcard that were primarily distributed by hundreds of volunteers knocking on doors. Our campaign funds were all donated by community supporters.

Our "hired-gun professional lobbyist" was Mary Ceconni from Parents United. We are grateful for Mary and her organization agreeing to make a presentation at our community Town Hall free of charge. Parents United is an advocacy organization committed to helping Minnesota school districts unite to have a larger voice on education funding at the state and federal level—where funding belongs, not in property tax levies.

Mr. Fisher seems to have a good deal of time and interest in District 197. Perhaps it's time he channeled his talent and energy to give back to the community and join other committed citizens in volunteering in our wonderful schools. He may get a better perspective once he becomes involved.

Debi McConnell
Mendota Heights

Editor's note: The writer was co-chair of the Vote Yes excess levy campaign in School District 197.

Not just a politician

To the editor:

I write to enlighten letter writer John Wiersma (Villager "Inbox," November 21) with a few facts:

According to recent *Star Tribune* articles, Al Franken has received around \$40,000 in PAC contributions. By comparison, Norm Coleman has garnered more than \$838,000 in PAC money. Furthermore, 98 percent of Franken's donations are derived from individuals versus 78 percent for Coleman. Noblesse oblige? Looks like Norm takes the cake and eats it, too.

Though the Republicans will try to paint Franken as a mean humorist, the truth is that Al is passionate and principled in the issues that matter most to him, like ending the fiasco in Iraq, veterans benefits (which Norm repeatedly votes against), universal health care, investing in renewable energy, immigration reform and government accountability. As Al often says, "Republicans like to run by saying that government doesn't work. Then they get elected and prove it."

With his sharp mind and wit, Al will strive to change the culture of corruption in Washington, D.C. He will not be afraid to speak his mind and vote his convictions. He will not be the president's biggest cheerleader. As Paul Wellstone said, "The future belongs to those who are passionate and work hard." That's the kind of senator I want for Minnesota. That's the sort of senator Al Franken will be.

David Beecham
Highland Park

Libraries vs. stadiums

To the editor:

It is readily apparent that our public libraries are facing financial crises. One reason lies in the misguided priorities of our politicians. The funding of sports stadiums for private enterprise has taken precedence over funding essential library services.

Public libraries provide literacy instruction, aid new immigrants with language acquisition, offer computer classes and access to technological services, schedule a vast array of special programming, foster the imaginations of children, help prepare students for college and encourage and support lifelong learning in all. Stadiums can make no such claims.

Tax dollars spent on libraries generate a

higher return on investment than public monies wasted on corporate welfare. Money spent on libraries is returned to taxpayers in materials and services, whereas public money spent on stadiums lands directly in the pockets of billionaire team owners.

Libraries in the seven-county metropolitan area provide significantly more opportunities for meaningful, permanent employment than do professional sports teams. The number of hours that libraries are open to serve the public is far greater than the hours of fleeting entertainment furnished by sporting events. A library patron may use materials and services an infinite number of times at no out-of-pocket expense, while some families are not able to afford even one outing at a sporting event. Public libraries are adaptive to the ever-changing needs of their communities, while the professional sports industry caters only to its own self-serving desires.

Perhaps the biggest obstacle libraries face is the refusal of politicians to act on the needs and desires of the constituents they profess to represent. Public libraries fight to survive, while private team owners threaten to leave town, much as a petulant child tests the love of her parents by threatening to run away from home. We are fortunate that the love shown to our communities by our public libraries is strong enough to withstand the neglect and ingratitude displayed toward them. Public libraries have been and will remain the anchors of our communities. The fickle nature of the professional sports industry offers no such guarantee.

It is poor public policy to invest heavily in a nonessential industry that returns so little to its community. Our elected officials should instead be investing our money in indispensable library services that have demonstrated enduring societal benefits. Put into perspective, funding our public libraries is not only a sensible economic investment, it is clearly our best bargain.

Shandalee Novak
Northeast Minneapolis

Editor's note: The writer is a student in the Urban Library Program at the College of St. Catherine.

No end to my back yard

Dear editor:

Rock-Tenn employee Tom Troskey (Villager Inbox, November 7) seems to think that citizens who oppose the burning of garbage in the middle of a densely populated metropolitan area are merely saying "not in my back yard." Perhaps he has not read the countless studies of the plume of toxins traveling for hundreds of miles. In fact, they have found dioxin in the breast milk of Inuit women living 400 miles from civilization and have traced it to a plant in the United States. When we are a community of God's children, where does my back yard end? Is it five blocks, five miles, 500 miles, 5,000 miles away? It is in fact the entire globe.

Don't talk to me about the issue being not in my back yard. Your right to use the sky for a landfill stops with my health and everyone's health on the planet.

Nancy Hone
Merriam Park

Editor's note: The letter writer is the coordinator of Neighbors Against the Burner.

Do write

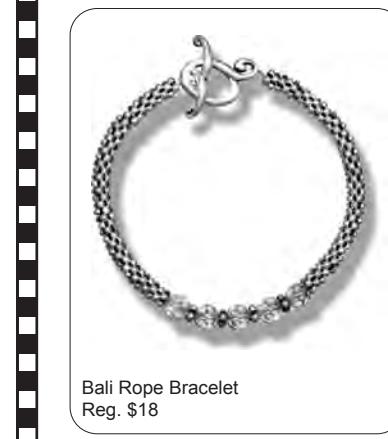
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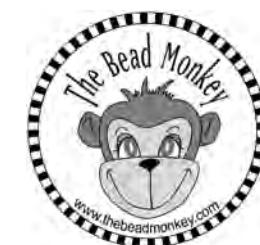


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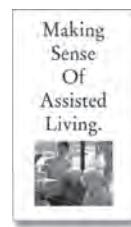
For many years, Bea Evans sang in her church choir and a choral group. Now she's singing the praises of The Wellington in St. Paul's Highland Park.

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Workshops firm up plans for Central Corridor stations

BY JANE MCCLURE

Block by block, foam model piece by foam model piece, plans are taking shape for future development around the proposed Central Corridor light-rail stations on University Avenue. This month the results of daylong workshops will be compiled into draft plans for the areas surrounding seven transit stops between Rice Street and Westgate Business Park.

The workshops will wrap up with a session focusing on the Fairview Avenue station area plan on Wednesday, December 5. An open house to present ideas and hear comments from the public will take place from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. that day at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. Previous workshops examined the Raymond Avenue and Westgate station areas this week, and the Rice Street, Dale Street, Snelling Avenue and Lexington Parkway station areas in mid- to late November.

The workshops have gone well, according to city planner Donna Drummond. Some of the evening sessions have attracted more than two dozen members of the public. Maps have been developed as well as three-dimensional

models of each area.

The station area plans will outline possible zoning changes for areas around each transit stop, as well as plans for future land uses, parks and open space improvements, and bicycle and pedestrian connections. Some of the ideas could be implemented in time for line-rail transit's projected start in 2014. Others will depend upon the availability of land and may not be realized for 30 years or more.

"What you're really looking at are hundreds of visions all up and down University Avenue," said Jeff Patterson of Colliers Turley Martinson and Tucker, a real estate consulting firm that has studied University's market potential. "Some of it may happen; some of it may not."

Most of the station area plans show denser development in existing commercial areas, and smaller-scale development in areas closer to residential neighborhoods. High-rise buildings would be concentrated at major corners. City leaders must still decide what level of density is appropriate for each area, according to George Dark of Urban Strategies, the city's land-use planning consultant for the Central Corridor. "You have to ask how much is too much," he said.

The workshops' results reflect conditions unique to each station area. Between Lexington and Snelling, for example, there are large "superblocks" south of University that were platted more than a century ago for commercial use. "It's a unique building opportunity that doesn't exist in the rest of the city," Dark said.

Breaking up those large blocks with an east-west street, similar to the service road that bisects the block on which the new SuperTarget sits at University and Hamline, is seen as one way to create better bicycle and pedestrian access through the area, as are north-south streets to improve connections to the Snelling station area. City planner Lucy Thompson said "pedestrian-brutal" was a phrase used to describe the area as it currently exists during the station planning workshop. "There's a lot of asphalt and a lot of cars," she said.

However, Paula Maccabee, who represents the owners of Midway Center, suggested that perhaps too many changes were being proposed for the shopping center. Numerous plans to redevelop the center and properties to the south have been floated over the years, ranging from theaters to a hotel to more office and retail space. Maccabee noted that none of those plans proved feasible.

Earlier this year a site plan was approved for a home improvement retailer to locate on the southeast corner of the Midway Center property. Plans also were approved this fall to build a Walgreens and Big Top Liquors near Snelling and Spruce Tree Drive. Those plans were fought by district councils and University United.

Though there may come a time when the shopping center is no longer the best use for the property, what happens to the site will be decided by the marketplace, Maccabee said. She said that adding more buildings along University as part of station area planning could hurt existing businesses.

Central Corridor project engineers have selected the Snelling-University intersection as the preferred site for the Snelling station. The Pascal-University and Asbury-University corners also were considered, but the Snelling corner is expected to provide better connections with Metro Transit buses and would allow left-turn lanes to be retained.

University Avenue accounts for more than half of the 11-mile Central Corridor route between the Twin Cities' two downtowns. Next year, station area planning will begin for transit stops in downtown St. Paul.

Half-mile distance sought between University Ave. transit stops

BY JANE MCCLURE

A push for additional light-rail stations on University Avenue drew nearly 100 people to a meeting at Lao Family Community on November 29. Current plans for the Central Corridor call for stations to be placed at one-mile intervals between Snelling Avenue and Rice Street (at Snelling, Lexington Parkway, Dale Street and Rice). Adding stations at Hamline Avenue, Victoria Street and Western Avenue would cut the distance to a half mile between stations.

"There's a compelling case for additional stations," said Steve Wilson, president of the Summit-University Planning Council, which is a member of the District Councils Collaborative, one of several groups pushing for the added stations. "It's something the community should have and is entitled to."

Joining the collaborative in support of the additional stations are the NAACP, Community Stabilization Project, St. Paul Urban League, Model Cities, University United and Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation. All of those groups are now hurrying to meet a December 12 deadline to get their comments submitted for

the Central Corridor Community Advisory Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 20, at Goodwill/Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave.

The proposed Central Corridor stations were identified in an environmental impact statement (EIS) that was completed last year. Parts of the EIS, including the ones stating where the stations would be located, date back to the 1980s and '90s. The Metropolitan Council is now conducting a supplemental EIS to look at adding one or more new stations, according to community outreach coordinators Shoua Lee and Nkongo Cigolo.

Comments on the additional stations may be e-mailed to carol@dcc-stpaul-mpls.org by December 12. The comments will be added to the District Councils Collaborative research report that was presented on November 29. The report lays out the reasons to add the stations, citing factors ranging from transportation equity to increased potential for redevelopment around the stations.

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, City Council members, Ramsey County commissioners, state legislators and Congresswoman Betty McCollum are joining in the call



Community outreach coordinator Shoua Lee, left, chats with Hai Truong, owner of Ngon Vietnamese Bistro, 799 University Ave. Truong believes a half-mile distance between light-rail stations on University Avenue will increase pedestrian traffic in the area.

for more station sites. Ken Iosso, legislative aide to Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority chairman Rafael Ortega, said the county is urging the Met Council to at least install the infrastructure for the extra stations, even if they cannot be added until later.

Ward 1 council member-elect Melvin Carter III said it doesn't make sense to spend almost \$1 billion on a project, yet not improve transit service for area residents.

Ward 4 council member-elect Russ Stark said other parts of the Central Corridor line have stations closer than one mile. He suggested that the Met Council look at reducing the number of stations in the downtown areas in order to add neighborhood stations.

Nathaniel Khalil of the NAACP said neighborhoods around the Central Corridor need to see benefits if they are going to be disrupted by train operations. "If we can't

have these additional stops, then we shouldn't have light rail running through this community," he said.

Having stations every half-mile would be more consistent with spacing in other rail projects in urban neighborhoods, said researcher Mary Kay Bailey, who prepared the report for the District Councils Collaborative. She said the current spacing between stations puts many destinations out of an easy walk for transit users. That directly affects low-income and minority residents around the east end of University.

The EIS indicated that there could be cutbacks to local bus service with the addition of the Central Corridor, although no final decision has been made on the Route 16 buses that travel on University between the two downtowns. The Route 50 express buses, which operate on University during rush hour and have limited stops, would be eliminated.

Bailey cautioned that adding stations would increase the already rising Central Corridor budget. If the project is to qualify for federal funding, it needs to meet a complicated cost-effectiveness index formula. Current costs are approaching the \$1 billion mark and that needs to be cut to qualify for federal dollars.

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Blowing in the wind

Answer to world's future energy needs may be turning a KidWind turbine kit

BY JOHN BAICHTAL

When Michael Arquin started teaching about wind power in his elementary and secondary school science classes, he had no idea his curriculum would come to influence thousands of teachers and students across the United States.

A graduate of the University of Colorado-Boulder with a B.S. in biology and environmental studies and a master's degree in science education from Cornell University, Arquin taught for five years in Santa Catalina School in Monterey, California. He left teaching in 2003 to pursue a fellowship at Tufts University. There he saw his passion for wind energy coalesce into a bona fide project.

As a fellow at the Wright Center for Science Education, he founded the KidWind Project with the goal of developing not only new curricula in wind energy, but simple wind turbine kits to give students a hands-on understanding of the latest technology in renewable energy.

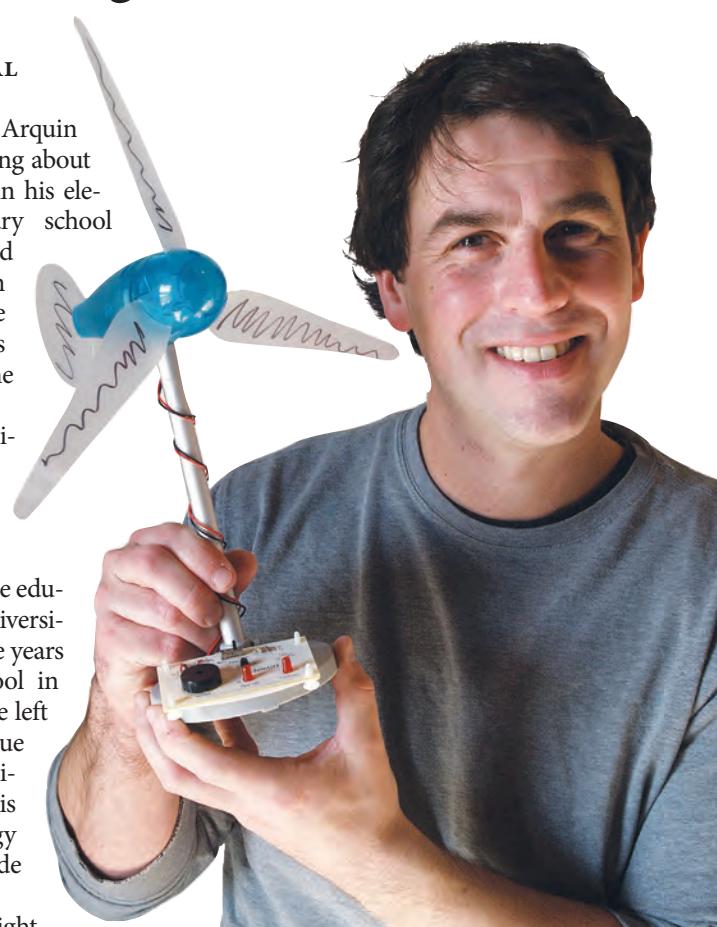
Following the fellowship, he moved to the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood of St. Paul with his wife, Roopali Phadke, who had accepted a professorship in environmental studies at Macalester College. Arquin, 37, now stays at home with his two sons—Kiran, 7, and Adri, 3—running KidWind in his spare time. He recently hired two Macalester graduates to help him out with the project.

One advantage of living in St. Paul is the Wind Source program that Xcel Energy offers to its customers, Arquin said. For a small premium, Wind Source promises to derive a percentage of the energy needed for a household's electrical needs from wind farms. "Checking that box on our Xcel bill says we're interested in paying a little more money for wind power," Arquin said. "What that does is drive the production of wind farms. It's symbolic, but it'll actually have some meaning in the end."

All of the electricity in Arquin's home and workshop is derived from wind power through the Wind Source program, he said. He said it only costs him an additional \$10 every month.

"With a really aggressive national program in wind energy, we could produce around 20 percent of our energy from wind in the next 20 to 30 years," Arquin said. Though it would require a substantial investment in infrastructure, the industry is on the brink of having the necessary technology, he said. "Turbines have gotten larger and much more reliable—gear boxes, blades, everything," he said. "Also, we're producing more of them, so we have some economies of scale."

As KidWind's curriculum evolved, Arquin realized there was a dearth of wind energy hardware appropriate for the classroom. "There were a lot of products out there, but they were like \$300 or \$500," he said. One turbine kit developed by KidWind allows students to modify the design of a turbine's blades and then measure the electrical output to determine the ideal configuration. Another kit tips its hat to the windmills of old by allowing students to measure how much weight



Michael Arquin displays KidWind's Windlab Jr. kit.
PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

can be hoisted by wind power alone.

When not developing new hardware, Arquin organizes workshops to assist science teachers in developing their own curricula. "During the summer we'll hold 10 workshops all over the U.S.," he said. "We'll go to, like, New York and for a day take 40 teachers and teach them about wind power, what goes on in the classroom, and take them on a tour of a wind farm."

Over the past few years, KidWind has held more than 60 workshops and other educational programs for upwards of 1,800 participants, Arquin said. Most of them have been teachers who have gone on to influence tens of thousands of students, he said.

Though his primary audience is teachers, Arquin has made it a point to find out what appeals to students. He has separate lesson plans for elementary, middle school and secondary students. Though girls' interest in science may lag behind that of boys, Arquin has found that if he frames the wind energy curriculum in terms of improving society as a whole, it increases its appeal to girls. "Instead of saying, 'Let's make the car go faster,' say, 'Let's make the ambulance travel in a more efficient way,'" he said. "The girls will get into it."

Last month Arquin and his assistants participated in Family Science Saturday at Minneapolis' Bakken Museum, where adults and children built wind turbines and experimented with wind turbine blades. On December 6 KidWind will take part in the Bakken's Renewable Energy Expo. Arquin also hopes to teach a class next summer at Minneapolis' Leonardo's Basement.

Arquin estimates that he has sold or distributed more than 5,000 science kits of various types through workshops over the past two years. His on-line store at www.kidwind.org offers dozens of different kits—not only of wind projects but solar energy and fuel cell projects, too—in addition to replacement parts and a small assortment of books.

The KidWind Project's website is much more than a store, however. With new ideas for science fairs, lesson plans, ready-made presentations and bibliographies, Arquin's organization aims to impress as many people as possible on the benefits of wind energy.

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Hardy embraces new assignment on St. Paul School Board

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

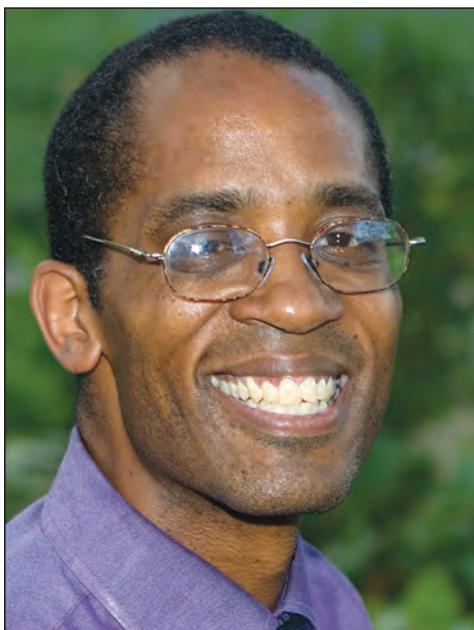
Keith Hardy has a passion for education that he has been able to express as both a student and teacher. With his election to the St. Paul School Board on November 6, he is looking forward to taking that passion to a new level.

"My experience is what drives me," said Hardy, the first African American on the St. Paul School Board since Toni Carter departed in 2005 to run for the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. "My parents encouraged my sister Vanessa and me to finish school and learn as much as possible."

Although his parents never graduated from high school, Hardy, 44, took their advice to heart, moving through the public schools of Buffalo, New York, and Seneca, South Carolina, graduating from the University of Texas in Arlington with a degree in journalism and completing the coursework for a master's degree in technical communication at the University of Minnesota.

A resident of St. Paul's East Side, Hardy is employed as a project coordinator and trainer in information technology for Target Corporation. For much of the past two decades he has also taught speech and leadership classes to youngsters at public and private schools and through community service organizations. Single and the father of a 7-year-old son, he has also served as a mentor to youth through the Girl Scouts, the Brian Coyle Community Center, the Multi-Cultural Excellence Program, the Microsoft Youth Information Technology Curriculum and Family Advocate Network Systems.

Hardy has also served on the boards of a variety of nonprofit organizations, including the



Keith Hardy

American Diabetes Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, Resources for Child Caring, the Education and Housing Equity Project and the Council on Black Aging.

"Most everything Keith does outside of work involves fundraising for one organization or another," said Pat Croal, who met Hardy 15 years ago when they were members of Toastmasters International and has volunteered with him on downtown Minneapolis' Holidazzle Parade. "Did he tell you he volunteers at the Renaissance Festival every year, too? He'll dress in costume and hawk T-shirts or beer for one organization or another."

Former School Board member Al Oertwig recruited Hardy to serve on the school dis-

trict's Citizens Budget and Finance Advisory Committee in 1997-98. Hardy left the committee after a year, but came back in 2002 and for the past two years served as its chair.

Through all of those activities, Hardy said, he has tried to pass along some of the "good seeds" his parents and mentors planted in him. He cited four of them:

- Ask questions. It shows people you are truly interested in learning. You have two ears and one mouth; listen twice as much as you speak.
- Respect your elders. Seek their advice and learn from their experience.
- Live with integrity. People will then rely on you and respect you, even if they disagree with you.
- Do your work well, so that if someone nitpicks, it's their problem, not yours."

Two experiences that had a profound impact on Hardy's outlook on life both happened when he was 13: His sister died and he was diagnosed with Marfan syndrome, a genetic disease that he called his "bogeyman" and "a death sentence of sorts," because it can cause severe cardiovascular problems. However, he said, it hasn't stopped him from training as a long-distance runner, covering up to 31 miles at a stretch, or from "high goals that, even if missed, land me among the stars. My sister's death is my motivation for demanding the utmost service from health care professionals and not buying into what they say because of their title. Her death is one reason I educate people about their health choices and lifestyle."

Among Hardy's goals as a School Board member is to eliminate the achievement gap between minority and white students and to engage more parents and citizens at large in

"helping children achieve academic success by taking charge of their own education, asking questions, seeking additional challenges and pushing themselves to excel," he said.

Hardy also wants to use his experience as a mentor to promote the expansion and consolidation of public and private tutoring and mentoring programs. He said he will use his business connections and appear in front of religious organizations, social service agencies and district councils to recruit volunteer tutors and mentors.

Some children are discouraged by their peers from "being smart," according to Hardy. "There's nothing wrong with being smart," he said. "I especially want students of color to know it's all right to make the honor roll and to have the same high expectations of themselves as other students."

According to Joanne Clark, who served with Hardy on the Citizens Budget and Finance Advisory Committee, Hardy "gets it. By that I mean he has seen the data from the school district about student behavior and he can infuse the School Board with a cultural perspective of what African American students need to get to the next level of education. Hardy will make an excellent School Board member, because you can't really be a good one without getting out to all the schools and Keith has already been doing that through all of his mentoring work."

Hardy is a "real trivia buff," Croal said, "especially on movies, sports and history. He has a great memory, which makes him a great teammate for Trivial Pursuit." Of his election to the School Board, Croal said, "I know it's something he's dreamed of for a long time. He's so passionate about helping kids to succeed. It's evident in everything he does."

Names in the News

Lynne Megan of Merriam Park received the 2007 Special Board Award at Arc of Minnesota's recent state convention in Duluth. Megan is an active member of Arc's Governnmental Affairs Committee and has participated in rallies and lobbying days at the state Capitol. She is CEO and president of TSE Inc. of Roseville, a provider of employment services for persons with disabilities.

Army Reserve Private Tianna LeMieux has graduated from basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. LeMieux is the daughter of Bambi LeMieux of South Minneapolis.

Denise Johnson, a Summit-University neighborhood resident and editorial writer for the *Star Tribune*, received the Widening the Circle Award from ThreeSixty this month for her work in mentoring high school students of color who are interested in journalism. Johnson has worked with student journalists for more than 30 years, first through the Urban Journalism Workshop that began in 1971 and now through its successor, ThreeSixty, which is based at the University of St. Thomas.

Eric Nyberg has been named president of Keystone Community Services in Merriam

Park. He had been serving as Keystone's interim president ever since Greg Wandersee retired in May. Nyberg has been on staff at Keystone (and its predecessor, Merriam Park Community Services) since 1984, most recently as vice president and chief program and development officer.

Jeff Prauer of Macalester-Groveland has been hired as executive director of the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. Prauer, who served as executive director of Community Programs in the Arts for the past 14 years, will assume his new post in January.

Frank Brittain, a senior at St. Paul Academy, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of Troop 1 sponsored by St. Mark's Catholic Church. For his Eagle Scout service project, Brittain restored a trail at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul.

Mary Mackbee, principal of Central High School, will receive a Women of Distinction award from Century College on December 13. Mackbee is being honored for her work in getting under-represented students ready for college.

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Highland Park Elementary principal Teresa Ciccarelli donned a wizard costume to whip up some mathematical magic during Math Night at the school. She is pictured playing a strategy game with 1st-grader Lila Craverio, left, 2nd-graders Maddie Teipel and Noelle Craverio, 5th-grader Max Griffing and 6th-grader P.D. Weisman. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

School Notes

Nathan Schwartzbauer was named St. Thomas Academy's 100th Cadet Colonel on November 21. He was handed the Fleming Saber by headmaster Thomas Mich while surrounded by fellow cadets, administrators, faculty members, previous cadet colonels, parents and area residents. His lieutenant colonels are seniors Patrick Hertenstein, Charles Nocker, Benjamin Schneeman, Alexander Schneider and Peter Waldvogel.



Talmud Torah of St. Paul, 768 Hamline Ave. S., will hold recruitment open houses for the upper school (grades 5-8) at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, December 9, and for the lower school (grades K-4) at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, January 20. For information or to set up an individual tour, call Amy Alch at 651-698-8807. Information also is available by visiting www.ttsp.org.

A Holiday Book Drive for Expo and Homecroft elementary schools in Highland Park is being held through January 1 at Barnes & Noble, 2080 Ford Pkwy. Customers are invited to buy a new book and leave it with the store to distribute to the schools.

Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights will host its second annual invitational debate tournament on Friday and Saturday, December 7-8. The tournament is expected to draw more than 30 schools and nearly 200 debaters. The Sibley varsity debate team got off to a good start this year by winning the Concordia Invitational in Moorhead on November 2-3. The Warriors also placed a team in the top eight during the Iowa Caucus Tournament in Cedar Rapids on October 27. Sibley's David Wolkowicz finished eighth out of a field of 140 debaters in that event.

St. Paul Open School, 90 S. Western Ave., will celebrate its homecoming on Saturday, December 8, beginning at 1:00 p.m. with a theater production, *The Italian Straw Hat*, and ending with a social hour from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Music, food, tours, snacks by a crackling fire and Fraquetball are just a few of the events being planned. Call 651-293-8670.

Our Lady of Peace High School alumnae and former staff members will gather at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, December 20, for the fourth annual recreation of the school's traditional holiday candlelighting ceremony, which was held at the all-girls' school each year before Christmas vacation. The event will take place at the site of the former high school, which has been the home to William Mitchell Col-

lege of Law since 1975. The ceremony will include recognizing the 50th anniversary of the class of 1957 and food donations will be collected for Second Harvest Heartland. Visit www.OLPalum.com or call Joni Mitchell at 651-633-8657.

School District 197 is now accepting registration for winter and spring Early Childhood Family Education classes for children age birth to pre-kindergarten and their parents. Classes are held in the day and evening at Somerset School in Mendota Heights and at Pilot Knob School in Eagan. The winter session begins the week of January 2, and the spring session begins March 24. Call 651-405-2638.

The Highland Park High School debate team finished in the final rounds of two tournaments on November 2-3. Novices Kathryn Berrisford and Andrew Hall were quarterfinalists at the Concordia Moorhead tournament, and seniors Juan Garcia and Nat Olson were semifinalists in a tournament held in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Garcia was named the top speaker in the tournament, Olson was fourth and junior Jillian Jordan was 10th. Jordan and sophomore Tamar Kaplan finished as octafinalists in the tournament. Both teams earned bids to the Tournament of Champions that will be held in Kentucky in May. The next weekend, Highland hosted the Capital City Invitational tournament, which drew more than 400 debaters, coaches and judges from around the state.

St. Thomas Academy physics teacher Mark Westlake was named a winner in the Innovation in Teaching category for the 2007 Tekne Awards that were presented in November by the Minnesota High Tech Association. Westlake has been teaching physics at STA for 18 years. He created the school's experimental vehicle teams, which have won eight national championships, set national records and have been featured in *Popular Mechanics*. This year's team recently received a \$10,000 Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant to support the development of a street-legal, electric motorcycle that will be safer than today's motorcycles and be able to travel more than 40 miles before needing to be recharged. The motorcycle is expected to be finished by April 2008.

Correction

The seat of St. Paul School Board member Tom Goldstein will be up for election in the fall of 2009 along with those of School Board members John Brodrick and Elona Street-Stewart, contrary to what was reported in the November 21 *Villager*.

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Crime Report

The following police calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports provided by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. For more information, visit www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/communitywatch.htm.

Highland Park

Robbery—The Oasis Market at Ford Parkway and Finn Street was robbed at about 5:00 p.m. Thursday, November 1.

—The Subway restaurant in Sibley Plaza was robbed at 3:15 p.m. Monday, November 5. When the cashier opened the register to give a man change, the suspect snatched the money and fled.

Burglary—Two juveniles were arrested for burglary on the 1100 block of St. Paul Avenue at about 10:30 p.m. Monday, October 29. The resident was home at the time.

—A laptop computer was stolen from Parkway Auto Care, 1581 Ford Pkwy., at about 2:30 a.m. Thursday, November 1. The glass in the front door had been smashed out.

—The Highland Business Center, 790 S. Cleveland Ave., was broken into between 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 31, and 6:30 a.m. Thursday, November 1.

—A home on the 1300 block of Hartford Avenue was burglarized between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Thursday, November 8.

—A home on the 2000 block of Saunders Avenue was broken into sometime before 3:30 a.m. Sunday, November 11.

Theft—A purse was stolen at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy., at about 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 7.

—Wallets were stolen from two employees at O'Kane & Monssen Dentists, 2221 Ford Pkwy., between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 13.

—A spool of speaker wire was stolen from Radio Shack on Ford Parkway at about 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 13.

—A theft from auto occurred at the Highland Ice Arena between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 13. The car's window was broken out and a purse was stolen.

Weapons—Witnesses heard five gunshots on the 2400 block of Youngman Avenue at about 11:30 p.m. Monday, October 29.

Miscellaneous—Four female students ages 14-15 were cited for underage consumption of alcohol at Highland Park High School, 1015 S. Snelling Ave., at 10:30 a.m. Monday, October 29.

Assault—A man was arrested for making terroristic threats and possessing a dangerous weapon at Randolph and Snelling avenues at about 8:00 a.m. Thursday, November 1. He was wearing a Halloween mask, a bathrobe and cowboy boots and was waving a butcher knife at people inside the businesses at the intersection.

—A man was assaulted at the Highland Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy., at about 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 13. The suspect was gone when police arrived.

Lexington-Hamline

Assault—Two students punched and kicked another student at Concordia University at about 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 31.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A wallet and electronic items were taken from a home on the 400 block of South Snelling Avenue between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 27.

—A black 1996 Acura Integra was stolen from a garage on the 1900 block of Berkeley Avenue between 9:00 p.m. Tuesday and 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 30-31.

—Necklaces and bracelets were taken from Charlemagne Fine Jewelry, 1262 Grand Ave., at about 1:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 30. Forced entry was gained through a window.

—An attempted burglary occurred at Custom Crafted Upholstery, 1326 Grand Ave., between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 31. The rear metal door was bent at the bottom and entry was gained to a hallway. A wooden door leading to a storage room was broken off its hinges, but nothing appeared to be missing.

Assault—A man was charged with obstruction and disorderly conduct on Monday, October 29, after he pushed his way into a classroom at Groveland Park Elementary School to remove his son from school. Police went

to the home of the boy's grandfather, who has legal custody of the child. The suspect arrived at the home and fought with police, knocking one of the officers down a hill.

Theft—A car was broken into and a purse was taken at Mississippi River Boulevard and Summit Avenue between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. Friday, November 9.

Merriam Park

Burglary—A home on the 1900 block of Carroll Avenue was broken into between 2:00 and 4:30 a.m. Thursday, November 1, while the residents were home. A white 1999 Mercury Cougar was stolen from the vicinity at around the same time.

—Computer equipment was stolen from a home on the 300 block of North Wilder Street between midnight and 11:30 a.m. Thursday, November 1.

—A home on the 1800 block of Marshall Avenue was burglarized between 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Thursday, November 1.

—A laptop computer was stolen from an apartment on the 1800 block of Marshall Avenue while the resident was taking a shower between 10:00 and 10:30 p.m. Monday, November 5.

—A video game system was taken from a home on the 2000 block of Laurel Avenue between noon and 5:30 p.m. Saturday, November 10.

—Residential Service, 475 N. Cleveland Ave., was broken into between 7:00 p.m. Wednesday and 7:00 a.m. Thursday, November 7-8.

Miscellaneous—A 20-year-old St. Louis Park man was cited for underage consumption after police found him lying on the sidewalk at Cretin and Marshall avenues just after midnight Sunday, October 28.

—Police cited a 20-year-old Tofte, Minnesota, man for underage consumption on the 2100 block of Dayton Avenue at about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, October 28.

Theft—A 1994 Honda Civic RX was stolen on the 200 block of North Mississippi River Boulevard between Wednesday night and Thursday morning, October 31-November 1.

—A moped was stolen on the 1700 block of

Ashland Avenue between 6:00 p.m. Thursday and 5:00 p.m. Friday, November 1-2.

—A black 1996 Acura Integra was stolen from the University of St. Thomas' parking lot on Summit and Cretin avenues between 7:30 p.m. and midnight Tuesday, November 13.

Arson—A cardboard box was set on fire on the front steps of a house at about 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 13, on the 2100 block of Marshall Avenue.

Summit Hill

Burglary—Multiple items were taken from a residence on the 400 block of Grand Avenue between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 13.

—Caribou Coffee at Grand Avenue and Oxford Street was broken into between 10:00 p.m. Sunday and 4:30 a.m. Monday, November 11-12.

Robbery—A juvenile robbed a woman on the 900 block of Goodrich Avenue at about 10:00 p.m. Thursday, November 8.

Summit-University

Robbery—A man was robbed at knifepoint on the 500 block of Selby Avenue at about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 31.

—Suspects stole an employee's backpack as she was leaving Paisano's Pizza, 619 Selby Ave., at about 1:00 a.m. Sunday, November 4.

—A juvenile was robbed in a park near Western Avenue and I-94 between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, November 4.

Theft—A pair of \$400 blue jeans was stolen from 6 Twelve Premium on Selby Avenue and Dale Street around 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 30.

—A 20-foot steel chain was stolen from the Cathedral of St. Paul at about noon Tuesday, November 5.

Burglary—Fabulous Fern's, 400 Selby Ave., was broken into at about 5:30 a.m. Monday, November 12.

Weapons—Police recovered several spent shell casings in the street after receiving a report of shots being fired near Western and Summit avenues at about 12:30 a.m. Tuesday,

CRIME REPORT ▶ 19

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Residents to review latest plans for Cleveland/St. Paul Ave. intersection

BY JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul Department of Public Works will present the latest plan to rebuild the Cleveland and St. Paul Avenue intersection during a meeting of the Transportation Committee of the Highland District Council (HDC) at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 11, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. If all goes as planned, the long-awaited reconstruction of the intersection could take place next year.

The neighborhood meeting is one of two this month where the project will be discussed. On December 5, the St. Paul City Council will hold a public hearing on a proposal to acquire an easement across part of 885 St. Paul Ave. as part of the reconstruction project. The property has an estimated cost of \$45,000.

Reconstruction of the intersection was scheduled for this year, but was postponed to allow for more discussion of the plan. According to project engineer Barb Mundahl, the redesigned intersection will be moved slightly to the north to place it farther from an apartment building at 885 St. Paul Ave.

Cleveland and St. Paul Avenue currently intersect at an angle just south of Highland Village. The design has posed an ongoing safety problem. Drivers are supposed to signal their turns when passing through the intersection, but they don't always do so. Vehicles also speed through the area, causing a hazard to other vehicles and to pedestrians.

The HDC's Transportation Committee has long been divided on the best way to reconfigure the intersection. The area is fully developed with houses, apartment buildings and Lumen Christi Catholic Church, so there is little open space for a full-scale redesign.

The HDC sought city funding for more than a decade to study and rebuild the intersection before finally receiving \$513,000 from the city's Capital Improvement Budget Committee for the 2006-2007 funding cycle. The project has long been supported by residents and the Highland Business Association.

18 ▲ CRIME REPORT

November 13. A bullet hole was found in a nearby apartment window. No injuries were reported.

Lilydale

Arson—A fire was set at the Lilydale boat launch on Lilydale Road and Water Street, at about 4:30 a.m. Friday, November 9. Police saw two males in a pickup truck near the scene. The pickup fled, but ran off the road, crashed into the railroad bridge and caught fire. A 20-year-old man was transported to Regions Hospital with leg and hip injuries. A juvenile with a severe cut in his arm was also taken to Regions.

West End

Miscellaneous—Someone placed tinfoil on the satellite dish on top of the Mobil station on the 200 block of Grand Avenue between 11:00 p.m. Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday, October 26-27. The tinfoil prevented credit cards from being checked.

Burglary—A home on the 600 block of South Victoria Street was burglarized between 5:00 p.m. Thursday and 9:00 a.m. Friday, November 8-9. A back basement window was



Plans for rebuilding the angled intersection at Cleveland and St. Paul Avenue will be presented on December 11 at the Hillcrest Recreation Center.

Last year, the HDC's Transportation Committee reviewed a proposal to put a roundabout in the center of the intersection of Cleveland, Bohland Avenue and Inner Drive. Though St. Paul has several small traffic circles in residential neighborhoods, this would have been the city's first roundabout, a circular intersection where traffic flows around a center island. Many Twin Cities suburbs have added roundabouts in recent years to calm traffic. At many intersections, roundabouts are used as alternatives to traffic signals. Roundabouts are meant to reduce the number of places where vehicles can crash at an intersection.

After discussing the roundabout with neighboring property owners, the HDC committee rejected the idea in November 2006, citing concerns about traffic safety.

Any plan to rebuild the intersection would affect a long-standing neighborhood request that St. Paul Avenue be reduced from four lanes to two, with turn lanes added at intersections. Some neighbors also have asked for bicycle lanes to be added to the street. St. Paul Avenue currently has 8-foot parking lanes and two 11-foot traffic lanes in each direction. A restriping proposal would create 10-foot parking lanes, 6-foot bicycle lanes and one 12-foot traffic lane in each direction.

Merchants warned of cash 'n' dash suspect

Highland beat officer Threasa Timp is warning local shop owners to be on the lookout for a man who is stealing cash from businesses all round the Twin Cities, including Highland Park and Grand Avenue. The suspect reportedly engages clerks in small talk and as soon as the cash drawer is open he grabs the money and runs.

He is described as a black male in his late 30s to early 40s, 6-foot to 6-foot-3 and about 250 pounds. He was last seen on Grand Avenue the day after Thanksgiving. Anyone who sees the suspect is asked to call the police immediately.

broken out and the gas line was damaged.

Theft—Three security cameras were stolen from SuperAmerica, 1125 W. 7th St., between 4:30 a.m. Friday and 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 9-13.

—A white male suspect pulled down a utility pole and tried to steal the copper wiring out of it at about 5:30 a.m. Monday, November 12, at Dezinnia Inc., 1032 W. 7th St.

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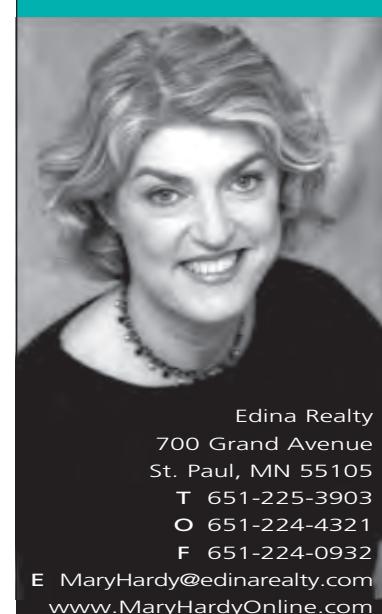
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So much to be grateful for.

I would like to thank all my loyal clients and friends for making 2007 another record year. I truly appreciate your referrals and your trust in me. It has been an honor to work with you. Wishing you a happy peaceful holiday season!

Congratulations to the recent buyers and sellers of these properties:

63 S Avon St #36	1078 Linwood Ave
988 Dayton Ave #1	700 Linwood Ave
1374 Edgecumbe Rd	761 Linwood Ave
961 Fairmount Ave	252 Maiden Ln #2
737 Fairmount Ave	2 Overhill Dr
753 Fairmount Ave	1256 Palace Ave
1021 Fairmount Ave	1057 Portland Ave
1219 Hartford Ave	811 Portland Ave
415 Holly Ave	436 Portland Ave #15
1487 Igelhart Ave	1999 Sargent Ave
22 Kent St	1325 Summit Ave
25 Kenwood Pkwy	1189 Summit Ave
2351 Kressin Ave	353 Summit Ave
576 Lincoln Ave	629 Summit Ave
1368 Lincoln Ave	1373 Summit Ave
690 Lincoln Ave	118 Wheeler St
727 Lincoln Ave	427 Woodlawn Ave

'Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam, Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home; Home, home, sweet, sweet home! There's no place like home, oh, there's no place like home. Home, home, sweet, sweet home!

Math Tips for Parents

How to help your child become mathematically fluent

These strategies can be started as early as kindergarten, first, or second grade. The trick is to do these exercises both **orally** and **visually**, with little or no writing. Pictures or objects can be used as visual aids.

Learning Addition Facts

Here is the structure of the process of learning addition facts.

Doubles

$$5 + 5 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$9 + 9 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Doubles plus 1 — Doubles minus 1

$$5 + 6 = 5 + 5 + 1 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$8 + 7 = 8 + 8 - 1 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Counting on (start at x and count-up by y)

$$7 + 2 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$8 + 3 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Breaking-down Numbers

$$6 + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = 9$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} + 7 = 11$$

Combinations that make 10

$$8 + 2 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$6 + 4 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

10 plus a number

$$10 + 7 = 17$$

$$10 + 9 = 19$$

10 plus what number

$$10 + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = 16$$

$$10 + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = 19$$

Putting it all together

$$8 + 6 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad [8 + 2 \text{ makes } 10 \dots 6 - 2 = 4 \dots 10 + 4 = 14]$$

$$9 + 7 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \quad [9 + 1 \text{ makes } 10 \dots 7 - 1 = 6 \dots 10 + 6 = 16]$$

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Keeping the faith

St. Paul's on the Hill remains true to high church tradition

BY TOM CONLON

A beautiful building alone is not a vibrant community," said the Right Reverend James Jelinek, eighth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota. Speaking at a November dinner marking the 150th anniversary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Jelinek challenged the 140 congregants and guests to "reach out to where the poorest of the poor are in the world and be generous givers of the Word to the broken world."

Noting the current state of decline in many mainline congregations, he cautioned St. Paul's faithful to rise to the occasion. Any congregation that "fails to meet the mission of social justice and spiritual nourishment deserves to die," he said.

St. Paul's was the city's first Episcopal congregation, founded in 1857 at 9th and Olive streets downtown. A century ago, its members dismantled the church in Lowertown and transported the stones by oxcart up Summit Avenue to be reused in the elegant edifice in which the congregation now worships at 1524 Summit Ave. The original stained-glass windows, pews, altar and other furnishings were incorporated in the new church, which held

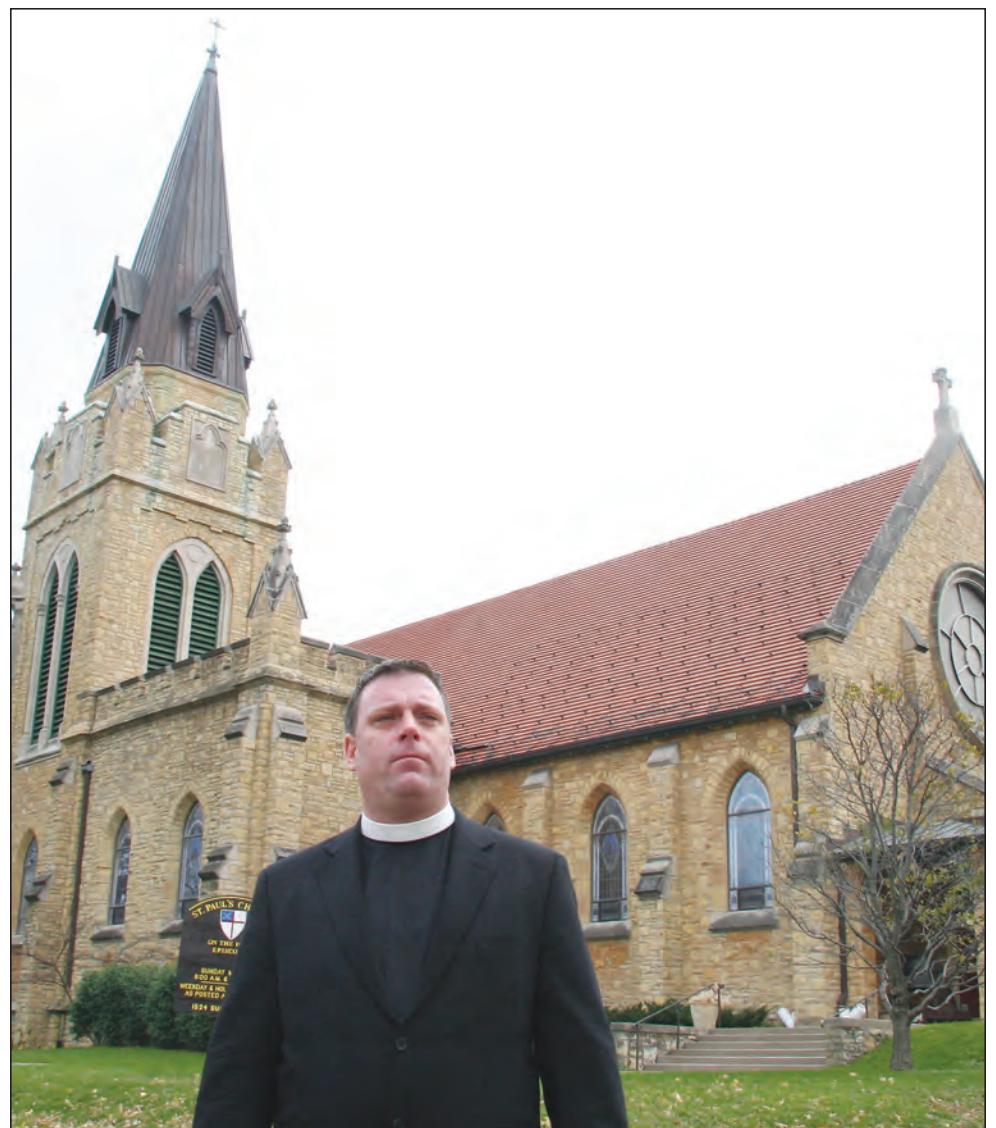
its first service on Christmas Day 1913.

St. Paul's is the only church in the city with a human crypt beneath its altar. Dr. John Wright, St. Paul's rector from 1887 to 1914 and rector emeritus until his death in 1919, was buried in the church that he and his congregants built six years earlier.

Originally known as St. Paul's Church, the congregation became St. Paul's Church on the Hill at its new home, which is on one of the highest points of land in that part of town, according to the Reverend Ted Neuhaus, who served the congregation from 2000 to 2004.

"St. Paul's was always different from other nearby Episcopal congregations in that we followed a high church tradition," Neuhaus said. "The Oxford Movement's influences guided us toward active roles in social justice, celebrating the Eucharist weekly and using incense, bells, vestments and a full choir in worship. In most Episcopal parishes, quarterly Eucharist was the practice, so we had a special niche. But when major reforms came about in 1976, the new prayer book brought all Episcopal churches back to this tradition, and we were no longer the only congregation

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH ON THE HILL ► 23



Vicar the Reverend Mark Thompson and his St. Paul's Church on the Hill. PHOTO BY TOM CONLON

Volunteers

Rebuilding Together is seeking handy women and men to spend a Saturday fixing the homes of Twin Cities veterans injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Skilled labor will be available to do the heavy lifting and supervise the work. Call 651-776-4273.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities is seeking mentors for its programs at Bruce Vento, Como Park, Dayton's Bluff, Mississippi, Webster and World Cultures elementary schools and Highland Park Junior High School. Volunteers spend one hour a week with a child, usually over lunch, to build trust and help improve their self-esteem and school performance. Call 651-789-2400.

Hennepin County is seeking volunteers to help monitor low-risk adults on probation for driving while intoxicated and drug-related of-

fenses. A one-year commitment of four to six hours a week during regular business hours is required. Contact Tatiana Przytula at 612-348-6893 or tatiana.przytula@co.hennepin.mn.us.

Sister Study, a nationwide effort to find the causes of breast cancer, is seeking 50,000 women ages 35-74 who have not had breast cancer but have a sister who has. The study is being conducted by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. For more information, call 1-800-227-2345.

The Science Museum of Minnesota needs volunteers to serve as interpreters for a new exhibit, "Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race," that will run from February 27 through May 4, 2008. The exhibit is from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and explores the history of Nazi eugenic programs

that paved the way for the near annihilation of European Jewry. For information, visit www.smm.org or call 651-221-4703.

Winter Carnival Junior Royalty candidates are being sought by the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation. Teens in grades 7-9 who live or attend school in St. Paul are eligible to compete for King Frost, Queen of the Snowflakes and other members of the Junior Court. The application deadline is December 7. Call Kate Ross at 651-292-6508.

The Twin Cities Red Cross is seeking nominations for its Ready Awards, which will recognize eight local heroes at an inaugural Heroes Breakfast on April 22, 2008. The awards will recognize heroes who are Citizen Ready, Community Ready, Disaster Relief Ready, Emergency Medical Assistance Ready,

Good Samaritan Ready, Youth Good Samaritan Ready (under 21), Fire Fighter Ready and Law Enforcement Ready. To nominate a hero, visit www.redcrosstc.org. Nominations are due by December 14.

Guild Incorporated is seeking volunteers to spend a few hours a month befriending an adult with mental illness. Call 651-450-2220, ext. 18, e-mail volunteer@guildincorporated.org, or visit www.guildincorporated.org.

The Summit Hill Association is looking for volunteers to help with various office tasks, such as copying, data entry, neighborhood mailings and the like. Residents who would be willing to share a couple of hours each week and learn more about the SHA's work are asked to call Diane Hilden or Jeff Roy at the SHA office at 651-222-1222.

Scott: "Did F. Scott Fitzgerald and Zelda leave any mark on the University Club on Summit Avenue?"

Jim: It's not true that Scott's carved initials are still in the bar at the club which opened in 1913. But as a college student he danced frequently in the dining room there, and was part of sleigh ride parties that originated there and ended up at the Town and Country Club. Scott and Zelda loved jokes and in 1922 concocted a satirical newspaper falsely accusing the club of having a "Bad Luck Ball," other wild parties and a fist fight. From *F. Scott Fitzgerald's St. Paul* by John J. Koblas.



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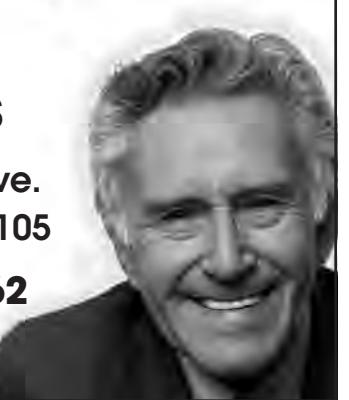
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Religious Notes

A Celtic contemplative service will be celebrated at 6:51 p.m. Sunday, December 9, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave. The theme is "Spirit of God, Fill the Earth, Bring It to Birth." Call 651-699-6886.

Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave., is offering a Hanukah Market now through December 9. Plates, napkins, dreidels, music, gelt and more are being sold. Call 651-698-3881.

Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 38th Ave. S. in Minneapolis, will present a Christmas Praise Concert at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 9. Guest musicians will include vocalists Lori Dokken, Debbie Duncan and Judi Donaghy and the gospel ensemble James Greal & Company. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8.00 for children. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Call 612-729-7556.

Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality will offer the following programs at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave.: Men and Racism: The Breakfast of Champions, 7:30-9:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 5 (\$30); The Star of Bethlehem: An Advent Presentation, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 5 (\$10); Advent Prayer on the Labyrinth: Echoes from the Chartres Cathedral, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 11 (\$30); and Winter Solstice: Drumming and Celtic Shamanic Ceremony, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, December 20-22 (\$20). Call 651-696-2788.

"The First Jewish Family: What We Can Learn from Abraham and Sarah" will be the topic for the 12:30 Torah classes offered at 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays, December 5 and 19, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is free. Participants are invited to bring lunch. Call Sean Herstein at 651-255-4739.

St. David's Society of Minnesota will present a Welsh Service of Lessons and Carols at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 9, at St. James Episcopal Church-on-the-Parkway, 3325 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Minneapolis. Nine scripture passages will be read, each followed by a related carol sung by the congregation. Tea and treats will be served after the service.

Safam, a Boston group known for its Jewish-American sound, will present a free concert at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, December 9, at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. The concert is the concluding event of the synagogue's jubilee celebration highlighting 50 years in Highland Park. Call 651-698-8874.

22 ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

following that type of worship."

St. Paul's membership peaked prior to the 1960s when "suburbanization, changing transportation patterns and societal changes were impacting many mainline urban congregations," Neuhaus said. "During my years at St. Paul's, we were averaging 85 to 100 worshippers between two Sunday services."

St. Paul's, which can seat about 400, averages 100 Sunday worshippers today, and its commitment to prayer, social activism and sacred music continues. The Reverend Mark Thompson succeeded Neuhaus as St. Paul's vicar and inaugurated new programs for reaching out to local college students, the poor and minority populations. "Our average attendance has now surpassed any in the last 10 years, and we're financially stronger than at any time in that period," Thompson said. "Yet there is still much to do, for the need in our world is great."

"Radical hospitality, passionate advocacy, and inspiring worship are our core commitments and have been throughout our church's history," Thompson said. "Women were not formally admitted to the Episcopal priesthood until 1976, but St. Paul's played an early role in the women's liturgical movement. Jean

Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S. in Minneapolis, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ordination of the Reverend Kristine Carlson at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, December 9. A reception and program will follow. For more information, call 612-721-6611.



Rev. Kristine Carlson

A Service of Lessons and Carols will be presented at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 16, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1895 Laurel Ave. The service will include scripture readings foretelling the birth of Jesus, along with traditional Advent and Christmas music. A medieval feast of pork with cherry sauce will follow the service. Dressing up is encouraged. The cost for the meal is \$8.00 per person or \$30 per family. Call 651-646-6175.

A Festival of Lights dinner will be held on Saturday, December 8, at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. Entertainment will be provided by jazz singer Patty Peterson and her mother, pianist Jeanne Arland Peterson. A social hour will open the affair at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and a candlelighting ceremony in recognition of Hanukah. *Temple of Aaron Jubilee, 1956-2006*, a book tracing the 50-year history of the synagogue in Highland Park, will be presented at the gala. Call 651-698-8874.

A Christmas Vespers Service will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 10, in the Graebner Memorial Chapel at Concordia University, 1259 Carroll Ave. The service is being presented by the university's Music Department under the direction of William Ford. Admission is free.

A healing Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 17, at Lumen Christi Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. The Reverend Matt Linn will preside. Call 651-690-1501.

Lessons and Carols for Advent will be presented at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, December 16, at St. Clement's Church, 901 Portland Ave. The children's, youth and main choir will perform. A reception will follow. Call 651-228-1164.

Fleetham (of St. Paul's) became the first woman to serve on a vestry (local Episcopal church council) in the late 1950s. And in 1974, St. Paul's Jeannette Picard, a teacher and scientist who pioneered balloon flight, was among the Philadelphia 11 who were ordained the first women priests by three retired Episcopal bishops, then in violation of church code."

St. Paul's has proven to be remarkably adaptable in the face of a changing society, according to Cathy Carpenter, a 24-year member of the congregation and a former senior warden of the vestry.

St. Paul's hosted the Minnesota Diocese's first Hispanic congregation when in 1992 it invited La Mission El Santo Nino to share its church—a partnership that continues to this day.

"Our core values guide us," Carpenter said. "St. Paul's is a congregation with beautiful liturgy, a holy place with a strong prayer focus, one committed to social justice in our community and the world, and a beautiful building in the Summit Avenue historic district. We do face challenges in maintaining a large older building and bringing more families and students into the church, but our numbers are improving and we look to the future with optimism."

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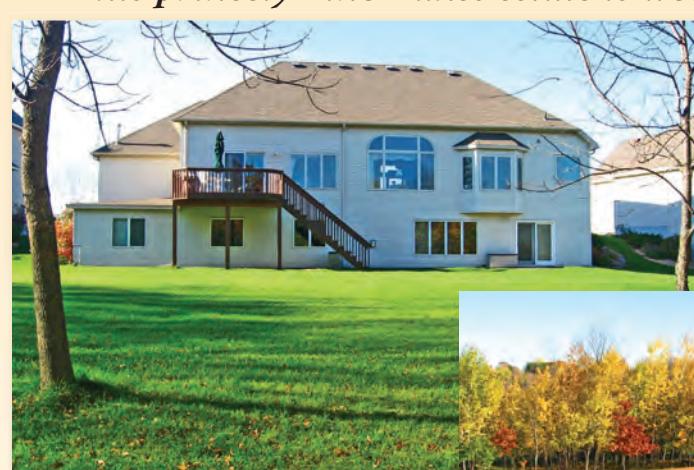
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This Brooklyn Park home is a 10! Vaulted ceilings, top-of-the-line finishes, & great attention to detail. 4 BRs & 3 baths, 3-car gar, home theatre w/build-in surround sound, gas FP, & a scenic backyard pond. Beautifully landscaped with in-ground sprinkler system.

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651-329-1264 • \$349,900**MARY ORR**
651-282-9661**TANTLETOWN VICTORIAN**

Perfect for a buyer who loves old houses w/modern updates. New Rumsford wood burning FP, recessed lighting, fin. 3rd floor, many new windows, 3 summer porches, handsome wdwk, floors & staircase, French doors from DR to rear deck. 4+ BRs, 1½ baths. 1756 Lincoln.

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651-282-9625 • \$519,000**RIGHT OUT OF SAN FRANCISCO**

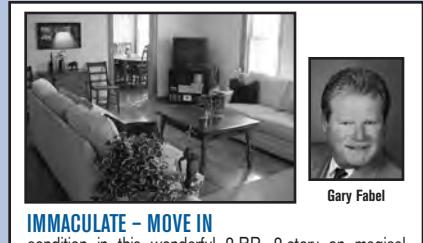
A wonderful open space with cosmopolitan feeling. 3 BRs, 2½ baths, great backyard/patio space, neutral decor, a townhouse just below Summit Avenue. 277 Irvine.

JANE AUSTIN McGRATH
651-282-9625 • \$499,900**CLOSE TO RIVER ROAD**

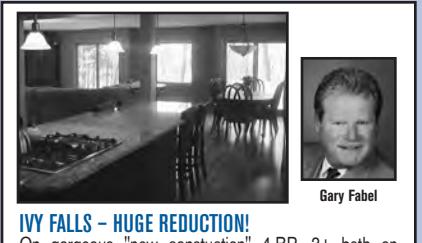
Lovely, well-built Dutch Colonial on a landscaped 70' lot w/parquet floors, beautifully paneled 1st floor FR w/FP, large eat-in kit. w/ adjoining screened porch, 2nd floor w/5 BRs & 2 full baths. 2155 Princeton.

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651-282-9625 • \$700s**HEART OF HIGHLAND**

Don't miss this lovely home just blocks from the center of Highland Park. First floor family room, cozy fireplace, eat-in kitchen and newer mechanicals. 1843 Bohland.

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651-282-9613 • \$249,900**IVY FALLS - HUGE REDUCTION!**

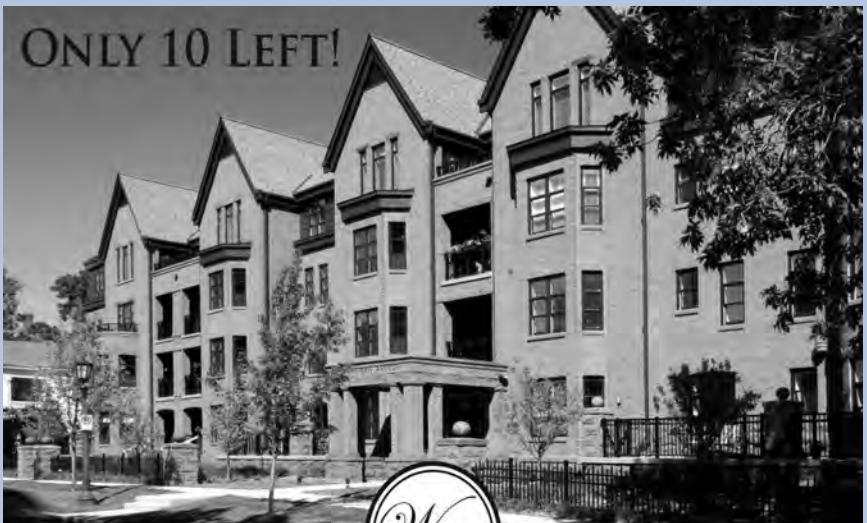
On gorgeous "new construction" 4-BR, 3+ bath on quiet, wooded cul-de-sac with wildlife & wonderful views. Everything here is new. Huge gourmet kitchen & 2-room master suite! This is a must see!

GARY FABEL
651-282-9613 • \$729,900**DON'T MISS THIS ONE!**

3762 Thomas Ct.: Wonderful 3-BR home on quiet cul-de-sac: 3 baths, main floor FR, FP in LR, eat-in kit, screen porch, walkout LL, on pond & creek - close to park & trails. Attached garage.

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651-282-9620 • \$375,000**CONDO AT THE POINTE!**

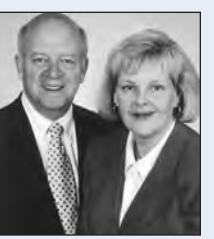
Truly nice SW corner unit. 2 BRs, parking underground. Loads of building amenities including fitness center. All new floorings. 78 10th St. #2102 in Downtown St. Paul.

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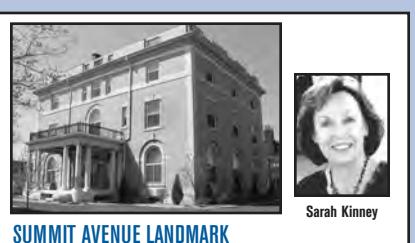
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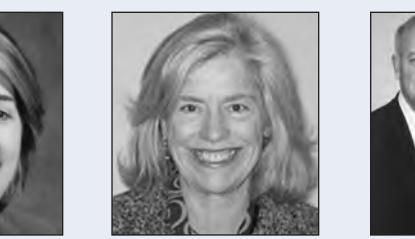
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SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$1,300,000

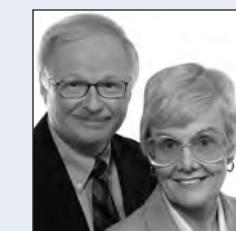
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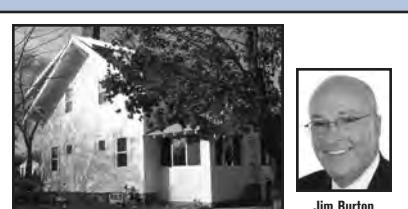
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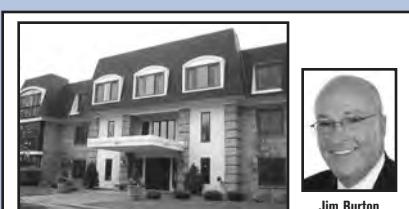
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Jim Burton



Jim Burton



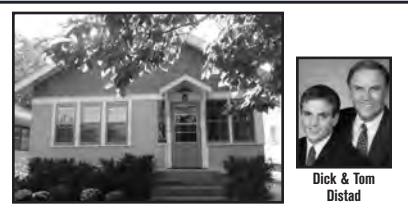
Jim Burton



ALICE DICKINSON
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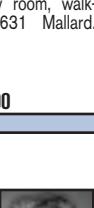
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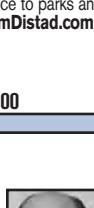
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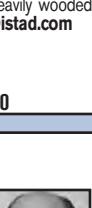
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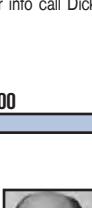
Tom Edelstein



Dick & Tom Distad



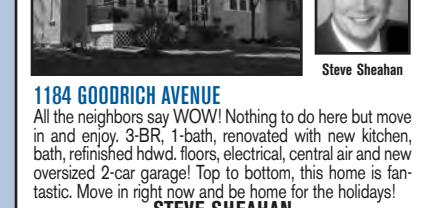
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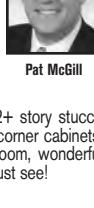
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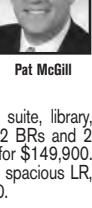
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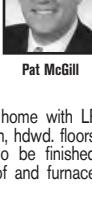
Steve Sheahan



Pat McGill



Pat McGill



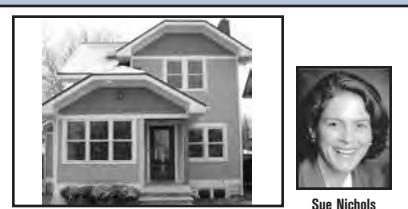
Pat McGill



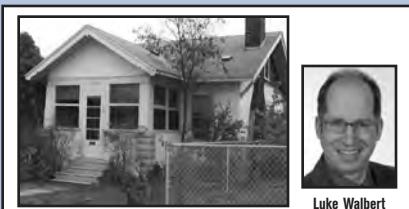
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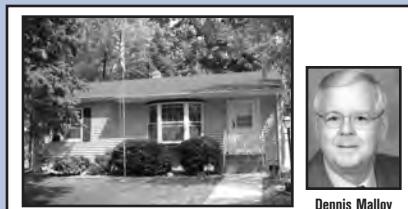
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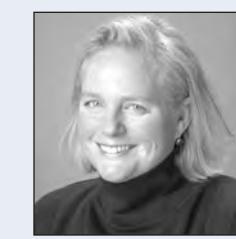
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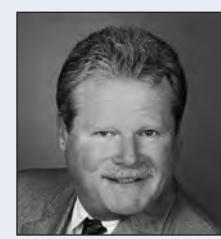
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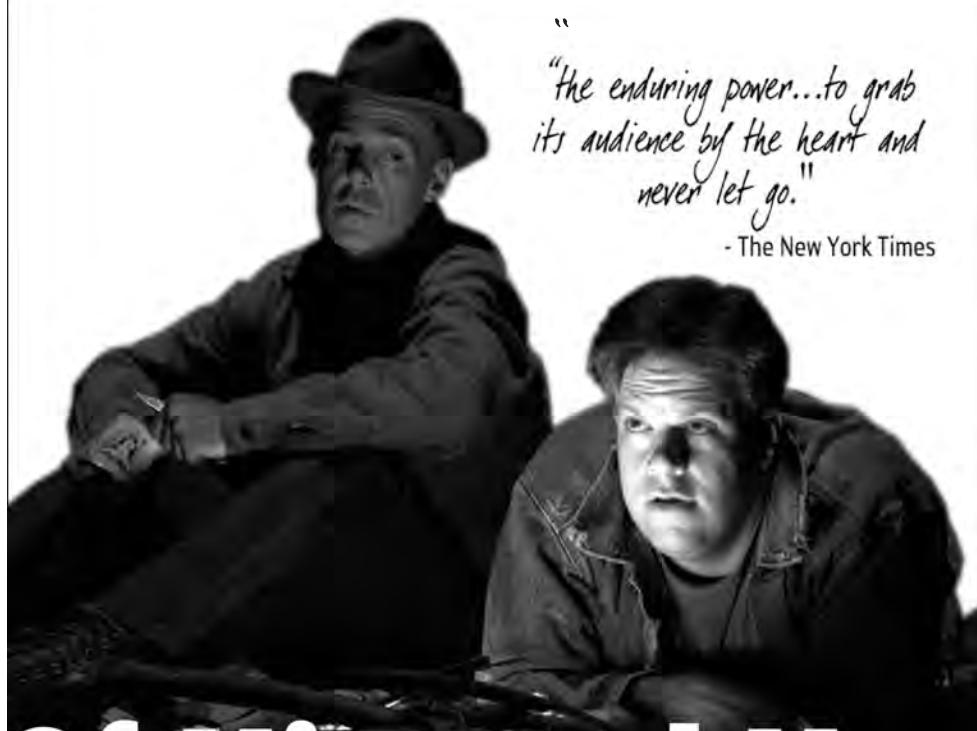
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Business Briefs

David Herr of Summit Hill was elected president of the Academy of Court-Appointed Masters at its annual meeting in November in Washington, D.C. Herr is an attorney with Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand and has been involved with the ACAM since its inception in 2004. He will begin his term as president on January 1. Members of the ACAM serve in state and federal courts around the country, particularly in complex civil cases.



Subway Restaurants are joining Bridging Inc. to collect blankets on Sunday, December 9. Bridging hopes to provide a blanket with each of the 10,000 beds it will give away to individuals and families in 2008. Those who bring new or gently used clean blankets to a participating Subway restaurant that day will receive a free six-inch sandwich. Full- and queen-size blankets are especially needed.

The St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a holiday open house from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 13, at its offices, 401 N. Robert St., Suite 150. The party will include a Taste of the Metro, featuring items from the chamber's top catering, restaurant and beverage members, as well as music by the Grand Jazz Duo. Admission is free. Register at 651-265-2795 or www.saintpaulchamber.com by December 7.

Fabulous Fern's Horseshoe Club has teamed up with the YWCA of St. Paul for the second annual Adopt a Family Holiday Gift Drive. The effort will assist 10 families currently liv-

ing in transitional YWCA housing. A large donation box has been set up at Fern's, 400 Selby Ave., where people can drop off gifts or financial contributions through December 14. Families' requests for needed items will be listed on the box. The drive is being organized by Ramsey Hill residents Victoria Main and Jean Christoffel and Fern's co-owner Charles Senkler.

Aspire Chiropractic, 333 Grand Ave., will offer a free workshop on "Get Healthy and Stay Healthy Without Guilt" at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 5. Pizza will be provided. Call 651-294-2332 or visit www.aspirechiro.com.

A workshop on creating a business exit plan will be offered at 8:00 a.m. Friday, December 7, at the James J. Hill Reference Library, 80 W. 4th St. Tom Lyons, author of *Exit Strategy — Maximizing the Value of Your Business*, will explain how to prepare to sell your business and run it to produce the greatest value in the end. The cost is \$25-\$35, which includes rolls and coffee. A free tour of the library will be offered at 8:30 a.m. Friday, December 14. Call 651-265-5500 or visit www.jjhill.org.

W.A. Frost and Company, 374 Selby Ave., has received *Wine Enthusiast Magazine*'s annual Award of Unique Distinction, the publication's highest level of recognition. The restaurant offers wines from nine countries and 45 different growing regions.

A Holiday Men's Night will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 11, at R.F. Moeller Jeweler, 2065 Ford Pkwy. Minnesota Twins manager Ron Gardenhire will be fielding questions and at 6:30 p.m. master brewer Jim Lonetti will lead a tasting of Summit Brewery's beverages. Hors d'oeuvres and other refreshments also will be provided. Call 651-698-6321.

Selby Stroll to benefit Listening House

More than a dozen retail stores and restaurants on Selby Avenue between Dale Street and the Cathedral of St. Paul will join together for the fourth annual Selby Stroll on Saturday and Sunday, December 8-9. The businesses will be serving holiday treats, raffling off gift certificates and donating a percentage of their sales from those two days to benefit the Listening House, a downtown St. Paul shelter and referral center for homeless people.

"Listening House delivers services to more than 200 homeless people every day," said executive director Rosemarie Reger-Rumsey. "This is possible only through the

generosity of the larger community."

The Selby Stroll grew out of the annual holiday open house at the Paper Patisserie, according to owner Eileen Shapiro, and has nearly tripled in size this year. As of last week, participating businesses included the Paper Patisserie, W.A. Frost, the Muddy Pig, Common Good Books, Nina's Coffee Cafe, Fabulous Fern's, Estetica Salon & Day Spa, Great Harvest Bread Company, Solo Vino, Fleur De Lis, Arthur Murray Dance Studio, Five Two Six Salon Spa and the YWCA of St. Paul.

For more information, stop in or call the participating shops.

Senior News

The Thompson Park Activity Center in West St. Paul is offering the following: information related to drug prescription plans at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 5 (the deadline for changing 2008 plans is December 21); Learn and Play Bridge sessions from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning December 5 (\$8.00 per session); a Great Decisions discussion with world diplomat Tom Hanson from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Monday, December 10; and a trip to see a holiday musical revue at the Chanhassen Playhouse on Wednesday, December 19 (\$53). Call 651-450-8291.

Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly has opened a new Energy Park office in the Atrium Building, 1295 Bandana Blvd., Suite 165, St. Paul. For information on its programs, call Kathleen O'Brien at 612-746-0752 or visit www.littlebrothers.org/minneapolis.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave., is offering an Aging Splendidly program on the second Thursday of every month now

through May. The December 13 session will feature Connie and Larry Hickle of Plymouth Congregation Church in Minneapolis speaking on "Wisdom: A Gift of Aging." Connie is a retired counselor with the St. Paul Public Schools and Larry is a retired Presbyterian pastor. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the talk will begin at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$6.00. Call Joy Bussert at 651-699-5560.

Winter Carnival senior royalty candidates are being sought for the 2008 festival by the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation. Those 55 and older who live in Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington or Dakota counties are eligible to compete. Candidates must attend a luncheon on January 8 and interview with judges the following week. The coronation will be held on January 31 at Landmark Center, and the new royal family will make its first appearance in the Torchlight Parade on February 2. The application deadline is December 21. Call Mary Brown at 651-266-6363.

The Best Christmas Gift

A SHORT STORY BY ROGER BARR

A rare occurrence, Matt thought, having all four members of the Bartholomew family sitting down to dinner together. These days, between his and Deidre's work schedules and school events and sleepovers for Allison and Christopher, someone was usually absent when dinner was served. Too often, he was the culprit. Tonight he had cut short a meeting in hopes of redeeming himself after being missing in action the past two nights.

As the dishes were passed around the table, Allison seemed less concerned about her father's redemption than his Christmas wish list. "Daddy, what do you want for Christmas?" she asked. At 13, she was already the very picture of her mother's holiday efficiency.

"Yes," his wife chimed in, "what do you want?"

"Oh, I don't know," Matt said finally, realizing that all eyes were on him. "World peace?"

"Daddy," Allison pleaded, "I'm serious."

"So am I," Matt said. "What's wrong with world peace?"

"Well, nothing," Allison said, setting the green beans down. "But what do you really want?"

She was referring, of course, to something that could be wrapped in a box and tucked under the Christmas tree, something under \$10 since she was paying for it with baby-sitting money. But with the pressure on him, Matt could not think of a single thing.

"Let me get back to you," he said.

"Well," Allison said, "you better decide. Christmas is only two weeks away."

"I'll put it at the top of my to-do list," he promised. "Would you pass the green beans, please?"

Matt pondered his daughter's question as he pulled on his coat and headed out through the open garage door for the nightly inspection of the family's crèche. What did he want for Christmas? They were well into the season, and as usual he was struggling to find some meaning in the curious mixture of ancient Christmas rituals and modern holiday traditions. Every year the question got harder to answer. He was the only one in the family who had not been dropping hints for the past two weeks. Christopher had already been through a half dozen revisions of his own Christmas list.

Across the street, a young man wearing a long dark coat and what appeared to be a crown was slowly walking by, staring into the yard at the crèche figures. When the man passed under the streetlight, Matt saw that the crown was actually a coxcomb cap.

From the end of the driveway, Matt turned and looked back into the yard at the Nativity scene. The predicted snowfall had begun. Large flakes sifted like flour from the low clouds, drifting through the beams of light cast by the spotlights before settling on the crèche figures and the snowy ground.

The crèche was a 50-year tradition in the Bartholomew family. It had started out as a simple celebration of the fulfillment of the Biblical prophecy that God would send a savior to the world. The year Matt was born, his father had cast in plaster of Paris the life-size figures of Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child, painted serene expressions on their faces and dressed them in simple cloth robes. Through the years, his father added the Three Wise Men and their camels, shepherds and their flock, stable animals and a multitude of angels. Fifty life-size figures in all, everyone so realistic that some of the steady stream of visitors between Thanksgiving and Epiphany swore they saw the figures move.

Matt's nightly inspections and the high-tech security system were more recent traditions. Late one night in 2001, the crèche was all but destroyed by two inebriated teenagers. That year, Matt's already tenuous faith

was shattered along with the figures. Looking back, one of the things that had gotten him through the season was the comforting words of a mysterious old codger who had stopped to talk to him one afternoon as he was shoveling the driveway, angrily heaving the snow into the empty yard where the flock of sheep should have been. "I have faith in the possibilities that lie before us," the old codger had said when Matt asked him what he believed in.

The codger's pronouncement had given Matt enough hope to begin the task of restoring the crèche figures. His faith "in the possibilities" had become the core of Matt's faith, even as he struggled with the question of whether the possibilities came about through happenstance or a divine plan.

Matt moved through the figures in the yard, adjusting an anchor here, repositioning a spotlight there. As he adjusted the Wise Men, he couldn't help glaring at the gifts they bore. You rascals, he thought: If you hadn't been bearing gifts, I wouldn't be in this fix.

Matt finished his inspection by checking the multitude of angels who sang of the glory of the Savior's birth. Every time he looked at the angels, he remembered something else the old codger had said: "Maybe God doesn't always work in mysterious ways, but through ordinary people like you or me."

"Is that supposed to make you some kind of angel?" Matt had retorted, none too kindly.

"Not that I know of," the old man said smiling. "But then, who's to say it doesn't?"

Matt wrestled the two barrels of donated food up the driveway and into the safety of the garage. Handyman, the director of the Open Cupboard Food Shelf, would be by in the morning to pick up the donations dropped off by people who had stopped to see the crèche.

Matt gave the yard a final survey, then stepped into the garage to arm the security system. So far, the security system had prevented a repeat of the vandalism of 2001, but it had done little to erase his fear that it would happen again. He pushed the button that sent the garage door rattling down, wondering if the possibilities lying ahead included world peace. Or even peace of mind.

In the back entryway, as Matt was hanging up his coat, Allison ambushed him: "Did you decide what you wanted? Mom and I are going shopping tomorrow after school."

"Oh, honey, I haven't come up with anything," he said. "Just give me something you know I'll like."

Allison rolled her eyes. "Daddy, you're such a poop."

"Yes," he agreed, "I'm a poop."

The following evening, as Matt conducted his nightly inspection of the crèche, he noticed the same young man with the coxcomb cap across the street. Something about the stranger's demeanor was odd, Matt thought. Most people who came to see the crèche crossed the street, stopping at his ornamental split-rail fence to study the figures. This guy deliberately kept a distance between himself and the crèche.

Out of the corner of his eye, Matt followed the stranger until he turned the corner and headed north into the night. Was it coincidence? His imagination? An overreaction to his concerns about security? Matt shook off the suspicion that was building inside him. Most likely, it was just a college student taking a shortcut through the neighborhood to the nearby campus. Matt debated whether to tell Deidre about the stranger, and decided it was not worth mentioning.

Allison was sitting at the kitchen table doing homework when Matt walked in. He sat down next to her, determined to redeem himself. He could always use something practical, like flashlight batteries.

"So, I've been thinking about what I want



for Christmas," he said.

"You're too late!" Allison said triumphantly. "I already bought your present. You'll love it."

"Really," he said. "Well, I can't wait."

"Don't you even want a hint?" she asked.

Later as he lay in bed, his hands clasped behind his head, a thought crossed his mind: If the stranger were just a student, where was his backpack?

The next night, Matt kept watch over the crèche from the window of his study before and after his inspection. At around the same time as the previous evenings, the stranger appeared across the street. This was no coincidence, Matt thought. This guy was here for a reason. Matt grabbed his coat and went out the back door, slipped around the side of the house, and in a half crouch threaded his way through the crèche and toward the street. The stranger snapped to attention when he saw Matt, then turned and walked quickly away.

"Hello!" Matt called out.

The stranger walked faster.

"Who are you?" Matt yelled as the stranger broke into a run. "What do you want?"

Alarmed, Matt called Officer Darryl Carter, the same police officer who had responded that awful morning six years ago when the crèche had been destroyed.

"Mr. Bartholomew," the police officer chuckled, "it wouldn't be Christmas without a call from you. It's like a tradition. What can I do for you?"

"I don't know if this means anything or not, officer," Matt began. He then told Carter what had happened and gave him a description of the mysterious stranger.

"You were right to call," Carter said. "If you see him again, don't confront him. Don't even go outside. Call the police. Let us take care of it. Here's my cell phone number."

Matt hung up the phone and turned to see his wife staring at him.

"What was that all about?" Deidre asked.

"I'm not sure," Matt said. He summarized the events, ending with, "I probably should've mentioned it last night. I'd hoped I was imagining things."

"It's probably nothing," Deidre said.

"That's one possibility," Matt conceded.

The following night, Matt saw the mysterious stranger across the street. He called Officer Carter.

"He's here again," Matt said.

"Stay inside," Carter said. "I'm only 10 blocks away."

Matt went upstairs. Without turning on the light, he stood at the window, cupped his hands around his eyes and pressed his face against the cold pane. Across the street, the man leaned against the trunk of a tree.

Two squad cars, their lights and sirens off, approached from opposite directions and stopped in front of the house. The stranger looked in both directions as though preparing to run, then dropped his shoulders in surrender. Carter stepped out of his squad car, exchanged words with the stranger and then ushered him into the back seat of the squad car. Fifteen long minutes later, Carter emerged from the squad car and started walking up to Matt's front door. Matt hurried downstairs to

let him in.

"I see you got him," Matt said.

Carter nodded. "He's sitting in my car."

"Who is he?" Matt said. "What does he want?"

"Does the name Geoffrey Lewis ring a bell?"

"My God!" Matt said, genuinely startled. Images of smashed crèche figures lying in the snow flashed before him. "What does he want?"

"It's not what you think," Carter said. "You're not in any danger. He just wants to talk to you."

"Well, why didn't he just come up to the door instead of lurking around in the dark?"

"It's not quite that easy," Carter said. "He's been coming by every night, trying to get up the nerve to ring the doorbell. Do you want to talk to him? You're under no obligation."

"Why does he want to talk now?"

"He can explain it better than I can."

Matt and Deidre exchanged glances. Matt had formally forgiven the two boys that Christmas Eve in 2001, instinctively knowing that it was a thing he needed to do. The conversation had been one-sided. He had lectured the parents, warning them to pay attention to their sons. He had spoken briefly to the boys, then turned on his heel and moved on, though a part of him remained behind, paralyzed by the fear that someday another vandal would succeed in subverting the security system surrounding his property.

"I'll talk to him," Matt said.

"When?"

"Now's as good a time as any."

In the light of the front entryway, Geoffrey Lewis looked more nervous than threatening. His eyes were glassy, his face pale and tight behind a week's growth of beard. His long dark coat hung loosely on his shoulders. He wore no gloves, and there were holes in the knees of his blue jeans. He reached up and pulled off the coxcomb, revealing a mop of unwashed black hair. His eyes sought the corners of the room.

"You'll be OK?" Carter asked. Matt nodded, then realized the police officer was not talking to him. Carter gave Geoffrey what Matt thought was an encouraging look and slipped out the front door.

"Well, come in," Matt said tersely, gesturing toward the living room. He pointed to an overstuffed chair. He and Deidre sat together on the couch.

Geoffrey sat stiffly on the edge of the cushion. His eyes moved around the room, taking in the Christmas tree that stood before the picture window and the plastic Santa Claus and Rudolph in their traditional places beside the fireplace.

"Neat tree," the young man said.

"What do you want?" Matt asked brusquely.

"Well, it's like this," Geoffrey said. "You're probably pretty ticked at me, right?" He stared at the carpet for a moment, then leaned forward. "See...I was drunk that night. Both of us were. David, my friend, he like dared me

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to go in your yard and do something. I'm like, 'OK.' I vaulted the fence and pushed over a sheep. I dared him back. He kinda destroyed two sheep. He dared me to bust up one of the camels..."

Geoffrey's face clouded with the memory. "You get the idea. Pretty soon it was a contest to see who could destroy more statues. All the while, this voice in my head is shouting, 'This is so wrong!' But I couldn't stop."

"We know all that," Matt interrupted, remembering the account that Carter had given him six years ago.

"See, it's like this," Geoffrey said. "This deal wasn't the end of my troubles. It was sort of the beginning. My parents came down on me hard—they were right to. But I didn't think so at the time. I rebelled. I was in and out of trouble for the next two or three years. They kept on me. Finally I decided I didn't need that...stuff anymore. So I split. I ended up in California. I got into trouble out there. I tried to rob a convenience store. The manager caught me. He could smell the booze on me. He could've called the cops, but he didn't. He told me I had a choice: I could enter a treatment program, or be arrested and go to jail. So I went into treatment. It didn't take the first time. Or the second. But this guy never gave up on me. I've been sober a year and I'm doing OK. I still live in California."

"So why are you here?" Matt asked.

"You said something that night. I remember what it was: 'I forgive you.'" The young man shook his head. "You didn't really forgive me. It was just something to say."

"You want us to forgive you?" Matt asked. "Is that why you're here?"

Geoffrey shook his head. "I didn't come to ask you to forgive me. I came back here to... I'm at the stage in my program where I need to make amends to people I've hurt. Every time I think about what David and I did to the statues—and to you and your family—I feel ashamed. I came back to apologize. I didn't remember your name or where you lived for sure. So I came back when I knew the display would be up. I just walked up and down the streets until I saw it. It's pretty easy to spot," he added, a smile breaking on his face. "But when I found the place, I couldn't make myself walk up to the house."

Geoffrey drew himself up. He looked at Matt and Deidre, looked away and then looked Matt full in the face. He swallowed.

"I'm sorry for the destructive acts I committed," he said, his voice quavering. "I'm sorry for the pain I caused you. And I'm sorry if I scared you by standing out there."

Geoffrey leaned back in the chair. He exhaled. His eyes softened and the tightness drained out of his face.

Matt struggled for something to say. He felt Deidre's hand slide into his own. Over the years he had imagined this conversation, but with him doing all the talking.

"Standing across the street I had time to really look at all the statues," Geoffrey continued. "They're beautiful. They look so...so peaceful. I wish...I wish I had really looked at them that night. If I had, maybe..." He shrugged.

"I restored them," Matt said. "It took me three years."

"I'm sorry," Geoffrey said. "It must have been a lot of work."

"I appreciate what it must have taken for you to come here and say this," Matt said, moved by the young man's candor. "And you're right. I did say that I forgave you...but not really."

No one said anything for a moment.

"So you're back in town for the holiday," Deidre finally said. "You're staying with your folks, I assume?"

"I haven't seen my parents in over two years," Geoffrey said. "Or talked to them. My parents threw me out."

Matt froze. Deidre stiffened and brought a hand up to her mouth.

"No," Geoffrey said, leaning forward again, "that's not true. They drew a line in the sand. I chose to leave. It just felt the same as getting kicked out. I blamed them, but it was me."

"You're going to see them, while you're in town, aren't you?" Matt asked.

Geoffrey shook his head. "Not this trip. I'm not ready to face them yet."

"They're probably worried about you," Deidre said.

Geoffrey nodded but said nothing.

"I could arrange a meeting for you," Matt offered.

"No!" The young man shrank back into the chair. "Please—no!"

"All right," Matt said.

Geoffrey stood up suddenly. He stared down at his feet. His hands worked the coxcomb cap.

"Thank you," he said, looking up. He shook hands with each of them. "I won't be bothering you any more."

"Think about visiting your parents," Matt said.

"I think about it every day."

After the 10 o'clock news, Matt put on his coat and went out through the garage to inspect the crèche. He looked across the street and was neither surprised nor pleased to see that Geoffrey Lewis was not there. In all the possibilities that lay before him since the stranger first appeared, he never once considered this turn of events—that something taken away six years ago could somehow be given back.

As he examined each crèche figure, Matt thought about the bearer of this gift, a struggling soul seeking redemption and a pathway home. The least they could have done was offer him a layover on his journey home, a room at the inn. He armed the security system, knowing it was for something or someone else. Back in the house, he raised the issue with Deidre.

"Yes," she said, "I was just about to suggest the same thing."

The next morning, Matt called Officer Carter's cell phone and left a message. Could Carter get a message to Geoffrey Lewis that the Bartholomew family would welcome him if he wanted to spend Christmas with them?

That evening, a squad car turned into the driveway and Officer Carter climbed out. Matt met him outside.

"He's gone," Carter said. "I drove over to the address he gave me last night. They said he left early this morning. No forwarding address."

"He didn't talk to his folks then," Matt said.

"It doesn't look that way," Carter said. "He wasn't ready, he said so himself."

"I would've helped him."

"So you were ready," Carter said. "He wasn't. Remember, it's about him, not you."

"You think he left town so he wouldn't have to see his parents?" Matt asked. He felt somehow responsible for Geoffrey's departure.

"It's possible," Carter said. "But that was his choice, not yours."

"I hope he's ready someday," Matt said.

"He will be," Carter said. "Someday. After all, he came here, didn't he? He knows what he has to do."

"How did you learn so much about this stuff?" Matt asked. "Through police training?"

Carter shook his head. "Personal experience."

Matt tried not to show his surprise. A hundred questions ran through his mind, but he said nothing.

"I cleaned up my act years ago," Carter said. "The names and the details are different, but the story is always the same. Me, I dealt with being a black cop by trying to be the very best cop in the entire city. I'd come home and have one to help me settle down. Then it got to be two, and then three. I drank more than a quart a day before I hit bottom. My life was in ruins. Finally you figure out there's only one way up. You release yourself to a higher power. And you learn to accept the hands offered to you, rather than just using them."

"He said he's been sober a year," Matt said. "Is he...out of danger?"

"We're never out of danger," Carter said.

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"We learn to live with the danger—one day at a time."

Carter opened the door of the squad car. "And on that bright note, I need to get back to being the very best cop in the city." He winked.

"Well, thank you again, officer," Matt said. "I always seem to be in your debt."

"My friends call me Darryl."

"And mine call me Matt." He extended his hand and felt the power and warmth in Carter's grip.

Shouldn't we at least call his parents?" Deidre asked. "Just to tell them we saw him and he's all right?"

"Would we be interfering?" Matt asked.

"He didn't say not to," Deidre reasoned, "only that *he* wasn't ready."

"We have no idea what they've been through," Matt said. "Well, yes we do."

"If you were his parent, wouldn't you want to be called?"

"Absolutely."

Matt looked the name up in the phone book. He rehearsed several opening lines. They all sounded stiff and awkward. Finally, he picked up the phone and keyed the number.

"Hello?" said a woman's voice.

"Is this the Lewis residence?"

"Yes," she said. "And whatever you're selling, we don't need any."

"I talked to your son," Matt blurted before she could hang up.

"Geoffrey?" she gasped. "Oh, my God! You talked to Geoffrey? When? Oh, my God! Gordon! Gordon! It's about Geoffrey!"

Matt heard a click on the line.

"This is Gordon Lewis. Who's this? What do you know about our son?"

"Where's Geoffrey?" the woman cried. "I'm his mother! Where is he?"

"My name is Matt Bartholomew. Six years ago, your son and another boy destroyed the crèche figures in my front yard."

There was silence on the end of the line. Matt plunged ahead.

"He came to see us last night. He apologized for the destruction he caused. He told me he's been in a recovery program. He said he's trying to make amends to the people he's hurt."

"He came and talked to you?" Lewis said, "instead of us?"

"Gordon, don't start!" his wife broke in.

Merriam Park author Roger Barr will read his short story, "The Best Christmas Gift," in a free program at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 13, in the chapel at the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, 1671 Summit Ave.

The event is a benefit for the council and its Department of Indian Works. Members of the audience are asked to bring a donation of non-perishable food or money for the Department of Indian Works, which operates an emergency food shelf for local American Indians in need.

A limited number of chapbooks of "The Best Christmas Gift" will be for sale at the reading with all proceeds going to the food shelf. "The Best Christmas Gift" is the tenth holiday story by Barr that has appeared in the *Villager*, all of them about the fictional Bartholomew family.

"I'm not, Jeanne! I'm just trying to get the facts."

"I tried to convince him to talk to you," Matt said. "I said I'd help. But he said he wasn't ready to talk to you. Not yet. Darryl...Officer Carter checked the place he was staying and he'd left. We think he went back to California."

"California?" Lewis said.

Matt heard Geoffrey's mother break down on the other end of the line. "Tell me everything!" she choked between sobs.

"He's been living out there for a couple of years," Matt said. "He's in a treatment program. He's been sober for a year. He says he's doing well. He wants to come home—you can see it in his face—he just doesn't know how."

"Oh, Gordon, he's all right!" Geoffrey's mother cried. "He's all right!"

"I'm sorry," Matt said. "I wish I could've given you a merry Christmas."

"A merry Christmas? We were just discussing whether to even get a Christmas tree this year," Geoffrey's father said. "This is the best Christmas gift we could ask for, except to have Geoff home. I guess we'll get a tree after all."

"Thank you!" Geoffrey's mother said. "You're an angel! Thank you! Thank you!"

In the Bartholomew household, it was a tradition to open gifts on Christmas morning. With Allison and Christopher getting older, the gift

opening was a bit more civilized than the free-for-all of years past. One by one the gifts were opened amid the appropriate "oohs" and "aahs" and then added to the pile beside each family member. At last, Allison handed Matt a box about 6 inches square, wrapped in green and trimmed with red ribbon.

"This is from me," she said. "Guess what's in it?"

"I have no idea," Matt said, shaking the box.

"Don't shake it!" Allison warned. "It's fragile."

Matt tore the wrapping paper and removed the lid from the box. He drew out a ball of tissue paper and peeled away the layers to reveal a snow globe the size of a softball. Inside was a miniature Nativity scene. Matt upended the globe and watched the snow swirl and drift down upon the Nativity figures.

"Well, thank you."

"Read what it says on the base," Allison instructed.

Matt squinted to read the inscription in gold letters on the polished wood. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among all people."

"I love it," he said. Allison beamed.

Matt upended the globe again and watched the snow fall.

Later in the morning or perhaps that afternoon, Allison would snuggle up beside him. "What was the best Christmas gift that you got?" she would ask. For her, there was only one answer, and of course he would give it to her. But privately it would be a hard to decide which was the best Christmas gift he had received this year. For a week, the words of Jeanne Lewis had rung like church bells in Matt's head. Was he truly an angel? Had this season's turn of events been God working through ordinary people like himself?

Jeanne Lewis certainly thought so. Maybe he did, too. Who was to say among all the possibilities that lay before them that it wasn't so? Matt could still feel the power and warmth of Carter's grip, and well understood that their causal friendship had taken a deeper turn. And now he held in his hands proof that his daughter, like her mother, seemed to know the old man better than he knew himself.

Matt upended the globe again and watched the snow swirl around the Nativity figures inside.

"I love it," he said. "You gave me world peace after all."

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The Kiosk

Wednesday/December 5

A DEPRESSION, bipolar support group will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening and on Wednesday, December 19, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The group is free and usually meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Call Marjorie Sigel at 651-698-0767.

Thursday/December 6

AN "INVENTING ISRAELI HISTORY" class will be taught by Alex Jassen, assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening and on Thursdays, December 13 and 20, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The cost is \$12-\$18 per session or \$30-\$45 for the series. Call 651-698-0751.

LIFE LINE SCREENING will be at the Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave., today. Appointments will begin at 9:00 a.m. Stroke, vascular disease and heart rhythm screenings cost \$159, with an osteoporosis screening for an additional \$10. The screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Call 1-888-754-1464 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com

Friday/December 7

A HOLIDAY AFTERNOON TEA will be served at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today amid the gardens of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Zoo. Guests will dine on a five-course traditional tea service and receive a behind-the-scenes tour of the conservatory and witness the Sunken Garden's holiday flower show. Tickets are \$45. For reservations, call 651-487-8250.

A SCANDINAVIAN COOKIE & Craft Fair will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today and tomorrow at Lyngblomsten, 1415 Almond Ave. Krumkake, sandbakkels, rosettes, lefse and more will be sold, along with holiday crafts. Call 651-632-5356.

Saturday/December 8

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA will be offered by the Highland Business Association between 9:00 and 11:00 this morning at the Chatterbox Pub, 800 S. Cleveland Ave. All children and their adult guests are invited to enjoy a complimentary breakfast. Admission is with either a nonperishable food donation for the local food shelf or a new toy for Toys for Tots. Santa will be on hand to listen to children's wishes, and parents are invited to bring along their cameras. The Hillcrest Recreation Center staff will be organizing a craft project for kids. Space is limited. To register, call the Chatterbox at 651-699-1154. To volunteer to help out with the event, call the HBA office at 651-699-9042.

THE DODGE NATURE CENTER in West St. Paul will offer a program at 10:00 this morning on how to make beautiful sheets of paper out of plant material, including cattails, prairie grasses, recycled paper and even junk mail. There will be a short hike outside to gather materials for the paper. The cost is \$5.00-\$7.00, or \$15 for families. Call 651-455-4531.

A HOLIDAY FESTIVAL will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. today at Minnehaha Academy's north campus, 3100 W. River Pkwy., Minneapolis. The festival will include a holiday market of gifts made by



Jason Richler and 9-month-old Maxwell seem to approve of mom Tiffany's pick of a Christmas tree at the YMCA lot at Highland National Golf Course. The lot was moved to Highland this year because of construction at Macalester College. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUP

local artisans, a Scandinavian dinner buffet from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. (tickets at \$20 must be purchased in advance), a performance by the Svenskarnas Dag Girls Choir and a show by comedian Bob Stromberg of Triple Espresso at 7:30 p.m. (\$15). Call 612-728-7721 or e-mail anfang-jane@minnehahaacademy.net.

LEARN WHAT BIRDS like to eat and then make a suet feeder to take home during a program at 10:00 this morning at Fort Snelling State Park. The cost is \$5.00 per feeder. Call 612-725-2724.

"NIGHT TRAINS" will be presented from 6:00 to 9:00 this evening, and every Saturday night through February, at the Twin City Model Railroad Museum, 1021 E. Bandana Blvd. The evening will feature special lighted models of passenger trains that once served the Twin Cities. Admission is \$5.00 or \$15 for families. Call 651-647-9628 or visit www.tcmrm.org.

WINTER ON THE FRONTIER will be re-created during a program from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today and Saturday, December 15, at Fort Snelling. Visitors will learn how soldiers, settlers and servants struggled to make it through the winter. Hot cider will be served. The cost is \$5.00-\$8.00. Call 612-726-1171.

SANTA WILL MAKE A STOP at 1456 Wachtler Ave., Mendota Heights, from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening and on December 9, 15-16 and 21-23. Bring your camera for photos. Food or money donations will be collected for the food shelf.

Sunday/December 9

A WINTER BIRD WALK will be held at 10:00 this morning at Fort Snelling State Park. Admission is free, but a state parking permit is required. Call 612-725-2724.

AN "IRON CHEF LATKE COOKOFF" is the main feature of family Hanukah celebration will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Families will compete for the coveted "Golden Potato" after submitting a favorite latke (potato pancake) recipe. Other activities that day will include dreidel making and spin-off contests and other games. The cost is \$18-\$20 per family. Call 651-698-0751.

A WORLD WAR II HISTORY Roundtable on "Pearl Harbor: Was There No Warning?" will be held at 7:00 this evening at Fort Snelling. Robert Stinnett, author of *Day of Deceit*, will outline some of the breakdowns in military communications that allowed the surprise attack and historian Jim Johns will present research from his upcoming book on Pearl Harbor. A Hawaiian witness to the attack also will be part of the presentation. The cost is \$5.00 and free for college students with ID. Call 612-726-1171.

Saturday/December 15

A HIKE TO IDENTIFY the many different species of trees native to the area will be offered at 1:00 this afternoon at Fort Snelling State Park. The program is free, but a state parking permit is required. Call 612-725-2724.

Sunday/December 16

A HIKE TO LOOK for the abandoned summer homes of birds and animals will be offered 1:00 this afternoon at Fort Snelling State Park. The program is free, but a state parking permit is required. Call 612-725-2724.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL AND TEA" will be held at 2:00 this afternoon in Carolyn Hall at St. Mark's Church, 1983 Dayton Ave. Enjoy a cup of tea with friends while being regaled with a dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. With the use of 19 different voices, narrator Tom Bitney tells a one-hour version of the classic holiday story. Admission is free. Donations will be taken for the Keystone Community Services food shelves. Call 651-645-5717.

PRELIMINARY DESIGNS for the green space at the intersection of Hamline Avenue and Ayd Mill Road will be presented from 3:00 to 4:30 this afternoon at Bethel Christian Fellowship, 1466 Portland Ave. The design includes the Eleanor Graham Community Garden and the adjacent Ashland Park. Kate Skelton, a landscape architecture graduate student at the University of Minnesota, will present the design. Call the District 13 Council office at 651-645-6887.

Monday/December 17

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Jewish Community Center. The group meets the third Monday of each month. The meetings are free and open to the public. Call Marjorie Sigel at 651-698-0767.

Tuesday/December 18

THE MAD HATTERS' TEA HOUSE, 943 W. 7th St., will hold a conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. A wine and cheese reception will be held for authors Kathleen Murphy-Taylor and James Taylor and their recently published book, *Willow in a Storm*. This is a powerful and honest look at how they met and married after James was released from federal prison. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 11:30 this morning in the parking lot of Nova Classical Academy, 1668 Montreal Ave. Visit www.stpaulhike.org.

Wednesday/December 12

ASTRONOMICAL INSIGHTS into the Star of Bethlehem will be offered by College of St. Catherine physics professor Terry Flower lat 6:30 this evening in Our Lady of Victory Chapel at St. Catherine's. Admission is free, but registration is required. Call 651-690-6819 or e-mail leadership@stcate.edu.

Thursday/December 13

CAFÉ V'IVRIT will be open for coffee and Hebrew conversation at 7:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The gathering is free and open to the public. Call Erez Frankel at 651-255-4753.



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Food



Home Fires
By Jo Marshall

A smorgasbord of tradition could be on the menu this Xmas

As Christmas approaches, we hunger for more than food. We have an insatiable appetite for tradition. However, what we now understand to be Christmas traditions predate Christmas itself. Many have their roots in pagan cultures. The burning of the yule log, for example, dates back to the Druids, who would bless a log and keep it burning for 12 days to aid the sun in its struggle against darkness. A yule log was also part of Viking tradition. Early Vikings would carve runes representing unwanted traits, like dishonor or misfortune, on their logs. Burning the inscriptions was believed to remove the undesirable characteristics.

Christians first celebrated Christmas on December 25 in the 3rd or 4th century, in part because of the early church's identification of God's son with the celestial sun. The Romans already had several other pagan festivals around the winter solstice, including Natalis Solis Invicti (birth of the unconquered sun); the birthday of Mithras, the Iranian Sun of Righteousness whose worship was popular among Roman soldiers; and the month-long Saturnalia, in honor of Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture. Saturnalia, which began in the week leading up to the winter solstice, was a hedonistic time when food and drink were plentiful and the normal Roman social order was turned upside down. Slaves took a turn as masters, peasants commanded the city, and shops and schools were closed so that everyone could join in the fun.

One of the earliest British Christmas traditions was the Boar's Head Feast. A boar's head had been the culinary kickoff for many an ancient Roman feast as well, but the more recent British version had an interesting twist. Legend has it that in Oxford circa 1340, a scholar was reading Aristotle while walking to Midnight Mass. Confronted by a wild boar, the learned man literally rammed his philosophy down the animal's throat. Since the book was metal-bound, he managed to kill the beast. That night, the boar's head made its way in a procession surrounded by carolers singing, "In honor to the king of bliss."

The phrase "eating humble pie" comes from a British peasant tradition. While the lords and ladies feasted on prime cuts of venison, the peasants would bake the "humbles," including hearts, livers and brains, into a pie that stretched the meat and presumably made for a substantial meal. By the 17th century, humble pie had become so closely associated with Christmas that it was outlawed by Oliver Cromwell's Puritan government.



A Christmas goose, a yuletide tradition favored by the Danish. PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

Mince pies made from shredded meat and dried fruit were often baked in oblong vessels representing the crib of Jesus Christ. Bakers added three spices—cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg—to commemorate the three gifts of the Magi. The pies were often small, and diners would eat one on each of the 12 days of Christmas, the last one on the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6.

Christmas cookies as we know them date to Christmas celebrations in medieval Europe. Some authorities believe the German lebkuchen, or gingerbread, was the first traditional Christmas cookie. Papparakor, a ginger and black pepper cookie, was beloved in Sweden, and Norwegians made krumkake, a wafer baked in an iron and often flavored with lemon and cardamom. It's likely that animal crackers got their start as edible tree ornaments.

In Finland, Christmas Eve is celebrated with rice porridge and a sweet soup made from dried fruits. In many parts of the American South, people eat black-eyed peas for good luck on New Year's. The Japanese prefer red snapper, believing the red color to be auspicious. Many cultures have a tradition that includes baking a coin or trinkets into a dish. Retrieving the coin is said to bring luck. The Buddhist New Year is celebrated with a dish that contains charcoal. Getting the charcoal isn't lucky, however. The person who gets it is said to have an evil heart.

The Danish prize their Christmas goose. The Italians often go meatless on Christmas Eve. The Hungarians favor chicken flavored with paprika. And in Mexico, traditional fare might include tamales, churros and hot chocolate, or chocolate caliente.

For those who can afford it, the holidays have always been

a time of jolly good excess. One menu I found for an English nobleman's dinner listed 39 courses, including a sirloin of beef, capon, mutton, a swan roast, a collar of brawn (head cheese), goose, venison, steak pie and oysters. American nobility also dined lavishly. Christmas at Mount Vernon in the 1790s is said to have included roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, roast suckling pig, roast turkey, chicken pie, Virginia ham, herring, oysters on the half shell, roast turkey with chestnut stuffing, broiled rockfish and 14 desserts—four kinds of pies, plus fruits, cakes, puddings and ice creams. Obviously, Martha had a lot of help in the kitchen.

One of the most entertaining bits of Christmas food lore is the one surrounding the durability of fruitcake. My favorite tale about the food that people love to hate was written by Russell Baker and published in the *New York Times* in 1983:

Thirty-four years ago, I inherited the family fruitcake. Fruitcake is the only food durable enough to become a family heirloom. It had been in my grandmother's possession since 1880, and she passed it to a niece in 1933. Surprisingly, the niece, who had always seemed to detest me, left it to me in her will.... I would have renounced my inheritance except for the sentiment of the thing, for the family fruitcake was the symbol of our family's roots. When my grandmother inherited it, it was already 86 years old, having been baked by her great-grandfather in 1794 as a Christmas gift for President George Washington. Washington, with his high-flown view of ethical standards

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS IN FOOD ▶ 34

E's Cheese ages beautifully in Village at Mendota Hts.

BY NATALIE ZETT

Elizabeth Blosser credits her grandparents for instilling in her the value of hard work, respect for the land and an appreciation for fresh cheese.

"I grew up just north of Green Bay," said Blosser, owner of E's Cheese in Mendota Heights and a resident of Highland Park. "My grandfather was a dairy farmer who sold all his milk to a cheese factory. I spent lots of time with him in the dairy truck making deliveries."

Her family eventually moved to Minnesota and Blosser set her sights on a degree in communications. Shortly after graduating, she landed a job as a public relations consultant in Washington, D.C. "Government relations gave me a passion for small business," she said. "When I worked for (former U.S. congressman) Gil Gutknecht, I got even greater

insight into farming because he was on the Agriculture Committee."

After a few years, Blosser returned to Minnesota to try something new. "I've always had a passion for food," she said. "My grandmother was an amazing cook and I've always enjoyed having people over and making elaborate meals."

Blosser noticed a paucity of specialty gourmet shops here, at least the kind she had enjoyed in D.C., so she decided to start her own. E's Cheese opened in the Village at Mendota Heights two years ago. A second shop opened in Tamarack Hills Center in Woodbury last month.

Blosser's family provided the sweat equity needed to launch the fledgling business. "My brother was really helpful," she said. "He's a general contractor and we worked together



E's Cheese owner Elizabeth Blosser at her Mendota Heights store, which features gourmet cheese and gifts. She recently expanded into Woodbury. PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

E'S CHEESE ▶ 34

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Tidbits

Bake cookies the way Annie Robertson did for many years as the cook for the Alexander Ramsey family of St. Paul. The 90-minute class, "Annie's Christmas Cookies," will be offered at four times on Wednesday, December 5, in the 1872 kitchen of the historic home at 265 S. Exchange St. A history of some of the more popular Christmas cookies is included along with a tour of the first floor of the Victorian mansion. The cost is \$12. For reservations, call 651-296-8760.

Taste of Many Cultures, an annual food and beverage sampling offered by nine ethnic restaurants in the Twin Cities, will be held from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, December 6, at the Crowne Plaza-St. Paul Riverfront Hotel, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd. Cuisines will range from Hispanic to Hmong to Ethiopian and will be accented by live musical entertainment, origi-

nal artwork and dance performances. The event is open to the public and sponsored by Cub Foods and the Multicultural Development Foundation. Admission is \$20, or \$15 for students.

The Madrigal Singers of the College of St. Catherine will present enchanting evenings of music, feasting and pageantry at 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 7-8, in the Coeur de Catherine center on the St. Paul campus. The fully costumed re-creation of an Elizabethan Christmas feast will have guests dining on roasted "boar," toasting with wassail and being teased by a mischievous jester, all to the strains of Renaissance music for voices and instruments. Patricia Cahalan Connors directs. Tickets are priced at \$40, or \$35 for groups of eight or more. Visit stcate.edu/madrigals or call 651-690-8801 for reservations.

33 ▲ HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

for government workers, sent it back with thanks, explaining that he thought it unseemly for presidents to accept gifts weighing more than 80 pounds, even though they were only 8 inches in diameter. There is no doubt...about the fruitcake's great age. Sawing into it six Christmases ago, I came across a fragment of a 1794 newspaper with an account of the lynching of a real-estate speculator in New York City.... While an eon, as some people have observed, may be two people and a ham, a fruitcake is forever. It was an antique dealer who revealed this truth to me. "Over 200 years old?" the dealer sneered. "I've got one at home that's over 300. If you come across a fruitcake that Julius Caesar brought back from Gaul, look me up; I'll give you \$10 for it."

Baker's sense of humor no doubt colors the tale of his allegedly centuries-old fruitcake. But the holidays are a time for believ-



An edible tree ornament.

ing in things that survive the ages, so I prefer to swallow his story whole. I just hope never to swallow his fruitcake. Some things are best left to legend.

33 ▲ E'S CHEESE

on the concept. Another brother and his friends are always coming over to help, and my parents are always here, too. My dad is retired and mom is a children's pastor at Buffalo Covenant Church. When she's not doing that, she's helping me out. Right now, she's working over at the new store in Woodbury."

E's Cheese rotates through more than 300 varieties of imported and domestic cheeses. "We get shipments in every week from 13 different countries," Blosser said.

The store also sells chocolates, nuts, dried fruits, spices, vinegars, oils and crackers. It carries kitchenware, cookbooks and other items for those who like to entertain, as well as gift baskets for the holidays.

Blosser and her staff also teach classes through St. Paul Community Education. "This year's classes were sold out," she said. "Education is part of my greater goal, which is to have people leave happy. The more our customers learn, the more confident they feel."

How cheese is handled is of upmost importance. "Cheese requires care," Blosser said. "When people buy cheese, we cut it off the block. It tastes better that way. And once it's cut, we wrap it in a special paper."

The distinctive wrapping is not only pretty, but functional. The outer layer works with the inner layer to keep moisture out and to prevent the cheese from smothering. "There's nothing worse than cheese wrapped in plastic because it changes the taste," Blosser said.

When a customer comes to E's Cheese, sampling is a must. "We want our customers to taste different cheeses so they decide what they like," Blosser said. "Then we can direct them to other cheeses that they might enjoy."



An assortment of cheese at E's Cheese.

E's Cheese attracts customers of every age and background. "There's a misconception that a store like this just caters to those in the upper-income brackets," Blosser said. "Nothing could be further from the truth. Our prices are very competitive."

Both E's Cheese shops are located next to wine markets, so customers can bring over the wines they have purchased and Blosser's staff will help them pick out the best cheeses to pair with the wines.

As for her personal cheese recommendations, Blosser said she is currently infatuated with a montenebro from Spain. "It's a goat's milk cheese," she said. "It's soft-ripened like a brie and is salty, creamy and wonderful."

According to Blosser, gourmet cheese is growing in popularity and is part of a bigger trend. "People are getting back to enjoying food, not just racing around eating whatever's available," Blosser said. "More and more people are having extended family, friends and neighbors over for meals. And if they're going to do that, it should be special. We want to be part of that."

On the Town

Songs of the season

Notesmyth spreads holiday joy by carrying on caroling tradition

BY CAROLYN WILL

Christmas carols sung by the Notesmyth Vocal Ensemble may be the perfect tonic for what can be a hectic holiday season. The eight-member group of musically gifted friends is gaining renown for its beautiful a cappella sound and authentic presentation in Victorian costume.

"We're truly about bringing the joy of the Christmas season to the public," said Lori Sommerfield, a Summit Hill resident and alto with Notesmyth. "We see so much commercialism at this time of year. Caroling is a nice way to connect with the true meaning of Christmas."

Notesmyth will return to the James J. Hill House this month for its fourth consecutive year to sing both traditional and nontraditional Christmas carols. This year, harpist Catherine Victorsen and guitarist Mike Salovich will provide accompaniment on selected pieces. Interspersed between the carols, Tim Marrinan will read short narratives on the history of caroling and the lyricists.

"We perform in the restored art gallery of the Hill House—a warm, cozy atmosphere for the event," said first soprano Beverly Ferriere, who also serves as the ensemble's artistic director.

Notesmyth is composed of four men and four women who started singing together 10 years ago when Sommerfield began hosting annual Christmas caroling parties. The opportunity to perform in public came through Ferriere, a

historic site guide at the Hill House. When the Minnesota Historical Society needed entertainment for Christmas tours of the Victorian-era mansion four years ago, Ferriere gathered her friends to perform and Notesmyth was born.

"Caroling is a nice way to connect with the true meaning of Christmas."

In addition to the annual Hill House caroling, Notesmyth has performed at Landmark Center's Holiday Bazaar, the Grand Meander on Grand Avenue, the Guthrie Theater's *A Christmas Carol* and other special events.

"We fill a unique niche with the caroling tradition and our strong commitment to do outreach by way of education as well as entertainment," said Sommerfield, who works by day as a compliance manager for Wells Fargo.

The ensemble's members, who range in age from 21 to 63, have invested in period costumes tailor-made by Minneapolis designer Laurie Williams. They spend almost every available hour either rehearsing or performing.

The vocalists strongly advocate preserving the tradition of caroling, which harkens back to the early days of Christianity. The church originally looked upon carols as a pagan custom and banned them from sacred services. Nonetheless,



The Notesmyth Vocal Ensemble will perform on December 14, 16 and 20 at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Pictured at the group's recent performance at Landmark Center's Holiday Bazaar, from left, are (front row) Lori Sommerfield, Gina Lovestrand, Lisa Clemen and Beverly Ferriere; and (back row) Chris Ferriere, Joe Eschenbacher, Mark Salovich and Dave Briggs. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

in the countryside simple folk songs and carols continued to gain popularity. In 1223, St. Francis of Assisi introduced carols during the Christmas midnight Mass in a church in Greccio, Italy. As a patron of the arts, St. Francis inspired the poets and composers of the day to write Christmas music.

The caroling tradition continued to gain popularity throughout the Middle Ages. Notesmyth sings a song, "Past Three O'clock," whose original tune dates to medieval days. "Watchmen who guarded the old walled cities would pass the time by calling out the time and singing carols," Ferriere said. "The refrain goes, 'Past three o'clock, and a cold and frosty morning. Past three o'clock; Good Morrow, masters all!'"

In 1742, German composer George Handel wrote his most famous piece, "Messiah," while

living in Dublin and composing music for the Duke of Devonshire. "Messiah" debuted at Music Hall in Dublin for the benefit of several charities and was soon as popular as Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" is today.

Queen Victoria of England gave Christmas caroling perhaps its biggest boost as a secular custom. When she married her German Catholic husband, Prince Albert, in 1840 and brought him to Windsor Castle, she reintroduced caroling to the British empire. That same year, Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*.

Perhaps the most widely known Christmas carol is "Silent Night." Austrian priest Joseph Mohr wrote the lyrics the day before Christmas after he was told the church organ would not be repaired in time for the holiday. Disheartened, he wrote three stanzas that could

be sung by the choir to guitar music. At midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria, the congregation listened to the pure voices of the choir sing "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht," accompanied only by guitar. Today, "Silent Night" is sung in more than 180 languages.

A favorite with Notesmyth audiences has been "In the Bleak Midwinter," written in England in 1872 by poet Christina Rossetti. It is a contemplative piece about the Christ Child. "People are literally teary-eyed by the end of the piece," Sommerfield said.

Notesmyth will perform Victorian Christmas carols at 7:30 p.m. on December 14, 16 and 20 at the Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The cost is \$16, which includes tours of the mansion and light refreshments. For reservations, call 651-297-2555.

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On the Town Briefly

Books

Taner Akçam and Diane Wilson will read from their Minnesota Book Award winners at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 6, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Akçam wrote *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility* and Wilson a memoir, *Spirit Car*. Admission is free. Call 651-222-3242.

Ibtisam Barakat will discuss *Tasting the Sky*, a memoir about her childhood in Israeli-occupied Palestine, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 6, in Room 6 of Carnegie Hall at Macalester College (call 651-696-6318), and at 7:00 p.m. Friday, December 7, at Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Call 612-215-2575.

Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave., will play host to free readings by the following authors: Jane Rhodes from *Framing the Black Panthers*, about the activist organization's pioneering use of mass media, at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 13, at Nina's Cafe upstairs from the bookstore; and Jeffrey Hertzberg and Zoe Francois from *Artisan Bread in Five Minutes a Day*, at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 16. Call 651-225-8989.

Seven women poets and novelists will read from their works at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 18, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Ramsey Hill author Carol Connolly emcees the free program, which will feature Twin Cities writers Patricia Barone, Jill Breckenridge, Candy Clayton, Phebe Hanson, Freya Manfred, Madelon Sprengnether and Cynthia French. An optional dinner will be served beginning at 5:00 p.m. Call 651-222-1751.

Dance

Nutcracker! a multicultural adaptation of the classic E.T.A. Hoffman tale, will be performed December 7-9 by the Ethnic Dance Theatre. The holiday fantasy is told with traditional dances and exotic costumes and Tchaikovsky's score intermingled with folk music. Students from Linwood A+ Elementary School will take part in the shows at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in Pearson Theater at Concordia University, Hamline and Marshall avenues. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors, \$15



Grammy-nominated folk artist John McCutcheon will fly in from Charlottesville for two shows on Saturday, December 8, for the benefit of J.J. Hill Elementary School. The string musician extraordinaire will play an hour-long family concert at 4:00 p.m. and a two-hour evening show at 7:30 in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children for the family concert (\$18 and \$12 in advance) and \$25 for the evening show (\$22 in advance). Call 651-646-2168.

for students and \$10 for children under age 12. Call 651-209-6689.

"Gods and Monsters," the Macalester College Theater and Dance Department's fall concert, will be presented December 7-9 on the main stage of the college's Fine Arts Center. Guest artist Joe Chvala will join teachers Becky Heist and Sharon Varosh and students Safiya Carter-Thompson and Emily Gastineau in shows at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 7:00 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$7.00, \$5.00 for seniors, free to children age 13 and under. Call 651-696-6359.

International dancers Oksana Konobeyeva and Sayat Asatryn will join Ballet Minnesota in a full-length production of the *Nutcracker* December 14-16. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Tchaikovsky's score will be performed live by the Mississippi Valley Orchestra. Tickets are \$15-\$40. Call 651-690-6700.

"All Wrapped Up: A KXMS Christmas," a holiday blend of ballroom, jazz, hip hop, lyrical and precision dance, will be presented December 14-16 by Minnesota Perform-

Dance Productions. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2:00 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday in E.M. Pearson Theatre at Concordia University, Hamline and Marshall avenues. Tickets are \$24, \$22 for seniors, \$15 for students, free to children age 5 and under. Call 651-209-6799.

The Metropolitan Ballet gives the classic work by Hoffmann and Tchaikovsky a twist in *Nutcracker: The Rat King*. The ballet will receive its world premiere on December 15 and 16 at Northrop Auditorium. Momchil Mladenov, Violeta Angelova and Justin Sherwood star, with live music by the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra. The curtain rises at 7:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20 to \$75. Call 612-624-2345.

The Nutcracker According to Mother Goose, a holiday story built around favorite nursery rhyme characters and wrapped in Tchaikovsky's captivating score, will be performed December 15 and 22 by Zenon Dance Company. Suitable for all ages, the shows begin at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on both Saturdays at the Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for children age 12 and under. Call 612-340-1725.

Film

The Ritchie Boys, a film about the young men who fled Nazi Germany and returned to Europe as U.S. soldiers, will be shown at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 5, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The Ritchie Boys took their name from Camp Ritchie, Maryland, where they were trained in intelligence and psychological warfare. Local veteran Walter Schwarz will discuss his role as a Ritchie Boy following the film. Tickets are \$5.00 and must be reserved by calling 651-698-0751.

Plagues and Pleasures on the Salton Sea, a new feature-length documentary about the inland ocean of the American Southwest from its heyday as the California Riviera to its present state as a forgotten ecological disaster, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 6, at the Minnesota Museum of American Art, 50 W. Kellogg Blvd. A discussion with the director will follow.

Star Tribune movie critic Colin Covert will show clips of films about Minnesota and discuss the Hollywood image of the land of *Purple Rain* and *Grumpy Old Men* at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 11, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The cost is \$8.00. Call 651-259-3015.

Music

The JCC Symphony Orchestra opens a new season on Wednesday, December 5, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The 7:30 p.m. concert will include Dvorak's Symphony No. 6 in D Major and Holcombe's arrangement of "Festive Sounds of Chanukah." Admission is free, but tickets are required. Call 651-698-0751.

Normandale Concert Band will perform traditional holiday music, light classical selections and a new work by Minnesota composer John Zdechlik in its annual holiday concert on Thursday, December 6. The free program will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Macalester-Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave, Refreshments will be served after the program. Call 952-487-8327.

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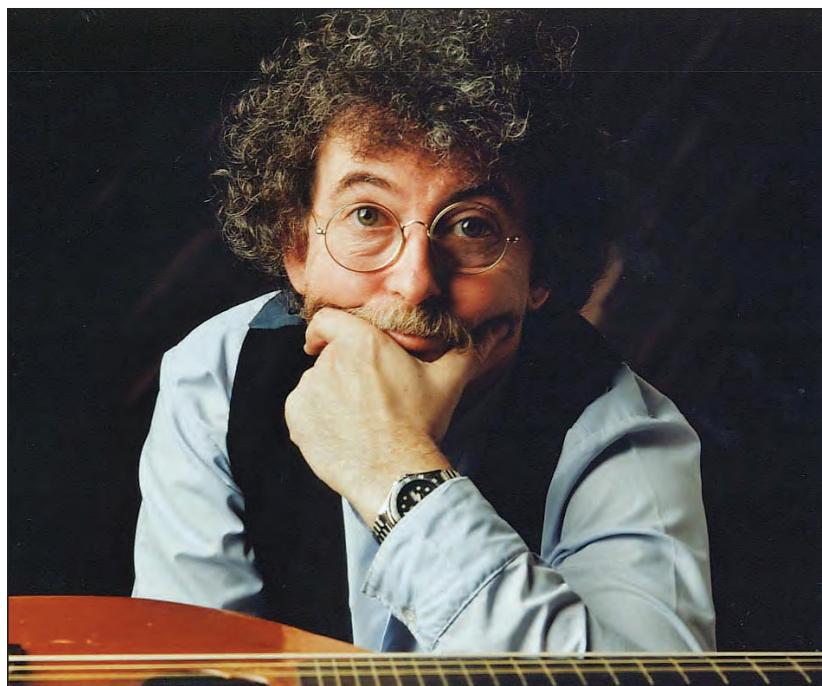
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Folksinger and storyteller Jimmy Crowley of Cork, Ireland, will join the Traditional Singers Club in concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 14, at the St. Paul Conservatory of Music, 29 E. Exchange St. Admission is \$10.

and Michael Ziegahn will be presented on Friday, December 7, by the Minnesota Guitar Society. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. in Hamline University's Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$22, \$17 for students and seniors. Call 612-677-1151.

Irish singer Katie McMahon will celebrate "A Celtic Christmas" with an evening of music, dance and storytelling at 7:30 Saturday, December 8, in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Tickets are \$24, \$19 for seniors, \$15 for students and \$9.00 for children under age 12. Call 651-690-6700.

Ravel's Mother Goose Ballet Suite will be featured on Saturday, December 8, in a concert by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Fortepianist Kristian Bezuidenhout will join the ensemble in a program that also includes The Sacred and Secular Suite by Josquin and Dufay and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. Tickets are \$10 and \$25. Call 651-291-1144.

The New Standards, the minimalist jazz trio composed of bassist John Munson of Semisonic and Trip Shakespeare, pianist Chan Poling of the Suburbs and vibraphonist Steve Roehm of Electropolis, will present their holiday show on Saturday, December 8. Guest artists include Haley Bonar, Dan Wilson, Matt Wilson, Adam Levy, Jelloslave, Maddie Poling and Laurie Lindeen will join in the seasonal fun. The music will begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Fitzgerald Theater, 30 E. 10th St. Tickets are \$20. Call 651-290-1221.

"A Char Ladies' Christmas" will light up the stage at 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, December 10 and 11, at the Lowry Theater, 16 W. 5th St. From the warmth of the kitchen to the gaiety of the ball, the holiday season will be celebrated with a tapestry of traditional Irish music and dance. Among the performers will be Laura MacKenzie, Daithi Sproule, Tom Schaefer, Michael Bissonnette, Dec Barry and the dance troupe Biddies Galore. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for children age 12 and under. Visit www.lauramackenzie.com or call 651-222-5151.

Handel's Messiah will be performed by the Minnesota Orchestra and the Minnesota Chorale December 12-16. Soloists Janice Chandler-Etene, Jennifer Dudley, Thomas Cooley and Nathan Berg be featured in shows at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis, 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Cathedral of St. Paul, and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in Minneapolis' Orchestra Hall. Tickets are \$20-\$49. Call 612-371-5656.

Cellist Lauren Radnofsky will join the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra on December 13 and 15 in a concert of contemporary music featuring electronically enhanced instruments, video and ambient electronic sounds. The program includes David Lang's "Increase," John Zorn's "Orphée," Kaija

Saariaho's "Amers," Boulez's "Derive 1" and Lubman's "Fuzzy Logic." The music will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday in the Music Room of the SPCO Center, 408 St. Peter St. Tickets are \$10. Call 651-291-1144.

All six of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos will be performed by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra December 14-16. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. Friday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in the Music Room of the SPCO Center, 408 St. Peter St., and at 7:00 p.m. Saturday at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. Tickets are \$14, or \$11-\$38 on December 15. Call 651-291-1144.

"Celebrating the Mystery," choral music of Advent and Christmas, will be performed on Sunday, December 16, by the 40-voice Kantorei. The music begins at 3:00 p.m. in the chapel of the St. Paul Seminary, 2260 Summit Ave. Admission is \$12, \$7.00 for students and seniors.

"Tuba Christmas," the 18th annual holiday concert and sing-along featuring all the tuba and euphonium players who wish to take part, will be held at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 16, in the sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St. Registration begins at 2:00 p.m. and a rehearsal at 2:30.

Theater

Of Mice and Men, a stage adaptation of John Steinbeck's Depression-era novel about the friendship between two migrant workers and the events that conspire against them, is playing Thursday through Sunday through December 16 at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. Call 651-291-7005.

Hormel Girls, a musical about the Austin meatpacker's all-woman drum and bugle corps that crisscrossed the country from 1947 to 1953 selling Spam by day and entertaining audiences by night, is playing through December 23 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Directed by Sari Ketter, it stars Jen Burleigh-Bentz, Richard C. Grube, Tracie Hodgdon, Stacy Lindell, Tinia Moulder, Sondra Norland, Mark Rosenwinkel and Angela Timberman. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2:00 p.m. Sundays and 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursdays. Call 651-292-4323.

Black Nativity, a 20-year holiday tradition in music and song, has returned to the Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. The gospel journey is directed by Austene Van with musical direction by Sanford Moore and choreography by Uri Sands. Morning, afternoon and evening shows are scheduled Wednesdays through Sundays through the end of the year. For tickets, priced from \$15 to \$35, call 651-224-3180.

The Magic Dreidels, an adaptation of Eric A. Kimmel's beloved Hanukah tale, will be





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performed December 6-21 by the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Sundays and select Tuesday through Friday mornings in the theater at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Come before the show for a reading of the book, and after the show meet playwright Jenna Zark. Tickets are \$16, \$14 for children. Call 651-647-4315.

Shakespeare's King John will be read by all comers on Friday, December 7, in a free program sponsored by the Lex-Ham Community Theater. The reading will begin at 7:00 p.m. at 1184 Portland Ave. Participants are invited to bring a dish for a potluck supper starting at 6:30. No registration is required. Call 651-644-3366.

The ghost of "Star Trek" episodes past appears on Saturday, December 8, when Commedia Beauregard performs Dickens' beloved *A Christmas Carol* in the Klingon language of tlhIngan Hol. The troupe has taken some liberties with the story, but promises an English translation in supertitles. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Student Center Theater, 2017 Buford Ave. A benefit silent auction will precede the show at 6:30. Tickets are \$20. Call 651-209-6689.

Cretin-Derham Hall students will tumble into the topsy-turvy world of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* December 12-16. The Lewis Carroll classic will be performed at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday in Lillian Theater at the high school, 550 S. Albert St. Tickets are \$7.00, \$5.00 for students. Call 651-690-2443.

Sound of Music, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical about a would-be nun and governess who charms an Austrian widower and his talented children, will open on Friday, December 14, at the Ordway. Wendy Knox directs a cast that includes Broadway actress Jessica Bogart as Maria and stage and screen star Mathew Ashford as Captain von Trapp. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday through December 30. Tickets are \$43-\$70. Call 651-224-4222.

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, Joe Landry's take on the classic Frank Capra film, will be served up December 18-23 along with afternoon tea or evening dinner at the St. Paul Hotel, 350 Market St. Produced by Jim Cunningham of Actors Theater of Minnesota, the dramatic reading stars Cunningham, Phil Callen, Adena Brumer, Jennifer Edwards and Ross Young. Show times are 3:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; and with tea at 11:00 a.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$50 for the show and three-course tea and \$65 for the show and dinner. For reservations, call 651-228-3860.

Exhibits

You've got to stop and see the poinsettias, more than 1,000 varieties in hues of red to pink, in the Como Conservatory's Holiday Flower Show, which continues from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily through January 21. Admission is by donation.

History buffs can be home for the holidays at the Gilded Age mansion of Alexander Ramsey, 265 S. Exchange St. Hour-long tours of the 19th-century home decked out for the holidays are being offered on the half hour between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and noon and 3:00 p.m. Sundays through December. Hot cider and cookies are served. The cost is \$8.00, \$7.00 for seniors and \$6.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-296-8760.

The College of Visual Arts, 173 N. Western Ave., will hold a holiday sale and auction of

art by students, faculty, staff and alumni from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, December 8. The silent auction will end at 3:00 p.m., and winning bidders will be announced at 4:00. A preview party will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 7. Admission to the preview is \$25, with proceeds going to the CVA scholarship fund. Call 651-290-9379 or 651-224-3416.

Julian H. Sleeper House, a museum of Gilded Age decorative arts at 66 S. St. Albans St., is offering holiday tours by appointment from December 7 to January 6. Among the adornments are a 10-foot Christmas tree with more than 500 ornaments from the 1880s and a second tree decked out with paper currency from 200 nations. Admission is \$7.00. Call 651-225-1505.

Family

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will offer the following free programs: an appearance by Santa Claus at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 6, to kick off a Red Balloon program that matches new books that customers donate to homeless shelters with a book of equal or greater value; a Kerlan Calendar Party and origami workshop with author-illustrator Lauren Stringer at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 8; author Ibtisam Barakat and her memoir *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood* at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 9; Marie Olofsdotter and her book *Sofia and the Heartmender* at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 15. Call 651-224-8320.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Barbara Robinson's beloved story about the year a family of children from the wrong side of the tracks stole the annual holiday show, is being performed Tuesdays through Sundays through December 22 on SteppingStone Theatre's new stage at 55 N. Victoria St. Tickets are \$11, \$9.00 for children and seniors. Call 651-225-9265.

Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis, will present a preschool program on migrating birds from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, December 6, and a drop-in program on Minnesota weather between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 8. The programs are free with museum admission, which is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for seniors, students and children ages 3-16. To register for Thursday's program, call 612-624-9050.

"The Stuffed Animal Show," interactive theater co-hosted by Leslye Orr and Chipmunk Zip, will be featured on December 8 and 9 at Dreamland Arts, 677 N. Hamline Ave. Show times are 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. A miniature tea party for all stuffed animals follows every 45-minute performance. Tickets are \$7.00, \$5.00 for children, free for stuffed animals. Call 651-645-5506.

A model circus train will chug from noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 9, at the Twin City Model Railroad Museum in Bandana Square, Energy Park Drive and Lexington Parkway. The train has 12 extra-long flat cars, each loaded with four handmade circus wagons, some with animals and others with storybook sides. A circus parade with music, clowns, horsedrawn wagons and elephants will also be represented in miniature. Admission is \$4.00, free to those under age 5. Call 651-647-9628.

The Disney classic *Beauty and the Beast* will be performed December 13-16 by 30 members of the JCC Senior High Theatre. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Saturday and 1:00 p.m. Sunday at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The show is directed and choreographed by Adam Arnold, with music direction by Karen Hillmann. Admission is \$7.00, \$5.00 for seniors and children. Call 651-698-0751.

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CDH running back Shady Salamon carries the ball during the Raiders' 50-21 loss to Eden Prairie in the Class AAAA state football title game on November 23. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Raider firepower falls short vs. Eagles in much anticipated state showdown

BY BILL WAGNER

Cretin-Derham Hall's high-powered air and ground attack was not enough to stop Eden Prairie's ball-controlling offense and stout defense as the Eagles ground out a 50-21 win on November 23 for their second straight Class AAAA state football title.

Many people thought the big game between the unbeaten powerhouses would go down to the wire, but the Raiders couldn't get much going after the first 12 seconds of play, when junior Marcus Binns ran the opening kickoff back for a 98-yard touchdown and a new state Prep Bowl record. Eden Prairie set two state tourney records of its own by chewing up 520 yards of offense and amassing 30 first downs.

The Raiders were able to move the ball when they had it. The trouble is they only had it for 15½ minutes of the game. Eden Prairie had it for the other 32½ minutes and was never forced to punt.

"They were remarkable," said CDH coach Mike Scanlan about the Eagles. "Every time we didn't make them punt, it made it that much tougher for us. I knew they were good, but they played very well."

Binns' opening touchdown affirmed Eden Prairie coach Mike Grant's fears about the Raiders' ability to score fast and often. "I didn't know how we'd respond," he said, "but our kids responded very well."

The Eagles tied the game by putting together a 79-yard, nine-play drive that ended with Ryan Grant's 32-yard touchdown pass to Zac Kallas.

The Raiders came right back to lead 14-7 when senior quarterback John Nance ran it in from 8 yards out. That play finished off a five-play march that started from the CDH 39. The big play was a 47-yard bomb from Nance to his favorite receiver, senior Michael Floyd, who leapt high for the ball while being closely defended. At that point it looked as if the Raiders, who were averaging 47 points a game, would have their way with yet another opponent. But it was not to be.

"Cretin is a great football team," Grant said. "(Defending against its offense) is kind of like picking your poison. But our kids hung in there and made some plays on defense. We were able to slow them down."

Eden Prairie went ahead 15-14 with a 10-yard touchdown pass from Grant to Carter Bykowski, and a two-point conversion from Grant to Adam Lueck. CDH never regained the lead after that.



CDH star wide receiver Michael Floyd gathers himself on a not-so-successful night against the Eagles.

The only other Raider touchdown on the evening was scored by senior Shady Salamon, who ran it in from 4 yards out with 2:58 to play in the first half. That made the score a manageable 29-21, but the Eagles marched right back and scored on a 2-yard run by Grant with 13 seconds left before the break.

The Eagles continued to control the clock with their running game in the second half. The Raiders had the ball only twice in the last two quarters, losing it on interceptions both times. Two more second-half Eagle touchdowns turned the game into a rout. The Raiders had a 21-yard touchdown pass from Nance to Floyd nullified in the third quarter by a motion penalty.

The CDH defense never could get a key stop against Eden Prairie's two big running backs, Scott Lindner and Matt Swanson, who would get hit after three or four yards, but kept their legs pumping until they gained another five or six.

"We knew that ball control was pretty much their strategy the whole year," said Raider defensive back Dan Tipping, who led the team with 16 solo tackles. "We were trying not to let them do that, but it didn't work out that way. Their offensive line executed well."

CDH had only 240 total yards in the game, including 118 rushing and 122 passing, and 13 first downs. Nance was the leading ground gainer for the Raiders with 73 yards on 10 carries, including several thrilling scrambles where he made multiple tacklers miss. He was 11 for 20 in passing with the two interceptions.

Aside from the one big play in the first half, the Raiders never managed to consistently get the ball to Floyd. The Notre Dame-bound receiver caught only three balls for 85 yards.

After winning 13 games in a row this year, including several routs against some pretty good football teams, all the Raiders could do was keep the defeat in perspective.

"I'm proud of the season we had," Tipping said, "even if it didn't end the way we wanted."

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championship team, but the roster still oozes talent. Coach Taylor said this year's team will be even quicker than last year's. "All those top kids are a little better than they were last year," he said. You'd have to look long and hard to find a weakness on this team, but Taylor said getting off to a slow start is a bit of a concern. Some early-season games were also close last year.

Outlook: St. Paul Johnson, which brought in some transfer players, "is going to give us a run this year," Taylor said. Still, Central is the clear favorite. Going into the season Central was ranked as the fifth best girls' team in the country.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Classic Suburban Conference
Last year's record: 20-9 (11-5)
Coach: Amy Bellus

Key players and their strengths:

- Molly Geske, senior guard. Averaged 12.6 points and 3.8 rebounds last year. Has a quick release on her three-point shot and is an excellent defender.

- Carolyn Dierhart, senior guard. A terrific defender with quick feet and a good three-point shot.

- Kendra Harris, junior center. A strong 6-footer who has learned to use her body well. An inside force for the Raiders.

- Sarah Hendricks, junior forward. Another 6-foot-plus post player who jumps well and rebounds aggressively.

- Molly King, senior center. One of the most improved players on the team. A 6-footer who has a knack for getting the ball around the basket.

Team strengths/weaknesses: CDH has size and strength in the post. Five players are over 6 feet. The team has some talented, experienced holdovers from last year's 20-win season. The Raiders will struggle to fill a hole at point guard. Some capable guards are waiting in the wings, but they lack varsity experience.

Outlook: The Raiders have a nice squad, led by the big girls under the basket. The team hopes to be right in the mix in a tough Suburban East Conference, battling the likes of Woodbury, Park and Roseville. However, CDH has a tough road to state in a section that includes Central. "We have a good team to build with," coach Bellus said. "I see a ton of potential in this group. We're only starting to scratch the surface so far."



Sibley junior forward Eleanor Garcia looks for someone to pass to while being defended by Highland Park senior guard Nicole Givens.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: Classic Suburban Conference
Last year's record: 4-21 (2-12)
Coach: Harry Jenness

Key players and their strengths:

- Natalie Hanson, senior guard. Averaged 9.8 points last year. An all-around athlete who can shoot the ball.

- Eleanor Garcia, junior forward. Another all-around player who averaged 10.7 points last year.

- Katie Ahlstrom, junior guard. An outstanding shooter who averaged 10.5 points a game last season.

- Briana Allen, junior center. Sibley's top rebounder last year.

- Becca Hern, junior guard. A fine athlete who transferred from Missouri and looks to be a good scorer.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sibley has a wealth of scorers and good team depth. Some junior varsity players from last year are ready to contribute. However, the Warriors need to get better on the boards and cut down on turnovers.

Outlook: Richfield, Hill Murray and Simley are the teams to beat in the Classic Suburban. "We could be a surprise team," coach Jenness said. "I think we can be in the top four. Our goal is to be competitive in every game."

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City Conference
Last year's record: 9-16 (8-4)
Coach: Deborah Williams

Key players and their strengths:

- Nicole Givens, senior guard. Led the Scots with nearly 12 points a game in 2006.

- Alonia Chess, junior forward. Was Highland's top defender last season and averaged 8.8 points and 6.7 rebounds per game.

- Adele Simerson-Wallfred, junior center. A proven scorer (11.3 points per game) and rebounder (8.8).

Team strengths/weaknesses: Besides returning some good offensive players, Highland has quickness and experience. However, the Scots lack size after graduating three post players last year.

Outlook: Central is the clear favorite in the conference and Johnson is probably next, but Highland looks to finish near the top. Good senior leadership and scoring will help the Scots get there.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri Metro Conference
Last year's record: 24-5 (15-2)
Coach: Josh Thurow

Key players and their strengths:

- Rachel Hansen, sophomore guard. An all-conference player who averaged 8.8 points a game last season.

- Sarah Peterson, junior forward. Another all-conference pick who was a third-team all-metro defender last year.

- Ani Johnson, senior guard. A team captain who holds Minnehaha's career record for three-point shots.

- Brittany Norby, senior guard. Another good all-around player and a team leader.

- Megan Erlandson, senior guard. A transfer from Concordia Academy who is an outstanding point guard.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Minnehaha is quick and presses well. The team has outstanding guard play and is adept at executing the 1-3-1 defense. The Redhawks graduated four significant players, including two starters from last year. The early-season schedule is tough and there is likely to be a learning curve for some of the younger players.

Outlook: DeLaSalle will be tough, but Minnehaha appears headed for another stellar campaign. The Redhawks have always been quick with good shooters, but this year they will have some height as well. "We should be really good, assuming we stay healthy," coach Thurow said.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City Conference
Last year's record: 16-11 (7-5)
Coach: Tim Williams

Key players and their strengths:

- Kiara Strickland, senior forward. A coveted Division I college prospect who averaged 15.9 points last season. She can do it all.

- Tyesha Wright, sophomore guard. A talented young point guard who can penetrate opposing defenses and make things happen.

- Suriya McGuire, sophomore guard. Another good young player. An excellent defender and passer.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Teddies are

GIRLS' BASKETBALL ▶ 42



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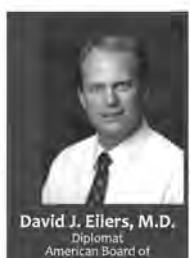


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39 ▲ WRIGHT CALL

returning and a much easier schedule. This year the Tommies finished 2-8, had just four home games and faced Central, a top section seed, Loras and the Johnnies on the road. In 2008, Central and Loras will be replaced on the schedule by Macalester and Northwestern (Roseville) and St. John's will be visiting O'Shaughnessy Stadium.

Two ideas that work

One idea that's 35 years old and another that's just a week old both worked as well as could be hoped last week.

In 1972, somebody got the bright idea to add prep football playoffs to the lineup of fall tournaments. The nature of football is that size means more than in any other sport. Not necessarily player size—any school can have a 300-pound tackle—but roster size. It simply was inconceivable to have a system in which a Minnehaha Academy would have to face an Eden Prairie in a football playoff game.

So, when it was decided to expand the playoffs and invite more teams into the post-season, the league went to five classes. (They made it six a decade ago.)

Until the Metrodome came into existence, these title games were played on home fields. Once the number of classes was expanded, the games went indoors. The Prep Bowl became a daylong event until last month when four championship games were played on the Friday after Thanksgiving and two were played that Saturday. More on that later.

Upon further review, the current six classes might not even be enough. After his team got walloped by Cretin-Derham Hall in the Class AAAA semifinals, Brainerd coach Ron Stolski mused, "I think we might really be Class AAAA½. We weren't even close to them." He was not alone in that view.

If that's the case, Eden Prairie might qualify for a class by itself. Cretin-Derham Hall got off to good start in the title game, but ended up in the same position as the rest of the Eagles' opponents this year—watching glumly in a 50-21 loss.

There are some exceptions—Stephen-Argyle and Glencoe-

Silver Lake quickly come to mind—but generally speaking, the size of the school dictates the size of the football roster.

There still are a few glitches in the current system. Kevin Merkle, the Minnesota State High School League's director who oversaw the football tournament, is a former athletic director who understood the dismay of teams like the combined St. Paul Academy-Mounds Park Academy squad. Though the Spartans play in the basically Class A Tri-Metro Conference, the combined size of the two schools kicked them into Class AAAA for the postseason where they got squashed by St. Thomas Academy 42-14 in the first round.

The theory was that the bottom seeds would be spared from a licking like the 59-0 one Henry Sibley took from Cretin-Derham Hall in its first round of the section playoffs. Only one eighth seed—United South Central, a Class AA school—advanced to their section championship.

Merkle said that schools don't have to compete in the playoffs if they think they're overmatched. "They can opt out and schedule another game instead," he said.

Former Henry Sibley athletic director Dean Verdoes remembers another notion. "(Former Park coach and AD) Mark Porter once suggested that the section rate the top eight teams, but only have the top four play off against each other," Verdoes said. "In the other half, you'd have a fifth seed from one section play the fifth from another section and so on." The theory was that the bottom seeds would be spared from a licking like the 59-0 one Henry Sibley took from Cretin-

Derham Hall in its first round of the section playoffs. Only one eighth seed—United South Central, a Class AA school—advanced to their section championship.

But that might not be the biggest problem with class warfare. When you consider that Eden Prairie has a bigger gene pool to chose from (3,099 students) than, say, the city of Roseau (2,756 residents), it's easy to understand why one press box observer suggested the Eagles may well be the Class AAAA football champs for the next four to five years.

The last time a big high school was this dominant was in the 1970s when Edina was winning state football and hockey titles with regularity. Edina got so big that a second school, Edina West, was built. Edina East won a couple more times, but the streak was broken and the mystique was gone. At the same time, Eden Prairie began to move into athletic prominence. Eventually, Edina went back to one school, but it no longer dominates.

The cycle could eventually repeat itself, but there are no current plans to split Eden Prairie into two schools. But there will be an outer suburb ring school eventually—Chanhassen? Victoria?—where families will move so little Johnny will have a place to play. Until then, get used to seeing coach Mike Grant and the Eagles winning titles in late November.

The other decision—the one to split up the Prep Bowl games over two days—seemed to work out very well. The Friday session, helped out by the highly anticipated game between Eden Prairie and Cretin-Derham Hall, drew nearly 23,000 people. The Saturday session, featuring the second and third highest levels of play, drew nearly 10,000 spectators. It probably helped that three of the four teams on Saturday were local and that the second game featured rivals Mahtomedi and Totino-Grace.

High school league officials seemed happy with the attendance figures, which were the best in 20 years, and the fact that the games didn't run so compactly. However, they also admitted they hadn't counted up the bills yet.

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

41 ▲ GIRLS' BASKETBALL

quick, aggressive and defense-minded, but they have a lot of young players who haven't seen much varsity action.

Outlook: How far will the young talent carry the team? All the way to the state tournament, perhaps. At least that's coach Williams' goal for a team coming off a 16-win season. South and Southwest are the other favorites in the Mill City conference.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri Metro Conference
Last year's record: 5-20 (3-14)
Coach: Mark Heiser

Key players and their strengths:

- Kristin O'Brien, junior forward/guard. Can shoot and rebound, having scored nearly 10 points and pulled down 6.7 rebounds a game last season.
- Niambi Mitchell, junior guard. A quick player who averaged 9.1 points and 6.7 rebounds last year.
- Megan Leslie, sophomore guard. A third-year varsity player who is a good shooter and defender.

Team strengths/weaknesses: SPA will rely heavily on its team speed. The Spartans have some good athletes, but not a lot of size. With only one senior, experience is also lacking.

Outlook: DeLaSalle and Minnehaha are the conference favorites. SPA hopes to move up

in the standings and finish with at least a .500 record.

VISITATION

League: Tri-Metro Conference
Last year's record: 19-9 (14-4)
Coach: Brian Kramer

Key players and their strengths:

- Courtney Kranz, senior forward. Led Visitation in scoring with 13.6 points a game last year and was the top rebounder.
- Emma Russ, junior point guard. A good ball handler and returning varsity player.
- Allison O'Neill, junior small forward. A good shooter who will see time at forward and guard.
- Megan Ballard, junior forward. Has good

size and will complement Kranz under the basket.

- Liz Ryan, senior guard. Had some valuable varsity minutes last year.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Visitation has big players who should pull down a lot of rebounds. Team defense also should be sound. However, this isn't the quickest team in the world, and the Blazers don't have a ton of experience.

Outlook: Minnehaha and DeLaSalle stand out in the conference, but Visitation could be in the mix. "We're going to be a lot better by the end of the year than we are early," coach Kramer said.

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Visitation wins third swim title

Visitation School won its third straight Class A state swimming and diving title on November 17 at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center. The Blazers finished with 298 points, easily outdistancing second-place Breck, which had 187.

Visitation junior Meghan Weiss set state records in both the 100- (51.38) and 200-yard (1:52.33) freestyle events. Eighth-grade teammate Olivia McNeely also set a new state record while defending her title in the 100 breaststroke (1:04.70).

Visitation won the 200 freestyle relay with junior Sophie Pilhofer, senior Jen-



Meghan Weiss

nifer Steege, sophomore Maddy DeMeules and Weiss. The Blazers also won

the 400 freestyle relay with senior Meaghan Rohde, Jennifer Steege, junior Julie Steege and Weiss, and took second in the 200 medley relay with Julie Steege, McNeely, DeMeules and Pilhofer.

Pilhofer also placed second in the 50 free and fourth in the 100 butterfly. Julie Steege took fourth in the 100 backstroke and eighth in the 200 individual medley, while her sister Jennifer Steege placed third in the 200 free and fourth in the 500 free.

Visitation returned at least one relay team or individual to every event in this year's meet.

Raiders take bronze in Class AA

The Cretin-Derham Hall girls' swimming and diving team finished third at the state Class AA meet on November 17 and in the process took home more first-place finishes than any other team.

Junior Lauren Weis set state records in the 200- (1:49.20) and 500-yard (4:52.85) freestyle events, making her the fastest distance freestyler in state history. She received all-state and all-American honors in both events.



Lauren Weis

Freshman Kiera Janzen won the 100 freestyle and

took third in the 50 freestyle. She also earned all-state and all-American honors in both events.

Senior Alexa O'Brien received all-state honors in the 200 individual medley and in the 500 freestyle, placing fifth in both of those events.

O'Brien, along with Weis, Janzen and Katie Spitzmuller, won the 400 freestyle relay and took second in the 200 freestyle relay. They were the first relay team from CDH to win an event at the state meet.

Sports Shorts

Laura Malone, a Mendota Heights resident and freshman at Cretin-Derham Hall, took home three top-five honors, including a prestigious second place Reserve Championship in Western horsemanship, while riding her horse Canadian Charlie during the recent All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Ohio. The Congress, the world's largest single-breed horse show, takes place over three weeks and draws more than 8,500 horses and their riders from across the United States and Canada to compete in more than 16,000 English and Western events. Malone has been riding since age 4 under the guidance of Bonnie Minor of Timber Valley Farm in Dennison, Minnesota.

Visitation senior setter Meredith Patt of Highland Park received all-state honorable mention in volleyball this fall.

Courtney Kranz, a senior at Convent of the Visitation School in Mendota Heights, signed a national letter of intent on November 14 to play Division I basketball at the University of Northern Colorado. The 6-foot-2 center averaged 13.6 points per game last year for the Blazers, who finished 19-9. Kranz also was a member of the 2007 Visitation volleyball team that played in last month's state tournament for the first time in the school's history.

Calli Brennan of Henry Sibley High School has signed to play softball for Concordia University-St. Paul. Brennan is a four-sport star for the Warriors, earning letters in softball, hockey, soccer and weightlifting. She has received multiple all-conference honors, as well as rookie of the year, all-section and all-state awards, and holds Sibley's weightlifting record.

The Minnesota Thunder will host youth soccer clinics and training sessions for soccer

players ages 5-19 this winter. Interested participants are encouraged to register early since space is limited. Visit www.mnthead.com or call 651-917-8326.

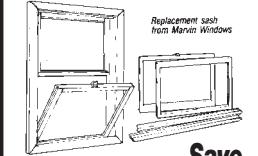
Gentle yoga for adults 55 and older will be offered on Thursdays, January 3 to February 28, at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Modifications can be made for those who prefer being seated, use a wheelchair or have range of motion limitations. The cost is \$30 for eight weeks. To register, call 651-298-5493.

The Como Park Ski Center is scheduled to open on Saturday, December 15. Registration is now being accepted for snowboard, cross country and downhill ski lessons. The center features a lighted, 1.7K cross country trail for beginners and 5K classic and skate-style trails for advanced skiers. It also has four lighted tow ropes, a chalet with food service and a rental shop. The chalet will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sundays and 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Extended holiday hours will run from December 22 to January 1. Cross country ski trails also are provided at the Highland 9-hole and Phalen golf courses. No cross country skiing is allowed at Highland National Golf Course. Call 651-488-9673 or visit www.stpaul.gov/parks.

The Concordia University-St. Paul women's basketball team has been ranked 23rd in the nation in the USA Today/ESPN Division II Top 25 Coaches' Poll. The Golden Bears are off to a 4-0 start and are averaging 92 points a game.

The SweatShop on Snelling and Selby avenues will offer a Family Friday Workout from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, December 29. Call 651-646-8418.

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VETERINARY RECEPTIONIST. Full-time position available at Grand Avenue Veterinary Center. Join this wonderful team and enjoy working with our caring clients and their four legged family members. Customer service, good communication and organizational skills required. Visit our website at www.grandavet.com. Please send resume and cover letter to 1140 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 or clinic@grandavet.com.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZER. Highland District Council seeks full-time community organizer. Ideal candidate will possess BA/BS degree, excellent communication and computer skills and ability to work independently and with local residents, city and other governmental organizations. Nonprofit experience a plus. Submit resume and salary requirements to Search Committee, c/o Gary Marx, 2136 Ford Pkwy. #107, Saint Paul, MN 55116 by Dec. 15. www.hIGHLANDdistrictcouncil.org.

FINANCE & SYSTEMS Controller. Develop programs to streamline financial processes. Cash Mgmt with strong banking skills. Systems Admin with strong IT skills (Dbase, SQL). Prep/Analyze Financials. Ensure Tax Compliance. Masters Degree in Finance or Comp Systems plus 1 year exp reqd. Send resume to hr@somi.com, or mail to Jo Elling, SOMI, 2145 Ford Pkwy., Ste. 300, St. Paul, MN 55116.

LOOKING FOR FUN AT WORK? Jewish Community Center of the Greater St. Paul Area is seeking energetic and motivated individuals with experience in Group Fitness. General knowledge of physical fitness, ability to communicate and instruct in a clear and precise manner. Req. National Group Fitness certification and CPR certification. Flexible schedule, salary DOQ. Contact Wellness Director via email: dhenk@stpauljcc.org or 651-255-4764.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL
All real estate or rental advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising which is in violation of the law. Equal housing opportunity.

LEXINGTON PARK. Charming 2 BRs, hdwd. floors, eat in kitchen, spacious closets, \$734-\$774; Orlando, 651-699-8471.

SPACIOUS 1 & 2 bdrm. apt. homes available in the Highland Park & Crocus Hill areas. Call 651-698-6111 today for rental information on several communities professionally managed by Mid Continent Management Corp. Ask for details regarding move in specials and no app fees.

YORKSHIRE GROVE. Specials; \$400 in rent coupons. Come home to the sought after neighborhood of Highland Park. We offer one bdrms. with thoughtful, classic floor plan, \$675. Our studio homes celebrate compact and comfortable lifestyle at an affordable price, \$535. Call Al Loughrey, 651-698-2180.

MONTCALM APARTMENTS. Luxury apartment homes from \$995, 535 Lexington Pkwy. S.; 651-698-4004; www.montcalm.apartments.com.

1 & 2 BRs from \$599-\$780. 1704 Norfolk Ave. & 2061 Shepard Rd. www.krcapartments.com. 651-698-7684.

GREAT DEALS! Beautiful apts. in 50+ locations. Outstanding service, professional mgmt. Get yours now! www.krcapartments.com; 763-572-9400;

1776 ST. CLAIR AVE. Two bdrms. from \$805; 651-690-3787. www.krcapartments.com.

HIGHLAND PARK, 1480 Randolph, spacious 1 & 2 BR, quiet senior bldg. Underground heated parking, \$658-\$819; 651-773-3485.

GREAT DEALS! 1 BR & 2 BR units, 1061 Montreal Ave. Remodeled kitchens! 651-330-4391. www.krcapartments.com.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

548 OHIO. Private entry! 2 BR, 1 BA, 1,600 sq. ft., w/d, C/A and more, \$1,065 + util., 952-844-0500 or email krisulzbach@aol.com.

SUMMIT/LEXINGTON, 3,000 sq. ft. home. All hdwd. floors. 4 bdrm. + 3rd fl. studio. Great neighborhood. Completely renovated. Large, modern kitchen, all new appliances. Huge sunny living room with fireplace. Dining room. Spacious bedrooms. Large yard. Huge front porch. 2-car garage + off street parking for 3 more cars. Free laundry, trash/sewage. \$2,400 + util. Pets ok. 651-587-1895.

542 Ohio. Private entry! 1 BR, 1 BA, balcony, \$600 + util. 952-844-0500 or email krisulzbach@aol.com.

2158 RANDOLPH. 2 bdrm. upper duplex near St. Kate's. Natural woodwork, hdwd. floors, fenced yard. No smoking. \$995/mo. 651-399-4887.

DUPLEX, upper 1 bdrm., lower 2 bdrm., across from Highland Golf Course; utilities included; \$800-\$950; 651-338-4905.

16xx ASHLAND. Merriam Park 3 bdrm. upper duplex. No smoking. \$1,075/mo. 763-913-1395.

CONDO. LAUDERDALE. 2 BR, 2 BA, garage, fireplace, new carpet, paint, some new appls., tennis court, pool, overlooks UofM Golf Course; \$1,095 + util.; furnished or unfurnished; Mick, 651-248-5651.

BEAUTIFUL SUNNY 2 bdrm. condo overlooking Linwood Park. New kitchen and bath, secure attached garage, on busline. 875 St. Clair, \$1,375/mo. includes heat. 651-222-3903.

GRAND. 719 Hague. 1 BR, deck, carpeted, CA, laundry, storage, parking. No pets. \$615 + util. 612-309-4919.

REMODELED UPPER duplex, 1 bdrm. \$595/mo. includes util. 2072 Mohawk. No smoking/pets. 651-254-5721.

MAC-GROVELAND, 2 BR side by side duplex, near river, 2142 Palace Ave. Hdwd. floors, natural woodwork, own basement, washer/dryer, fenced yard, garage, smaller pets ok. \$1,050/mo. 651-699-6162.

FOR RENT COMMERCIAL

GRAND AVE. Prime 1 and 2+ person office space available immediately. Ideal for consultants, therapists, body work, etc. Adjacent shops & parking. From \$250. Contact Ross, 612-824-7000, ext. 31, or Sue, ext. 32.

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OFFICE SPACE. Highland Village, 900 sq. ft. of first floor office space; ready to move in; 670 S. Cleveland Ave. Call 651-698-3828

UNIVERSITY & VANDALIA, 10,000 sq. ft. or 5000 sq. ft. offices. Two floor atrium, free parking, close to freeway. Great exposure. Great space. Mick, 651-248-5651

OFFICE SPACE. Prime historic location. Ramaley Professional Building, 658 Grand Ave. Two offices, conference room, reception area. Available immediately. Contact Mike, 612-805-7543.

GREAT LOCATION, great space, affordable prices. Move-in special! 2 offices & virtual presence available in Baker Court Bldg. Near 280/94. Ample free parking. Receptionist & office equipment available. Share space with 4 attorneys. Carey Thuente, 651-641-8664.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: LARGE BLACK male cat with 4 white paws & white chest; near Lexington South & Vista on Nov. 11. Reward. 651-699-6927.

LOST: ALL WHITE cat. Gold eyes, deaf with six toes on front feet. Reward of \$50. Call Bonnie or Steve, 651-698-2603.

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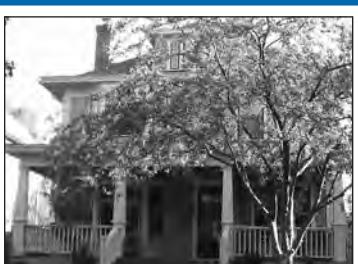


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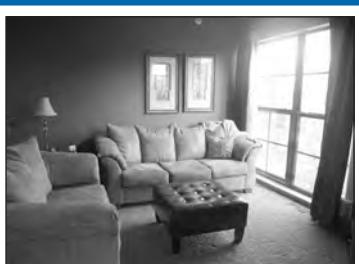


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North St. Anthony Pk.

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