

Highland Parkway considered for city's first bike boulevard

By Jane McClure

A proposal to convert Highland Parkway into the city's first "bike-walk route" will be discussed at a meeting of the Highland District Council's Transportation Committee at 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 11, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The proposed 3.5-mile route would link Highland Parkway to bicycle trails in Minneapolis via Mississippi River Boulevard and the Ford Bridge on the west end, and to the I-35E bicycle trail via Edgcombe Road and Randolph Avenue on the east end. Representatives from St. Paul Public Works and Transit for Livable Communities will present the plans and answer questions. Unlike a typical bike lane that is striped on the side of a road, bike-walk routes—also known as bicycle boulevards—are shared equally by motorists and bicyclists. The proposal for Highland Parkway involves lowering the speed limit from 30 to 25 mph, painting bike symbols on the pavement, posting educational signs for bicyclists and drivers, and adding sidewalks. The parkway would not be rebuilt or widened and parking would remain the same.

Many Highland Parkway residents learned about the proposal after reading about it in newspapers or watching a televised press conference last month. "People are pretty upset," said Highland Parkway resident Fran Ring. "A lot of us think this is a done deal." Ring said that most of the neighbors she has spoken to are opposed to the proposal, though some like the idea of reducing the speed limit. Their concerns range from having large numbers of bicyclists riding by their homes to diverting motor vehicle traffic to adjacent streets. Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris said he also has questions about bike-walk routes, but he encouraged residents to attend the meeting to learn more about the project before drawing any conclusions. "The purpose is to create streets that are more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly," said Steve Clark, Bike Walk Twin Cities coordinator for Transit for Livable Communities. Bike Walk Twin Cities is a federally funded initiative to reduce driving and increase bicycling and walking. Transit for Livable Communities

BIKE BOULEVARD ▶ 2



A worker checks on the status of a new Ranger rolling off the assembly line at the Ford Motor Company's plant in Highland Park. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Ford plant to stay open until 2011

City, state officials hope line will run even longer

By Jane McClure

Rangers will keep rolling off the line of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant through 2011. Ford officials announced on July 24 that the company would extend production of the light trucks at the Highland Park facility for an additional two years. The plant had been slated to close this year

before being given an earlier reprieve until 2009. The recent news was hailed as encouraging by plant workers, local business owners and elected officials. St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman called the two-year reprieve "very welcome news" for the city, for the workers and for the families of those who are employed at the plant. He said that city and state officials will continue to look for opportunities to extend the life of the plant. "We're increasingly hopeful

about the role St. Paul's Ford plant and its world-class workforce can play in the future of the company and in our economy," Coleman said. "We'll continue to push Ford to make strategic investments to keep the plant open and produce vehicles that consumers want to buy and employees are proud to build." Coleman said that the plant could be retooled to meet changing market demands, though it is

FORD PLANT ▶ 2

Campfires help break the ice for Russian youths, local hosts

By Bob Gilbert

Nativity Catholic Church in St. Paul's Macalester-Groveland neighborhood has maintained a sister-parish relationship for the past two decades with Mary Mother of God Catholic Church in Vladivostok, Russia. Through the years, Nativity parishioners have donated money to the Russian parish to help with the restoration of their Gothic-style church and to underwrite

programs that aid orphans, battered women and the elderly in that Pacific Ocean port city. This summer the cultural exchange has blossomed with a six-week visit by two teenagers from the Vladivostok parish. For the past month, Nativity's Boy Scout Troop 67 has served as hosts for Roman Nikolaevich Komov, 16, and Mikhail "Mischa" Yurievich Belozorov, 13, treating them to the best that Minnesota has to offer. Their busy schedule has included visits to the Mall of America,

Minnesota Zoo, Mill City Museum, the Cathedral of St. Paul, the state Capitol, the Science Museum of Minnesota and Valleyfair. Roman and Mischa are members of a Boy Scout troop sponsored by Mary Mother of God, so the emphasis during their stay has been on the outdoors. The boys joined Nativity Scouts in camping in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, at the headwaters of the Mississippi River, on Lake Superior's North Shore and at Scouting's Tomahawk Camp near Rice

Lake, Wisconsin. Among the benefits of a cultural exchange like this is the realization that people from opposites ends of the Earth are pretty much the same, said Andy Ubel, the Nativity parishioner who helped arrange the Russian Scouts' visit. However, he said with a laugh, "we obviously do some things differently here. When they sent us pictures of their Scout camp in Russia,

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The Highland plant currently employs 968 workers, shown installing window trim (above) and attaching the nameplate on a new Ranger (right). PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD



1◀ FORD PLANT

unknown if Ford would consider retrofitting the plant to manufacture more fuel-efficient vehicles as it is contemplating doing at some of its other North American plants.

Ford has seen sales of its larger vehicles slump as a result of rising fuel prices, while sales of the smaller Ranger have remained steady. The standard two-wheel drive, four-cylinder Ranger gets 24 mph in the city and 29 mph on the highway. According to Ford, the Ranger has the highest EPA-rated fuel economy of any U.S. market pickup.

The Highland plant currently employs 900 hourly and 68 salaried workers. The workers are now putting in 10-hour days, five days a week, and an eight-hour Saturday shift is being added this month. The plant is expected to produce about 100,000 Rangers in 2008. However, its capacity is twice that.

Governor Tim Pawlenty and U.S. Senators Norm Coleman and Amy Klobuchar have been lobbying to keep the Ford plant open. All three issued statements after the July 24

announcement saying they were pleased with Ford's decision. State officials have discussed offering incentives to Ford to keep the plant open. The decision to continue production until 2011 is likely to jump-start a state task force that has been studying the manufacturing of vehicles that use alternative fuels.

United Auto Workers Local 879 is also pleased with the decision to keep the plant open, said union president Roger Terveen. The UAW has lately been active on two fronts—lobbying for the plant to be retrofitted for production of other vehicles and working with its members who left Ford to find other jobs. About 1,600 workers at the plant took buyouts following the announcement that it would close. Others transferred to Ford plants elsewhere.

Ford officials would not say what the St. Paul plant's future is beyond 2011. In a statement, Ford said, "We are accelerating our transformation in North America by adding several fuel-efficient small vehicles and re-aligning our manufacturing capacity to reflect changes in customer demand. Rangers pro-

vide customers with an alternative to a full-size pickup. The demand that we are seeing for Ranger is consistent with consumers' shift to smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles."

Highland business owners said they are pleased about the extension. "I'm ecstatic that they're staying open," said Mark Moeller, CEO of R.F. Moeller Jeweler who chairs a St. Paul Chamber of Commerce task force that has been studying plant redevelopment opportunities. "It's important that the jobs stay here for as long as possible."

Moeller said that while there is a strong interest in redeveloping the plant property, those plans can wait. Keeping the plant open longer could mean that when and if the land is available for development, the market will be stronger.

Keeping the plant open longer does mean changes for an ongoing St. Paul Planning Commission study of new land uses for the Ford site. Last year, the 21-member task force came up with five different redevelopment scenarios for the property, including light industrial, residential and commercial uses.

This spring, Ford was prepared to solicit proposals for a major developer for the site. Ford had also agreed recently to add land along the Mississippi River bottom to the planning process. The company sold its hydroelectric plant last year.

City officials have indicated that the land-use planning process will continue, but how it will be done is unknown. Nor is it clear how applicable the five redevelopment scenarios will be after 2011.

Task force members said the fact that the plant's jobs will be saved for at least two years is a plus. "The jobs have always been the top priority," said planning commissioner Carole Faricy, who co-chairs the Ford Site Planning Task Force.

Co-chair Bill Klein, who is the president of the Highland District Council, said the information prepared by the task force can still be used as planning continues. "People knew that any redevelopment scenario would take several years," he said, "and if the plant closes in 2011 instead of 2009, that just allows us more time for the planning process."

1◀ BIKE BOULEVARD

was chosen by Congress to administer the program. The transit advocacy group is using \$1.8 million in federal funds to create bike-walk routes in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Roseville, Falcon Heights and Richfield. One of the mandates of the federal program is that the routes connect with Minneapolis' existing bike trails.

Clark said the Highland Parkway route would provide an important connection to Minneapolis' bike trails. "There are really no other east-west bicycle connections in that part of St. Paul," he said.

Initially, Jefferson Avenue was considered as a bike-walk route. However, its intersection with Lexington Parkway and other street design issues proved challenging, so the project's planners shifted their attention to Highland Parkway.

Clark said he plans to raise the idea of adding a traffic signal at the intersection of Highland Parkway and Fairview Avenue to make it easier for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross Fairview. However, that could reignite a more than 20-year-

old neighborhood debate, Ring said. At that time, neighbors blocked an attempt to install traffic lights at that intersection.

Anne Hunt, sustainability coordinator for St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman's office, has urged residents to keep an open mind. She said there has been an increased demand for bike routes as more people leave their cars at home.

Hunt said the Coleman administration is excited about the possibility of creating the city's first bike-walk route. Similar routes are now being discussed in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. "Walking and biking in our city is no longer strictly a recreational activity," she said. "It is a commuting option and a quality-of-life issue. Providing a safe, friendly street for cyclists, walkers and drivers serves everyone."

The HDC has taken no position on the proposal and is awaiting more information, said community organizer Kathy Carruth. The bike-walk route would require City Council approval after being reviewed by the city's Bicycle Advisory Board.



Mike Johnson, left, Theron Pierre, Mike Brown and Now Bikes and Fitness owner Bob Sumada take a ride on Highland Parkway, which is being considered as the city's first bicycle boulevard.

PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

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Proposed refrigerated ice rink receives lukewarm response

BY JANE MCCLURE

More than a year after first proposing the idea, the city of St. Paul is still seeking a home for a third refrigerated outdoor ice sheet in town.

Mayor Chris Coleman is pushing the refrigerated rinks as a way to extend the outdoor skating season in St. Paul. The first two rinks opened last year at the Phalen and North Dale recreation centers, but the push for a third refrigerated rink in the southwestern quarter of the city has stalled.

A proposal for a rink at Groveland was shelved last year after the Groveland Booster Club and the Highland-Groveland Recreation Association (HGRA) objected. Though they are not operated year-round, refrigerated rinks do require permanent structures that result in the loss of a field space.

Parks and Rec officials also considered placing a refrigerated rink at the Linwood Recreation Center last year, but space constraints there melted that plan.

Last September, the City Council approved a \$560,000 grant and a \$290,000 loan for the rinks through the city's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program. That money is being matched one-to-one by other entities, including the Herb Brooks Foundation.

Public meetings on the refrigerated ice rink were held last month at the Groveland and Palace recreation centers. Those sites are favored by the city because both have had outdoor ice rinks for many years that are well

maintained by local volunteers. The annual cost of operating a single refrigerated ice sheet has been estimated at \$15,000.

City officials would like to have a third refrigerated ice rink by this winter, according to Kathy Korum, the city's manager of recreation services. "We're not married to any particular outcome," she said. "We're having these meetings to gauge interest."

The refrigerated rinks measure 200 by 85 feet. The ice lies atop a concrete slab that has tubes of glycol running through it to keep the ice frozen. Both the boards for the rink and the concrete slab are permanent structures, though the concrete could be used during the warmer months for skateboarding, soccer, tennis or basketball.

More than 80 people attended the July 22 meeting at Groveland, and about two dozen attended the July 24 meeting at Palace. Although both meetings drew supporters, local residents also raised several objections.

One concern was the process followed by the city in proposing the refrigerated rinks. Some people said the request should have come from citizens, not city officials. "Is this any way to make policy—because our mayor loves hockey?" asked Craig Rowen of Macalester-Groveland.

Others cited the potential for intrusive lighting and noise, parking congestion and public disturbances. Some neighbors said they already have trouble getting police to respond to calls. One man brought bags of garbage to the Palace meeting, complaining that he is constantly picking up trash that blows onto

his property from the recreation center.

Bob Laird, president of the Palace Booster Club, questioned why the city would spend money on a rink when Palace's 30-year-old rec center building has many more pressing needs. "I just think this money could be better spent elsewhere," he said.

At Palace, Parks and Rec officials suggested placing the rink south of the building and the playground equipment. However, that would encroach on one if not two of the rec center's four baseball diamonds. Placing the rink lengthwise along View Street, on the current site of horseshoe pits, was offered as an alternative. Several people said they would like to see the horseshoe pits eliminated due to the prevalence of partying and foul language there. However, the View Street site did not sit well with those who live across the street. Neighbor Joe Courteau feared a refrigerated rink would draw a different crowd from the conventional ice rink that Palace has maintained in the past. "It's going to make my life a living hell," he said.

At Groveland, the city has drawn up plans for placing the rink just east of the recreation center on the current site of tennis and basketball courts and possibly a portion of the tot lot. That site has received support from boosters who say Groveland cannot afford to lose ballfields.

The HGRA has not taken a position on the current plans at Groveland. However, the possible loss of the tennis courts drew protests from the St. Paul Urban Tennis program. "Kids who come here to play tennis in the

summer have the same rights as the people who come to skate in the winter," said Elizabeth Charbonneau, who is involved with the tennis program.

"If this is done right, it could improve the recreation center," said Groveland Booster Club president Chris Engelmann. That booster club has spent the past 11 years improving the ice-skating facilities at Groveland. In recent years, Groveland has had multiple rinks and an additional skating track. The booster club even has its own Zamboni to maintain the ice.

Macalester-Groveland resident Megan Stang said the idea of a refrigerated ice rink at Groveland merits further study. Her children attend Nativity and play hockey for that nearby grade school. "We have to drive them to North Dale for home games now," she said.

"We've always had ice skating (at Groveland)," said Emmett Donnelly. "The question is, are we going to have it reliably?" He and others said it would be an asset to the neighborhood to have a refrigerated rink.

Korum said the city is open to discussing other sites for the refrigerated rink. One possibility is city-owned land near Ramsey County's indoor Charles M. Schulz Highland Ice Arena. That idea intrigues Pat Anderson, associate director of the Highland-Central Hockey Association, the area's largest organized youth hockey program. "It's not something we've discussed as a group," Anderson said, "but if the city wants to meet with us, we'd sure look at a proposal."

Officials explore future of historic Fort Snelling Upper Post

Federal, state and county officials joined national and local preservation groups at a news conference on July 28 at the Fort Snelling Upper Post to discuss the future of the historic site and possible next steps to restoring or redeveloping the area.

The Upper Post is located on the 141-acre Upper Bluff near Fort Snelling's golf course and athletic fields. The area was a fully operational military post from the time it was built in the 1820s until the end of World War II, but fell into disrepair after it was decommissioned in 1946. It was designated Minnesota's first National Historic Landmark in 1960. In 1971 it came under the ownership of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Parts of the grounds are leased to other entities.

Over years of management by various governmental agencies, the 28 historic buildings—including barracks, barns, kitchens, a fire station, bakery, morgue, prison and the handsome houses of Officer's Row—have deteriorated so badly that the site was declared one of the nation's 11 most endangered historic places in 2006. Complex and ambiguous ownership, difficulties in securing clear title and financing, and the restrictive requirements for recreational use only



Building 152, a former officer's quarters, was built in 1879 on Fort Snelling's Upper Post and has been vacant since 1970.

have made it difficult to find viable proposals for reusing the site.

Over the past few years, Hennepin County organized a coalition of interested parties, including the Mdewakanton Dakota Community, the National Park Service, the Department of Natural Resources, the Min-

nesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Preservation Alliance, Veterans Affairs and other state, federal and historic preservation agencies to discuss potential redevelopment scenarios for the site.

In 2006, the National Park Service awarded Hennepin County a \$150,000 Save America's

Treasures grant, matched by the DNR and Hennepin County. That enabled the county's Sentencing to Service Program to be employed in repairing and stabilizing portions of some of the buildings. Last year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded the county an \$8,500 Johanna Favrot grant to develop open space and landscape development guidelines for the site. This year, the state provided a \$500,000 grant to Hennepin County for more permanent stabilization.

"There's great urgency with this project," said Hennepin County commissioner Peter McLaughlin. "Two of the buildings have completely collapsed. We're reaching a point where many of them can no longer be repaired and will be lost forever. We don't need to lose this historic site. Other forts across the nation have been redeveloped through acts of Congress. This great historic treasure belongs to all Minnesotans. We cannot let it fall into permanent ruin."

A preliminary report on open space and landscape development guidelines for the site is available at www.hennepin.us/FortSnellingGuidelines. Comments on the report may be submitted to HCWTmail@co.hennepin.mn.us until August 15.

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Liam Dean, 8, leads the way (top) as Russian Scouts Mischa Belozorov, 13, and Roman Komov, 16, carry their canoe to a St. Croix River landing. Above, Mischa has a front-row seat on the surrounding wilderness, sharing a canoe with Cameron Ubel (left) and Sam Rock, both 14, of Nativity Scout Troop 67. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

1 ◀ RUSSIAN BOY SCOUTS

the boys were all peeling potatoes. Our guys would be peeling Pop Tart packages.

"(Roman and Mischa) are doing great here," Ubel said. "I think kids today learn a lot about international cultures through the Internet. It doesn't seem like they're suffering from culture shock in Minnesota."

Ubel arranged the visit last year with the Reverend Myron Effing, a former Minnesotan who is now pastor of Mary Mother of God Church. In choosing the Scouts, he asked of Effing only two things: That the boys be able to speak a little English and swim.

Effing handled the visas and passports and Ubel took care of the rest, including cutting a deal with Northwest Airlines that allowed Troop 67 families to pool 120,000 of their frequent-flyer miles to make it possible for the Russian teenagers to fly round-trip for free.

Nine families from Troop 67 agreed to open their homes to the Russians during their six-week stay. The local Northern Star Boy Scouts Council waived the \$1,000 fee for the two boys to attend the week-long Tomahawk camp and insured them during their stay.

Roman lived for a week with Nativity Scouts Sam and Will Rock, riding bikes, sailing on Lake Minnetonka and practicing flips on their backyard trampoline. Asked how he likes America, he answered in his broken English that Minnesota is "very cool."

Roman, who is a Commander Scout, the Russian equivalent of an Eagle Scout, was described by Sam and Will's dad, Bill Rock, as an active and self-confident teen with obvious leadership qualities. Despite the language barriers, it wasn't hard for his boys to find common ground with him, he said.

"They all like to eat, play video games and do other things you'd expect from teenage boys," Bill Rock said. "We're really enjoying Roman. He probably misses his home, his friends and being able to communicate in his

own language, but he stays in contact with home via e-mail every evening."

And Sam and Will Rock now have a better understanding of the challenges their dad faces as an executive for Cargill, traveling on business to Africa, Europe and Asia where he cannot speak the local language.

Sandra Sonnen of Macalester-Groveland heads the Mother of Mary Mission Society at Nativity. According to her, Nativity Parish's 2,000 families have donated close to \$2,000 a month to the mission over the past two decades.

Effing came to Mary Mother of God in 1991 and made it a priority to restore the church building and complete its construction, which was halted in 1922 when the Communists first came to power in Vladivostok. Unlike many other churches in the area, the cathedral-like edifice was not destroyed by the Bolsheviks, but was turned into a library. However, the building suffered from neglect and fell into disrepair. Over the past 14 years, much of the interior restoration has been completed and work has begun on the church's two never-completed bell towers.

In addition to the construction project and his parish's programs for the elderly, the abused and the orphaned, Effing is concerned about the unemployment and alcoholism that is rampant among the men of the parish.

"Father Myron is a big believer in Scouting in Russia," Sonnen said. "He thinks it could be a real help in instilling self-confidence and virtue in young Russian men who are in need of positive male role models."

Nativity is planning a picnic for Roman and Mischa on August 18. The boys will be returning to Vladivostok on August 20. Sonnen hopes they will take the experiences they have had in Minnesota to promote Scouting in their homeland. She expects to get a full report from Effing in October, when he is scheduled to speak at Nativity.

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And they're off

Candidates for local, statewide offices come out of the blocks

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

This fall *Villager* area voters will see a wide open race for Ramsey County District Court judge, a tri-party primary election for U.S. Senate, two rare state legislative primaries, and the guaranteed replacement of at least one Minneapolis School Board member. These are just a few of the developments that became clear once filings closed on July 15 for the 2008 elections.

In addition to president and vice president, area voters will be weighing in this fall on races for U.S. senator, U.S. representative, state representative, state Supreme Court justice, Minnesota Court of Appeals, district court judge and, in Minneapolis, school board. Following are thumbnail sketches of the candidates for statewide and local offices:

Ramsey County District Court

Eight candidates have filed to succeed Second District Court Judge John Finley, who will retire at the end of his current term:

Joy Bartscher, 47, practices criminal and civil law for the South St. Paul firm of Thuet, Pugh, Rogosheske and Atkins. Single and a resident of Summit Hill, she is a former executive director of the Neighborhood Justice Center, a nonprofit criminal defense organization where she worked for close to 20 years.

Gail Chang Bohr, 64, is founder and executive director of the Children's Law Center of Minnesota, a nonprofit organization that provides legal representation for youths in foster care. Bohr has practiced at the law firm of Faegre and Benson, clerked at the Minnesota Supreme Court and served as a Hennepin County Conciliation Court judge. A resident of Como Park, she is married and the mother of two grown children.

Richard Carlson Jr., 50, operates his own law office in Maplewood, working in the areas of personal injury, real estate, wills and probate, criminal defense and business. A resident of White Bear Lake, he is married and the father of two grown children.

Paul Godfrey, 49, ran unsuccessfully for district court judge in 2006. A supervising attorney at the St. Paul law firm of Votel, Anderson and McEachron, he also serves as in-house counsel for the Illinois Farmers Insurance Company. Married and the father of two chil-

dren, he lives in Macalester-Groveland.

John Guzik, 51, an attorney for 25 years, has operated his own law practice in Roseville since 1989, working in the areas of divorce and child custody, paternity, wills and driving under the influence. A Maplewood resident, he is the divorced father of three children.

Connie Iversen, 47, serves as a managing attorney in the Ramsey County Public Defender's Office where she trains and supervises teams of attorneys and investigators in felony and misdemeanor trials. A Roseville resident, she is married and has no children.

Howard Orenstein, 52, a former five-term state representative from District 64B, practices law as a partner in the firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi. An assistant Hennepin County attorney as well, Orenstein lives in Highland Park with his wife and three children.

James C. Snyder Sr., 46, has his own law practice in Little Canada. In 20 years as an attorney, he has worked in the areas of employment, business, real estate and family law, estate planning and probate, bankruptcy, debt collection and criminal defense. A resident of White Bear Lake, he is married and the father of three children.

The top two vote-getters in the September 9 primary election will advance to the November 4 general election.

U.S. Senate

Sixteen candidates, including two Republicans, seven DFLers and seven members of the Independence Party (IP), will be on the September 9 primary election ballot for U.S. Senate. Two more candidates, one each from the Libertarian and Constitution parties, will join the three primary winners on the November 4 general election ballot.

The candidates include Republicans Norm Coleman of Summit Hill, the incumbent, and Jack Shepard, formerly of St. Paul and Minneapolis and now a fugitive from the law living in Rome; DFLers Al Franken (party-endorsed), Dick Franson and Ole Savior, all of Minneapolis, Priscilla Lord Faris of Sunfish Lake, Alve Erickson of Chisholm, Rob Fitzgerald of Fergus Falls and Bob Larson of South St. Paul; IP candidates Stephen Williams of Austin, Kurt Michael Anderson and Jack Uldrich of Minneapolis, Dean Barkley of Plymouth, Bill

ELECTION '08



Dahn of St. Paul's West Side, Darryl Stanton of Eden Prairie and Doug Williams of Chaska; Libertarian candidate Charles Aldrich of Alden; and Constitution Party candidate James Niemackl of Richfield.

Fourth Congressional District

Incumbent DFLer Betty McCollum is being opposed by the Republican-endorsed Ed Matthews. Matthews, 34, is an attorney in private practice and a certified public accountant. A resident of Highland Park, he is divorced and the father of one child. McCollum, 54, a former member of the North St. Paul City Council, has also worked as a high school teacher and in retail sales and management. A resident of Ramsey Hill, she is divorced and the mother of two grown children.

Fifth Congressional District

First-term incumbent DFLer Keith Ellison will face Gregg A. Iverson in the September 9 primary. The winner will face the Republican-endorsed Barb Davis White and IP candidate Bill McGaughey in the general election.

Iverson, 63, is a retired state Department of Transportation employee and schoolteacher and a Vietnam veteran. He ran against Ellison two years ago for Congress. He also ran for the Minneapolis City Council in 2005 and 1997 and for state auditor in 1994. Single, he lives in Minneapolis' Nokomis neighborhood.

Ellison, 44, a former state representative from North Minneapolis, is married and the father of four children.

White, 48, is a prison pastor. A widowed parent and grandparent, she lives in Columbia Heights.

McGaughey, 67, is a self-employed accountant and landlord. Married and the father of one grown child, he lives in the Harrison neighborhood of Minneapolis.

House District 64A

Republican-endorsed Meg Ferber and perennial candidate Sharon Anderson will vie in the September 9 primary for the chance to face first-term incumbent DFLer Erin Murphy in the November 4 general election.

Ferber, 66, of Merriam Park, is a former high school teacher and Peace Corps volunteer and trainer. She is married and the mother of six grown children.

Anderson, 69, who is divorced and the mother of two grown children, has run for numerous local and statewide offices over the years. She lists her address as a house in Summit Hill, but has not lived there for many years.

Murphy, 48, of Summit Hill, is a registered nurse and a former executive director of the Minnesota Nurses Association. She is married and the mother of two children.

House District 64B

Republican-endorsed Emory Dively will face incumbent DFLer Michael Paymar in the November 4 general election.

Dively, 52, co-pastor of the Twin Cities Deaf Assembly of God Church in Highland Park, ran against Paymar in 2006. A Highland resident, he is married and the father of two grown children.

Paymar, 56, works as a resource specialist for the Minneapolis-based Battered Women's Justice Project. He is the author of two books on domestic violence. A resident of Macalester-Groveland, he is the divorced father of two children.

House District 65A

Paul Holmgren, 33, of Frogtown, is making his third attempt to unseat incumbent DFLer Cy Thao. A Republican, Holmgren is single and works in customer service at Office Max.

Thao, 36, a Summit-University artist, is

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Ramsey County proposes 5 percent increase in property tax levy for '09

By JANE McCLURE

Ramsey County's proposed 5 percent increase in its property tax levy for 2009 will be the subject of a public hearing at 8:30 a.m. Friday, August 8, before the county's Board of Commissioners.

Ramsey County has operated on a two-year budget cycle for the past few years. The 2009 budget was initially adopted last year. However, because of changes in aid from the state and federal governments, recent shifts in program responsibilities and inflationary pressures, a supplemental budget is needed.

The county's proposed 2009 budget is \$588.7 million, up from \$570.9 million in 2008—a 3.1 percent increase in spending, or 0.4 percent more than was initially projected for 2009, according to Ramsey County administrator David Twa.

The county's proposed levy for 2009 is \$248.5 million, up from \$236.8 million for 2008. Whether or not individual property owners would see an increase in their property taxes depends on changes in their property's assessed value based on improvements to the property and recent home sales in the area and any changes at the state level in the overall property tax system.

Several factors are affecting Ramsey Coun-

ty's budget outlook for 2009, according to Twa, including the \$1.85 million increase in county program aid approved by the 2008 Minnesota Legislature and a \$1.92 million decrease in other state and federal funding.

One of the largest revenue losses for the county is the \$729,432 reduction in federal funding for child support collection and enforcement services. Another is the \$652,757 shift from the state to the county in the cost for housing sexual predators in state facilities. Reductions in state payments for housing short-term offenders and for defending the parents of children in need of protection also factor into the levy increase.

According to Twa, there has been a "steady erosion" in the state's willingness to pay for legal services that it has covered in the past. Various legal costs are now being picked up by the counties without the benefit of state aid, he said.

Of the county's departmental budgets, the largest anticipated increase is in public safety, including \$900,000 for an architectural and pre-design study of the Boys' Totem Town juvenile correctional facility and \$930,000 for expanding the Adult Detention Center. The largest capital improvement in the budget is \$9.5 million for the expansion of the county library in Roseville.

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seeking a fourth term. He is married and the father of two children.

House District 65B

Republican-endorsed Lisa Murphy, 43, is making her second attempt at unseating incumbent DFLer Carlos Mariani. Co-owner of the former Parkview Cafe on Raymond Avenue, she is single and lives in the West End.

Mariani, 51, who is seeking his 10th term in the House, is the executive director of the nonprofit Minnesota Minority Education Partnership. He lives on the West Side with his wife and three children.

House District 39A

Incumbent DFLer Rick Hansen will face West St. Paul carpenter Bill Jungbauer in the general election. A Republican, Jungbauer, 51, ran against District 39 state Senator Jim Metzen in 2006. He is married and the father of two children.

Hansen, 45, who sells Amish furniture via the Internet, lives in South St. Paul. He is married and the father of one child.

House District 62A

Republicans Dave Shegstad and Kirk Brink will vie in the September 9 primary for the chance to face incumbent DFLer Jim Davnie in the November 4 general election.

Shegstad, 57, the Republican endorsee who ran unsuccessfully against Davnie in 2006, owns N.C. Shegstad & Sons Ornamental Iron Works. A resident of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood, he is married and the father of four children.

Brink, a resident of Minneapolis' Standish neighborhood, did not respond to requests for information.

Davnie, 47, works as a teacher in Buffalo. A resident of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood, he is married and the father of one child.

House District 62B

Republican-endorsed Jeffrey Gunness will face DFL incumbent Jean Wagenius in the November 4 general election.

Gunness, 35, a resident of Minneapolis' Keewaydin neighborhood, is a travel agent for Carlson Wagonlit. He is single.

Wagenius, 66, a resident of Minneapolis' Northrup neighborhood, is a former staff at-

torney for the Minnesota Court of Appeals. She is married and the mother of two grown children.

Minneapolis School Board

Nine candidates have filed for the three open seats on the Minneapolis School Board. The top six vote-getters in the September 9 primary election will advance to the November 4 general election. The candidates include:

Carla Bates, a DFL-endorsee who lives in the Seward neighborhood with her partner and three children, is an information technology professional in the Department of Psychology at the University of Minnesota.

Mary Buss, 49, a resident of the Lynnhurst neighborhood, operates her own business, Mary Carroll Ceramics. She is married and the mother of two children.

Jill Davis, 47, a DFL endorsee, works as a supervisor in Anoka County's early intervention program. A resident of the Waite Park neighborhood, she is married and the mother of one child.

Thomas Dicks, 61, a Minneapolis Public School teacher, lives in the West Calhoun neighborhood. He is the divorced father of one child.

Sharon Henry-Blythe, 53, is seeking her third four-year term on the School Board. The owner of her own child care consulting firm, she is a resident of the Field neighborhood, married and the mother of three children.

Allison Johnson, 43, is a patent attorney. She is single and lives in Southwest Minneapolis.

Lydia Lee, 60, current president of the School Board, is seeking her second term. Endorsed by the DFL, she is a retired Minneapolis Public School teacher and Uptown resident who is married and the mother of two grown children.

Doug Mann, 51, who ran unsuccessfully for the School Board in 2006 and the Minneapolis City Council in 2004, is a licensed practical nurse. He lives in the Lyndale neighborhood, is married and is the father of one child.

Kari Reed, 33, is married and the mother of five children. A resident of the Whittier neighborhood, she also home-schools her children.

Minneapolis voters will also be asked in the general election to weigh in on a referendum that will ask whether the School Board should have nine members, three elected at large and six elected from geographical districts, rather than the current seven at-large members.

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Viewpoint

Raise transit fares? No, let's cut them

BY JOHN MARTY

The recent spike in the cost of gasoline is obviously causing great economic hardship. However, the Twin Cities can turn that problem into an opportunity to improve the environment, reduce traffic congestion and help people cope by substantially cutting public transit fares. Unfortunately, just when we should be working to increase bus and rail ridership, the Metropolitan Council is proposing to move us in the opposite direction by raising fares. Raising fares reduces ridership; cutting fares increases it.

The Met Council's proposal to raise fares due to higher fuel prices and insufficient income is not surprising, but it is disappointing. Higher fares reduce the number of riders and simultaneously increase the number of auto trips, which in turn produces more congestion, more pollution and more wear and tear on our roads.

What if we instead adopted a more imaginative approach to transportation issues? Imagine what would happen if we reduced all transit fares to 25 cents per ride. Experience from across the country shows that ridership would soar. The biggest problem with such a change? Twin Cities transit systems would be unable to handle all the passengers.

But a sharp increase in bus and rail passengers is a problem we'd love to have. Transit systems would need to add routes and increase frequency. With more routes and more frequent service, ridership would soar even more. And as new buses were added, the use of clean-fuel technologies would provide even greater environmental benefits.

Reducing bus and rail fares to 25 cents across the board would require a significant increase in state support for transit systems to make up for the loss in revenue at a time of higher costs, but it would be the least expensive way to handle growing congestion and reduce auto emissions. And the cost is not as much as you might think. State taxpayers already cover well over three-fourths of the cost of our transit systems, so lower fares would result in a reduction of only a fraction of existing fare revenue. And with the jump in ridership, the public cost of each ride would actually drop significantly. (A bus or rail car costs virtually the same to operate whether it has 15 or 50 passengers.)

And the alternatives to this proposal are not cheap. The Met Council's proposed fare increase is projected to bring in about \$7 million more per year. Even so, transit officials project a revenue shortfall of \$30 to \$40 million per year by 2011. On top of that, the cost of expanding roads to handle growing congestion has a price tag in the *billions*, not the millions that transit improvements and fare cuts would require. And that doesn't include the environmental cost of driving more cars and building more roads. The 25-cent fare proposal would ultimately save taxpayers money.

There are other benefits of a flat 25-cent fare. It would provide much-needed savings for low-income people who are simultaneously struggling with high energy and food costs. The enhanced service to handle the surge in passengers would also make it easier for those who depend on public transit to get to wherever they need to go.

The Met Council has the unbelievably timid goal of doubling transit ridership by 2030. Even if that were to occur, the increase in riders would not keep pace with population growth, and road congestion would continue to grow worse. The Twin Cities' transit systems already lag behind those of many other U.S. cities and further yet behind those of cities in other parts of the world.

If we adopt this bold vision instead, we can likely double ridership in four years, and double it again four years hence.

The Met Council is driving in the wrong direction. Transit officials should withdraw their proposed fare increase now, and prepare to go to the Minnesota Legislature in January to secure the funding to cut fares. To prime this discussion, I have introduced legislation that would establish a flat 25-cent fare for public bus and rail transit in cities throughout Minnesota. This legislation would not solve all our transportation woes, but it would be a big step forward.

State Senator John Marty (DFL, District 54) is the chair of the Senate's Environment Committee.

THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD?



Inbox

Public Works dug its own hole

To the editor,

Regarding your article on the \$13 million shortfall in the St. Paul Department of Public Works' right-of-way budget (*Villager*, May 21): For most of my last 20 years working as an engineer in the city's Department of Public Works, we never had a right-of-way division. This division was created hastily by an engineer without good justification. After convincing his superior of the idea, he rented a whole floor, appointed himself in charge as well as a couple of assistants, a secretary, new employees and a new fleet of cars. To pay for these new expenses, he started charging other Public Works divisions and city departments fees on their projects, and he called it "construction permit fees."

I met one time with him and his assistant. I indicated to him that this would not improve the quality of life for citizens and that it's a waste of taxpayers' money. It comes as no surprise to hear about the \$13 million shortfall.

Public Works officials are not known for admitting to mistakes, and rather than blaming the new gas prices and health care, they should think seriously of closing the right-of-way division. If Public Works doesn't do this, the mayor should gather a team of experts—hopefully volunteers from outside the city—to look into this problem and consider closing the right-of-way division.

Rafic Chehouri
Macalester-Groveland

The writer is a former engineer in the St. Paul Department of Public Works and the current owner of J.A. Gerber Jewelers.

Sorry example of leadership

To the editor:

So the city of St. Paul's Department of Human Rights has found no basis for Georgia Dietz's age-discrimination complaint and reprisal charges filed against the Highland District Council (HDC). You might remember Georgia filing these complaints earlier this year after the Highland District Council selected a more qualified candidate for the community organizer position (*Villager*, February 6).

Georgia's actions in filing this complaint follow the typical right-wing mantra of screaming against wasteful government spending, eschewing personal responsibility and rallying against government interference—except when the issue is one's own personal agenda and personal gain. We have seen a plethora of Bush cohorts involved in bribes, scams and huge

personal financial gains due to their positions of power and influence. Hopefully, we can rid ourselves of this group and their sorry leadership in November.

Georgia's complaint was groundless, and Georgia all but said this in a *Villager* article soon after the complaint was filed. But her personal ambition, self-righteousness and personal agenda took precedence, all at the expense of city staff time, taxpayers' dollars and HDC resources. Georgia appeared to believe she was entitled to the position, never mind that more qualified applicants were available.

So as we send a message to Washington this fall and elect national leaders who are more concerned with the best interests of all citizens instead of their select group, let's do the same next April at the HDC annual meeting. Let our vote signify to Georgia and her cohorts that personal gain, one's personal agenda and self-importance are not the leadership traits that best serve Highland Park.

Gary Marx
Highland Park

Editor's note: The writer is a former member of the Highland District Council's board of directors and chairman of its Community Organizer Search Committee.

Rock-Tenn reality check

To the editor:

I attended University of Minnesota Professor Dr. Ian Greaves' July 22 presentation on the possible health impacts of burning refuse-derived fuel (RDF) at Rock-Tenn's Midway recycling plant. He clarified that fine particulate matter—a respiratory concern—comes from burning any fuel, whether biogas, gas, oil, coal or RDF. The particles are not just from solid fuels. Our automobile engines are sources of such pollution, too.

I asked about the alarming statistic presented by Jan Greenfield (*Villager* Inbox, July 16) that there would be 147 additional fatalities each year in the Twin Cities from cancer caused by an incinerator at Rock-Tenn. Dr. Greaves would not vouch for that number, noting that any such projection was not justified without a formal risk assessment that looks at the dispersion of emissions and establishes realistic concentrations of potentially harmful chemicals.

Dr. Greaves confirmed that the few epidemiological studies that have been done on areas surrounding waste incinerators indicate no observable local impact, confirming the 2000

Wabun project buried piece of Minnehaha history

BY LYNDON TORSTENSON

Recent renovations to the Wabun picnic area in Minnehaha Park included lots of new amenities for families and picnickers on top of the hill and one giant mistake in the glen below it (*Villager*, June 4). Dirt excavated from construction in the picnic area was dumped and graded into the Minnehaha Park glen over the site of a rare geological feature—an abandoned waterfall from a former channel of the Mississippi River.

Long ago, St. Anthony Falls, slowly carving its way up the river gorge, split into two falls as it tumbled around an island in the postglacial Mississippi River, the site of today's Wabun picnic area. Because the falls receded faster in the main channel to the east, the river eventually abandoned the western falls at what is now the north end of the Minnehaha Park glen, near the entrance to the Wabun picnic area.

Historical landscapes tell stories, and Minnehaha Park's is among the richest landscapes in Minnesota and our state's

first designated historic district. The unique geological story of the abandoned waterfall, enshrined on a brass plaque near a Minnehaha Falls overlook, has been studied by geologists and schoolchildren alike. College professors, National Park Service rangers and local elementary and high school teachers take students there to learn "to read the landscape." They know that the study of landforms is part of the Minnesota Academic Standards.

Unfortunately, their job has now been made more difficult, since hundreds of cubic yards of new dirt fill now obscure this unique natural feature. While some decades-old fill covered a portion of the abandoned waterfall, and though a small piece of geological outcropping can still be found at the northwest corner of the glen, the new fill greatly magnifies the previous mistake and confounds those searching for the site.

Regrettably, this new mistake could easily have been avoided. No public review of this major landscaping modification in this historic district occurred. The

Longfellow Community Council's River Gorge Committee received a late briefing about the Wabun picnic area plans from a Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board staff person, but there was no indication that leftover dirt would be placed in the glen. With an opportunity for public comment, many people would have testified and perhaps persuaded those involved to find another place to use as a dump site. Without that opportunity, we must ask the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to remove the dirt.

Restoring the original landform of the abandoned waterfall would greatly enhance Minnehaha Park's historic landscape and our sense of place along the Mississippi River. It would also serve local educators and students and would be a tribute to Minnesota's sesquicentennial history. It's not too late to undo a big, unfortunate mistake.

Editor's note: This guest editorial was also signed by four other residents of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood: Rebecca Cramer, Carolyn Carr, Irene Jones and Craig Larson.

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study by the National Academy of Sciences, "Waste Incineration and Public Health," which he co-authored. He noted, for example, that the air in the Twin Cities metropolitan area mixes pretty well, so the area close to Rock-Tenn would not have disproportionately higher exposures.

Dr. Greaves was certainly no advocate of RDF, based mostly on the chemicals themselves, not exposure amounts, and he prudently advocated other fuels where available. Still, I learned of no concrete risks that would concern me, living 3/4 of a mile downwind, if such an RDF-burner were built. Ultimately, RDF seems an unlikely fuel option for Rock-Tenn, mostly based on its cost and limited reductions in greenhouse gases. Still, we need not fear an incinerator.

*Douglas Allchin
Merriam Park*

Summit ought to take the LEED

To the editor:

Real Estate Equities is planning to go ahead with its development of the Summit of Ramsey Hill, 44 cooperative housing units on the site of the old St. Paul's Church Home. Representatives of the developer met with neighbors, and they have designed a more attractive building. However, it is still too tall and too large, and the energy-efficiency of the building will not be up to current standards. The plan includes 44 furnaces, 44 air conditioners, 44 water heaters, one elevator and insulation below the minimum standards.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), an

energy-efficiency rating system, has three levels—silver, gold and platinum. The St. Paul Police Department's new West District station on Hamline Avenue meets LEED's gold standard. According to Anne Hunt, environmental policy director for the city of St. Paul, this means the extra cost will be recovered in five years.

The West District police station is heated and cooled by an efficient geo-thermal system. Neighbors near the Summit of Ramsey Hill have invested in geo-thermal systems for their 100-year-old houses. Real Estate Equities has received accommodation from the city with large variances and a pass from the Heritage Preservation Commission. Now it is passing its energy inefficiency onto the buyers/cooperative members.

Wouldn't it be good if this development were up to the best energy standards for the next 100 years?

*Len Jackson
Ramsey Hill*

A waste of city resources

To the editor:

A few weeks ago, while blissfully watching my kids in their Urban Tennis classes at Mattocks Park, I observed the city of St. Paul's garbage collection process. It was disturbing.

There are four covered garbage cans in Mattocks Park that hold 10-foot-long bags, the idea being that larger bags require less frequent emptying. However, the city utilized three vehicles—one golf-cart style vehicle that held two staff persons and the replacement bags, one

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VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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9◀ INBOX

large pickup that transported two crew members and one very large truck that had a crane mechanism on top.

In all, there were six staff members (two of whom were in training) to empty four cans—six staff members plus three vehicles equals four cans emptied. Two employees ran the crane-type truck to lift the elongated bags out of the canisters, two pulled off the covers and replaced the bags, and the other two must have been supervising.

Is this an economical way to dispose of trash in our city’s parks or is this a new version of the joke, “How many such and so’s does it take to replace a light bulb?”

Ann Mathews-Lingen
Macalester-Groveland

Marshalling Ward 3’s gratitude

To the editor:

Our city and our neighborhood have been fortunate in a way that few would have expected when Pat Harris was first elected to represent Ward 3 on the St. Paul City Council. Pat has demonstrated extraordinary judgment in picking his legislative aides, which for most St. Paulites is the principal contact with a City Council member and the city itself.

Approximately six years ago, John Marshall stepped into the ample shoes of Matt Reinartz, Harris’ previous aide. Since that time, the service John has provided to Ward 3 has been nothing short of extraordinary. Every time I contacted Harris’ office, I found John eager to assist, quick to track down the person with whom I should speak, and occasionally even funny. I know that he is universally admired within City Hall and will be missed by his coworkers as well as the neighborhood councils that he covered when council member Harris was unable to attend.

John’s service to our community is a rare thing, and I want to thank him for it as he departs for a new opportunity. I am confident that council member Harris will choose a quality successor to John and the fine service to our community will continue unabated.

Joe Bagnoli
Macalester-Groveland

Editor’s note: City Council member Pat Harris has appointed Dennis Rosemark as his new legislative aide in Ward 3.

A site for sore patients

Dear editor,

When I talk to the people in my district, they share personal stories and opinions about how health care is affecting their lives every day. These stories are often heart-wrenching and their opinions are diverse, but most share one common sentiment: We need to make big changes in the way we provide health care.

In response to escalating concerns about health care in Minnesota, state Representative Paul Thissen (DFL-District 63A) has created a website to enlist the public’s help in addressing our health care challenges. The website, www.healthcareformn.org, asks for individual stories about health care challenges, provides information about the status of health care in Minnesota and offers legislative updates. The site also provides an opportunity to sign a petition calling on state leaders to enact significant health care reforms.

The perspectives of those struggling with health care are important. Their stories bring into focus the challenges

we face and the solutions that will bring relief. I encourage *Villager* readers to visit the website to share their stories. Together, we can tackle this issue.

Representative Erin Murphy
District 64A

The Americain in Salut

To the editor:

In Bob Gilbert’s story about Salut Bar Americain (*Villager*, July 16), he quotes Salut executive chef Jeff Anderson, who says: “We try to duplicate exactly what your expectations would be in France...with big portions, simple preparations and very full flavors.”

While simple preparations and full flavors are among the hallmarks of French cuisine, big portions most definitely are not. I have not been to a single restaurant in France where large portions of food were served, nor were they expected. Large portions is one of the sad hallmarks of American dining. In fact, according to a recent University of Pennsylvania study, the reason we are so much bigger than the French (and growing bigger all the time) is in large part due to portion size. When measured plate by plate by the gram, American restaurant servings weighed more every time—as much as 25 percent more.

Salut may be a good restaurant, but large portions are not French. Expecting and wanting to eat as much as one can are American.

Susan Fuller
Merriam Park

Stop and smell the restaurants

To the editor:

In regard to the letter from Mr. William McMullin (“Have it your way? Not in St. Paul,” *Villager* Inbox, July 16):

With all due respect, Mr. McMullin, perhaps it is not St. Paul restaurants that are the problem. Perhaps it is karma trying to tell you to stop frequenting the fast-food joints and focus on some healthier and more delicious alternatives. May I suggest branching out and trying some of the fabulous restaurants that St. Paul has to offer, many of which have takeout options? Not only is the food of higher quality, so is the service. One of the great things about St. Paul is the limited amount of fast-food restaurants and the plethora of creative cuisine alternatives. If what you’re looking for is simply a standard variety of Burger King, McDonald’s, Domino’s or Taco Bell, perhaps the suburbs would be better suited for you.

Melissa Hickman
Macalester-Groveland

You get what you pay for

To the editor:

William McMullin thinks it is some sort of reflection on St. Paul that fast-food restaurants cannot get his order right (*Villager* Inbox, July 16). Is this a joke? I am not certain why Mr McMullin’s expectations are so high. He expects restaurants (and I use the term loosely) to always get orders right when they are run by companies that pride themselves on how little training they need to provide. He then expects their employees to figure out how to prepare and charge for items not on the menu—a big no-no in the world of fast food.

Judging by the items Mr McMullin orders, I am guessing

he is a vegetarian. Therefore, I wonder why he is interested in putting money into companies that are responsible for animals living in torturous situations so that customers may buy a Whopper or a chicken fajita at a low, low price. You get what you pay for.

Mr McMullin would do well to purchase his food at a locally owned grocery store or even a locally owned restaurant. Then he would be able to accurately access whether St. Paul is able to fulfill his dietary needs.

Tara Hennings
Highland Park

The makings of a good judge

To the editor:

I was delighted to see that Howard Orenstein is running for the open judicial seat in Ramsey County District Court. I have known and worked with Howard for over 20 years. Many people remember his years of service as the state representative for the Highland area. He has had a distinguished legal career and is known for being a fair and reasonable person.

As an attorney, I can tell you it is very important to have a fair, even-handed judiciary. Howard is hard-working and has the intellect, temperament and qualifications to make an excellent judge.

Shawn Bartsh
Highland Park

A historical note

To the editor:

July 27, 2008, marked the 55th anniversary of the Korean War armistice. About 4.1 million deaths during the 37-month war resulted in a 4-kilometer “buffer zone” at the 38th parallel, which was the dividing line between South and North Korea when the war started on June 25, 1950.

The Korean War is sometimes called the Forgotten War, but it is not forgotten by those who have had no closure, the families of the 8,180 U.S. soldiers still missing in action. After 55 years, they should be added to the 33,630 U.S. soldiers killed in action.

There were 700 Minnesotans killed in action and 154 missing in action during the Korean War, which is considered to be the first time that the United States openly confronted Communism.

Larry Loomis
West St. Paul

DH rule has turned the tables

To the editor:

The Major League All-Star game is great. It gives baseball fans a midsummer break and a chance to see the stars play. However, the American League has dominated the National League, winning the last 11 All-Star games, not counting the tie in 2002.

The National League, typically a hitters’ league, should take notice. One of the reasons is the lack of a designated hitter. The original idea for the designated hitter was to help the hitting-poor American League. Now the tables have been turned.

Steven Hubbell
Downtown St. Paul

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News Briefs

City Council to hear Life Time's appeal for parking variance

Life Time Fitness' plan to expand its Highland Village facility with a new spa, salon and cafe will be the subject of a hearing before the St. Paul City Council at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 6. At issue is a 116-space parking variance that is needed for the club's expansion. The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals voted in June to deny the variance, and Life Time has appealed that ruling to the City Council.

Life Time is just one of the occupants of the commercial building at 2145 Ford Pkwy. It purchased the building several years ago along with the adjacent parking ramp.

In addition to improving the fitness center, Life Time would like to lease out the 12,000 square feet in the building that has always been vacant due to the shortage of off-street parking.

Life Time's plans for the building would increase its off-street parking requirement to 392 spaces. There are 266 spaces in the parking ramp, and Life Time leases another 10 space from the nearby TCF Bank.



The Beatles tribute band Rubber Soul had Midway couple Jean Jordan and Jerry Ski twisting and shouting at Highland Fest on July 20. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Trader Joe's expects to open new Highland store in spring

A Trader Joe's grocery store is now expected to be completed next spring at the southeast corner of Randolph Avenue and Lexington Parkway. A switch in general contractor and changes to some of the store's plans have delayed the project by two to three months, developer Stuart Simek told the Highland District Council on July 17.

Co-developers Meridian Management and TOLD Development plan to build a 14,420-square-foot grocery store and a 5,330-square-foot multi-tenant retail building on the 1.27-acre site. Opponents of the project raised concerns last year ranging from traffic congestion to the impact that a national chain store would have on independently owned businesses in the neighborhood. Proponents argued that the store would be a welcome addition to the area. The controversy led to packed hearings before the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council over the needed zoning changes and site plan approval.

Construction plans were changed to accommodate alterations made when the site was rezoned and the site plan was reviewed. The changes affect the width of sidewalks and boulevards along Randolph and Lexington.

A business and several homes on Randolph and Juno avenues are being razed to make way for the development. The automotive sound system business recently relocated to West 7th Street, and residents on the north side of Juno moved out this spring.

The HDC had asked for the update from Simek after receiving inquiries from residents and complaints about weeds on the property. The weeds were recently cut.

Xcel celebrates operation of new High Bridge power plant

Xcel Energy dedicated its new High Bridge power plant on July 21. The natural gas-fired plant at 155 Randolph Ave., which began operating in May, replaced the old, coal-fired plant that is being demolished nearby.

The capacity of the old High Bridge plant was 250 megawatts. The new plant operates at a capacity of more than 500 megawatts, which is enough electricity to supply almost 375,000 homes.

The new plant is part of Xcel's \$1 billion Metro Emissions Reduction Project to replace or retrofit coal-fired plants to reduce air pollution. The conversion of the Allen S. King Plant in Oak Park Heights is done. The conversion of Minneapolis' Riverside Plant is

slated for completion next spring.

Demolition of the old High Bridge plant will continue over the next several months. The site will eventually become recreational space, although no plans have been finalized.

Also being demolished this summer is the steam pipe that runs between the old High Bridge plant and the Rock-Tenn paper recycling facility on I-94 and Vandalia Street. The new plant was not built to produce steam for Rock-Tenn.

Permit parking district grows by a block at Victoria Crossing

The St. Paul City Council voted unanimously on July 16 to add the east side of Victoria Street from Goodrich to Fairmount avenues to the resident-only permit parking district near Victoria Crossing. The permit parking signs will go up this fall. Parking for anyone other than resident permit-holders is already banned on the west side of Victoria.

Nine of 11 affected property owners, including residents of a condominium on Victoria, signed the petition in favor of extending the permit parking district. Kathy Curran, president of the Victoria Commons condominium association, said the condo owners have problems finding a place to park in the vicinity.

The residents collectively own 13 vehicles, but only have four off-street parking spaces.

Curran said the employees of Grand Avenue businesses often park in front of the building and create a disturbance late at night. "We think this (permit parking) is a reasonable request," she said.

Fairmount Avenue resident and Grand Avenue business owner Brian Alton spoke against the petition. "I live around the corner and on the east side of the street I don't see a problem with parking," he said. He added that expanding the permit parking district will further inconvenience neighbors and said the "inhospitable nature" of permit parking adversely affects businesses.

Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune said he was surprised that there was opposition to the permit parking request. "It seems to me this won't do any harm to anyone else," he said.

Parking on the block will be allowed by permit only between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. seven days a week.

FairVote Minnesota seeks to intervene in IRV lawsuit

FairVote Minnesota, the organization behind the St. Paul Better Ballot Campaign's effort to hold a referendum this November on employing instant runoff voting in city elections, is seeking to intervene as a defendant in a lawsuit in Hennepin County District Court that has challenged the constitutionality of instant runoff voting (IRV).

In 2006, the Minneapolis City Council, with the support of a majority of Minneapolis voters, authorized the use of IRV in that city's elections beginning in 2009. The Minnesota Voters Alliance filed the lawsuit against IRV.

In a July 31 press release, FairVote Minnesota board member and St. Paul IRV campaign coordinator Ellen Brown said, "Joining this lawsuit as a co-defendant is the most logical and efficient manner for us to resolve the constitutional question. We will help dismantle the St. Paul City Council's cover for blocking this important reform."

"Our plea will be to expedite the case so a decision can be reached as soon as possible," said FairVote Minnesota board chair Tyrone Bujold, a former attorney with Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi.

On July 2, the St. Paul City Council blocked

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Parks and Rec Commission approves plan for creating off-leash dog parks

By Jane McClure

A plan that could lead to the establishment of more off-leash dog parks in St. Paul was adopted on July 16 by the city's Parks and Recreation Commission. The commission's Off-Leash Dog Area Task Force has recommended two sites for the parks: city-owned land near the intersection of Randolph Avenue and Old Shepard Road on the West End, and Bluff Park near Concord Street and Highway 52 on the West Side.

But don't grab your Frisbee and whistle for Fido just yet. It could take months for any new off-leash park to open since a public review process and City Council approval are required beforehand.

St. Paul has just one off-leash dog park, at Arlington Avenue and Arkwright Street on the East Side. That park, which has been operating for more than a decade, is heavily used and is in need of improvements, according to dog owners who turned out at Mayor Chris Coleman's State of the City events earlier this year to push for additional dog parks.

The site recommended for the West End dog park is adjacent to the old power plant that was the centerpiece of the failed Island Station residential development. The West 7th/Fort Road Federation and others have eyed the same site for recreational uses over the years.

St. Paul Parks and Recreation director Bob Bierscheid said that he was pleased with the recommendations of the task force and that his staff will work to implement them. However, he cautioned that increasingly scarce city resources may hinder the development of any new off-leash areas.

Jan Carr, a Summit-University resident and founder of the organization St. Paul Dog, called the recommendations "a positive development." According to him, there are more than 2,200 dog parks nationwide, including

32 in Portland, Oregon, alone. (The website portlandpooch.com lists 31 shared or dedicated dog parks in Portland and 16 others in the surrounding area.) "Dog parks foster a sense of community in a way that few other public venues do," Carr said.

The task force recommended that the Parks Commission set up a subcommittee to advise the city on the development of an off-leash dog park system. However, that frustrated several dog park advocates who urged city officials to establish a second off-leash park as quickly as possible. Parks commissioners assured pet owners that the recommendations will have the outcome they want, but that the task force's six-month deadline did not allow enough time to get a new off-leash dog park up and running.

The Off-Leash Dog Area Task Force also recommended that the city:

- Create two types of off-leash dog areas: larger destination sites proposed by city officials, and smaller sites proposed by neighborhood groups. That mirrors a recommendation made earlier this year by a Macalester-Groveland Community Council task force that studied dog parks following the controversy that erupted last year over a city proposal to create shared off-leash areas at the Edgcombe, Groveland and St. Clair recreation centers.

- Establish a grading system to evaluate destination and neighborhood dog parks. It is not clear yet whether the Island Station or Bluff Park sites would be considered destination or neighborhood dog parks.

- Implement a permit fee for using off-leash dog parks and dedicate the revenue to the parks. A current city dog license would be required to obtain a permit.

- Improve the Arlington-Arkwright dog park with posted hours, better parking, new trash receptacles, new fencing, new double gates, erosion control measures and a separate area for small dogs.

12 NEWS BRIEFS

a petition signed by more than 7,000 voters to hold a referendum on November 4 on whether to amend the city charter to allow instant runoff voting in city elections. A majority of the City Council agreed not to move forward with the referendum until questions over the constitutionality of IRV were resolved.

Mississippi Market's plan for West End grocery approved

Mississippi Market's plans for a new store near the intersection of West 7th and Hathaway streets has been approved by the St. Paul Planning Commission. The St. Paul City Council has also amended the master plan for the Victoria Park site, which had stipulated that condominiums and rental apartments be built on that block.

Though the site is zoned for traditional neighborhoods, a designation meant to encourage more dense development, the new 9,541-square-foot Mississippi Market will be only one story tall.

Some planning commissioners questioned why the city is continually modifying the traditional neighborhood zoning to accommodate projects that are not so dense. A city review of that zoning designation is expected later this year.

The next step for Mississippi Market will come on August 13 when its application for a grant and loan through the city's Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program will be reviewed by the Neighborhood STAR Board. The co-op is seeking a \$200,000 grant and a \$400,000 loan to help finance the construction of the store. A final decision on the STAR grant and loan will be made this fall by the City Council.

City extends agreement for developing Selby-Victoria site

The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board, voted unanimously on July 23 to extend Global Construction and Investment Company's tentative developer status for the southeast corner of Selby Avenue and Victoria Street.

Under the new developer agreement, which is set to expire on November 23, Global Construction and Investment will work with the Selby Area Community Development Corporation on a new plan for developing the long-vacant 19,040-square-foot lot. The property is zoned commercial. The Summit-University Planning Council's District 8 Plan calls for a mixed-use, traditional neighborhood development on the property.

Global was first granted tentative developer status for the corner in June 2007 following the city's issuance of a request for proposals. The developer presented plans for a three-story mixed-use development with retail shops on the ground floor and housing above. However, the project has been hampered by the downturn in the housing market, and the tentative developer status expired last December.

Global's initial plan also called for a \$2.5 million city subsidy plus donation of the land, an amount that staff in the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development believed was too high.

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation has offered to provide technical support to help Global determine what kind of development would succeed at the corner.

News Briefs compiled by Jane McClure and Dale Mischke.



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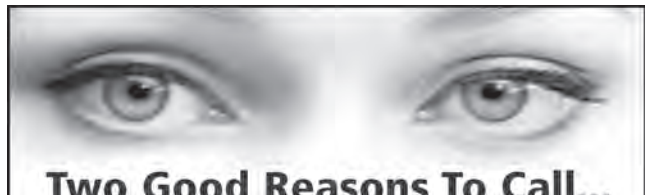
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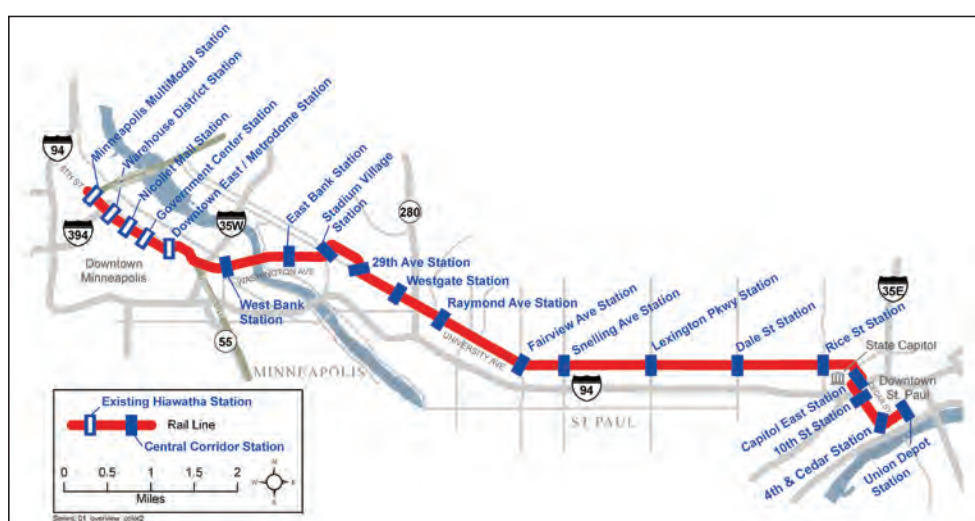
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Twenty stations are planned along the 11-mile Central Corridor light-rail transit line with the possibility of three others at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues in St. Paul.

Central Corridor light-rail transit project may be in line for more cuts

By JANE MCCLURE

Recent inflationary adjustments to its Cost Effectiveness Index (CEI) means that the proposed \$892 million Central Corridor light-rail transit project no longer meets the standard the Federal Transit Authority uses to rank projects competing for federal funding. The Central Corridor's CEI as adjusted is \$24.82. It needs to be at or below \$24.49 to qualify for the federal funds that local officials are hoping will pay half the cost of constructing the 11-mile transit line between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The CEI is based on project costs and benefits, including estimated ridership and travel times. Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter said she was "appalled" at the change to the CEI. She and other members of the Ramsey County Board and the Central Corridor Citizens Advisory Committee are concerned about the cuts that may need to be made, including the plans for additional light-rail transit stations on University Avenue at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues.

The Central Corridor project staff would not say just what could be cut from the project, only that cuts will probably have to be made before the plans are submitted to the FTA by September 5. "We're going to have to go back to every line item," said Central Corridor project director Mark Fuhrmann.

According to Fuhrmann, the design engineering for the light-rail line has reached a level of detail where more specific costs can be determined, and that should ease the process of cutting the budget. Honing in on those specific costs and adopting efficiencies in construction could result in \$5 million to \$15 million in savings, he said.

The Metropolitan Council, which is overseeing the design and construction of the light-rail line, is holding public hearings this week on the Central Corridor's supplemental draft environment impact statement (SDEIS). The first hearing was on August 4. Subsequent hearings will be held at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 7, at the Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave. S. in Minneapolis, and at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 9, at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 N. Fairview Ave. in St. Paul. Both hearings will be preceded by an hour-long open house.

Public comments on the SDEIS may also be made until August 25 by calling the project comment line at 651-602-1564 or contacting kathryn.obrien@metc.state.mn.us.

The 1,800-page SDEIS, which is available on-line and at public libraries, covers details of the Central Corridor project that were not fleshed out in the original DEIS. Those details include the so-called infill stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues; how the Central Corridor and Hiawatha light-rail lines would connect; the proposed Washington Avenue transit mall on the University of Minnesota's East Bank campus; modifications to the Washington Avenue bridge over the Mississippi River; and proposed changes to

the light-rail alignment and station locations near the Capitol and in downtown St. Paul.

Also covered in the SDEIS is the comparative impacts of operating two-car versus three-car trains, the placement of substations to help power the trains, and a maintenance facility in downtown St. Paul.

When the Metropolitan Council approved the original DEIS for the project last February, it agreed to at least install the infrastructure for the three transit stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western and to construct one of the stations if contingency money were available. At the time, other facets of the project, such as the proposed tunnel underneath Washington Avenue and an extension to a transit hub at downtown St. Paul's Union Depot, were cut to bring the Central Corridor's CEI below the necessary threshold.

If the complex formula for determining the CEI has not been frustrating enough for local officials and other proponents of the project, the need to regularly adjust it for inflation has.

Despite the uncertainty about their future, the three infill stations are likely to be included in the city of St. Paul's land-use plans for the areas around the proposed University Avenue transit stations. The St. Paul Planning Commission could vote as early as August 8 on land-use plans for the areas around the proposed Westgate, Raymond, Fairview, Snelling, Lexington, Dale and Rice Street transit stations.

The Planning Commission has not yet decided whether the areas around the proposed Hamline, Victoria and Western transit stations should be added to the Central Corridor zoning overlay district. However, it will hold a public hearing on that issue at 8:30 a.m. Friday, August 22. Earlier this summer, the City Council asked that the areas around the three infill stations be included in the zoning overlay district.

More than 50 people attended a July 11 public hearing on redevelopment plans around the proposed transit stations between Snelling and Westgate. Half that many attended a July 25 public hearing on the land-use plans around the proposed Lexington, Dale and Rice Street stations.

St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce vice president Susan Kimberly and others expressed general support for the land-use plans while cautioning that any redevelopment will largely be the result of decisions made by individual property owners. Among the concerns of local property owners is that they not have to bear the costs of public improvements in the station areas. They also want city officials to view the plans as a vision for the area and not a mandate.

According to city planner Donna Drummond, the land-use plans are not intended to be prescriptive. However, she said, redevelopment is likely if the light-rail transit line is built, and the city needs to be prepared to shape that redevelopment.

Cadets create safer, environmentally friendlier electro-cycle

By Frank Jossi

Mark Westlake opens the door of a two-wheel vehicle that looks like a cross between a motorcycle and a moped wrapped in a lime-green shell. Lowering the bike off a kickstand, he takes a silent spin around the circular driveway in front of St. Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights.

The machine makes no Harley-like pistol shot noises as it moves. The white banana-shaped seat offers a backrest unlike any other cycle on the road, and the dashboard has less complexity than a 21-speed bike. It features "crush zones" and other features to protect the driver, and recharges through a plug located in a compartment at the rear.

Called the Safer Electric Motorcycle, the prototype vehicle can reach speeds of 60 mph and holds a charge for up to 40 miles. Starting this fall, Westlake, a physics teacher and head of STA's Experimental Vehicle Team (EVT), will no doubt draw a few stares as he commutes on the motorcycle from his home in Farmington.

A year in the making, the vehicle was one of 16 projects in the country that received an InvenTeams grant from the Lemelson-MIT program. Westlake has overseen the school's EVT for a decade, helping teams of students build a solar bike that averaged 30 mph, a one-person car that got 1,300 miles per gallon and a street-legal solar car that a STA team raced from Texas to California.

Since its premier at EurekaFest at MIT in late June, the 220-pound electric motorcycle has made appearances on WCCO-TV and KSTP-TV and is now headed for the Minnesota State Fair's Eco-Friendly Booth.

This was the first time STA had entered the MIT contest. The competition drew schools from around the country, including Great River School on Energy Park Drive.



Seniors Rob Muellerleile, left, and Brennan Lee, co-captains of the St. Thomas Academy Experimental Vehicle Team, show off their Safer Electric Motorcycle.

PHOTO BY
BRAD STAUFFER

Though St. Thomas teams have won eight national championships, set numerous national records and were featured in *Popular Mechanics* and on Dragonfly TV, the school's Safer Electric Motorcycle may be its most ambitious effort yet. "This was by far the most challenging project, because we were much more concerned about the cosmetic look of it," Westlake said. "The rest were for races and it was always function over fashion, but it matters how this vehicle looks."

Development of the motorcycle began in April 2007, when initial plans were laid. Westlake went to Boston with 35 other high school teachers last summer at the invitation of MIT to learn more about the program. Afterward, his 18-member team worked on a 20-page, \$10,000 grant proposal before submitting it and receiving the money in October.

By that point the motorcycle was well on its way to development. Parts had been selected and gathered, but they still had to be assembled.

Molds for the exterior were still being refined.

Team members Brennan Lee of Edina and Rob Muellerleile of Macalester-Groveland had participated on the EVT for two years. Seniors this year, the two boys joined the team their sophomore year when they worked on three ice racing vehicles and assisted in holding a national ice racing championship at St. Thomas.

Muellerleile said initially the team looked into building a three-wheel vehicle, but decided a two-wheeler would be safer and more economical. The key to the success of the electric motorcycle was the use of five lithium phosphate batteries that are "half the weight of lead acid car batteries," he said. "The batteries we have use the same technology as the batteries in your cell phone."

The grant, Muellerleile said, helped pay for \$3,000 worth of batteries, a software design package called Solid Works, the carbon fiber

exterior and the Lexan windshield.

Both students spent as many as six days a week on the project. Muellerleile focused on the electric systems, which required bringing together several systems—lights, horn, speedometer, batteries—and constantly testing them until they worked together. "That was the most difficult part for me," he said.

Another challenge for team members working on the electrical system was to make the motorcycle user-friendly. "We didn't want 10 switches you had to flip to get it moving," Muellerleile said. The cycle lives up to that goal with only a few controls on the dashboard.

Lee, meanwhile, worked on choosing the mold for the cycle's exterior. Once the molding began, he said, more than a few initial designs had to be tweaked several times to get all of the parts to fit. He spent a lot of time using sanding blocks and reworking parts. "That was a long, dirty process," he said.

The EVT also included Brenna Loufek, a recent Visitation graduate who lives in Macalester-Groveland and will attend St. Olaf College this fall. Loufek's work focused on documenting the team's progress and helping design the cycle.

"It's been amazing to see it come to life," she said. "I never believed we'd pull off something as beautiful and complex as this."

Westlake said different area businesses helped out with parts at cost or free. Former EVT members also offered assistance.

After Westlake uses the cycle for commuting this year, he figures his squad will "cannibalize" it for parts and move on to a new project. No motorcycle manufacturers have stepped forward to commercialize the cycle, but that was never part of the plan. However, Westlake and his team believe that with gas prices likely to stay high, plug-in motorcycles built by some company undoubtedly will be part of the future.

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Members of the newly formed Greater Highland Neighbors Against Crime—from left, David Goldberg, Glen Anderson, Theresa Fleckenstein, Bill Rosenbloom and Mike Ireland—gather at the base of a footbridge near Homecroft School that has become a popular hangout for vagrants. Nearby, a culvert is splattered with graffiti.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Group kicks off grassroots effort to weed out local crime problem

BY BILL STIEGER

More than 100 local residents and business people attended the inaugural meeting of the Greater Highland Neighbors Against Crime on July 28. The meeting was arranged by half a dozen neighbors who believe that by banding together, residents and business people can make the area more inhospitable to criminals.

The group is planning a second meeting for October 15. Among the actions proposed at the first meeting were the creation of crime-watch groups and voluntary neighborhood patrols, a more diligent reporting of crime to the police, a greater police presence on the streets and the stepped-up enforcement of curfew laws.

Moderated by Highland Park residents Dan Esperson and Bill Rosenbloom, the meeting included a Power Point presentation on local crime along with testimony by those in attendance about their experiences with crime.

Esperson showed slides of dilapidated houses, public spaces marred by graffiti, and an all but abandoned pedestrian bridge across the railroad tracks near Homecroft School, all of which were cited as magnets for criminals and young troublemakers.

Rosenbloom spoke of the area around Homecroft School as a "center of questionable activity," where he has seen "drug-dealer type behavior" by young men. "One guy will stand outside and make a call on a cell phone," he said. "Then someone will drive up and they'll go behind the building. I can't say for sure whether it's drugs. But whatever they're doing there shouldn't be happening."

Rosenbloom and neighbor Pat Fabio said they have been patrolling the area around Homecroft. "We don't want to be involved in confronting criminals," Rosenbloom said. "But we want to be observant. We want to be able to report trouble to the police."

Esperson presented St. Paul Police Department

statistics that indicated an overall drop in crime in Highland Park between 2000 and 2007. In those years, the Highland area accounted for only 3.8 percent of the reported crime in St. Paul, he said. However, there were marked increases in homicides, burglaries and rapes between 2006 and 2007.

Mark Forsberg, manager of S & S Hardware at Randolph and Fairview avenues, believes Highland Park and neighboring Macalester-Groveland have been seeing an increase in vandalism and burglaries of late. He spoke of an increase in recent years of broken windows brought in for replacement at his store. "A lot of our customers, about one out of four,

"We're not vigilantes. But we want to be an organization of vigilant neighbors. If we organize as a group, we'll get something done."

mentioned break-ins as causing the broken windows," Forsberg said. "But when I asked them if they'd filed a police report, most said they hadn't. They didn't think that anything would come of it. I think a lot of these crimes go unreported, which is why they don't show up on the statistics."

Forsberg suggested that neighbors and merchants call 911 when they witness even suspicious activity. Esperson said that only 911 calls make it into the records of the police department.

"That's absolutely untrue," said Commander Tina McNamara of the St. Paul Police Department's Western District when reached after the meeting. "Complaints that are made on the city line (651-291-1111) are recorded and do make the statistics if a crime is reported. We don't want people calling 911 unless it's an emergency."

The St. Paul police were not invited to the July 28 meeting. "We wanted to go, but we weren't invited," McNamara said.

The police were not invited, Rosenbloom said, because "this was a meeting of our group, and we wanted to hear from our neighbors. One of our concerns has been the slow police response to calls from citizens in Highland

NEIGHBORS AGAINST CRIME ► 18

Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Robbery—A man robbed a juvenile at knifepoint at the Highland Park Golf Course at about 11:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 8.

Burglary—A laptop computer was stolen from a home on the 1200 block of Bayard Avenue at about 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 3. The residents were home at the time.

Theft—A car window was broken and a purse stolen from a vehicle at Hidden Falls Park between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. Saturday, July 5. Another theft from auto occurred at Hidden Falls at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 7.

—A pair of NikeFlex shoes were stolen from Famous Footwear, 2022 Ford Pkwy., at about 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 3. The suspect was described as a black male, 30-35 years old, about 6-foot-2, 230 pounds, with short black hair and wearing a white T-shirt, dark denim shorts and grey Nike shoes. He was with a black female, 35-40 years old, about 5-foot-5, 115 pounds, wearing a black shirt, black pants and black shoes and carrying a black tote bag. The two fled on foot east on Ford Parkway.

—Two laptop computers were stolen at the St. Paul Intervention Office on the 2300 block of West 7th Street between noon and 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 8.

Miscellaneous—Decorative glass blocks in front of TCF Bank, 2163 Ford Pkwy., were damaged between 6:00 p.m. Monday and 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 30-July 1.

—The rear door of a business was ripped off its hinges at about 2:00 a.m. Friday, July 4, on the 1500 block of Randolph Avenue.

Macalester-Groveland

Robbery—Total Hardware Hank, 408 S. Snelling Ave., was robbed at gunpoint at about 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 27. A white male suspect wearing a red ski mask and a yellow shirt fled on foot eastbound down the alley.

Burglary—A computer was stolen from Shish Restaurant, 1668 Grand Ave., at about noon Monday, June 30.

—Several items were taken from a home that was broken into on the 1200 block of Palace Avenue between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Friday, June 27.

—A home on the 1100 block of Goodrich Avenue was burglarized between 5:00 and 5:30 a.m. Monday, June 30.

Theft—Thefts from auto occurred at Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard at around noon Thursday, June 26, and 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 29. In the second incident, the passenger window was broken out and a purse was stolen.

—A tractor was reported stolen at Macalester College on Wednesday, July 2.

—Two rings and a set of keys were taken from a home on the 1300 block of Jefferson Avenue between 5:00 a.m. Tuesday and 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 8-9. The resident was home at the time.

Weapons—A man with a gun was reported on the 1800 block of St. Clair Avenue at about 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 4. Police found the man sitting on a chair in the backyard. He had a gun, which turned out to be inoperative and was confiscated by police.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—A home on the 1100 block of Laurel Avenue was broken into between 11:00 p.m. and midnight Sunday, July 6.

Weapons—Shots were fired on the 1200 block of St. Anthony Avenue at about 8:30 p.m. Sunday, June 29.

Merriam Park

Burglary—A home on the 2100 block of Marshall Avenue was burglarized between 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Friday, June 27. The back window screen was cut.

—Rising Sun, 2058 Marshall Ave., was burglarized between 3:00 and 3:30 a.m. Saturday, July 5. The lock was removed from the door.

Theft—A bicycle was stolen from a yard on the 400 block of Fry Street at about noon Thursday, June 26.

—A 1996 Nissan Maxima was stolen from Auto Tech Inc. on the 400 block of North Wilder Street between 5:00 p.m. Thursday and 8:00 a.m. Friday, June 26-27.

—An ATM card was reported stolen from the 400 block of North Wilder Street on Tuesday, July 1.

Miscellaneous—St. Paul mounted police cited two men for public drinking in Iris Park at about 9:30 p.m. Friday, June 27.

—Three people tried to rob a man after he got off the bus at Lynnhurst and University avenues at about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 1.

The man sustained minor injuries and was taken to the hospital.

—Police arrested a 30-year-old Minneapolis man in Iris Park on warrants for auto theft and fleeing police at about 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 3. The man was originally approached by police for drinking liquor in the park.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A home on the 1300 block of Selby Avenue was broken into between noon Friday and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 4-5.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred at the Concordia ballfields on Hamline and Marshall avenues between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Saturday, June 28.

—A man stole another man's bike off the front bike rack of an MTC bus at University and Snelling avenues at about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8. The victim gave chase, but fell and hit his head. He was treated by paramedics at the scene. Bikes also were stolen from the front of buses at the intersection at about 10:30 that morning, and at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. the following day. A 22-year-old St. Paul man was arrested for theft at about 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, after he was positively identified by a witness.

Assault—Police arrested a 38-year-old Minneapolis man for assault at about 10:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, at Snelling and University avenues. The man had been punching people in the face as he walked west on University.

Summit Hill

Burglary—An attempted burglary occurred in an apartment building on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue at about 8:30 p.m. Sunday, June 29. A resident saw the intruder in the basement and chased him away. The suspect was described as a black male, 40-45 years old, 160-165 pounds, around 5-foot-9, with short black hair, missing teeth and a gold tooth on the right side. He was wearing a long-sleeve black T-shirt, white pin-striped pants and high-top shoes.

—A house on the 200 block of South Lexington Parkway was broken into between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 30.

—Several bottles of liquor were stolen from a home on the 700 block of Linwood Avenue between midnight and 7:00 a.m. Friday, July 4. The resident was home at the time. A screen was cut to gain entry.

Assault—A 25-year-old Eagan man was arrested for making terroristic threats at the

Wild Onion, 788 Grand Ave., at about 12:30 a.m. Monday, June 30. The man reportedly threatened to get a shotgun from his car and shoot the bar staff.

Summit-University

Robbery—Two women were victims of a strong-armed robbery at Kent Street and Marshall Avenue at just after midnight Monday, June 30.

—A man and woman were victims of an attempted robbery at gunpoint on the 400 block of Dayton Avenue at about 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 2. The suspect displayed what looked like a BB gun. Nothing was taken from the victims. The suspect was a black male in his mid-20s with a slender build and was wearing a blue baseball cap and dark clothing.

Burglary—A restaurant on the 700 block of Selby Avenue was broken into between 7:00 p.m. Sunday and 9:00 a.m. Monday, June 29-30.

—A safe was taken from the Archdiocesan Office, 226 Summit Ave., between 1:30 and 6:00 a.m. Saturday, June 28. Entry was forced through a second-floor window. The archbishop's quarters were also burglarized.

—A flat-screen TV was taken from a home on the 1000 block of Ashland Avenue between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. Friday, June 27. A resident was home at the time.

Theft—A cast-iron radiator was stolen from a driveway on the 600 block of Dayton Avenue between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 26-27.

Arson—A car was set on fire on the 100 block of North Milton Street at about 2:15 a.m. Saturday, July 5. Damage was estimated at \$1,200.

West End

Robbery—A woman was robbed at gunpoint in her apartment on the 100 block of West 7th Street at about 9:30 p.m. Friday, June 27.

Burglary—Two cameras and a purse were stolen from a home on the 800 block of Osceola Avenue between 1:00 and 7:00 a.m. Thursday, June 26. A screen was removed from an open rear window to gain entry. The residents were asleep at the time.

Theft—A 29-year-old Mound man was arrested at Smith Avenue and Cliff Street for auto theft and possession of burglary tools at 2:30 a.m. Thursday, July 3. He was wanted on a warrant for possession of stolen property.

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Names in the News

Linda Mack Schloff of Highland Park has retired after 22 years with the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest. She served as director of the society's programs and was the architect of its archives. She joined the society in 1987 after completing her master's degree in history at the University of Minnesota and went on to earn her doctorate in history at the U in 1998. Schloff has authored several books on local Jewish history, including *And Prairie Dogs Weren't Kosher: Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest Since 1855*, for which she was named a Minnesota Book Award finalist. The society will honor her at its 24th annual meeting on August 17.

Margaret Kelly has been named by Mayor Chris Coleman as the city of St. Paul's new finance director. She succeeds Matt Smith. Kelly was the assistant commissioner and chief financial officer at the Minnesota Department of Health, where she managed a \$450 million annual budget. Before that, she was director of fiscal and data analysis for health care administration at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, fiscal policy director at the Department of Health, and senior executive budget officer at the Minnesota Department of Finance. Kelly will start her duties on August 11.

The St. Paul Sunrise Rotary Club has installed Tina Hoyer of Merriam Park as president for the coming year. Hoyer is a principal at Nelson, Tietz & Hoyer of Minneapolis.



Marcus Leo Hansen, 6, of Macalester-Groveland has raised \$221.10 for Como Park's new polar bear exhibit. He served free lemonade and chocolate chip cookies while taking donations for the zoo.

Alexander Adiarte, a Summit Hill native and 1993 graduate of St. Paul Academy and Summit School, is the new music director of the Stuttgart Youth Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra is composed of musicians ages 11-19 from Stuttgart, Germany.

Adiarte earned a bachelor's degree in music from Yale University and a master's degree in violin performance from the Yale School of Music. Since 2004, he has been working in Stuttgart, where he has assisted in several productions at the Junge Oper and the Forum Neues Musiktheater.

U.S. Army Reservist John Kingrey of Highland Park recently received the Armed Forces' Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his work on the 2008 Military and Overseas Voting bill. The measure was sponsored by the Minnesota Secretary of State and won unanimous approval by the Legislature. Under the new law, service members, families and civilian contractors will receive ballots electronically, thereby improving their ability to return their votes on time to be counted. Kingrey is deputy commander for the 214th Legal Support Organization at Fort Snelling. In his civilian career, he is the executive director of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association.

Kymberly Koenig has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army after completing the Army ROTC program and graduating with a bachelor's degree from the College of St. Benedict. She will attend the Transportation Officer's Basic Course at Fort Eustis, Virginia, and will then be assigned to Fort Riley, Kansas. Koenig is the daughter of Mark and Monica Koenig of Merriam Park. She is a 2004 graduate of Cretin-Derham Hall.

16◀ NEIGHBORS AGAINST CRIME

Park. Listen, we love cops, and we want to see them more present in our neighborhoods."

Jennifer Mattson, owner of Brewberry's coffee shop at Randolph and Fairview avenues, spoke of her frustration with graffiti vandalism and theft at her shop and an attempted break-in at her Macalester-Groveland home. "I almost never see a police presence in this area," Mattson said. "A policewoman came to the shop. She said she was the beat cop for the (Highland Park) neighborhood, but that my coffee shop was just across the street from

where her beat ended."

Chris Larson, manager of the Highland Village Dairy Queen, said his restaurant has had problems with graffiti. Highland Park resident Dan Grzywinski spoke of juveniles assaulting his son. One Highland Park woman said her daughter's purse was snatched at knifepoint. Another man told of an attempt by juveniles to steal his son's bicycle.

Inadequate lighting and the lax enforcement of curfew laws were cited as contributing to an atmosphere that encouraged crime. Many at the meeting thought the prevalence of graffiti suggested the presence of gangs in

Highland Park. However, Dan Dahlman, who lives near Homecroft, said that may not be the case. "I witnessed a vandal spraying graffiti and turned him in," Dahlman said. "Turns out he wasn't a gang member, just some punk kid."

According to Esperson, Greater Highland Neighbors Against Crime will be contacting other neighborhood crime prevention groups in an effort to learn how they can be more effective.

A few people at the July 28 meeting questioned the concept of voluntary citizen patrols. "Why is it our job to prevent crime?"

asked local resident Mark Chaffee. "Where are the police?"

"What if you go out looking for crime, but the crime finds you?" another asked.

"We're not vigilantes," Rosenbloom said. "But we want to be an organization of vigilant neighbors. If we organize as a group, we'll get something done."

Greater Highland Neighbors Against Crime is inviting anyone who is interested in the issue to attend the next meeting on October 15. For more information, contact info@highlandcrimereport.com or call Bill Rosenbloom at 612-386-5080.

Low Vision Doctors Help Legally Blind to See

Members of the *International Academy of Low Vision Specialists* help those with macular degeneration to keep reading and driving.

By **Elena Lombardi**
Freelance Writer

Jackson, New Jersey Donald Paquette, 72, a former assessor from Anaheim, California thought that his driving days were over. "I could not read the street signs soon enough and I couldn't pass the vision test at the DMV office."

Gonzalo Garcia, 74, Albuquerque, New Mexico, wanted to be able to read and write more easily. He wanted to see the nails and screws when he tried to use them in home repairs. He wanted see his grandchildren singing in the church choir. But he thought those days were over when he was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration.

Neither Donald nor Gonzalo knew that a low vision optometrist could help with some of those issues.

"In New Jersey, Bioptic Telescopic Glasses can be used to pass the vision test for driving", says Dr. Chris Palmer,

optometrist in Minneapolis, Mn. "This can allow some with conditions like macular degeneration to continue driving".

"Amazing!" says Donald. "I can read the street signs twice as far as I did before and even see the television better!" Mr. Paquette received bioptic telescopic glasses and also special prismatic reading glasses for easier newspaper reading.

People don't know that there are doctors who are very experienced in low vision care. "Not many doctors like to work with people who are often upset and anxious" says Dr. Palmer, who traveled to California for special training recently. "I love to see their faces light up when they see again."

Macular Degeneration is the most common eye disease among the senior population. As many as 25% of those over 65 have some degree of degeneration. The macula is one small part of the entire retina, but it is the most sensitive

and gives us sharp images.

When it degenerates, ARMD leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision making it impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

The experts do not know what causes macular degeneration. But major factors include UV light from the sun, smoking, aging, and improper nutrition.

Vitamins can help. The results of two studies, AREDS and LAST demonstrated a lowered risk of progression by about 25% when treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins.

A new, proprietary supplement based on the scientific studies is available from these doctors. A very powerful formulation, Macula Therapy Formula is available from Dr. Palmer's office.

Nine out of ten people who have macular degeneration have the dry type. There is no medical treatment ex-

cept for vitamins. The wet type is more aggressive and results in more dramatic vision loss. It involves leaky blood vessels that sometimes can be sealed with hot or cold laser. Newer treatments, such as Macugen, Lucentis and Avastin are injections to prevent leakage.

"Our job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning," says Dr. Palmer. "Whether it's driving, reading, watching television, seeing faces, playing bridge...we work with whatever is on the persons "wish list".

"Telescopic glasses usually cost over \$2000", says Dr. Palmer, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass". Reading glasses start at \$500 and hand magnifiers under \$100. Every case is different because people have different levels of vision and different desires.

~ Advertisement



RICHARD DOUGHERTY WITH TELESCOPE GLASSES

Richard Dougherty, 89, of Palmdale, California came to Dr. Shuldiner in June, 2003. He has returned every two years to have the DMV vision report form filled out to keep driving. Dr. Shuldiner prescribed bioptic telescopic glasses to read signs and see traffic lights farther away in June, 2003.

At his visit on March 3, 2007, Mr. Dougherty said "The telescopic glasses keep getting better and better!". "They are actually better, by far, than the day I got them. The doctor is a genius! Definitely worth the \$2300 I paid for them". On his visit this past March, Mr. Dougherty reported that the special prismatic reading glasses were still working fine.

The following are some of the very experienced doctors working with low vision patients. They are members of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists and are happy to speak with you:

Chris Palmer, OD Minnesota	888 882 2040	Brian Saunders, OD	Georgia	877 948 7784
Yanna Nachtigal, OD		Marc Gannon, OD, FAAO	Florida	866 942 2020
Pennsylvania	877 523 2020	Ross Cusic, OD	Washington	877 823 2020
Randolph Kinkade, OD		Sheldon Smith, OD	Michigan	877 677 2020
Connecticut	800 756 0766	Larry Chism, OD	Texas	888 243 2020
Richard Shuldiner, OD, FAAO				
Southern California	888 610 2020			
David Armstrong, OD				
Virginia	866 321 2030			

CommonBond plans headquarters, supportive housing in Lex-Hamline

Residents worried agency is trying to purchase more houses in neighborhood

By JANE MCCLURE

Lexington-Hamline residents and members of the Union Park District Council board met on July 23 to review plans by CommonBond Communities to build a new three-story headquarters at the southwest corner of Lexington Parkway and Central Avenue and convert a nearby former nursing home into apartments for the homeless.

The development would be located on the site of the former Lexington Manor Nursing Home, a former plastic surgery clinic and a house. However, the project will not proceed if nearby property owners continue to refuse to sign petitions to rezone the two properties needed for the CommonBond headquarters. The organization is seeking traditional neighborhoods zoning for the site.

Residents are worried that CommonBond is trying to buy up more houses in their neighborhood. Some said the organization is not disclosing that it is making offers for additional houses in the area.

"You're obviously not neighborhood-friendly anymore," said Central Avenue resident Joe Shasky. Buying up houses "takes our neighbors out of the neighborhood."

CommonBond chief executive office Paul Fate indicated that if adjacent properties are purchased, they would only provide additional parking and green space for the proposed redevelopment. The agency is not saying if it has made offers on any additional properties.

Fate said the organization wants to move out of its cramped headquarters in downtown. The clinic and house would be torn down and a three-level office would be built in their place at a cost of about \$8 million. Environmentally friendly materials would be used and Leadership in Energy and Environ-

mental Design (LEED) certification would be sought. The building would have parking on its lowest level.

Another \$6 million to \$8 million would be spent on turning the nursing home, which has been vacant for more than two years, into 48 efficiency apartments. The building would operate in a manner similar to Lydia House, a facility that CommonBond operates in Minneapolis' Stevens Square.

The nursing home's conversion has been on the drawing board for some time. A previous proposal, which would have required financial help from the city, met opposition from then-Ward 1 City Council member Debbie Montgomery. The current plans do not require city assistance. Council member Melvin Carter III has not yet taken a position on the issue.

The apartments would serve the long-term homeless. Residents would have to remain sober and follow other rules to remain in the building. There would be restrictions on visitors and residents would have their medications monitored. A wide range of support services and case management would be provided for the residents.

However, neighbors are worried about the level of supervision of the apartment residents and whether they would cause problems in the neighborhood.

Having the CommonBond headquarters nearby would provide more oversight for the apartment building, according to Elizabeth Flannery of CommonBond. She said there would be about 100 employees working next to the former nursing home.

CommonBond began 37 years ago out of the social justice arm of Catholic Charities. The nonprofit operates about 5,000 affordable housing units. About 60 percent of the housing is for families, 30 percent for seniors and 10 percent for residents with special needs.

CommonBond also owns the nearby low-income Skyline Towers at 1247 St. Anthony Ave., which the agency was extensively renovated and improved with an education center and other programs for its residents.

Religious Notes

A spiritual spa featuring music, scripture and healing touch will be offered by the Sisters of St. Joseph's holistic healing ministry from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday, August 15, at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. There is no charge. Lunch will be available for \$5.00. Call Kate Meyer at 651-644-9433.

The Institute of the Himalayan Tradition, 1317 Summit Ave., will offer "Superconscious Meditation" with Swami Jaidev at 7:00 p.m. Friday, August 15. The cost is \$35. Call 651-645-1291 or visit www.ihtyoga.org.

Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis, will celebrate a Eucharistic worship service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, August 17, followed by a festive reception in honor of the Reverend Norman Kretzmann's 90th birthday and 65th anniversary of his ordination. Pastor Kretzmann served Christ Church Lutheran from 1964 to 1981, and he and his wife, Jeanette, continue to serve as active members. Call 612-721-6611.

A Mass for healing will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. Monday, August 18, at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. The Reverend Dennis Dempsey will preside. Call 651-690-1501.

"God Calls Us Around the World: A Vacation Bible School Adventure" will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon Monday through Wednesday, August 18-20, at Olivet Congregational Church, 1850 Iglehart Ave. Registration will be accepted through August 13. Children age 3 to those entering 6th grade are invited

to take a trip around the globe by sampling art, food, music and games. They will also hear stories from Taiwan, Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe. There is no cost, though donations will be accepted on the first day. Visit www.olivetcongregationalchurch.org or call Grace Anderson at 651-646-1478.

The Cathedral Young Adults of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis will be offering "Theology on a Stick" from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. August 22-23, 27 and 29-30 in the St. Bernard's Parish diner at the Minnesota State Fair. The evenings will feature a mix of questions about God, the meaning of life and how to enter into fulfilling relationships, followed by a "grill the priest" question-and-answer session and live music. Call Julie Heil at 651-357-1346.

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, 341 S. Hamline Ave., is sponsoring a vacation Bible school program, "Courageous Kids: Stepping Out For Jesus," from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. now through Friday, August 8. The program features Bible stories, games, snacks and crafts for children ages 4 years to 6th grade. There is no charge to participate. Call 651-698-6138.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave., will inaugurate a new year of Celtic and Nordic contemplative services in September. The Celtic services begin at 6:51 p.m. on the second Sunday of every month and the Nordic services at 6:51 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month. For more information, visit www.pilgrimstpaul.org.



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Pedal power

Sibley Bike Depot rolls into Summit-University

BY LARRY ENGLUND

The Sibley Bike Depot is still a newcomer to its space at 712 University Ave. There's no sign on the building yet, though a bicycle adorned with Mondrian-like wooden squares offers a hint to the activity going on inside.

A walk down a narrow hallway leads to a room overflowing with bicycles. On one side is a sales floor filled with reconditioned bikes of all sizes and vintages—from retro Schwinn Le Tours to Cannondales, Diamondbacks and Raleighs. A counter holds used tubes and tires as well as new helmets and locks.

On the other side of a glass wall is the service area where bikes that cannot be repaired are stripped of their usable parts, which are stored in filing cabinets for later retrieval. "We had an old Lejeune that had a bent frame, but lots of other reusable parts," said Sibley Bike Depot board member John Carlson.

Anyone can stop in during open shop hours and service their own bike for free. During a recent open shop, about 20 people of all ages were at work. Bike stands and tools were scattered throughout the service area. The scent of tires and bike oil filled the air as novice and experienced "wrenchers," or bike mechanics, trued wheels and tested gears. The clamor of metal parts mixed with voices and occasional shouts across the room.

Off to the side, three young women were gathered around a fourth, who explained the gears of a bike while taking it apart. A tattooed young woman adjusted the handlebar on a bike to be put up for sale, while a young male was off in a corner adjusting each spoke of a wheel

until it turned without wobbling.

A young man walked an old yellow Peugeot 10-speed out of the service area. He leaned the bike against the wall as he rubbed his greasy hands. "This is the first time I've worked on a bike," he declared with pride. "It's fun. Now I've got to clean up."

Proceeds from the sale of the bikes and equipment go directly to support the work of the Sibley Bike Depot. The shop is an outgrowth of the Yellow Bike Coalition (YBC), which started in 1996 to provide free bicycles for public use. In 2001, volunteers and board members of the YBC, recognizing the difficulty of continuing the free bike program, partnered with the Minnesota Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance to open a bike shop in the loading dock area of the Renaissance Box Building in downtown St. Paul. The bike shop moved out last winter after the building was purchased for redevelopment.

Carlson said that the new location is a big improvement over the previous one. "In the old place, all operations were in one space," he said. "With this move, we've been able to segregate service operations from the sales floor."

The Sibley Bike Depot's programs are designed to promote riding as well as to teach cyclists how to care for their own bikes. Free maintenance classes are available to the public. "The classes fill up quickly," Carlson said. "We also have a Junior Mechanics program in which young people take a four-week course to learn how to fix bikes."

The hours that participants work in the shop can be used to earn a bike. "We pay seven bike bucks an hour, which can be applied to the bikes we have for sale, as well as new



A youth takes a test ride at the Sibley Bike Depot, 712 University Ave. At right, Geda Woliye, 13, and Eric Young, 22 work on a wheel. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

helmets and locks," Carlson said. "Lots of kids try to earn bike bucks so they can get something for their brothers or sisters."

The Earn-a-Bike program is also open to adults, and serves as a recruiting tool for the volunteer-run organization. "Most of those who work to earn a bike also end up volunteering," Carlson said.

The Bike Depot partners with other individuals and organizations to provide bikes to everyone from homeless people to veterans. Cynthia McArthur, a Macalester-Groveland resident and former bike mechanic, collects bikes at neighborhood cleanups and repairs them for clients at the Center for Victims of Torture. Recreational therapist Barbara Johnson brings volunteers to the shop to fix bikes for residents of the Minnesota Veterans Home.

"We probably have 30-40 volunteers who come in twice a month or more," said Jason Tanzman, president of the Sibley Bike Depot board. "We've donated more than 100 bikes to different organizations this year alone. We've had 20 young



people earn a bike, and we have nine in our current Junior Mechanics program."

The Bike Depot has open shop hours on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, and adult classes on Thursday evenings. Youth classes are held on Tuesdays. Mondays are set aside for volunteers from the Veterans Home.

"We've also started a women's and transgender group on the first and third Tuesday evenings of the month," Tanzman said.

The organization is always looking for more volunteers, whether to

tear down bicycles or provide other assistance. "We need a legal consultant, a CPA, mechanical expertise, grant-writing help, fundraising help, website maintenance help and more," Tanzman said.

But the shop's biggest need is for volunteers who like to work with kids.

The Sibley Bike Depot is open to the public from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays and noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, call 651-222-2080 or visit www.bikeped.org.

"What's great about St. Paul?"

The Villager reader asks: "Any unusual facts?"

Jim: The fact that the Irish Festival of Minnesota on Harriet Island August 8-10 is recognized as one of the most family-friendly events in the Twin Cities. It's many headliner acts include Flogging Molly and the Tannahill Weavers, and this year features an Irish Fair Idol Contest. The fair donates over \$40,000 to 14 local organizations including the Hmong American Partnership and the Somali Arts Association. It has a goal to donate \$100,000 annually through its Legacy Fund to promote and cultivate Irish culture and to support new immigrant communities in this country—as the Irish once were.

This will be the eighth year on Harriet Island, and last year's attendance was over 100,000. The three days of music, dance, family activities and craic (lighthearted fun) help preserve a rich heritage along with helping others. Admission is free.



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Volunteers

The Summit Hill Association is seeking volunteers to help out with various office tasks, such as copying, data entry and mailings, from time to time as the workload dictates. A volunteer is also needed to coordinate "Summit" newsletter ad sales. Contact Diane Hilden or Jeff Roy at 651-222-1222.

The Minnesota Literacy Council needs adult volunteers to tutor immigrants, refugees and lifelong Minnesotans in reading, writing and English. Volunteers may work one-on-one, in a small group or as a classroom assistant. Training and ongoing support will be provided. Contact Allison at volunteer@theMLC.org or 651-645-2277, ext. 219.

St. Paul/Ramsey County's Project Homeless Connect is seeking people to help the homeless by donating their time to cut hair, serve food, raise funds, provide health services or manage donations. People also are being asked to donate hygiene products, bus cards, food, gift cards, socks, T-shirts or other essential items. Contact Steve at 651-266-6008 or via e-mail at info@projecthomelessconnectmn.com.

The Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission is seeking volunteers to help staff the Chautauqua Big Top Tent at the Minnesota State Fair. Volunteers are needed as the grounds crew, ushers, and staff for the merchandise and exhibition tables. Volunteers will receive a free admission to the State Fair, a T-shirt and discounts on other commemorative

items in exchange for working a 3½-hour shift. Call Megan Jung at 651-297-1343.

Free Arts Minnesota is seeking volunteers to work with abused and neglected children through art. A weekly commitment is required. Call Krissy at 612-824-2787 or visit www.freeartsminnesota.org.

A Walk for Children and Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday, September 13, at Midway Stadium to benefit Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota. Beginning at 8:30 a.m., there will be inflatable games and bouncing houses, face painting, sports clinics, a kids' footrace, classic car show, a tailgating party, free parking, food, entertainment, a 1.5-mile walk and more. Visit www.pcamn.org.

Walk for Wheels will be held on Saturday, September 27, at the east picnic pavilion in Como Park. This year's goal is to raise \$45,000 to purchase a new wheel-chair-accessible van to transport individuals served by Kaposia Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides job development and retirement services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Participants may walk, jog, in-line skate or walk their pet as part of the event. Visit www.kaposia.com.

Spark24, a 24-hour showcase of free entertainment, will take place the weekend before the Republican National Convention. The action will run from 5:00 p.m. Saturday, August 30, to 5:00

p.m. Sunday, August 31, at Peavey Plaza and Orchestra Hall in downtown Minneapolis. More than 60 other venues will also feature live entertainment during that 24-hour period. Volunteers are needed to distribute guide books, provide other information, greet guests and sell beverages. Volunteers will receive a Spark24 T-shirt. E-mail Erin Harney at erinharnay22@yahoo.com or visit www.spark24.org.

West End neighbors will be getting together from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 16, to plant and weed selected areas along West 7th Street. They will be joining the Spruce Up Minneapolis-St. Paul effort that is taking place that day to beautify the area prior to the Republican National Convention. Volunteers will meet at the Conesco upper lot on Broadway Street and Kellogg Boulevard East. Watch for a sign for West 7th neighbors. They should bring a shovel or hoe along with hand tools. Call Kent Petterson at 651-222-5536.

The Metropolitan Council is currently accepting applications to fill an East Metro vacancy on the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. The open seat in District G represents all of St. Paul as well as Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, Sunfish Lake and West St. Paul. The person selected will serve the remainder of a term that ends in January 2009. Applications are due by August 28. Contact the Secretary of State's Office at 651-297-5845.

Skally golf tournament to benefit Open Cities

Skally Management and Skally's Tax Service will present the first William Skally Golf Tournament on Monday, August 18, for the benefit of Open Cities Health Center. The four-person scramble tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. at White Eagle Golf Club in Hudson, Wisconsin.

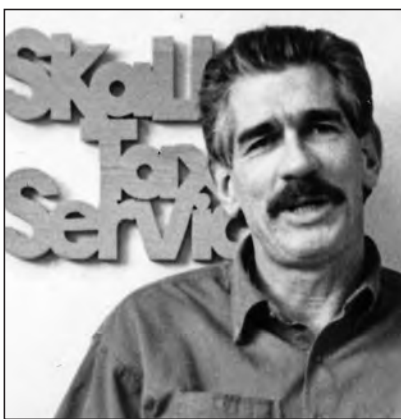
The tourney is named in memory of the late William Skally, a longtime Grand Avenue businessman, Highland Park resident and avid golfer who served on the board of Open Cities for 13 years, six of them as chairman.

Skally died last August at the age of 64.

The registration fee for the golf tournament is \$100 per person, which includes 18 holes of golf, practice balls for the range, a cart and a 6:00 p.m. banquet. The entry form can be downloaded at www.golf.skallys.com. The fee for the banquet alone is \$30.

Corporate sponsorships of holes are available for \$100 and up. A silent auction will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For more information or to donate items for the auction or prizes for golf, call 651-263-4080 or send an e-mail to golf@skallys.com.



The late Bill Skally. PHOTO BY MIKE LONG

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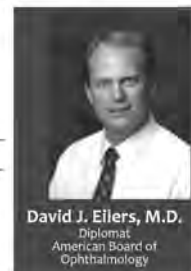
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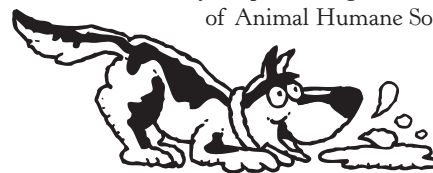


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SHA votes to make board more residential

BY JANE MCCLURE

The Summit Hill Association's board of directors voted 10-6 in July to amend the organization's bylaws to ensure that at least three-fourths of its board members are residents of the neighborhood.

The move surprised members of the Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA). Though only a few nonresident business owners are currently serving on the SHA board, the board has been open in the past to anyone age 18 or older who lives, works or owns property in Summit Hill.

GABA executive director David Regan was not at the July board meeting, but he has since discussed the SHA's bylaws change with GABA's membership. "I just don't know where this is coming from," he said. "We've had a good working relationship with the SHA."

The amendment was proposed by longtime SHA board member Maureen Flahaven. "I want to make sure that the interests of the residents are first in this group," she said. The neighborhood is

fortunate to have a strong business association in GABA, Flahaven said, "but I also think the residents—homeowners and renters—should have an organization that represents their viewpoints."

Flahaven said she also wanted to prevent the kind of orchestrated takeovers experienced by some of the city's other 16 district councils. Two years ago the West Side Citizens Organization's annual board election was dominated by supporters of the controversial Bridges of St. Paul development.

The SHA has 21 seats on its board of directors, one-third of which are up for election each year. One of the seats is reserved for a representative of GABA and another for a local college student. Unlike almost all other district councils in the city, SHA elects its board members at-large and not from specific subdistricts of the neighborhood.

The SHA board has struggled in recent months to seat a quorum at meetings to conduct business, Flahaven said. Several members have resigned before their terms were up and have been replaced by alternates. Allowing too many

nonresidents on the board could affect how the district council acts on issues, Flahaven said.

Flahaven could not recall a situation where nonresident business owners have swung an SHA vote. However, according to fellow board member Linda Winsor, a recent parking task force stalled when business interests trumped what she believed was best for the neighborhood.

SHA board member Eduardo Barrera said that he has detected a change in attitude among some business owners, from "extremely cooperative and positive to uncooperative and negative. Not all of the businesses have the best interests of the neighborhood in mind."

Jaime Luckee, who serves as GABA's representative on the SHA board, said that he too, wondered "where (the bylaw change) is coming from. It doesn't sound positive to me. Business owners have as much stake in the neighborhood as anyone else."

"I think the (bylaw change) will increase the negative perception of the Summit Hill Association," said SHA board member Alisa Lein.

Senior News

The West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St., offers seniors a chance to dance to music of the Golden Tones Band from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. every Wednesday. The cost is \$3.00. Call 651-298-5493.

Women age 60 and older are invited to take part in the Ms. Senior Minnesota Pageant that will be held at the Seniors Expo on October 6 and 7 at Grand

Casino Mille Lacs. The winner will represent Minnesota at the National Ms. Senior America Pageant later this year. Those who are interested in competing should call Bill Rasmussen at 651-489-3405 or Jeanne Rogers at 651-489-9617. The application deadline is August 15.

Mendota Manor, a new senior residence and memory care home at 659 S. Freeway Road in Mendota Heights,

will hold an open house from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 14. Door prizes will be raffled, and refreshments will be served. The facility is owned by Heart to Home and consists of four private suites with private bathrooms, common areas, a library, a craft/activity room and resident gardens. The energy-efficient building features in-floor heating, granite countertops and hardwood floors. Call 651-454-5250.

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District Council News

Highland Park

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Highland Parkway bike boulevard—The Highland District Council's Transportation Committee will hold a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 11, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., to discuss a proposal to turn Highland Parkway into a "bike-walk route," or bicycle boulevard. Paul St. Martin and Dave Kuebler of St. Paul's traffic and engineering offices and City Council member Pat Harris will be on hand to discuss the proposal. The committee will also discuss plans to paint a center line on Randolph Avenue from Cleveland Avenue to Mississippi River Boulevard and a request for a pedestrian crossing or median on Snelling at Scheffer Avenue. Call the HDC office with any questions or comments.

Community development—The HDC's Community Development Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 18, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Rob Viera of Buell Consulting Inc. will discuss a proposal from Verizon Wireless to install a cell phone antenna on the southernmost blue Highland water tower.

Take a bite out of crime—The HDC's Crime Prevention Committee has met multiple times to discuss crime prevention methods. The creation of police substations in different areas of the city is currently being researched, and the process of hiring a part-time crime prevention intern is under way. The committee is also looking at developing a long-term crime prevention plan.

Public art—Public Art St Paul needs volunteers to keep an eye on two statues on Mississippi River Boulevard. The statues, carved by international artists a couple of years ago, are located across from Sunny Hollow Montessori School and at the top of the entrance to Hidden Falls Park. Volunteers are being asked to monitor the statues' condition. Participants will receive T-shirts for their efforts. Call the HDC office for more information.

Mark your calendar—The HDC board of directors will not meet in August. The Community Services Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 11, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Groveland Night Out—Groveland Night Out will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 13, at Groveland Park, 2045 St. Clair Ave. The evening will include the showing of *Charlotte's Web* on an outdoor screen. The movie begins at dusk. Before the movie, there will be games for children, free root beer floats and an inflatable castle. The Groveland Booster Club will sell hot dogs, potato chips and other treats. Representatives from local businesses and organizations will hand out free samples and donations will be collected for the Keystone food shelf. To volunteer, contact Marie Nelson at the Mac-Grove office. This year, there is going to be a concerted effort to make Groveland Night Out a zero-waste event. Those who attend are being asked to bring their own reusable cups and to take home anything that cannot be recycled or composted.

Rock-Tenn update—The Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel continues to advise the St. Paul Port Authority on a study of fuel and technology options to power the Rock-Tenn paper recycling plant at I-94 and Vandalia Street. The panel's next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 18, at the Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. Research, presentations, and other meeting material may be found at www.rtadvisory.org. For information, contact Nina at nina@sapcc.org or 612-788-4151.

Composting workshops—Eureka Recycling will conduct a composting workshop at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 9, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Admission is \$5.00. Backyard compost bins will be available for \$45. Visit www.eurekarecycling.org or call 651-222-7678.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Merriam Park vision project—What is your vision for Merriam Park? What features of the park do you value the most? What would you like to see preserved or changed? Those questions and more are being asked in a survey of park users that was first distributed at the Merriam Park ice cream social on July 12 and continues online at www.u-plan.org/mp-masterplan.htm. Project designer Adam Maleitzke is conducting the research, which will be discussed at a park tour, dinner and workshop from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, August 21, at Merriam Park. The goal is to develop a master plan for Merriam Park to guide ongoing development and maintenance

over the long term.

Otis public hearing—The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing at 3:00 p.m. Monday, August 11, at City Hall on Wellington Management's application for variances for its townhome development at 205 Otis Ave. Wellington is requesting side yard, rear yard and maximum lot coverage variances in order to construct six townhomes and two triplexes on the single parcel.

Parade of Gardens—The third annual Parade of Gardens will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 16. The metrowide event will include the Eleanor Graham Community Garden at Hamline and Ashland avenues. The 37-plot garden has undergone several changes in the last year, including the addition of an orchard, flowers, composting system and improved watering system. A fruit tree expert will be on hand at 11:00 a.m. on August 16 to talk with visitors.

Lex-Ham Theater—The Lex-Ham Community Theater will present the U.S. premiere of Deidre Kinahan's touching and humorous play *Hue and Cry* at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, August 8, and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, August 9, at the Playwrights' Center, 2301 Franklin Ave. E., Minneapolis, as part of the Minnesota Fringe Festival. The play also will be performed at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 10, on the Minnesota Centennial Showboat at Harriet Island during the Irish Fair of Minnesota. Call 651-651-644-3366 for more information.

Neighborhood cleanup—Volunteers are needed for the Como Park, Hamline-Midway, St. Anthony Park and Union Park's neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, September 20, on the north end of the State Fairgrounds. Shifts are from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. and from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Those who work a shift will receive a free lunch and pass to the cleanup site. To sign up, contact Julie Oney at the Union Park office.

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

Upcoming meetings—Union Park board meeting, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 6, Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.; Land Use Committee meeting, Wednesday, August 20 (call for time and location).

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

SHA board meeting—Summit Hill residents, business owners and property owners are invited to attend the Summit Hill Association's board meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. The next meeting is August 14.

House Tour volunteers needed—The biennial Summit Hill House Tour will be held on Sunday, September 14. Volunteers are needed to work a three-hour shift. For their help, they will be offered free admission and priority entry to the 12 area homes and three public spaces on the tour. Tickets for everyone else cost \$20, or \$25 on the day of the event. Tickets may be purchased by visiting the SHA website, stopping by the office in the Linwood Recreation Center or visiting any of several local merchants. This year's tour is being presented by Warners' Stellan. For information, visit the SHA website or call the SHA office.

The greening of Summit Hill—Summit Hill environmentalists, gardeners and other interested residents are invited to join the SHA's Environment Committee in making the neighborhood greener. To sign up, call the SHA office.

Summit-University

www.Summit-U.com • 651-228-1855

Neighborhood development—Kao Vang of JB Realty presented an update on plans to redevelop the former Asia Supermarket at Western and Central avenues during the Summit-University Community Council's neighborhood development meeting on July 15. The site plan submitted to the city proposes construction of a single-story retail space and a two-story office building. The plan includes a credit union, deli, home health care center and 34 parking stalls.

Also during the meeting, Nieeta Presley discussed the upcoming development of the northeast corner of University Avenue and Dale Street. Applications are now being accepted for the future tenants of Frogtown Square, a 22,000-square-foot development of commercial space and 50 senior housing units. For more information, visit the SUPC website.

Rondo Days—The SUPC joined many other organizations that participated in the 25th annual Rondo Days parade and festival on July 19. For a slideshow of the event, visit the SUPC website.

Stay in the loop—For details on upcoming meetings or to sign up for electronic news updates, visit the SUPC website.



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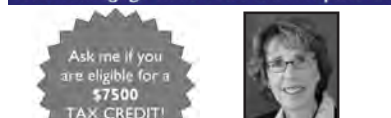
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Food



Home Fires By Jo Marshall

Raw food: The uncooked story

While the majority of us meal preparers devote untold hours and energy to the lifelong pursuit of cooking, there are those among us who have sworn off their saucepans in a concerted effort *not* to cook their dinners. No, I'm not referring to those privileged few for whom the mainstays of life are take-out orders and restaurant reservations. I'm referring to the growing number of people who believe nutrition and health are optimized when the food they eat is raw.

They're known as raw-foodists and, in a nutshell, their ideology goes like this: Enzymes are the catalyst for every biochemical process that takes place in the human body. Cooking destroys nutrients and enzymes. Since raw food comes with its own enzymes to aid digestion, our body's enzymatic warriors are free to do other things, like fight infection, stave off toxins and regulate metabolism.

Practitioners say that eating raw results in fewer colds and allergies, a boost in energy, a leaner body, improved brain function, clearer skin, better digestion and a greatly diminished risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, osteoporosis, gallstones, infections and premature death.

Whew! Their theories may seem somewhat sketchy, but if what they claim is true, it would be hard to cook up a better formula for a long and fruitful life.

I'd like to say that my curiosity about raw foods was triggered by the quest for a more fertile mind or cleaner liver, but it was actually good old-fashioned vanity. Months ago, an advance copy of *The Raw 50* by Carol Alt showed up on my desk, and when I saw this stellar creature splayed on a chair, poised to eat what appeared to be an enormous ice cream sundae, well, I had to crack the book.

You may not recognize Alt's name, but you'd certainly recognize her face. In the book's introduction, she explains that she came to the raw foods diet in hopes of extending her modeling career. In the process, she discovered that raw eating not only controlled her weight, it quelled a number of nagging maladies. She claims that at age 40 she felt better than she did when she was 20, and that people routinely tell her she looks better than she did in the 1980s when *Playboy* magazine called her the most beautiful woman in the world.

By the way, Alt recently acquiesced to *Playboy's* persistent requests and agreed to her first nude pictorial, a spread titled, "Carol Alt in the raw: The body that raw built." She did this at 47, an age by which many of us insist on dimming the lights before disrobing in the presence of our husbands.

Well, she certainly got my attention. But what's a hungry girl to do? Spend a lifetime gnawing on carrots, with broccoli for



A flavorful dip blended from nutritional yeast, pine nuts, and peppers (above) makes for a delicious and nutritious raw-food meal. Start it out with a glass of raw orange juice (right). PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

Peruse a couple of raw food "cookbooks" and you'll soon realize there are whole brigades of food professionals doing all kinds of amazing things with raw food—everything, that is, short of cooking it.

Lucky for me, there's a raw foods restaurant in the Twin Cities that was generous enough to give me a whirlwind education. Ecopolitan Restaurant at 24th and Lyndale Avenue in South Minneapolis was opened in 2002 by Dr. Adiel Tel-Oren, whose "M.D." is followed by a list of credentials the length of my arm and decipherable only to those with an advanced degree in biological science. Aside from serving only raw dishes, Ecopolitan is vegan, but that appears to be largely for ethical reasons. Many raw-foodists are omnivores.

Kirstin Grieve, Ecopolitan's chef and manager, gave me a taste of what it takes to uncook your approach to cuisine. First off, if you're going to become a serious raw-foodie, you're going to want some equipment. That cheap blender you snagged for 30 bucks probably isn't going to cut it. You want a Vita-Mix, the big daddy of blenders. Then you'll need a juicer. Again, we're talking power: You'll be turning mounds of raw vegetables and fruits into what raw-foodists consider nutritional gold. Last but not least, get a dehydrator. Dehydrators let you "bake" crackers and cookies. They are to raw-foodists what the oven is to Betty Crocker. And pull out the mason jars. You're going to be germinating and sprouting seeds, nuts and beans. Raw-foodists insist that by germinating, you unlock a treasure trove of nutrients that otherwise wouldn't be available.

The kitchen at Ecopolitan isn't like any commercial kitchen



I've seen. Aside from the obvious—there are no stoves, grills, ovens, deep-fryers or pots and pans—the room sounds different. No sizzles, no clanging. Just the occasional whir of a food processor, and a couple of young women chatting it up as they mix huge vats of what would become "pizza" crusts.

Raw-foodists differ on the exact temperature at which nutrients and enzymes are diminished. At Ecopolitan, the magic number is 112 degrees Fahrenheit, so they never heat food past 105 degrees, just to be safe. A dehydrator can easily "bake," say, a tostada shell at that temperature, though it takes a couple of hours.

The ingredients commonly found in raw food cookbooks—flax seeds, carob powder and agave nectar, for example—may not be on your pantry shelf, but they're available at natural food stores. And the names you find attached to raw dishes, like lasagna and taco salad, can be comfortingly familiar, though the raw versions are often only distant cousins of the cooked variety.

At Ecopolitan I asked to sample one of their burger "buns." It was nothing like a conventional bun. It was more like a soft, fat, savory cookie. I thought, skip the veggie burger; I'm happy just to devour the "bun," though I wanted to slather it with cream cheese.

At Ecopolitan and possibly in a home near you, avid non-cooks are busy whipping up uncooked marinara sauces, making "cheese" from nuts, shaving "noodles" out of ribbons of zucchini, ladling uncooked soups and heaping layers of color-



Raw pine nuts, nutritional yeast, lemon and jalapeño peppers, seeds and all, can be blended into a flavorful and nutritious dip.

Business Briefs

Whole Foods Market, 30 S. Fairview Ave., will hold a Back to School Extravaganza from noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, August 10. Kids will get to play games, win prizes, get their face painted and make their own edible creations. Kid-friendly samples will be available throughout the store.

Great Harvest Bread Company, 534 Selby Ave., is celebrating the dog days of summer by donating all of the proceeds from the sale of dog treats in August to the Animal Humane Society.

Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union will hold the grand opening of its new two-story, 12,000-square-foot building at the corner of West 7th Street and Montreal Avenue from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, August 9. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at noon. There will also be games, food and refreshments. The credit union was founded in 1947 as the Ford Employees Fed-

eral Credit Union to serve workers at Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant in Highland Park. Highgrove converted to a neighborhood-based credit union in 1992 and expanded its charter last September to include all of St. Paul.

Cosmic Coffee, 189 N. Snelling Ave., is hosting an art gallery to support Common Hope's mission to improve the lives of impoverished Guatemalan families. Local artists' photos depicting life in Guatemala will be on display and for sale at the coffee shop until August 15, with all proceeds going to the charity. Manager Emily Jensen said customers may order a cup of Guatemalan fair-trade coffee while browsing the gallery.

Pazzaluna Urban Italian Restaurant, 360 St. Peter St., received an Achievement of Excellence Award in the fine dining category during the American Culinary Federation's convention in Las Vegas in July.

Lu Ann Finnegan of Macalester-Groveland has been named controller for the Minnesota Community Foundation and the St. Paul Foundation. A graduate of the University of St. Thomas, she brings more than 25 years of finance experience to the foundations, which together manage assets of nearly \$1 billion.

Dr. Alanna Hetland has joined Align Chiropractic Clinic, 33 S. Hamline Ave., as a chiropractor. She attended Northwestern College of Chiropractic and is soon to be a Certified Chiropractic Wellness Physician.

Exit Innovation Realty, 1150 Montreal Ave., has hired Susan Kenney as general manager. Kenney has over 30 years' experience in the real estate profession. One of her main assignments will be to facilitate the opening of Exit's new Woodbury office.

Cindy Haas has joined Gateway Bank in Mendota Heights as vice president of private banking. She has more than 25 years of bank-

ing experience. She also serves as co-chair of Financial Woman International and was named its Woman of the Year in 2001.

Pinehurst Bank, 757 S. Cleveland Ave., has promoted Jody Crowley to chief financial officer. Crowley is a Highland Park native and a graduate of Highland Park Senior High School. She helped start Pinehurst Bank more than five years ago and has served it as chief investment officer, senior vice president and human resources manager.

Pamela McClanahan of Highland Park has been named publisher of the Minnesota Historical Society Press/Borealis Books. A 25-year veteran of the publishing industry, she began her career at West Publishing where she was production editor of college textbooks for seven years. She later was managing editor of Fortress Press and Augsburg Books. Most recently, she was an editor at the Minnesota Historical Society Press.

26◀ RAW FOOD DIET

ful vegetation on top of "pizza" crust. The results can be eye-popping, and the flavors as complex and fascinating as anything you'd ever hope to cook.

Still, I might have dismissed this style of eating and the culinary wizardry it requires as a holistic-gone-ballistic, Haight-Ashbury hangover were it not for the endorsement of one whom I consider to be highly intelligent, thoughtful and honest. My sister-in-law eats a primarily raw diet and credits it with changing her life. She used to suffer from joint pain, severe allergies, headaches and bouts of depression. Today she's free of the pain, allergies and headaches, and happier than I've ever seen her.

I won't be hanging up my sauté pan or packing the grill off to Goodwill anytime soon, but I'm intrigued. Proponents of the raw food diet tell us it's not an all or nothing proposition;

eating just one raw meal a day can have its benefits. Now that the markets are bursting with local produce, it's a great time to test the proposition. I'll be chomping down my veggies. And that's the uncooked truth.

The raw deal

Ecopolitan shared its most requested recipe, a spicy dip the restaurant serves with crudités and raw chips:

Not-cho Cheese

- 2 cups raw pine nuts
- 1 small bell pepper, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 jalapeno (leave the seeds in for heat)
- 2/3 cup water
- 2/3 cup nutritional yeast
- 1/4 cup chopped onion

- 1-1/2 teaspoon apple cider vinegar
- juice of one orange
- juice of half a lemon
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil (cold-processed)
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper

Soak the pine nuts in water for at least half an hour, then drain well. Place the nuts in a blender along with the other ingredients and blend until smooth and creamy. (If you don't have a fairly rugged blender, you can use a food processor and achieve a good result, although it won't be quite as smooth.)

Ecopolitan Restaurant also offers monthly classes in "non-cooking." For information, visit its website at www.ecopolitan.com. For more information on a raw food diet, visit www.rawfoods.com, www.rawfoodsnews.com and www.sunfood.net.

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Education

Opening the door to global learning

International high school makes new home in downtown St. Paul

BY BOB GILBERT

When the Nacel International School resumes classes on September 8, it will be with a new name and location. The private high school was renamed the St. Paul Preparatory School this summer and was moved from Hamline University to Galtier Plaza, 380 Jackson St.

The school is now leasing 20,000 square feet of classroom and office space on Galtier's first and second floors. The school will have access to the building's third-floor conference area and theater. The on-site YMCA will be its gym and the food court will serve as its cafeteria. Students will also have access to downtown St. Paul's amenities, such as the Science Museum, the Ordway, Mears Park, the state Capitol and the Minnesota History Center.

"A lot of our kids come from the suburbs and miss being in the city

with all of its cultural facilities," said Frank Tarsitano, president of St. Paul Prep. "So it was a good match for us because our students get to take advantage of the cosmopolitan amenities that downtown St. Paul has to offer."

The school is associated with Nacel Open Door, a nonprofit international student exchange organization. The school opened in 2003 with just over 20 students and has since grown to 180 students in grades 9-12. Eighty-five percent of the student body comes from 22 foreign countries.

The school's accredited curriculum emphasizes foreign languages, international law, finance, diplomacy, the environment and the appreciation of world cultures. Tuition is about \$9,000 for local students.

In an effort to bring more American kids into the high school program, St. Paul Prep has 10 scholarships available for local students for



St. Paul Preparatory School science and law instructor John Mawk and project manager Carrie Hess show off the school's space still being remodeled in Galtier Plaza. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

the coming school year. Nacel also has forged a new partnership with the University of St. Thomas to collaborate on projects both here and abroad.

"In recent years, the number of American kids studying abroad has declined," Tarsitano said. "We've got to get American kids experienced in the world when they're younger so they can see what it's like first-hand.

Waiting for college to begin international travel is too late. Since our kids weren't going abroad, we decided to bring the foreign students to them."

Carrie Hess, project manager for St. Paul Prep, thinks it is a great program because it offers kids from all over the world a chance to learn about each other, not from books or the Internet, but from one-to-one

relationships. "The experiences kids get here are greater than just the academics," Hess said. "We joke about it, but it really is true. We have our own mini-U.N. at this school."

Alexander Yermishkin, who came to the United States five years ago, is a graduate of the school. He lives with his father in Highland

ST. PAUL PREP ► 31

New academy focuses on closing achievement gap for girls

BY JUDY WOODWARD

Sonya Troy has high ambitions for her 10-year-old daughter, ShaaylaRae. "She's going to stand next to the president," she said. "Shirley Chisholm was the past, Condoleezza Rice is the present and ShaaylaRae Troy is the future."

This summer Troy, a Summit Hill resident, signed on for what she hopes will be her daughter's first step on the long road to becoming a Washington insider. She enrolled ShaaylaRae in Laura Jeffrey Academy, a girl-centered charter school that will open next month at 1550 Summit Ave. The year-round school aims to serve a diverse student body and close the achievement gap for girls in science, math and engineering. The goal, said founder Cindy Reuther, is "to give private school-type opportunities to girls who don't have a chance to attend private school."

The academy, named for one of the first black librarians in the city of St. Paul, is located across the street from Macalester Col-

lege, from which Laura Jeffrey graduated with honors in 1935—one of the first black women to do so. Jeffrey was the grandmother of one of Reuther's friends. When Jeffrey died a few years ago, Reuther decided that the quietly inspiring librarian was exactly the kind of role model the new school needed.

Laura Jeffrey Academy is open to both sexes, as a condition of its charter status. However, so far only girls have enrolled. Seventy-five have signed up for the combined 5th- and 6th-grade classrooms that will open on September 2. The ultimate goal is to create a middle school for grades 5-8.

The academy could not have opened at a better time for ShaaylaRae. "She's done as much as she can do at regular school," said her mother, adding that she wants her daughter in a nurturing environment where she "doesn't have to apologize for smartness."

Educational researchers have noticed that between the ages of 9 and 11, many girls lose



Cindy Reuther, founder of Laura Jeffrey Academy, 1550 Summit Ave., makes a point during a parent information night. Behind her is teacher Kelly Armstrong, left, and education director Maggie Knutson. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

LAURA JEFFREY ACADEMY ► 31

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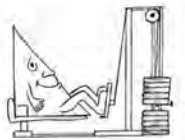
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Nativity reborn

Faced with needed repairs, parish completely revamps 85-year-old school building

BY SUE LEE

Nativity students have more than just a new teacher and new classroom to look forward to when they return to school this fall. On September 2, they will also get their first look at the grade school's new 35,000-square-foot addition.

Nativity, 1900 Stanford Ave., opened in 1923, and the two-story addition is its first major expansion in 48 years. Along with two new science labs, two improved computer labs, a larger library and better music, band and art rooms, the school has a new outdoor plaza and a new sky-lit entrance with a mosaic floor inlaid with the emblematic Nativity School cross.

Every window in the school has been replaced as part of the \$15 million renovation project, as have the plumbing, heating and ventilation systems. A new security system, improved fire protection system, new elevator, new offices, new delivery area and a new garage for the parish priests were also part of the project.

The purpose of the addition was not to accommodate increased enrollment—that is expected to remain at around 780 students in grades K-8—but to improve the flow and function of the school, according to co-principals Margo Weiberg and Kate Wollan. “Before the addition, even though we had a front door (on Stanford), parents and students usually entered the school from the playground,” Weiberg said.

The main entrance is now off the playground on Wellesley. Students and visitors entering the building will turn to the left for the classrooms for grades K-4 and to the right for the classrooms for grades 5-8.

“We still wanted the school to feel like a K-8 building,” Weiberg said. “It’s so important to have a sense of community within your walls. But we wanted enough breathing space for the younger kids apart from the older kids.”

The addition will be dedicated on Sunday, September 7, with an 11:00 a.m. Mass in the church followed by a public celebration and tours of the school. The dedication ceremony is the culmination of a seven-year effort that began in 2001 when a structural analysis identified areas of the school that needed immediate attention and provided a comprehensive view of the building’s strengths and weaknesses.

The parish held a series of meetings to determine which direction it should take with the school building, Wollan said. Parishioners responding to a survey indicated a preference for both renovating and expanding the school. A consultant hired in 2004 set a \$15 million budget for the construction project, and that year the parish formed a steering committee chaired by



Nativity School will reopen in September with a new plaza and sky-lit entrance off Wellesley Avenue, adjacent to the original school building at left. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

parishioner B.J. Kranz, who was subsequently hired to oversee the project. In January 2006 the parish launched a capital campaign aimed at raising between \$10 million and \$12 million from the parish’s 2,000 families.

The capital campaign is scheduled to continue until June of 2011. It has already raised close to \$7 million, according to Kranz.

The project was completed in several phases. The first was the renovation of the more recent 1960 addition to the school in the sum-

mer of 2006. Ground was broken for the new addition in April 2007. The following summer, renovation began on the original 1923 building. It involved asbestos abatement, a refurbished kitchen and cafeteria, renovated auditorium and redesigned and larger classrooms.

“Today learning is more active, engaged and mobile,” Wollan said. “The architects had to come up with a way to make the classrooms bigger without impacting the exterior of the building.”

The parish no longer had the blueprints for the original 1923 building, so school officials were surprised when the removal of the ceiling tiles in the two-story auditorium revealed an ornate wooden ceiling from its days as the parish church, prior to the completion of the separate church building in 1939.

“The wood ceiling in the auditorium is gorgeous,” Kranz said, “although we’ll have to restore it a little because it hasn’t been oiled for 60 or 70 years.”

Wollan and Weiberg worked with the faculty and the architects from Rafferty Rafferty & Tollefson to determine what was needed in the new addition. “The architects

didn’t rush us,” Weiberg said. “They met with us many times and asked, ‘What do you want and need in the classrooms and library?’ I think we really have a space that’s going to work for us.”

The new two-story library is the centerpiece of the new addition. The natural light streaming through its skylight will also enter two second-floor classrooms that have windows abutting the library. A support wall was built between the younger students’ and older students’ sections of the library. When faculty members complained that the wall would hinder their supervisory duties, foreman Mike Sonnek of James Steel Construction Company offered to cut a large hole in the wall. He placed the Nativity School cross within the hole and framed it in wood as a gift to the school.

“It’s amazing to see how Nativity has evolved since I was a student there,” said Pat Thunte, a 1994 graduate who is now a teacher there. “The new addition will make the school so much more functional.”

Before the expansion, Weiberg said, “we did an exceptional job as a school—our students are well-prepared—but it was a lot of work for the teachers.”



Nativity co-principals Margo Weiberg (left) and Kate Wollan in one of the parish school’s two shiny new science labs.

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Blueprints and work gloves on site at the St. Paul Preparatory School.

28◀ ST. PAUL PREP

Park and will attend the University of Minnesota this fall to study international business. He also works part time at St. Paul Prep, handling insurance issues for the school's foreign student population.

"I had a unique experience at this school," Yermishkin said. "Being exposed to so many different cultures was great. The curriculum was really broad and its interactive format was fun and educational. It gave me the skills I needed for college."

The school's foreign students board with St. Paul area families. Carol North, a Lexington-Hamline resident, is St. Paul Prep's host family coordinator. She has hosted foreign exchange students in her home for the past 10 years and is currently awaiting the arrival of a student from Chile.

Host families are paid \$300 a month. North said her family has made long-lasting friendships with kids from around the world, which has been a benefit to her own children.

"Finding host families is best done through word of mouth, though sometimes we do advertise," she said. "Typically the kids come in August and stay for the school year. We're

still looking for homes. If families are nervous about keeping a teenager for the whole school year, there are also welcome families who host them for the first five weeks after their arrival."

The school is also expanding its programs internationally. Branch schools opened in South Korea in 2005 and in China last year. It also has sister-city relationships with schools in Poland and Kenya, and hopes to open additional schools in Asia. Administratively, all of the sites are run out of the St. Paul office.

Tarsitano said globalization seems to be accelerating at a breakneck pace. He predicts it will be common in the future for a Minnesotan to be working overseas in China for a French company with Japanese co-workers. He believes that programs like his will pave the way for a smoother transition.

"What makes it such a rich experience for the kids is that every country has something beneficial to offer the world," he said. "We encourage the process of learning about one another through work and play."

For more information about the school or about hosting a student, call 651-288-4606 or visit www.nacelinternationalschool.org.

28◀ LAURA JEFFREY ACADEMY

interest in math and science almost as quickly as they do organized sports and other physical activity. What increases is a heightened awareness of and often dissatisfaction with their own bodies as compared to the ideals that society establishes for female appearance.

It is a powerful message, and educators know it can sandbag many potential female scientists or athletes at a critical point in their development. School leaders at the academy intend to support the aspirations of young girls by offering a counter-message of broad horizons and unlimited choices.

Students enrolled at the academy have their own take on the advantages of their new school. "Boys are super naughty and they interrupt," said Leah O'Neil, 10, of Highland Park. Her sister Isabel, 11, added, "Without boys, we'll be able to concentrate and work better."

Claire Seifert, 10, of Macalester-Groveland described herself as "sort of quiet." She said she is looking forward to teachers at Laura Jeffrey who "actually know about you."

Parents and educators may phrase it more diplomatically, but the girls all agree: noisy, disruptive boys are a big part of what they will be happy to leave behind when school opens at Laura Jeffrey.

School leaders think there are plenty of other advantages to the academy, such as team-teaching, a low student-teacher ratio of 25-2 for core subjects, and the sense of support that comes from close relationships with educators. Each girl will be assigned a single faculty mentor for her entire academic career there.

The school's educational calendar is divided into 45-day academic units, followed by a 15-day break that includes vacation days as

well as "immersion activities" where students will be invited to explore a variety of topics. Childhood portraits of inspiring women will line the halls to remind the students that every accomplished woman was once a young girl not so different from them.

The academy is one of more than a dozen charter schools sponsored by the Audubon Center of the Northwoods. Planning and operating funds have come from the Walton Family Foundation and federal grants. The school also recently received a \$50,000 grant from the Medtronic Foundation for the creation of a technology lab.

So what kind of student is the school looking for? "Girls who have been called geeks because they love science and math," Reuther said. "Girls who are athletic, but haven't been able to excel in coeducational physical educational classes. Girls who'd love to be scientists or artists or historians."

Reuther said the school does not plan to adopt a radically new educational method. "The thinking processes and curricula won't be different from a coeducational school," she said. "It's the content that will be different."

The plan is to offer supplementary material that will teach the girls about "the foremothers of their fields" in addition to more traditional curricula. The girl-centered environment will offer other educational advantages as well.

"(Having) no boys creates an environment where girls are free to have conversations about body image and reconstruct what it means to be a girl," said education director Maggie Knutson. "We want girls to think freely about the potentials and limits constructed by society and then reconstruct them."

The next parent information night will be held on Tuesday, August 19. For information, visit www.laurajeffreyacademy.org.

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School Notes

Lisa Shaughnessy of Macalester-Groveland has been named to the newly created position of director of advancement at the Convent of the Visitation School in Mendota Heights. Dawn Nichols, head of school, said the position was established to drive development strategies and capital campaigns in support of the school's strategic plan. Development efforts will focus on enhancing facilities, academic programs, scholarships and the school's endowment. Shaughnessy brings more than 20 years of development experience to the role, handling major fundraising and brand-developing projects for Fortune 500 companies and nonprofit organizations. She also was one of the founding organizers of the Basilica Block Party. Shaughnessy is married and the mother of three Visitation students.

Children's Center Montessori has moved from its home of 12 years at the Temple of Aaron Synagogue to the education center at the Episcopal Church of St. James, 3225 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Minneapolis. The center offers six classrooms and an equipped playground. Children's Center Montessori has operated for 38 years. It serves children ages 5-12. Call 651-645-2330.

St. Joseph's School of Music, 450 N. Syndicate St., Suite 350, will hold an open house at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 7. The open house will feature the children's music programs Footprints and First Steps. Call 651-690-4364.

EXCO (Experimental College) classes will be offered again this fall. The application deadline for teaching a class is August 25. Classes will begin the week of September 22. On-line registration will be available by September 1 at www.EXCOTc.org. Call 651-696-8010.

Nelson L. Rhodus, a Highland Park resident and professor at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, has been inducted by the Academic Health Center into the Academy of Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Rhodus and one other inductee were the first to be recognized by the academy for teaching. The previous 18 inductees were selected for research.

Ashley Booker, a Summit-University native, has been named a program coordinator for Admission Possible, which helps low-income high school students earn admission to college. The nonprofit organization currently serves 1,300 students at 17 high schools in the metro area. Booker graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in sociology of law, criminology and deviance and is currently working to complete a master's in education at Augsburg College. Prior to joining Admission Possible, Booker worked as a pathway facilitator for the East Metro Integration District and as a classroom assistant in numerous Twin Cities schools.

The Monitors Foundation has given a \$20,000 grant to Chosen to Achieve, the St. Paul Public Schools' African-American mentoring program. The grant will help five 7th-grade students and is renewable for six years, with the goal of supporting the students through the 12th grade. Members of the Monitors Club also will mentor students through Chosen to Achieve beginning this school year. The club was

founded in 1955 with a commitment to addressing political and socioeconomic developments that affect the lives of the African-American community. The foundation followed in 1998. Visit www.monitorsclub.com. Volunteers of all races and backgrounds are being sought to mentor St. Paul students. Call 651-293-5952 or visit www.cta.spps.org.

Jamie Jurkovich, a social studies teacher and academic coach at St. Thomas Academy, was named a regional honoree in the WEM Foundation's 2008 Outstanding Educator Awards program. Jurkovich was being honored in the Academic Coach of the Year category. He teaches 7th-grade geography and coaches the Knowledge Bowl, Minnesota High School Quiz Bowl, National Academic Quiz Tournament, National Geographic Bee and National Geography Challenge Exam teams. Under his direction, STA's Quiz Bowl teams were national semi-finalists in 2002 and 2006, and in 2004 became the first Minnesota team to win the national championship.

The College of St. Catherine honored six outstanding alumnae during its Reunion Weekend this summer. The honorees include Debora Brown '91, Mary Madigan Gibbs '53, Tamara Kittelson-Aldred '75, Catherine Murray Mamer '61, Barbara Probst Wollan '58 and Kristina Thalhammer '80.

Arlington Senior High School, 1495 Rice St., is currently enrolling students in its new BioSMART program for the 2008-09 school year. The program is open to students in grades 9-12 and uses technology to expose students to careers in the biosciences. For information, contact Beverly Cayetano at 651-487-7397 or beverly.cayetano@spps.org.

AFS, an international high school student exchange program, is seeking families to host students who will be arriving soon for a full academic year or six months. AFS students come from more than 40 countries and represent many different cultures and backgrounds. Visit www.afs.org/usa/hostfamily or call 1-800-AFS-INFO.

Pacific Intercultural Exchange is seeking families to host foreign high school students for semester homestays. It also has opportunities for American students interested in studying abroad. Individuals may claim a \$50 charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a student. Call 1-888-743-8721 or visit www.pieusa.org.

World Heritage is seeking families to host an exchange student for a semester or more during the 2008-09 school year. Call 1-800-888-9040 or visit www.world-heritage.org.

The Share! High School Exchange Program only needs 19 more families in Minnesota to host an exchange student. The host family provides a bed, meals and a caring home environment. Call 763-476-6515.

Foundation for Intercultural Travel is currently matching international students ages 15-18 with host families in the area. The students will arrive approximately one week before school starts. They have their own medical insurance and spending money, and speak English. Call 877-439-7862 or visit www.fitamerica.org.

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Wednesday/August 6

THE LAKE HIAWATHA Neighborhood Festival will be held from 5:00 to 8:30 this evening at Lake Hiawatha Park, 2701 E. 44th St., Minneapolis. The event will include a Timberwolves shootout, pony rides, a talent contest and a family fitness challenge (register at lhfest@yahoo.com), a preschooler sand castle contest, hair and face painting, a moonwalk, games, food and more. Call 612-370-4930 or visit www.lhrc.freesevers.com.

Thursday/August 7

A SUPPORT GROUP for people with anxiety disorders will be offered by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota at 6:30 this evening, and on the first and third Thursdays of each month, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Call 763-772-2379.

FORT SNELLING STATE PARK will offer bird watching for beginners at 2:00 this afternoon and a program on identifying animal tracks at 6:30 this evening. Binoculars and bird guides will be available for the afternoon program, and those taking part in the evening program will get to make a plaster cast of their favorite animal track to take home. The programs are free, though a state permit is required for parking. Call 612-725-2724.

Friday/August 8

“STARLIGHT, STAR BRIGHT” will be offered at 8:30 this evening at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Astronomers from the University of Minnesota will share their telescopes and knowledge of the heavens at this free event. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Call 651-455-4531 to register.

A TRADITIONAL POWWOW will be held by the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community today through Sunday at St. Peter's Church in Mendota. A fire-lighting ceremony will be held at 5:00 this evening, followed by a potluck dinner. Tomorrow's event will include American Indians parading in traditional dress and dancing to drum music. Grand entries will be held at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. Saturday and 1:00 p.m. Sunday. Those who purchase a \$5.00 button may attend a feast at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Call 651-452-4141

Saturday/August 9

“BUSY BEES” will be offered at 1:00 this afternoon at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Participants will observe the inner-workings of an active hive and taste the sweet result of the honeybee's labor. The cost is \$5.00-\$7.00, or \$15 for families. Call 651-455-4531 to register.

Sunday/August 10

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave. Call 1-800-448-3543.

Monday/August 11

NOOKS AND CRANNIES TOURS of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave., will be offered at 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. today and tomorrow. The 90-minute tour will offer visitors a look at areas not seen



Marty Abel, left, whose father owned a grocery store in the old Rondo neighborhood, gets ready to shake another neighbor's hand while talking with Corky Galloway in Reunion Alley as part of the 25th annual Rondo Days on July 19. Below, the Half Pints show their stuff while dancing in the Rondo Days parade. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD



on regular house tours, including the attic theater, eaves, storage areas and un-restored basement rooms. Visitors will learn how the home was technologically advanced for its time, with 13 bathrooms and nine miles of electrical wiring. The cost is \$6.00-\$8.00. Call 651-297-2555

Tuesday/August 12

THE COMO-MIDWAY LA LECHE League will meet at 7:00 this evening to discuss nutrition and weaning. Current and expectant mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

Wednesday/August 13

THE LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB will meet from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Julia Vanatta will discuss plant identification on Lake Superior's Isle Royale. Club meetings are free and open to the public.

“THE BUSINESS OF BEE KEEPING” will be presented from 6:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. The program is designed for adults who are interested in bee keeping as a hobby or a sideline business. Equipment, care, behavior, honey processing and more will be covered. The cost is \$7.00-\$10. Call

651-455-4531 to register.

GROVELAND NIGHT OUT will be held at 6:00 this evening at the Groveland Recreation Center, 2045 St. Clair Ave. Comcast's Movie in the Park series will present *Charlotte's Web* at dusk. There also will be root beer floats, games for kids and a chance to visit with representatives of local businesses and organizations. Food shelf donations are being requested. Call 651-695-4000.

Thursday/August 14

AN ENGLISH AFTERNOON TEA will be served from 2:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at the St. Paul College Club, 990 Summit Ave. A three-course meal and entertainment is included. The cost is \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Call 651-633-8839.

Saturday/August 16

A HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at the Dowling Community Garden, 3901 46th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The garden is celebrating its 65th anniversary. The festival will include samples of tomatoes and peppers, information on making natural dyes from vegetables, a gardening seminar, and a chance to stroll through the second oldest community garden in the nation. Visit www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org.

AN IRVINE PARK WALKING TOUR will be offered at 10:30 this morning from the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. The 90-minute tour will include examples of Victorian architecture and information about the 19th-century families who called the area home. Lemonade and cookies will be served on the Ramsey House front porch. An optional tour of the house is included. The cost is \$7.00-\$9.00. Call 651-296-8760.

A HISTORY RIVER WALK will be offered from the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota from 10:00 to 11:30 this morning. Sibley House staff will lead the walk (leashed dogs welcome) and talk about the history of “the Entry”—the juncture of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers—and its importance to the fur trade and development of the state. The cost is \$4.00-\$6.00. Call 651-452-1596.

Sunday/August 17

A CITY OF MENDOTA walking tour will be offered at 1:00 this afternoon from the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. Walkers will view landmarks in one of the oldest towns in the state and hear how the town evolved from its beginning as an early 19th-century fur trading center. Light refreshments will be served after the walk. The cost is \$4.00-\$6.00. Call 651-452-1596.

Monday/August 18

ST. PAUL-ITICS, a series presented by the St. Paul Public Library to inspire the public to get politically involved and informed, will include Mark Halperin, editor-at-large and senior political analyst for *Time* magazine, speaking at 7:00 this evening in the Founders Hall auditorium at Metropolitan State University, 700 E. 7th St. Halperin will present “Covering the 2008 Election: Perspective from the Frontlines.” Admission is free, but seating is limited. For tickets and a complete list of other events, visit www.SaintPaulitics.org.

Tuesday/August 19

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening at 46th Street and 46th Avenue in Minneapolis (the first cross street after the Ford Bridge). Call 651-646-6421.

NATIVE PLANTINGS will be tended to between 6:00 and 8:00 this evening at Crosby Farm Regional Park. Helping hands are needed to tend to an interpretive native prairie that was recently planted by Friends of the Mississippi River. Guidance, tools and gloves will be provided. Call Sue Rich at 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE, 943 W. 7th St., will hold a conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. Dakota Rae, coordinator of the St. Paul Better Ballot Campaign, will demonstrate Instant Runoff Voting using desserts, drinks or appetizers. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

Wednesday/August 20

A RICE PARK TOUR will be offered at 10:00 this morning from Landmark Center. Participants will learn the hidden secrets of the unique buildings that surround one of the cities most beloved parks. Admission is free. Call 651-292-3276 to register.



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On the Town

Plein and simple

Open-air painter Joe Paquet has had success on both coasts, but his heart belongs to St. Paul

BY BILL STIEGER

Highland Park painter Joe Paquet sits at his desk beside a shaft of midmorning sunshine streaming through the window of his Prince Street studio in St. Paul's Lowertown. His landscapes hang from the studio's south wall and the sunlight seems to make them glow. A more studied observation, however, reveals that the light is emanating from the paintings themselves, not the window.

A taconite plant reveals the squalid beauty of industrial decay as seen on a winter afternoon. A colorful row of dilapidated houses is offset by the steely skyline of downtown New Orleans. The viridescent leaves of a maple tree frame the front of a brick house and garage in Lowertown.

These are among the images captured in oil by Paquet. A visitor may be reminded of the paintings of Hopper, Winslow or Corot. But though Paquet's subject matter, style and craft reveal those influences, his rendering of light is all his own.

"The light of each day should differ from the light on any other day," Paquet said. "A good landscape painter sees the light of each day as a gift."

Paquet enjoys a sterling reputation among landscape painters, gallery owners, collectors and former students. He has won numerous awards in exhibitions throughout the United States. Fans of his work speak of his craft and discipline, but most important, his ability to see.

"Joe has the vision," said Julie Bangert, a curator at the Trees Gallery in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. "Joe often chooses scenes that another artist might find unremarkable, but he makes the viewer see the beauty in it."

Paquet was born to a working-class family in Paterson, New Jersey. "My father was an artist," he said. "He painted and sculpted. He's really the one who gave me my start. My father never really had the financial means to pursue his creativity. He worked for the railroad. Both of my parents encouraged me

in my drawing and painting."

Paquet attended the School of Visual Arts in New York City. After graduation, he apprenticed with painter John Osborne, who had the ability to reproduce landscapes from memory. "I studied with John for four years," he said. "John was an incredible teacher. I wouldn't be where I am today without his guidance."

Paquet then moved back to New Jersey, into what he called a "railroad apartment," and did nothing but paint for an entire year. "I felt I had the tools to become an artist, but I knew I had a long road on the way to becoming one," he said. "That year I spent painting was one of the best and most productive times in my life."

After his year of painting, Paquet married and became a father. Like anyone with family

responsibilities, he soon yielded to the necessities of earning a living. Paquet became an art director and illustrator in order to earn a regular paycheck.

"Despite all the work and long hours, I still painted," he said. "Painting was a passion I couldn't

neglect. I painted whenever I could, mostly during the evenings and on weekends."

In 1997 he accepted a position teaching landscape and studio painting at the Minnesota River School of Fine Art in Burnsville. The decision led to a watershed period of his life. His wife left him and Paquet's move to Minnesota wasn't at first a happy one. "I loved teaching at Minnesota River," he said, "but that period was also a very tough time for me."

Fortunately, Paquet's luck eventually began to change. He met his present wife, Natalie, who worked in the school's office. He soon opened a studio in downtown St. Paul with portrait painter Jeffrey Hurineno. He began to teach painting classes on his own.

"Meeting and marrying Natalie was the greatest thing that's happened to me," he said. "She's the one who makes it possible for me to do my work. And she's always encouraging me. Whenever I feel insecure about my work,



Joe Paquet with his oil painting "Unaffected by Market Volatility" on the easel behind him and a detail from "Lake Superior Taconite" at left. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Natalie will say, 'Just paint your picture, Joe.'"

And paint his picture he does. Art collector Roy Rose, who lives on Catalina Island, began buying Paquet's paintings after seeing his work at the annual conference of the Society of Plein-Air Painters.

"Joe's work has more detail than that of an impressionist-style artist," Roy said. "He draws beautifully and has command of his craft. When Joe comes here to paint, he captures places on the island few artists would paint. Joe finds his beauty and his sense of color makes him a standout among American landscape painters."

Painting sales and gallery representation followed in the wake of Paquet's success on Catalina. He has returned to the island on numerous occasions to paint, exhibit and

teach workshops. He has exhibited and taught in California and Massachusetts. He has even led a workshop for landscape painters in Florence, Italy.

Paquet has now lived in Highland Park for over a decade and has an abiding passion for painting the environs of St. Paul. Wintry backyard scenes from the city's East Side. Piles of scrapped, rusted steel outside of the train yard near Newport. Barges lodged in the ice on the Mississippi River. Christmas lanterns hanging from branches over a backyard filled with rusted cars.

"It's kind of ironic to think that I make my living on the coasts by selling paintings of St. Paul," he said. "But I love living here. It's the perfect place to raise a family, and I don't see myself leaving anytime soon."

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On the Town Briefly

Music

"Nine Nights of Music," a series of free concerts with open dancing, is being presented from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays this summer on the terrace outside the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Pack a picnic supper or purchase food from the terrace grill and join in the fun. The schedule includes the zydeco, blues, and swamp-pop band Jumbo Ya Ya on August 5; the Eastern European sound of the Mila Vocal Ensemble and Niks, August 12; and West African drummer Sowah Mensah and Friends, August 19. Call 651-259-3000.

The city of St. Paul's summer Music in the Parks series continues at the Como Lakeside Pavilion. The shows are free and begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. The schedule includes the Minnesota State Band, August 6; Swingbeat Big Band, August 7; Pops Ensemble at 3:00 p.m. and Honeywell Concert Band at 7:00 p.m. on August 10; Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra, August 11; St. Paul Police Band, August 12; Minnesota State Band, August 13; Fridley City Polka and Dixieland Band, August 14; Pops Ensemble at 3:00 p.m. and Kenwood Symphony Orchestra at 7:00 p.m. on August 17; Broadway songs with the North Suburban Chorus, August 18; St. Paul North Star barbershop chorus, August 19; Minnesota State Band, August 20; McNally Smith's Bruce Cook and Jerry Kosak, August 21.

Landmark Center's Anita's Cafe plays host to free concerts at noon on Wednesdays. The schedule includes the Spaghetti Western String Company, August 6; and pianist Katie Condon, August 13.

"Mill City Live," a series of free outdoor concerts, will be presented from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursdays at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St. in Minneapolis. The schedule includes the Latin sounds of Salsabrosa on August 7 and the eclectic trio Jelloslave on August 21. Call 612-341-7555.

The local folk duo Curtis and Loretta will present songs from the new *Minnesota Heritage Songbook* at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 14, on Picnic Island at Fort Snelling State Park. Along with their extraordinary vocal harmonies, Curtis and Loretta play Celtic harp, mandocello, mandolin, guitars, clawhammer banjo, harmonica and shakers.

The concert is free, although a State Park sticker is required on motorized vehicles entering the park. Call 612-725-2724.

"The Love Flute," a performance of American Indian flute music by storyteller Duke Addicks in the person of 19th-century fur trader James Aird, will be presented at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, August 17, at the Historic John H. Stevens House, 4901 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Addicks will tell of the importance of music in the lives of local Indians two centuries ago. The Scottish-born Aird was a master of the Indian flute, the Highland bagpipes and Scottish smallpipes, and Addicks as Baird may even tell the story of the bagpiper's ghost who haunts the Upper Mississippi River. Admission is free.

Books

"Modern Marvels: Jewish Adventures in the Graphic Novel" continues at 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Author and University of Minnesota instructor Judith Katz leads the free discussions about Jewish literature. The schedule includes Harvey Pekar's *The Quitter* on August 5 and Joann Sfar's *The Rabbi's Cat* on August 19. To register, call Susan Gangl at 612-626-2281.

Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave., will present free readings by authors Justine Lee from *It's a Dog's Life, But It's Your Carpet* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 9; Linda Buturian from *World Gone Beautiful* at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 10; David Carr from *The Night of the Gun* at 7:30 p.m. Monday, August 18, at the Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church, 170 Virginia St.; and Harry Boyte from *The Citizen Solution: How You Can Make a Difference* at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 19, at the Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church. All of the programs are free and at Common Good Books unless otherwise indicated. Call 651-225-8989.

A reading to benefit Peace Island, a conference, demonstration and picnic that will be held by the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers during the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 19, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Hosted by Ramsey Hill author Carol Connolly, the free reading will feature poets Cass Dalglish,



Whether it's traditional (below), contemporary (right) or a bit of both (as in the band Scythian at left), if it's Irish you'll find it on Harriet Island on August 8, 9 and 10.



Irish Fair returns to Harriet Isle

Traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, theater, storytelling and sports—along with an array of Irish language, dance, genealogy and craft workshops—will turn St. Paul's Harriet Island several shades of green from August 10-12. The 30th annual Irish Fair of Minnesota will run from 3:00 to 11:00 p.m. Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sunday. Close to 100,000 people are expected to attend the free event.

The fair's three music stages will offer almost continuous entertainment. Headliners include Flogging Molly, Tannahill Weavers, the Elders, the Fuchsia Band, Stephen's Green, the Belfast Cowboys, the Wild Colonial Bhoys, Romantica and Scythian. The fair will also play host to the second annual Irish-American Idol Contest, the winner of which will receive a \$250 cash prize and the chance to perform live at 6:00 p.m. Saturday.

The dance tent will feature performances by such troupes as the St. Paul Irish Dancers, Rince na Chroi, Scoil na dTri, Mooncoin Ceili Dancers, Celtic Fire, Green Fire, Corda Mor and O'Shea Irish Dance. The Mississippi Riverdance Extravaganza, featuring dozens of dancers from the area's top schools, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Experts on Irish genealogy, language, litera-

ture and history will hold forth all weekend long in the Eóin McKiernan Speakers Tent. Workshops in Irish drumming, piping, and ceili and set dancing will be offered along with evening ceili dances.

The Sean T. Kelly Lore a' More Tent will present Irish myths, legends, emigration stories, folktales and songs. The adjacent Centennial Showboat will play host to Irish children's theater, *The Importance of Being Oscar*, selected Irish monologues and the Lex-Ham Community Theater's production of Deirdre Kinahan's *Hue and Cry*.

Competitions will be held in hurling, boxing, tug of war, rugby, Gaelic football and soccer. Sheepherding with border collies will be demonstrated. A children's area will offer dog exhibits and demonstrations, songs, miniature golf and other games, storytelling and dance lessons.

More than 50 vendors, 15 artisans and a dozen local organizations will be showing and selling their wares. Authentic Irish food and drink will be in abundance. A five-kilometer run and family fun run and walk will be held on Saturday morning. And Monsignor Al Callahan, rector of the St. Paul Seminary, will celebrate an outdoor Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.

For information, visit www.IrishFair.com.

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Exhibits

Journey to a galaxy far, far away ... or stop by the Science Museum of Minnesota, where science fiction meets science fact in the 12,000-square-foot “Star Wars” exhibit. There through August 24 you can explore the fantasy technologies depicted in the popular movies as well as dozens of real-world technologies. Highlights include more than 80 *Star Wars* costumes and props, videos explaining the filmmakers’ techniques, model starships, a robot theater, a levitating hovercraft and a life-size model of the Millennium Falcon where, for an extra charge, visitors can experience the jump to light speed. Admission is \$19, \$16.50 for children ages 4-12 and seniors age 60 and older. Call 651-221-9444.

“Augustus F. Sherman: Ellis Island Portraits,” a new exhibit celebrating the more than 12 million immigrants who entered the U.S. through the federal station in New York, is on view through September 21 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Sherman, a gifted photographer, worked at Ellis Island from 1905 to 1920, documenting hundreds of new arrivals to America. The exhibit features 75 framed black-and-white photos of individuals, families and groups who were detained for medical reasons or further interrogation. Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and students, and \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-259-3000.

“Face The Nation: How National Identity Shaped Modern Typeface Design” is being displayed through September 21 at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Presented in collaboration with the University of St. Thomas, the exhibit investigates how the desire to reinforce, redefine or transcend national identity shaped typeface design between 1900 and 1960. Call 612-215-2520.

Paintings by Women’s Art Registry of Minnesota members Patricia Dunn-Walker and Faye Hoch are on view through September 20 at the Minnesota Women’s Building, 550 N. Rice St. A reception for the artists will be held from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 6. Admission is free. Call 651-228-0338.

Stereo Sound Agency will present the photography, drawings, illustrations and paintings of professional skateboarders Jason Lee, Chris Pastras and Clint Peterson from August 15 through September 13 at the Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. An opening reception will be held from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday, August 15. Included is a large collection of Stereo skateboards from the past 15 years.

“From Sportswear to Streetwear: American Innovation,” a fashion retrospective from the collection of the Goldstein Museum, will be displayed August 16 through November 2 at the Goldstein Gallery, located in Room 241 of McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave. An opening reception will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 16. Admission is free. Call 612-625-2737.

“From Freedom’s Shadow: African Americans and the U.S. Capitol,” a traveling exhibit sponsored by the nonpartisan United States Capitol Historical Society, will be displayed August 20 through September 29 at Landmark Center. “From Freedom’s Shadow” is a survey of the African American experience at the Capitol. Benjamin Banneker’s assistance in surveying the

future Washington, D.C., its long history of segregation, the enslaved and free blacks who helped construct the Capitol and the representation of African Americans in the Capitol’s artwork are among the topics explored. An opening reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, August 21, in the second-floor Galleria. Admission is free. For information, visit www.uschs.org or call 651-292-3276.

Film

University of Minnesota Professor David Feinberg will screen *If Nothing Else They’d Hear My Beating Heart*, a film about female survivors of the World War II Holocaust, at noon Thursday, August 7, at Traces Center for History and Culture in Landmark Center. Part of the “Voice to Vision” project helping the survivors of genocide share their experiences through art, the program is free.

Campy science fiction films will be shown free of charge on Thursdays in August in the courtyard of the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Rolling at dusk will be *Fantastic Voyage* (1966) on August 14 and *The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms* (1953) on August 21. Popcorn and soda will be available. In the event of rain, the screenings will be moved inside the museum.

Family

Movies in the Park: The city of St. Paul is showing free movies outdoors beginning at dusk at area playgrounds. The schedule includes *Little Big League* on Tuesday, August 5, at Palace, Jefferson Avenue and View Street; *Charlotte’s Web* on Wednesday, August 13, at Groveland, 1961 St. Clair Ave; and *Madagascar* on Friday, August 15, at Martin Luther King, 270 N. Kent St.

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., plays host to storytimes for babies at 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays, toddlers at 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays and preschoolers at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Featured in other free programs will be Kate DiCamillo, author of *Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig*, with St. Paul Saints mascot Mudonna at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 9; “Hoppin’ Frogs & Toads” storytime with Como Park Zoo and Conservatory staff at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 16; Joy Morgan Dey, Nikki Johnson and their book, *Agate: What Good is a Moose?*, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 23; and Will Weaver and his book *Saturday Night Dirt* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 23. Call 651-224-8320.

RavensManor, a story of young love and old curses animated by awesome acrobatics, daring aerial feats and stunning special effects, is being presented through August 17 by Circus Juventas, the youth circus performing arts school headquartered under the air-conditioned big top at 1270 Montreal Ave. Seventy-five of the circus’ advanced students appear in the production, a ghostly tale inspired by age-old legends of the Louisiana bayou and Disney World’s Haunted Mansion ride. Musical accompaniment is provided by the renowned fiddler and mandolinist Peter Ostroushko. Show times are 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Tickets are \$25, \$20 and \$15 reserved. General admission is \$15 for adults, \$12.50 for seniors and children age 10 and younger, and \$50 for a family four-pack. Call 651-209-6799.

Explore the many colors, shapes and textures found in nature through games, songs and crafts on Thursday, August 7, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. The 90-minute Nature Tots program for preschoolers and their parents begins at 9:30 a.m. It is free with museum admission, which is \$5.00 for adults and

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\$3.00 for children ages 3-16. To register, call 612-624-9050.

A modern retelling of the classic folktale "The Three Little Pigs" will be performed by the Loki Puppet Players at 11:15 a.m. Saturday, August 9, on the historic Jemne puppet stage at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. A special encore performance of the nursery rhyme "Three Little Kittens" will follow. Admission is free.

"Trash Art," a recycling project for young artists, will be undertaken during Nature Play on Saturday, August 9, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. The drop-in program runs from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. It is free with museum admission, which is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 3-16. Artists are asked to bring their own raw materials. Call 612-624-7083.

Stuffed animals and their children ages 3 and older are invited to take part in "The Stuffed Animal State Fair Show" on August 16 and 17 at Dreamland Arts, 677 N. Hamline Ave. Creator Leslye Orr animates a menagerie of stuffed animals and invites the kids to join in songs, games and imaginative adventures on stage. Show times are 11:00 a.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are whatever you can pay. For reservations, call 651-645-5506.

J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, the timeless fantasy about a contented creature who reluctantly leaves his cozy home to recover a treasure of great import, will be performed August 15-24 by the Young Artists Initiative. Show time are 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Neighborhood House Theater, 179 E. Robie St. For tickets, call 651-222-5437.

Theater

A Murder is Announced, a classic Agatha Christie mystery of mixed motives and concealed identities, is playing through August 10 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20. Call 612-333-3010.

Alexander Dumas' swashbuckling story of love, betrayal and retribution, *The Count of Monte Cristo* is being staged through August 23 by the University of Minnesota Showboat Players. Matinee and evening performances are scheduled aboard the Minnesota Centennial Showboat at Harriet Island. Tickets are \$20-\$25. Dinner, lunch and river cruise options are available for an additional charge. Call 651-227-1100.

The Obie-winning, glam-rock, post-punk

musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* is playing through August 31 at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The drama tells of Hedwig Schmidt, an East German rock 'n' roll goddess and the victim of a botched sex-change operation. Directed by Joel Sass, it stars Jairus Abts as Hedwig, Ann Michels as her long-suffering husband Yitzhak and Michael Crosswell as Skszp, director of the hard-rocking band the Angry Inch. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, call 612-822-7063.

Yankee Doodle, a musical retelling of the life of George M. Cohan, will open the Ordway's 2008-09 season August 5-17. Written by David Armstrong, *Yankee Doodle* paints a realistic picture of the brash, charismatic, and uncompromising composer whose drive gave birth to the myth of Broadway. *Yankee Doodle* is directed and choreographed by James A. Rocco and Jayme McDaniel and stars Sean Martin Hingston as the young Cohan; Richard Sanders as the elder Cohan; Tari Kelly in dual roles as Cohan's first wife and daughter; and Ron Menzel as George's best friend and business partner, Sam Harris. 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. Tickets are \$48-\$65. Call 651-224-4222.

Spend a crazy evening at a church supper complete with homemade lasagna, live music, polka dancing, a full bar and bingo. Actors Theater of Minnesota is bringing back its long-running interactive comedy *We Gotta Bingo* for shows Thursday through Sunday, August 7-10, at the Lowry Theater, 16 W. 5th St. Tickets with dinner are \$46 to \$59. Call 651-290-2290.

Et cetera

Auditions will be held August 19-23 in Highland Park for the Minnesota Youth Symphonies 2008-09 concert season. The MYS orchestra training program comprises three full orchestras and a string orchestra. Scholarships are available. For more information, call 651-699-5811 or visit www.mnyouthsymphonies.org.

The St. Catherine Choral Society invites singers, both women and men, to audition for the group between August 20 and 22 at the College of St. Catherine. The choir is composed of College of St. Catherine students, faculty, staff and area residents. Rehearsals are held Thursday evenings beginning September 4. Its repertoire for the fall will include the "Magnificat" as set by both Bach and John Rutter. For an audition appointment, call 651-690-6688.

Sports



The Wright Call By Dave Wright

Seeing double in Legion ball is fine for Hamline Post

Baseball games at Cretin-Derham Hall's tidy little field on Randolph and Hamline avenues are among the most fervently played in St. Paul, and for several reasons. For starters, the place is a bandbox and, if the wind is blowing out, there's the chance the final score could be 13-12. It's also one of the few prep fields around with an electronic scoreboard. And it's where the Raiders' public address announcer, Bob Sweeney, introduces batters as if they were the King of England.

So it was a bit of a shock when a visitor wandered by the other day and, though he saw the familiar purple colors on the home bench, just about everything else looked different. Oh, there was the regular fan who was keeping track of pitch counts and shouting them down between innings, and the same scoreboard was in use. But that was about it.

Sweeney was nowhere to be found. There was no music between innings. Fans weren't tucked tightly together in the bleachers, tensely watching the game. Instead, they were casually sprawled all over the place, including many lounging down the right-field line. And Jim O'Neill, the genial coach of this gang, was parked on the bench for most of the game, surrendering the third-base coaching duties to Tony Leseman.

What was going on?

As it turned out, it was all part of a new experience—half of Hamline's double entry in the 4th District American Legion race. Last winter, it was decreed that the Hamline team be split in two, thus making the 4th District an eight-team league. "When you're told to put two teams together or else, you do what you're told," said Mike Brown, who had coached the lone Hamline team for nearly 30 years.

The result was a Purple team composed of CDH juniors and a Red team composed of players from Highland Park, St. Paul Academy, Central and Concordia Academy. The Purple finished third in the regular season with a 15-6 league mark, while the Red, also known as the Hamchucks, were seventh with a 5-16 mark. Brown served as manager for the Hamchucks while Pat Meyer Jr. served as head coach. A glass-half-full guy by nature, Brown said he was happy with the overall results.

"A lot more kids got to play baseball this summer in this area than normally would've been the case," he said. "It was a lot of work, but you could see the progress by the end of the year." (The league playoffs were held last weekend.)

Brown had previously taken players from several different schools and melded them into a working unit. Some years worked better than others, but all in all, the program had been a success. That's particularly so when you consider that many

WRIGHT CALL ► 42

Twins jr. all-stars head to World Series

BY BILL WAGNER

The Minnesota Twins are headed to the World Series. No, it's not Mauer, Morneau and the boys, though the play of that team has been one of Major League Baseball's bigger surprises this summer. Rather, it's that organization's junior all-star baseball team that is heading to the RBI World Series in Compton, California, on August 8-11.

The Twins junior team won the RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner-cities) Midwest Region Tournament that was held from July 18-20 on Twin Cities fields. The team posted a 4-0 record in tournament play, trouncing Kansas City 17-4 for the championship before a packed crowd at Dunning Field.

The junior team is composed of players ages 13-15 from several area high schools, including Central, Cretin-Derham Hall and St. Thomas Academy, and is led by former Central coach Billy Peterson and Roseville coach Kent Paulson. The RBI program also sponsors a baseball division for senior boys ages 16-18 and a girls' softball division.

Paulson said he didn't know what to expect going into the regional tournament, which also included teams from Beloit, Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Seattle, Sedalia and St. Louis. "To be honest, I knew nothing about the other teams when we started play," he said, "but some of the other coaches told me that the field was pretty good."

Peterson had the task of picking the local all-star teams from the players who compete in the Twins RBI summer leagues. Paulson could not say enough



Twins junior RBI player Dan Sabourin of CDH follows the high bounce of an infield hit during regional play on July 19. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

about the junior team's players, who will be either high school freshmen or sophomores this fall. "Bill picked 14 great kids," Paulson said. "And we managed to play all 14 of them."

Second baseman Danny Sabourin from CDH contributed some great at-bats in the leadoff spot, and third baseman Miguel Hernandez of St. Bernard's proved to be a stout No. 2 hitter. Catcher Chase Gunderson from Central threw out a couple of base runners. Shortstop Kevin Miley, who will be a freshman at CDH, played well defensively and had some big hits. Center fielder/first baseman Tony Olson from Central had several monster hits throughout the regional competition.

Paulson said he was encouraged by the players' quick grasp of the fundamentals of the game. "We scored six runs in the first inning of the championship game," he said. "We called for three sacrifice bunts and they all worked."

The junior squad played most of its games at the Fort Snelling fields. Game also were played at Parade Stadium, with all of the championship rounds at Dunning. "The stands were packed," Paulson said of the title game. "The folks came out and had some fun. I didn't anticipate that level of excitement."

The Twins RBI program was also ably represented by the senior all-star team coached by Steve Winfield, the brother of Hall of Famer Dave. The seniors went deep into the competition, before coming up short against St. Louis.

"We played pretty well," Winfield said. "We had a chance, but we ran into some very good competition."

The girls' all-star softball team, which advanced to the RBI World Series the last two summers, finished 1-3 in this year's tournament. All three of their losses were by one run, according to coach Don Laufenburger.

The Twins RBI program is operated in partnership with Major League Baseball and the Minneapolis and St. Paul parks and recreation departments. This year, the Twins Community Fund donated more than \$120,000 to the departments to operate the program. Each city will also receive a \$10,000 grant to assist in renovating baseball and softball fields.

JUNIOR ALL-STAR ► 42



The Twins junior RBI regional champions include, from left, (front row) coach Bernae Gunderson, Nick Nieman, Cozart Townes, Dan Sabourin, Chase Gunderson, Miguel Hernandez, Anthony Tillman, coach Kent Paulson and coach Billy Peterson; and (back row) senior RBI coach Steve Winfield, Twins RBI director Frank White, Twins community programs coordinator Josh Ortiz, Joe Miley, Brandon Purcell, Alex Thie, Sam Preiner, William Ryan, Alex Arnott, Tony Olson, Kevin Miley and coach Nick Cole.

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Olympics next in line for international tennis judge Tim Kurtt

By LARRY ENGLUND

Tim Kurtt will be among the Olympic participants when the Summer Games get under way this week in China. But though the Ramsey Hill resident is athletic, he won't be competing; he'll be officiating at the tennis competition from August 10-17 at the Olympic Green Tennis Center in Beijing.

There will be about 160 tennis officials taking part in the quadrennial Games and Kurtt will be one of only nine chosen from the United States. "I feel very fortunate to be selected," he said. "There are a lot of talented officials in this country."

As a linesman, Kurtt will be responsible for calling balls in or out on the hard courts. It's not as easy as it may sound, with tennis balls traveling at more than 120 mph. "You can put 20 people on the court and everybody is going to see something a bit differently," he said.

The Olympic Games won't be the first high-profile officiating job for Kurtt, 47. He has worked six U.S. Opens and officiated at the Australian Open this past January. He just returned from England where he has served as a line official at Wimbledon for the last three years.

However, the Olympics bring a whole new level of pressure to officiating. "You're representing your country," Kurtt said, "and you're making calls that stir people's passions about their own countries."

Kurtt said he and the other U.S. officials haven't been given much in the way of orientation. "Basically, we just have a book with all the formats of the tournament and the rules," he said. He and the other officials will stay in a hotel outside of the Olympic Village. Kurtt said they also have been invited to attend the opening ceremonies on August 8.

Kurtt said the secret to being a good tennis official is being able to concentrate for long stretches of time. "You need to be relaxed, but you need to concentrate," he said. "If you're at Arthur Ashe Stadium (the site of the U.S. Open) and there are 25,000 people in the stands, it can get quite interesting. New Yorkers use quite colorful language to let you know if they agree with your calls—or not."

At most tennis tournaments, the officiating schedule of about one hour on and one



Fresh from Wimbledon, Tim Kurtt's next assignment will be serving as a linesman at the Summer Olympics in China.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

hour off allows Kurtt to watch other matches. He said that works well at Wimbledon where the weather is usually mild, but he expects Beijing's climate might be another matter. "The forecast is for temperatures in the 80s and 90s," he said. "With very high humidity and air pollution, the conditions might require indoor rest between assignments."

Kurtt has been a tennis official for almost nine years. His interest in officiating grew from playing tennis in high school and college. His dad was the athletic director at Wartburg College in Iowa and Kurtt grew up organizing sports there.

"I organized my first tennis tournament when I was 17," he said. After college, he

served as a tennis instructor and an assistant high school tennis coach.

Kurtt started taking classes in officiating 13 years ago after moving to St. Paul. He first officiated at a women's professional tennis event, and three years later, with several other tournaments under his belt, he was invited to work his first U.S. Open. "From there, it's been basically experience calling lines and how well you do," he said.

Kurtt is certified by the International Tennis Federation. His white badge is the beginning of four levels of international certification for the ITF. "About 700 people in the world have white badges," he said.

Officiating at tennis matches is only a part-time interest for Kurtt. He is also part owner of two family businesses in Dundas, Minnesota—a wholesaler of water conditioning supplies and a retailer of hot tubs. He also helps recruit and develop officials for the U.S. Tennis Association.

His passion for the sport has also led him to volunteer for the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic, an annual mixed doubles charity tournament that raises money for children's cancer research. The classic is one of the largest non-celebrity tennis tournaments in the nation and has raised more than \$3.3 million over the past 22 years. This year's event will be held from August 7-10 at Life Time Fitness in White Bear Lake.

"The money goes to fund positions at Children's Hospitals and Clinics," he said. "It's an unbelievable resource." Kurtt will miss this year's classic due to the Olympics.

U.S. tennis fans will have plenty of homeland talent to cheer for at this year's Summer Games. The U.S. has won 15 Olympic medals—more than any other nation—in men's and women's tennis since it returned as a full-medal sport in 1988. The U.S. women's team includes former Olympic gold medalists Serena and Venus Williams and Lindsay Davenport. The men's team includes James Blake, one of the world's top single's players.

Kurtt called being chosen to officiate at the Olympics "an unbelievable honor," especially since there are about 3,200 tennis officials in America. "You're representing the U.S. and all its other officials," he said. "And you want to represent your country well."

Holder jumps for shot at Olympic gold

Becky Holder of Mendota Heights and her 12-year-old thoroughbred, Courageous Comet, have been named to the U.S. Olympic equestrian team and will be competing in the Summer Olympics in China from August 9-12.

Holder will participate in eventing, which combines dressage (sometimes referred to as horse ballet), jumping and a cross-country ride over obstacles. The Olympic equestrian events will be held in Hong Kong.

Holder is a riding coach and instructor at Carriage House Farm in Hugo. She was an alternate for the 2000 Summer Olympics that were held in Australia.



Becky Holder will ride for the United States at the Summer Olympics. PHOTO BY MIKE MCNALLY

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Christian Isquierdo has been named the new boys' soccer coach at St. Paul Academy and Summit School. Isquierdo previously served as assistant coach at Benilde-St. Margaret's, head coach for the Bangu Tsunami Football Club 95/96 Academy, and head coach of the Minneapolis United girls' U16 and U17 C2 teams.

The Little Sisters of the Poor will hold their "Swinging Habits" golf tournament on Monday, September 29, at Hillcrest Golf Club. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m., cocktails and dinner at 6:00 p.m. and a live auction at 7:00 p.m. A silent auction will be held throughout the day and Sr. Rosalind Gefre will be giving free massages for the golfers. Sponsors and players are being sought. The cost of the tournament is \$185. For information, visit www.swinging-habits.com or call 651-227-0336.

Catherine Marinac, a Central High School graduate and senior softball standout at Lawrence University, has been named to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District 5 team. Marinac, a third-team selection, is a three-time National Fastpitch Coaches Association Scholar all-American, a two-time all-Midwest Conference selection and a six-time academic all-conference player (three in softball, two in soccer, one in cross country). She also was the 2006 MWC North Division pitcher of the year. Marinac is a biology and chemistry major with a 3.87 grade point average. She has earned numerous academic honors and is currently a Rhodes Scholar candidate.

The Visitation/St. Paul Academy United girls' hockey team set off for a weeklong European tour on July 26. During its travels, the team was set to play in Chamonix, France, the site of the first Winter Olympic Games in 1924, as well as in Torino, Italy, the home of the most recent games in 2006. The United's opponents consisted of high school-aged girls' and boys' teams and senior women's teams. "This is a truly unique experience for a Minnesota high school hockey player," said head coach Ted Cheesebrough. "We get to play in two cities that hosted the Winter Olympics. It's the ultimate out-of-town tournament." Vis/SPA United squads previously toured



Down 4-0 in the fourth inning to the archrival Mustangs, the Spiders (10-1-1) rallied for a 6-4 victory on July 26 and the Highland-Groveland Recreation Association's Major League championship. Pictured, from left, are (front row) Ben Linke, Tyler Backes, Ben Beese, Sam Mulvaney, Andy Baum and coach Jerry Linke; and (back row) coach Scott Kies, Christopher Huberty, Ryan Backes, Ian Kies, Peter Mulligan, Marius Brown, Tayvon McCalister and coach Tim Huberty. Not pictured are Jacob Gaylord, Luca Cherubini and Teddy Meyers.

Sweden in 2006 and Finland in 2007. The girls finished the 2007-08 season among the state's top 20 Class A hockey teams.

Amos Magee has stepped down after two years as head coach of the Minnesota Thunder. Assistant coach Donny Gramenz has taken over as interim head coach while the Thunder begins searching for a replacement. Magee took over from Thunder founder Buzz Lagos in 2006 to become the club's second coach. He assumed the coaching duties from Lagos after serving as an assistant coach for two seasons. Magee is the Thunder's all-time scoring leader with 64 goals and 39 assists. He played 13 years with the Thunder and was elected to the club's Hall of Fame in 2005. He also played parts of three seasons with the Tampa Bay Mutiny and Chicago Fire. The Thunder has offered Magee a management role with the club, but has yet to finalize the details.

The St. Paul Blackhaws U16 girls' premier team, the Force, spent two weeks in Sweden and Denmark on July 12-25. The first week was at the Gothia Cup in Gothenburg, Sweden, where there were more than 1,600 teams competing. The Force advanced to the Sweet 16, only to lose in a shootout. The following week, they went to the Denmark Soccer Festival outside of Copenhagen, and won their bracket of 16 teams with a 6-0-1 record. The Force beat MS Abildso from Norway 1-0 in the championship game.

Pylkki earns triple gold at World Games

BY SUE LEE

Highland Park athlete Krista Pylkki, 14, of Highland Park flew back from New Jersey late last month with a little extra baggage—the medals she earned in swimming and track and field at the National Junior Disability Games conducted by Wheelchair Sports USA and at the Junior World Games conducted by the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation.

Pylkki, who has cerebral palsy, competed in 10 events at the National Junior Disability Games and won a gold medal in each, including the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter backstroke and 50-meter breaststroke; the 100-, 200- and 400-meter runs; and the shot put, discus, javelin and long jump.

At the Junior World Games, Pylkki won gold medals in the 50-meter and 100-meter freestyle and the 100-meter backstroke. In



Krista Pylkki

the 100-meter backstroke, she shaved nine seconds off of her previous best time for a new personal best of 2:08.44.

"Competing for my country at Worlds has been a dream come true," Pylkki said. "It's unbelievable. Overall I got three golds. I'm first in the world in three events—three times a world champion! It was a meet I'll never forget."

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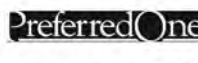
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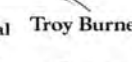
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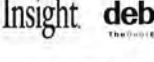
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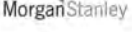












39◀ WRIGHT CALL

other American Legion programs have fallen by the wayside.

"We didn't have anything to work from," Brown said the other day. "In the past, the kids came back from their various schools and played with their neighborhood buddies in the summer. This was different, but it worked out in the end."

It was suggested to Brown that building this year's Hamchucks was like putting an expansion team in the American League. "I think that's a close comparison," he said. "The first third of the season was spent giving everybody a shot at playing their way into or out of the lineup. The second third was fine-tuning for the playoffs. The playoffs were the final third."

Over in Purpleland, O'Neill had a different issue. He knew most of his roster already, since several of the lads had played for his CDH team in the spring. Now it was a matter of getting them ready to play against teams that had players as old as college freshmen. As a VFW coach, O'Neill had a working knowledge of summer ball. However, the Legion game had changed a bit since his days playing for Christie De Parcq.

"It's a lot more games than I remember," he said. "We found out that it's tough to keep kids thinking baseball from April through August. That's a long time for a high school kid. They get tired and besides, they've got other things going on in their lives."

Another big change is that the 4th District uses wooden bats during the regular season. "There weren't nearly as many homers hit here this summer as you might think," O'Neill said. "I saw a lot of balls that were hits this spring that were outs this summer."

"That's one of the biggest and best things about our

league," Brown said. "Using wooden bats is an all-around adjustment—for hitters and fielders. Unfortunately, they use aluminum bats at the state tournament, so we'll use them in the playoffs."

No matter how the two teams fared in the playoffs, the split wouldn't have happened without some hard-core baseball types sticking their necks out a long way. It takes a lot of work for guys like Pat Meyer Sr. and John Knox to help find the finances for one program. ("Those guys are the unsung heroes of the summer," O'Neill said.) With the cost of two programs to cover this year, the players had to pay a bit to play. Brown hopes that it's a one-time occurrence and is already looking forward to next season. "Both teams went into this year with no players who'd ever played Legion ball before," he said. "Everybody learned a lot. Next year, both teams should be a lot better."

O'Neill saw something else, too. "The best part of this pairing was that a lot more kids (36 instead of 18)—including many who probably wouldn't have even tried out for a Legion team—played baseball," he said. "That's a very good thing."

Frisbees are for more than catching

To most of us, Frisbees are something you bring to the beach or throw to your dog. To Emily DePalma, they're something else altogether. DePalma, a recent Cretin-Derham Hall grad, spent last weekend trying to earn a world title as a member of the U.S. under-20 team playing in the World Ultimate Frisbee Championships in Vancouver, British Columbia. She was one of two Minnesotans on the team competing in the eight-country field.

Ultimate Frisbee is played with seven on a side and the goal is simple—move the Frisbee down the field until you get in

the end zone. A player must stop running while in possession of the disc, but may pivot and pass to any of the other receivers on the field. Games generally last an hour. The first team to 13 points (you get one point for going into the end zone) wins. When one team gets to seven, it's half time. There are a few other fine points, but you get the idea.

"It's a complicated game to learn at first," DePalma said. "You learn it step by step." Suffice it to say that seven-player lineups competing on what resembles a football field means you have to be in good shape.

DePalma played the position of handler on the CDH team that won its fourth state title in a row last spring. "The handler is like the quarterback," she said. "The difference is we don't really call the plays until we get to the line of scrimmage. We do have set plays, but you have to take what the defense gives you."

DePalma had to survive an 80-person tryout just to be named to the U.S. team. Before the tournament began, she went out West several days early, going through a couple of two-a-day training sessions and an exhibition game before getting to the good stuff. That sounds like quite a load, but in the finest tradition of the young, DePalma was anxious to get started. "I'm very excited to get there," she said. "I have no idea what position they'll put me at, but I can play anywhere. I've been a cutter (similar to wide receiver) before."

Wherever she plays, DePalma will be busy. The schedule calls for two games a day for three straight days—and then the playoffs begin. The United States and Canada, who will meet in the last game of the preliminary round, are the co-favorites for the title. "I think that's because we've had the game longer in our countries," DePalma said.

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

39◀ JUNIOR ALL-STARs

Another \$35,000 in support enabled the cities to host the regional tournament for the fifth year in a row.

Every major league baseball team sponsors an RBI program for youth ages 13-18. The program was started in 1989 to promote baseball and softball in the inner cities. RBI now

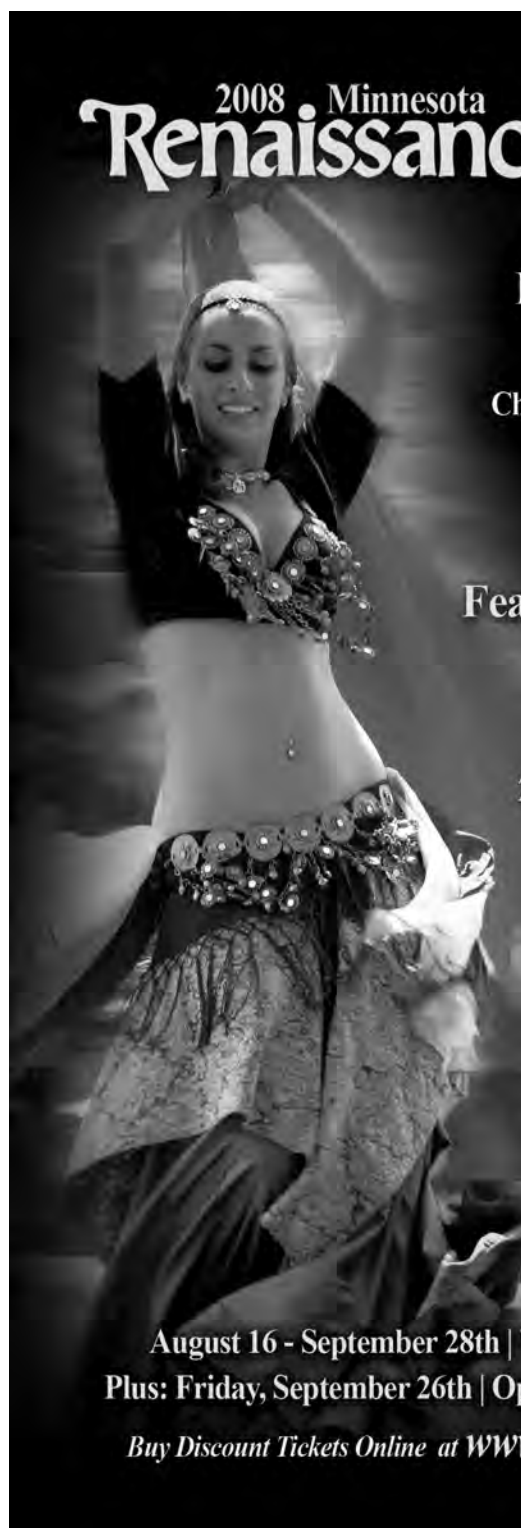
serves more than 125,000 youths in 175 cities, including more than 6,000 youths in the Twin Cities.

The Twins also sponsor a Rookie League that serves kids ages 8-12. That league was started in 1996 by former Twins Dave Winfield and Kirby Puckett after they were shocked to learn how few inner-city youths were playing baseball.

Twins RBI director Frank White is upbeat about the league's mission to encourage more inner-city youths to play ball. "In Minneapolis and St. Paul we have more kids of color playing baseball now than probably for over 10 years," White said. "And we know there are more kids out there who want to play. We just have to keep them connected."

White, a former director at the Martin Lu-

ther King Center in St. Paul, acknowledged that baseball is perceived by some youths as boring. Peterson said the key is keeping baseball interesting to kids once they reach their teens. "We're getting more inner-city kids playing ball at a younger age, up to 10-12 years old," Peterson said, "but there's an awful lot of work yet to be done. You need to retain them beyond that age."



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FREE ARTS Minnesota. Volunteers needed to work with abused, neglected children using art & mentorship. Weekly commitment. Contact Krissy at 612-824-2787. www.freeartsminnesota.org.

CHILD CARE

Parents are urged to exercise caution in arranging child care. Be sure to investigate references. To obtain a list of licensed day care providers in the area, call 651-641-0332.

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CHILD CARE

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932 LOMBARD. Sunny, one bdrm. upper duplex in 1880's Crocus Hill home. Quiet neighborhood, 5 blks. south of Grand at Victoria. Includes heat. On street parking. No laundry. No pets. Ideal for one person. Available immediately. \$775. Charlie or Katie, 651-307-7643.

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