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Mpls. is finding that runoff voting will be anything but instant

But city officials promise new ranked choice system will be ready by November

By Kevin Driscoll

The Minnesota Supreme Court's June 11 ruling that allowed the city of Minneapolis to move forward with Ranked Choice Voting (aka Instant Runoff Voting) in this fall's city election was hailed by proponents of the ballot initiative on both sides of the Mississippi River.

Though the Minneapolis City Council is not expected to make a final decision on implementing Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) until July 3, it has instructed local election officials to scrap plans for a September primary and to move forward with educating voters and election judges across the city in preparation for the use of RCV in the November 3 general election.

"We're working on the wording at the top of the RCV ballot to try to avoid voter errors," said Minneapolis interim director of elections Patrick O'Connor. "We're also drawing up voter education plans with the help of an outside consultant." The distribution of sample RCV ballots at neighborhood events and a series of voter workshops this summer and fall are among the educational events that are being considered. "We're going to try to make this as smooth an election as possible for the voters and the Elections Department," O'Connor said.

Meanwhile, RCV supporters in St. Paul have revived

Lickin' the heat. The first week of summer brought scores of patrons to the Highland Park Aquatic Center seeking relief from the unseasonable warmth, including Sandy Alsop and her 11-month-old son Lochlann, who escaped the hot RANKED CHOICE VOTING ▶2 spell on June 25. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Controversy over new Walgreens prompts hearing on store's site plan

But plan for new drug store in Highland Village appears to meet city code

By Jane McClure

pposition to a proposed Walgreens drug store in Highland Village has persuaded the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development to schedule a public hearing on Walgreens' site plan for 3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 16, before the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee.

Walgreens is proposing to build a 9,300square-foot store at the northeast corner of Ford Parkway and Finn Street, on the current site of a vacant gas station and a Party City store. The drugstore chain submitted its site plan to the city on June 16, according to John Kohler of Semper Development, which designed the store. The new pharmacy would occupy the eastern portion of the site with a 43-space parking lot to the west.

Walgreens has made several changes to the site plan to accommodate neighbors' concerns, according to Kohler. A half-block of Finn would be widened and restriped to better accommodate turning vehicles,

WALGREENS ▶3

School Board OKs leaner, meaner budget for 2009-10

Layoffs, salary freeze help make up \$25 million deficit

By Kevin Driscoll

The St. Paul School Board voted 6-1 on June 16 to approve a \$604.7 million budget for the coming school year. The budget addresses a projected \$25 million deficit for 2009-10, including \$6 million in savings through the layoffs of 124 non-teaching staff and 143 of the district's 3,500 teachers.

"These cuts really hurt a lot of people," said

School Board member Anne Carroll, "but we have no choice because we have no money. Hopefully, this is the worst for years to come."

Much of the district's deficit is due to a projected decline in enrollment-from the current 38,560 students to 37,628-and the resulting reduction in aid from the state.

Among the budget cuts for the coming year are \$10 million in per-pupil allocations to individual schools; \$5 million in cost of living increases for school employees, though that still has to be negotiated with labor unions; \$1.48 million in school district health insurance contributions; \$2.3 million in central administration expenditures; \$800,000 from English Language Learner programs; \$800,000 from special education programs; \$700,000 from the instrumental music program; \$650,000 in consulting fees; and \$450,000 from athletics.

The budget taps \$1 million in school district reserve funds. It also anticipates savings of \$700,000 in transportation, \$100,000 in food service and \$580,000 in operations due to the enrollment drop.

At its meeting on June 16, the School Board postponed action on the plan for Large Scale System Change that has been proposed by outgoing superintendent Meria Carstarphen,

including the closing of three elementary schools and a restructuring of the district's school-choice program from a citywide to a regional system.

The School Board rescheduled its debate and vote on the school closings for July 14 and 21. Under the plan, the Longfellow and Roosevelt school buildings would be mothballed and Sheridan would be used for a different purpose after the 2009-10 school year.

The changes to the school-choice program were also initially planned for the beginning

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RUG LAUNDRY

Referendum set on Instant Runoff Voting

St. Paul voters to weigh in on electoral initiative

By Jane McClure

referendum on instant runoff voting, or ranked choice voting (RCV) as it is coming to be known, will be on the ballot in St. Paul this fall. The St. Paul City Council unanimously approved the ballot question on June 24 for the general election in November following a lengthy debate on June 24 over its language and punctuation.

The referendum will ask the following question:

"Should Chapter 7 of the City Charter be amended to require that the method for electing the Mayor and City Council members be by Single Transferable Voting, sometimes known as Ranked Choice Voting and Instant Runoff Voting, which is a method without a separate primary election, by which

voters rank candidates for an office in order of preference on a single ballot: first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and so on; and votes are then counted in rounds until one candidate emerges with a majority of votes cast; and with ballot format and rules for counting ballots adopted by ordinance?"

The St. Paul City Council appears to be fairly evenly divided over the merits of RCV. Council members Melvin Carter III and Russ Stark introduced the referendum resolution and they support RCV in city elections. Council member Lee Helgen has also spoken in favor of the initiative. Council members Dan Bostrom and Dave Thune have spoken against it.

City Council president Kathy Lantry opposes RCV "because I don't think the current system is broken," she said. Council member Pat Harris said he is "leaning against the concept of RCV because it seems confusing and the current system is working fine. But I voted to place it on the ballot because

a petition is a petition and (the St. Paul Better Ballot campaign's petition) has been certified by Ramsey County election officials."

Thune succeeded in amending the referendum to include the words "fourth, fifth, sixth" after "third" and before "so forth," arguing that it would clear up potential confusion. Carter disagreed, saying the ballot language was already clear and that the intent could be clarified during the electoral campaign. However, he and Stark were the only council members to vote against the amendment.

Thune's amendment was viewed by RCV supporters as an attempt to give voters the impression that RCV is overly complicated. However, Thune noted that he has been in election contests with half a dozen other candidates. The 2003 City Council race in Ward 1 had almost a dozen candidates on the primary ballot.

Kevin Driscoll contributed to this story.

1 ■ RANKED CHOICE VOTING

their campaign to implement the ballot initiative in the capital city. The St. Paul City Council on June 24 unanimously approved a resolution to hold a referendum on RCV in November, asking voters whether RCV should be implemented in St. Paul city elections. The St. Paul Better Ballot Campaign gathered the requisite number of signatures to hold such a referendum already last year. However, the City Council chose to wait until the lawsuit over RCV in Minneapolis was decided.

The lawsuit, which was filed by the Minnesota Voters Alliance (MVA), contended that RCV was unconstitutional because it diminishes the right of an elector to vote for the candidate of his or her choice unimpaired by the second, third and fourth choices of other voters. Last January Hennepin County District Judge George McGunnigle ruled that "there is insufficient evidence to conclude that (RCV) causes any citizen to be deprived of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws."

The MVA appealed that decision to the Minnesota Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of RCV, stating that it gives every voter "the same opportunity to rank candidates when she casts her ballot, and in each round (of ballot counting) every voter's vote carries the same value."

The MVA will not appeal the Supreme Court's decision, according to its executive director, Andy Cilek. "But this will not stop our efforts," he said. "Despite media spin, the (Supreme Court) ruling did not declare RCV to be constitutional. The court merely dismissed our arguments, claiming that since no RCV election had occurred to demonstrate that RCV has actually disenfranchised voters, our arguments were speculative. The ruling does not contradict any of our claims, and it leaves open the possibility of another lawsuit after Minneapolis holds an election and solid evidence can be gathered."

"The MVA is mincing words," said Ellen Brown, who chairs the St. Paul Better Ballot Campaign. "The Supreme Court clearly stated that there are no constitutional issues with RCV."

RCV eliminates the need for a primary election when three or more candidates file for a single elective office. Instead, all candidates advance to the general elec-

ELECTION '09



tion, where voters are asked to rank the candidates in order of preference—first choice, second choice, third choice, etc.

Initially, only the voters' first choices are counted. However, if no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes, the candidate receiving the fewest firstchoice votes is eliminated and the ballots that listed that candidate as the first choice are redistributed to their secondchoice candidate. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes following this redistribution, the candidate with the fewest first-choice and second-choice votes is eliminated and the ballots that listed that candidate as a first or second choice are redistributed with their votes now going to their second or third choice, as the case may be. This process is repeated until a candidate receives a majority of the votes.

RCV offers several advantages over traditional voting, according to its supporters. It saves on the cost of a primary election where voter turnout is invariably low, and gives strong independent and third-party candidates a better chance at being elected. RCV also ensures that the winning candidate has the support of a majority of voters, although that may not be the case in Minneapolis in 2009 in any races where more than four candidates file for a single seat.

This fall, Minneapolis will be electing a mayor, a City Council member in each of 13 wards, six district representatives for the Park and Recreation Board, three at-large members for the Park and Recreation Board, and two at-large members for the Board of Estimate and

"In future years, Minneapolis voters will be able to rank as many candidates as are on the ballot for a given office," said Ginny Gelms, an election technician in the Minneapolis Elections Department. However, this year, in the first go-round for RCV, "voters will only be able to rank their top three choices," she said.

Also, rather than voting for two atlarge Park and Recreation Board members and three at-large Board of Estimate and Taxation members, each voter will be asked to rank his or her top three choices for those positions. Where three seats are open, a candidate will need 25 percent of the vote plus one to be elected. Where two seats are open, a candidate will need 331/3 percent of the vote plus one to be elected.

If the winners of all at-large seats are not determined in the first round of balloting, a second round will be held to include the second choices of any voters whose first-choice candidate has been eliminated from contention. Also, if a candidate receives in the first round more than the minimum number of votes needed to win, his or her surplus votes may be redistributed in the second round to a proportion of their supporters' second choices.

There will be no federally certified RCV voting machines or software available in Minneapolis this fall, Gelms said. The city will be able to announce unofficial results from a first-round machine count on election night. However, the first round will have to be recounted by hand in order to ensure accurate results before any future rounds of counting, Gelms said, and any subsequent rounds of balloting will also have to be handcounted.

Minneapolis officials conducted a test this spring of an RCV election with 600 ballots. Based on that experience and the number of candidates who filed for these positions in 2005 and 2001, Gelms estimates that with a staff of up to 50 hand-counters, it will take between 24 and 129 eight-hour days to certify the winners of the 25 elective offices. "It's hard to predict because we don't know the number of candidates for each race, the turnout, or how many voting errors there may be," Gelms said.

1 ■ WALGREENS IN HIGHLAND

and bollards would be placed to protect the trees north of the Finn Street cul-de-sac. The building itself would be faced with brick, and though it would have only one story, it would be designed to look like two.

However, it is not the design of the proposed Walgreens that has raised the most concern among local residents; it is the competition it would present to the adjacent Snyders drug store and two other pharmacies in Highland

Snyders' employees have gathered more than 3,000 signatures in opposition to the new Walgreens. At a recent meeting of the Highland District Council, Snyders supervisor Meg Sausen presented a second petition with 39 signatures requesting a special meeting of the HDC on the Walgreens issue.

The HDC's bylaws allow for citizens to petition for a special meeting on a particular issue if a minimum of 30 signatures are obtained from local residents and business owners. The HDC executive committee was scheduled to address the petition for a special meeting on June 30, after this issue of the Villager went to press. However, even if its board members wanted to, there is little the HDC could do to block Walgreens from locating in Highland Village.

Walgreens' site plan meets city code and requires no zoning changes or variances. Site plan reviews in cases such as this are typically done by city staff. However, because of the controversy, Tom Beach, who oversees site plan reviews for the city, scheduled a public hearing on Walgreens' site plan.

As of last week, Beach had not completed his own review of the site plan, but midway through the process he said he had not found anything that violates city code or otherwise raises red flags. "At this point I'd be inclined to recommend approval (of the site plan) to the Planning Commission," he said.

More than 60 people attended a meeting of the HDC's Community Development Committee on June 16. The meeting was called so that local residents could ask questions of a Walgreens representative. However, most of the meeting was spent attacking Walgreens and criticizing the HDC for its reluctance to stop the drugstore chain from coming to Highland Village. Community Development Committee chair Shawn Bartsh and Walgreens real estate manager Mike Frame were repeatedly interrupted or heckled by members of the audience as they tried to speak.

"Why this declaration of war on Snyders?" one man asked.

According to Frame, Walgreens has wanted to open a store in Highland Village for 20 years. The corporation, which was founded in 1901 in Chicago and is now based in Deerfield, Illinois, had 6,857 stores in the U.S. and Puerto Rico as of May 31 with a goal of having more than 7,000 stores by the end of 2010.

Walgreens uses detailed demographic studies to determine where to locate new stores, Frame said. The density and age of the local population and the proximity of other Walgreens stores are all considered, he said. Though Walgreens has two other stores within two miles of Highland Village-at Randolph and Snelling avenues in St. Paul and at Hiawatha Avenue and 46th Street in Minneapolis—those stores are not considered to be in the same service area, Frame said.

Frame objected to characterizations of the competition between Snyders and Walgreens as David versus Goliath. Though Walgreens is bigger, Snyders is a chain store as well. It operated 60 corporate stores and 60 independently owned stores in six states before announcing last February that it would close or sell 19 of its 47 corporate stores in Minnesota this past spring. Though Snyders is headquartered in Minnetonka, it is owned by the Katz Group of Companies out of Alberta, Canada, which operates 1,900 drug stores in North America under various names.

Snyders has been in business since 1928, and it has had a store in Highland Village since 1954. The Highland Village store moved to its present location in 1976 from its original location one block to the west.

At the HDC's June 16 meeting, one woman asked Frame, "Why would you come to a neighborhood where people are so hostile?" Frame replied that for every person in the room who is angry about Walgreens, there are others who would support a Walgreens drug store in Highland Village.

The HDC had not taken a position on the Walgreens site plan as of last week. Any recommendation on the site plan made by the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee following the July 16 hearing will be forward to the full Planning Commission, which could vote on the matter as early as July 24. The Planning Commission's decision on the site plan will be final unless it is appealed to the City Council.

Among the issues taken into consideration in a site plan review are motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic, storm and sanitary sewer capacity, landscaping, lighting, fencing and access for disabled people. To deny the site plan, the Planning Commission or City Council would have to find that it does not comply with city code. If the site plan is approved, the earliest Walgreens could break ground is the spring of 2010 when Party City's lease expires.

1 ◀ SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

of the 2010-11 school year. Carstarphen has since recommended that the School Board give itself until April 2010 to review and approve those changes for the start of the 2011-12 school year.

The restructuring of the school-choice program could reduce the school district's transportation costs by as much as \$2.2 million per year. The plan is to divide the city into three regions. Students who live a mile or more from school would qualify for free bus service, but only within the same region in which they live. Families who choose a school outside of

their region would have to provide their own transportation, although free transportation would still be available to the seven magnet schools that remain citywide. Other popular magnet school programs would be replicated in each of the three regions.

Postponing action on school choice will give the School Board time to review a host of proposed academic reforms, Carstarphen said, including the reconfiguration of the middle-school program and the replication of magnet schools by region. It would also give the board time to study the new schoolchoice program's effects on desegregation and charter schools.

Other School Board actions

In other action on June 16, the School Board announced the posting of a request for proposals from search firms interested in assisting the district in hiring a new superintendent. Carstarphen officially resigned as of June 30 and her former chief of staff, Suzanne Kelly, has been serving as interim superintendent since June 1. However, Kelly does not have a superintendent's license, and the Minnesota Board of School Administrators has refused to grant the St. Paul Public Schools a variance from that requirement.

School Board vice chair Elona Street-Stewart defended Kelly's qualifications for the job, and said appropriate measures would be taken to qualify her for the job.

The School Board voted against appointing an interim replacement for Tom Conlon, who is retiring after 18 years on the board. The school district will instead hold a special election this fall for a new member to fill the remaining two years in Conlon's term.

The School Board also voted to accept \$29.1 million over the next two years from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (aka the federal stimulus package), including \$11 million for special education programs and \$18 million for various programs for lowincome students.

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Jefferson Ave. eyed for new bicycle boulevard

By JANE McClure

proposal to designate the entire length of Jefferson Avenue as a bicycle boulevard with new pavement markings, signs and, in some areas, bicycle lanes received decidedly mixed reviews from the close to 200 people who attended a June 22 meeting on the proposal hosted by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Transportation Committee.

The cost of the four-mile-long project has been estimated at \$1 million, with \$750,000 of that being paid through a federal grant administered by St. Paul-based Transit for Livable Communities (TLC). The remaining \$250,000 would come from the city of St. Paul's Capital Improvement Budget.

According to Steve Clark of TLC, the Jefferson project should not be viewed as a substitute for the proposed Highland Parkway bicycle boulevard that was scratched last year in the face of neighborhood opposition. The Jefferson Avenue route should be considered on its own merits, he said. He urged local residents to "help us figure out the best project possible."

Residents of the West End are invited to weigh in on the proposal at a meeting of the West 7th/Fort Road Federation at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St.

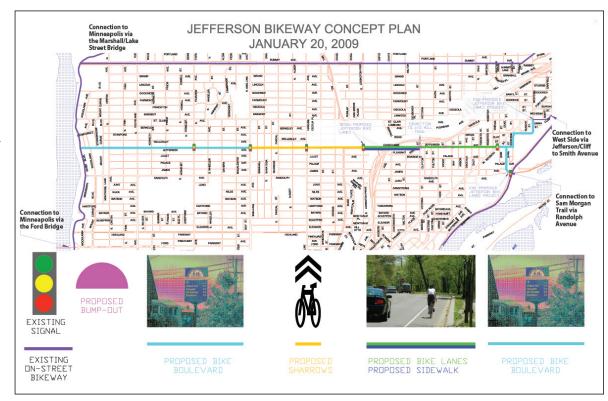
The Jefferson bicycle boulevard would connect to bicycle routes along Mississippi River Boulevard to the west and Shepard Road to the east. A connection is also being contemplated via side streets to Cliff Street and the High Bridge.

Project details are somewhat sketchy at this point, said David Kuebler of the St. Paul Department of Public Works. One challenge for the designers is Jefferson's varied width from end to end and the varying amount of motor vehicle traffic it carries, which ranges from under 2,500 to 6,000 vehicles per day.

Under the current plan, Jefferson would be a bicycle boulevard from Mississippi River Boulevard to Snelling Avenue, with pavement markings and signs designating it as a roadway where bicycles share the right-of-way with cars. Corner bumpouts, pedestrian islands and traffic circles could be installed to slow cars and discourage through traffic. On-street parking would not be affected, and in some places parking could be expanded to both sides of the street.

Bicyclists would also share the traffic lanes with motor vehicles from Snelling Avenue to Lexington Parkway. New pavement markings and signs would designate it as a bicycle boulevard. On-street parking would remain as is.

Between Lexington and West 7th Street, where Jefferson is wider, bicycle lanes could be striped. Corner bumpouts could be installed to slow traffic and narrow pedestrian crossings. A new sidewalk could be installed on the south side of Jefferson from Lexington to Victoria Street.



The proposed Jefferson Avenue bicycle boulevard would extend four miles from one river road to another.

The speed limit would be reduced from 40 to 30 mph near the I-35E overpass. Lantern-style streetlights would be installed, with 30 percent of the cost assessed to abutting property owners. The intent along that stretch would be to retain on-street parking, but Kuebler said there may be areas where parking would have to be banned.

Over half of the 30 speakers at the Macalester-Groveland meeting supported the project. Several proponents said another east-west bicycle route is needed in the neighborhood, where the only designated alternative is Summit Avenue.

"I'm in favor of fewer cars and less speeding," said Deb Jessen. She believes the bicycle boulevard would accomplish that. Motor vehicle traffic on Jefferson is "astronomical," she said, and many motorists drive faster than 30 mph.

Several supporters of the bicycle boulevard said they liked the project for the traffic-calming improvements made in conjunction with it. If neighbors want to make the street safer, said Adam Long, a resident of Jefferson and a bicycle commuter, "to keep it the way it is very short-sighted."

Several of those who spoke out against the bicycle boulevard said it would create a safety hazard for bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists alike. "The volume of traffic in the last 32 years has morphed over and over and over again," said Mary Dannekar. She and others who spoke maintained that Jefferson is

not a safe street and bicyclists should be encouraged to travel elsewhere.

"My concerns are safety and costs," said Manny Castillo. "Why are we spending money on this?"

Others complained that bicyclists for the most part don't follow traffic regulations and that doing more to accommodate them would only make matters worse.

According to Tricia Armstrong, the streets around Jefferson and Cleveland avenues near her home have turned into a park-and-ride lot for commuters taking the express bus. That congestion has to be addressed before bicycle improvements are made, she said.

"If you really want to help me, lower the speed limit, enforce the speed limit," said Jim Voytilla.

Capital improvement recommendations hinge on plans for Como Pool

By Jane McClure

oney to improve the Palace Recreation Center, replace the Hamline Avenue Bridge, create a bicycle boulevard on Jefferson Avenue and make Central Corridor-related improvements won approval from St. Paul's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee last month. However, which

projects will eventually receive funding could change this summer as Mayor Chris Coleman and the St. Paul City Council weigh in with their own recommendations, which include plans to replace the Como Pool.

The CIB Committee vote ended an exhaustive, six-month review of more than 150 projects seeking CIB funding for 2010-2011. The requests totaled more than \$80 million, but

only about \$22 million is available.

One local project that survived the cut would result in bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Jefferson Avenue in Macalester-Groveland and the West End. The project is in line for \$215,000 in CIB funding.

Most of the debate last month centered on the Como Pool and the proposed Payne-Maryland Town Square, a combined library and community center.

CIB Committee chair Pat Sellner of Highland Park said the Coleman administration was asking the committee to rethink its stand on the pool. "They put the hard press on us, saying it was their number one priority," he said.

CIB PROJECTS ►5



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St. Paul sees uptick in requests for Neighborhood STAR funds

By IANE McClure

wenty-nine projects are competing for the city of St. Paul's 2009 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grant and loan program this summer. The projects include the expansion of the youth golf program at Highland National Golf Course, physical improvements to various commercial buildings and the renovation of a historic theater. Several projects are centered along University Avenue, where construction of the proposed Central Corridor light-rail line is scheduled to start next year.

The Neighborhood STAR board began reviewing the 29 competing funding requests on June 12. A public hearing on the projects will be held on July 22. The Neighborhood STAR board's recommendations are expected to be sent to Mayor Chris Coleman and the St. Paul City Council by mid-August.

The 29 applications are the most that have been submitted in recent years. Neighborhood STAR board chair Kerri Antrim attributed the increase in submissions this year to a concerted effort by the city and various civic groups to publicize the program, especially to

"City Council offices, district councils, city staff and community development corporations have all worked very hard to get the word out about the STAR program," Antrim said. "As a result, we're seeing many strong proposals this year."

The 29 requests total \$5.714 million, though less than \$2 million in grants and loans are typically available in each funding cycle through the Neighborhood STAR program, which taps the proceeds from the city's extra half-percent sales tax. "We're going to have some very hard choices to make," Antrim said.

One high-profile project is the Penfield development in downtown St. Paul. Once envisioned as a luxury condominium high-rise, the Penfield had since been scaled back to a more modest, mixed-use building with 216 apartments, a Lunds supermarket and other retail space. The developers of the Penfield are seeking a \$209,175 grant and a \$209,175 loan from the city.

Other local requests include the following proposed projects:

• A \$300,000 grant is being sought by First Tee and the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation to build a 4,240-square-foot golf learning center at Highland National Golf

Course. The center would include computers, a protected driving range, a bunker practice space and a chipping area.

- A \$125,346 grant is being sought for heating and air conditioning improvements and the reconfiguration of the fitness center within the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave.
- A \$17,000 grant and a \$21,000 loan are being sought by Land of 10,000 Events to turn the former Victoria Theater, 825 University Ave., into a live performance space. The former movie theater had been used as retail space for many years, but is now vacant.
- An \$18,450 grant is being sought for a variety of building improvements at Higher Ground Academy, a charter school at 1381 Marshall Ave.
- A \$93,079 grant and a \$93,080 loan are being sought to improve accessibility, remodel the kitchen and dining area, and upgrade the exterior facade at Shamrocks Irish Nook, 995 W. 7th St.
- A \$300,000 grant is being sought by the Neighborhood Development Center to provide University Avenue businesses with up to \$10,000 each to make building improvements in conjunction with the arrival of light rail. The center is part of the new U7 group that is promoting commercial revitalization along the proposed light-rail line.
- A \$150,000 grant is being sought by Model Cities to construct an 8,000-square-foot, second-story addition to the Brownstone Building it occupies at University Avenue and Victoria Street.
- A \$100,000 grant and a \$300,000 loan are being sought by Episcopal Homes to construct Frogtown Square at the northeast corner of University Avenue and Dale Street. The four-story building would have underground parking, first-floor retail space and 50 onebedroom senior housing units.
- A \$100,000 grant is being sought by the Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation to improve St. Philip's Gardens, a housing project at 754 Concordia Ave. The work would include a new roof, new siding and windows, handicapped accessibility improvements, a new heating and air conditioning system, and new security cameras.
- A \$75,000 grant and a \$90,000 loan are being sought by John and Evelyn Gannon to install an elevator in the historic building at 579 Selby Ave. that was previously occupied by the Vintage and Il Vesco Vino restaurants.

4 < CIB PROJECTS

Replacement of the pool is not only favored by Coleman, but by council members Russ Stark and Lee Helgen, whose wards abut Como Park. St. Paul Parks and Recreation project manager Don Gagne said the pool project has broad public support and is a top priority for the division as well.

The pool was demolished this spring after it was determined it could no longer be repaired. A task force came up with a replacement plan, but neighbors have fought the proposal, saying it would generate more traffic and parking demand. The plan calls for a pool for lap swimming, a pool for kids, diving facilities and a "lazy river" feature. The CIB request is for \$5.1 million, which some committee members said was too pricey.

Sellner said the pool project would mean cutting out many smaller parks and recreation projects, including \$365,000 that has been recommended to expand and renovate the Palace Recreation Center. The vote to fund the Como Pool project failed 7-9.

The Coleman administration had suggested taking about \$2 million from city maintenance programs, including street lighting, to help pay for the pool. However, some committee members objected, saying the lack of maintenance has caused problems for facilities and infrastructure throughout St. Paul.

Members of the streets and utilities task force recommended spending \$250,000 in CIB dollars per year on streetlight maintenance. "We felt the city of St. Paul owed it to everybody to have decent lighting for their streets," said committee member Paul Savage. "I'm surprised the mayor and his administration don't recognize the importance of that."

Savage conceded that the CIB Committee's recommendations could face major changes by not including the Como Pool funding. "It's going to come down to unallotment," he said. "If we leave it as is, the mayor and council will pick and choose."

Along with Jefferson Avenue and the Palace Recreation Center, local projects recommended for funding by the CIB Committee include replacement of the Hamline Avenue Bridge over Ayd Mill Road (\$900,000), bicycle route improvements on Prior Avenue (\$53,000), development of a master plan for Merriam Park (\$64,000), reconstruction of Fairview Avenue from Randolph to St. Clair avenues (\$1.6 million) and from St. Clair to Summit avenues (\$1.6 million), and Central Corridor streetscape improvements (\$1 million), sidewalk completion (\$125,000) and off-street parking improvements (\$350,000).

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A banner and model planes greet visitors to the museum.

Under its wing

Museum celebrates 25 years of preserving state's aviation history

By Dave Page

Then most people think about national defense, the state of Minnesota probably does not spring to mind. History buffs may know that the First Minnesota Regiment was the first state unit to be volunteered for the Civil War, but few probably realize that Minnesota had the first federally recognized Air National Guard charter in the nation.

For the past 25 years, the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum has been doing its part to familiarize people with the state's military aviation history. The museum, which is located on the guard base at Min-

neapolis-St. Paul International Airport, will celebrate its anniversary year with its first antique plane, car and motorcycle show on the Fourth of July and an open house on Saturday, July 25.

The future Minnesota Air Guard got off the ground in 1921 when former World War I pilot Ray S. Miller and two comrades leased Curtiss Oriole airplanes and flew from St. Paul's Curtiss Field at Snelling and Larpenteur avenues to Washington, D.C., to lobby for the formation of a flying squadron in the state. Designated the 109th Observation Squadron, the unit was originally part of the Army's 34th Division Signal Corps.



Board member Dick Wiessner, left, and special assistant Dick Sundby stand in front of an AT-6 Texan trainer and other aircraft on the grounds of the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

However, before it could receive its 1918 Curtiss JN-4H Jenny biplanes, the squadron had to move from Curtiss Field to Speedway Field in Minneapolis, a former auto race track and future home of the international airport. Jennys were flown by the 109th from 1922 to 1927. A replica of the Jenny built by museum volunteers now hangs in the atrium of the Minnesota History Center. A reproduction of the Oriole flown by Miller hangs in the guard's base operations building.

During World War II, the 109th was called to active duty. In helping to win the war in Europe, it flew a version of the British Spitfire as a photo reconnaissance aircraft from

1942-43. A three-quarter-scale version of a Spitfire is now part of the museum's collection.

After the war, the Minnesota Air Guard was reorganized at Holman Field in St. Paul and became part of the 133rd Fighter Wing. One of its members was Don Erickson, a pilot for North Central Airlines, which would later become Republic Airlines. Erickson flew the post-war version of the P-51 Mustang and later piloted the F-94 Starfire, the Air Force's first jet-powered, allweather interceptor.

In the 1960s, the 109th gave up its fighters and the 133rd became an airlift wing.

At the end of that decade, Erick-

son approached his colleagues about starting a museum dedicated to the history of the 109th. He signed up charter members and began raising

It took almost a dozen years, but the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation was finally organized on May 14, 1980. Three years later, work began on the museum. Approximately \$50,000 was spent to renovate old hangars on the guard base, where Northrop F-89 Scorpions once sat at the ready to intercept enemy aircraft.

The renovation project involved the installation of heating, air condi-

MUSEUM ▶7

Plans for Challenger Center, new museum are throttling up

By Dave Page

Tor the past five years, Macalester-Grovedland resident Dick Wiessner, 85, has been working to turn the Upper Bluff at Fort Snelling into a world-class destination for aviation buffs. Part of the process would entail moving the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum to the fort's nine-hole golf course.

Since 9/11, access to the museum on the

guard base at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport has been severely restricted, making it difficult for visitors and volunteers to get to the site. In addition, any museum displays must be temporary in case the guard ever decides to reclaim the hangar space currently housing the museum's collection of vintage aircraft and artifacts.

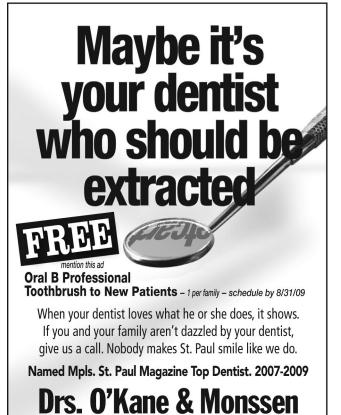
Wiessner said a new museum could take advantage of a great location. "We have available some of the most premium land in the Aviation Learning Center. Upper Midwest right next to the 12th busiest airport in United States," he said.

Plans for the museum include an observation deck with headphones so visitors can watch planes land and listen to communications between aircraft and flight control personnel. Wiessner also hopes to entice two other aviation-related attractions to the new museum site: a Challenger Center and an

Started by families after the Challenger space shuttle disaster, Challenger Centers are financed by NASA to educate people about the agency's mission. "There are 50 of them around the world," Wiessner said, "but the closest one is 350 miles away in Illinois."

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6 ■ MUSEUM

tioning and a fire suppression system. In July 1984, the museum was formally dedicated with Eva Miller, widow of Minnesota Air Guard founder General Ray S. Miller, cutting the ribbon. Also present was Brigadier General Al Schwab, a former commander of the 109th. Museum interim director Lowell Ueland called Schwab the "real mover and shaker" behind building the museum's collection.

As the base commander when the museum opened, Ueland became the de facto museum curator and began cobbling together exhibits and acquiring airplanes. The first two aircraft were a P-51 Mustang and a Douglas C-47 Skytrain (Goony Bird).

The museum faced a major setback in 2007 when its centerpiece, an A-12 Blackbird, was taken by the CIA for its headquarters in Langley, Virginia. Museum members had saved the spy plane from a scrap heap in California, brought it back to Minnesota and restored it at great expense.

Dick Wiessner, a Macalester-Groveland resident who is now spearheading an effort to move the museum off the guard base, thinks the plane would not have been taken if it had been more accessible to the public. "People are still angry about losing the Blackbird," he said. "We hope to get another back some day."

Foundation board chair John Kahler thinks the museum plays a "vital role" in the nation's aviation industry. "I've been flying for 65 years," he said. "When I began, you could fly for \$7.00 an hour. Now it's very expensive and people are losing interest. The museum can bring up the level of interest in aviation and maybe convince more people to fly."

The antique plane, car and motorcycle show will run from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 4. Museum administrator Kathleen Sundby is arranging for the motorcycles, including her father's 1941, '42 and '64 Harleys. George Brown, one of the museum volunteers and a member of a classic car club, is organizing the cars.



A large wooden propeller and airplane engines rest beneath a flight suit at the museum.

The 25th anniversary party and open house will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 25, with hot dogs, pop, chips, music and a military drill team.

"We're going to have a lot of old photographs from the base to give away to the first 100 visitors," Sundby said. The museum also plans to conduct drawings for other prizes. There will also be more cockpits open than usual on the 20 or so vintage aircraft in the museum's collection, Sundby said.

The planes, the largest such collection in the five-state region, include an AT-6 Texan, F-89H Scorpion, F-102A Delta Dagger, F-102B Voodoo, RF-4C Phantom II, F-16 Fighting Falcon and MIG 15 Fagot. The museum also includes several aircraft simulators, assorted exhibits on military aviation and a gift

Because the museum is on Minnesota Air Guard property, visitors must have a valid driver's license to enter. For directions and more information, call 612-713-2523 or visit www.mnangmuseum.org.

6 < CHALLENGER

Center guests learn what it is like to work at mission control, serve on a space station or command a rocket headed to the moon. "The center staff members then create problems for the students to solve," Wiessner said.

Wiessner also hopes to open an Aviation Learning Center, a franchise of Seattle's Museum of Flight. Aviation instructors would lead visitors through training exercises about weather, flight, weight, balance, navigation and communications. Part of the process would involve air tunnel experiments, flight simulators and a simulated control tower.

"You think you're up in the air, said Wiessner of his experience at the Seattle center.

Wiessner ought to know. He flew 80 combat missions during World War II. In April 1945, he and his fellow pilots discovered 100 of Germany's newest weapon—Me 262 jet fighters—parked on the autobahn. They strafed the jets, destroying or severely damaging 90 percent of the aircraft. For that and other feats, his 86th fighter-bomber group was awarded a distinguished unit citation by President Harry Truman.

In 1946, Wiessner joined the Minnesota Air Guard that was being reorganized at Holman Field in St. Paul. In 1951, he was called back to active duty and spent 21 months building the new Minnesota Air National Guard base at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

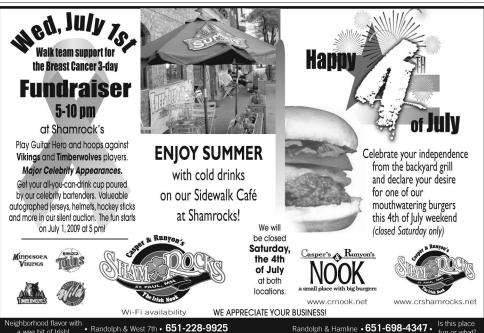
He stayed at the base working as a civilian employee as well as a guard member. During the Vietnam era, he once again few missions into a combat zone. He is currently a board member of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation that runs the museum.

With such close ties to the base and museum, Wiessner is excited about the potential of the museum's new mission. Besides the millions of shoppers who come to the Mall of America every year, he thinks travelers waiting for connecting flights would enjoy visiting the museum and aviation center.

In addition, he said the museum would be within walking distance for the Boy Scout group that recently acquired the fort's old drill hall. And the museum will continue to support Starbase, its neighbor on the property, which has taught nearly 30,000 Twin Cities students over the past 15 years about space travel and aviation.

Wiessner and other volunteers recently completed a business plan for the aviation projects. The group, with the backing of Governor Tim Pawlenty's office, is hoping to obtain part of the golf course site closest to the airport and to raise \$2 million for the Challenger Center. Other costs, including those for relocating the museum, are still unknown, but the museum board has hired an engineering firm to come up with some estimates.

"It's a great opportunity," Wiessner said. "I'm just happy to be a small part of it."



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Viewpoint

RCV: A rank voting process

By MICHAEL MISCHKE

"Should Chapter 7 of the City Charter be amended to require that the method for electing the Mayor and City Council members be by Single Transferable Voting, sometimes known as Ranked Choice Voting and Instant Runoff Voting, which is a method without a separate primary election, by which voters rank candidates for an office in order of preference on a single ballot: first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and so on; and votes are then counted in rounds until one candidate emerges with a majority of votes cast; and with ballot format and rules for counting ballots adopted by ordinance?"

That's the ponderous though still sketchy question that St. Paul voters will be asked to answer when they go to the polls on November 3. What it doesn't spell out is the aforementioned ballot format and rules for counting ballots. As writer Kevin Driscoll explains in his story on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in this issue of the *Villager*:

"Initially, only the voters' first choices are counted. However, if no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes, the candidate receiving the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated and the ballots that listed that candidate as the first choice are redistributed to their second-choice candidate. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes following this redistribution, the candidate with the fewest first-choice and second-choice votes is eliminated and the ballots that listed that candidate as a first or second choice are redistributed, with their votes now going to their second or third choice as the case may be. This process is repeated until a candidate receives a majority of the votes."

If that explanation hasn't lost you already, imagine how lost a great swath of the electorate will be on November 3. On so many levels and for so many reasons, RCV presents either a solution in search of a problem or a problem in its own right. Or most likely both.

If it's a solution to the problem of a candidate winning without garnering a majority of votes cast, what exactly is wrong with the voting procedure that most cities currently employ in municipal elections? All those who file for an office are free to run, and the two who get past the primary have two months to go head to head in the run-up to the general election. The contrast and clarity that process promotes is far preferable to the muddle that would result when, say, six candidates are up for election to a single seat in the general election with no benefit of a prior weeding out.

My own view is that RCV would present more problems that it's purported to solve:

- It would make language barriers, already a huge issue at the polls, even more formidable. More than 100 languages and dialects are spoken in St. Paul today. Ramsey County pays for translators at the polls, but there are always more languages and dialects than translators of them. It's hard for many voters—recent immigrants or not—to comprehend existing and comparatively simple election procedures.
- It would reward marginal candidates. In most City Council races today, there are one to three truly qualified candidates. The rest are the usual suspects who run without a clue. These folks would have a realistic shot under RCV. "No, the cream will rise to the top," a supporter of RCV once insisted to a Ramsey County election judge I know. Yes, and garbage floats.
- Ramsey County's current election equipment cannot accommodate RCV. New election equipment would have to be purchased at a time when there are so many more pressing needs, including more translators, more election judges and more training of both.
- Recounts under RCV would make the Franken-Coleman debacle look like the model of electoral transparency. And when people don't know who won an election soon after the polls close, it breeds suspicion of the entire voting process.
- St. Paul would end up with School Board elections on one vote-counting system and city elections on another, making a confusing ballot procedure that much more confusing.
- Unqualified candidates would either figure out how to finagle RCV to their advantage or urge their supporters to "bullet" their ballots by voting for them and not ranking anyone else. And so much for Ranked Choice Voting.

WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?



Inbox

Proposed median is too wide

Thank you for the well-orchestrated and well-highlighted letters from Macalester College supporters favoring the Snelling Avenue median. Some of the writers even live near the affected area. However, despite making a decent argument for a safe way to cross Snelling, none of those letters addresses why Macalester feels we need a 10-foot-wide median that eliminates parking, forces buses to stop in traffic, moves heavy traffic one lane closer to residential properties, and blocks access to local businesses and the neighborhood.

Would a narrower median work just as well? Of course it would. Does it make sense to have a median between Lincoln and Grand that blocks access to businesses? Not with a stoplight and crosswalk at Grand it doesn't. Would forcing traffic on Snelling one lane closer to residences cause more noise and vibration? You bet it would. Is it transit-friendly to force buses to stop in a traffic lane to load and unload passengers? No one really believes that it is. Is there any reason a median needs to block access to the neighborhood and businesses? Not if it's a normal-sized median there isn't.

And then, of course, there's parking. It's difficult enough to park on our streets during Macalester events as it is. Heck, Macalester event-goers find it so difficult they park in crosswalks, in front of fire hydrants and across driveways. If Macalester succeeds in eliminating parking on Snelling, the neighborhood may well be forced to ask for permit parking.

A median may be a good idea, but Macalester's proposed median is too big. A narrower median or a series of smaller medians or even a traffic light at Fairmount Avenue would all be equally effective without anywhere near as much disruption or cost. And a narrower median would likely be safer because it wouldn't create the kind of driver frustration and consequent last-minute blind lane changes that having buses stop in a traffic lane would.

If after all is said and done Macalester still feels that it's necessary to force the traffic lanes to expand out from the center of the street, why doesn't it give up its nonresidential, city-owned boulevard space rather than push traffic closer to the homes of the people who actually live in the neighborhood?

It would be nice if Macalester would stop the full-court press and actually try to compromise with the residents who live in the neighborhood across Snelling. But, despite a series of communications with Macalester High Winds Fund director Tom Welna, the college still refuses to discuss a downsizing of its proposal.

I support St. Paul City Council member Pat Harris

in his efforts to induce Macalester to get on board with a compromise that provides all the safety with far less disruption to the neighborhood.

Brian Ashley Macalester-Groveland

Median proponents beware

All you enthusiasts for the Snelling Avenue median, please take a few moments to travel Marshall Avenue between Snelling and Fairview avenues to see what the median will look like after a few years. Who will maintain it and with what funds?

Hank Herrmann Merriam Park

Questioning Snelling median

Recent letters to the *Villager* have stated that a median will solve Snelling Avenue's traffic problems, even though final details have yet to emerge. I have more than 100 questions about the proposed median, but space permits me to list only a few:

Is this a solution in search of a problem? The median was originally framed as a pedestrian safety issue, but has since been justified by aesthetics, left-turn problems and vehicle accident statistics. How does a median between St. Clair and Lincoln avenues affect pedestrian safety at Grand Avenue? Is the median intended to encourage pedestrians to cross Snelling mid-block instead of at intersections? Won't forcing traffic off of a state highway onto neighborhood streets create new safety issues where small children are more likely to be?

Can a median be opened for turns onto all streets and obtain the aesthetic and pedestrian benefits without creating new problems? On several occasions, questions like this were met with "what Public Works or the Minnesota Department of Transportation won't allow." Don't these guys answer to us through our elected officials?

Isn't placing a half-mile-long median in a three-mile stretch of busy roadway like living with perpetual road construction? Where will the traffic go?

How come the left-turn lanes into local businesses were not addressed prior to the approval of those developments? How come current, up-to-date plans for the proposed median are

8◀ INBOX

so hard to come by? Why did Macalester College not lobby for money for a median along the entire length of Snelling?

Macalester College replaced its Campus Center, expanded its athletic facility, built a new Institute for Global Citizenship and vacated two public streets to expand its playing fields. Do the additional parking spaces near the new athletic building accommodate all of this growth and make up for the proposed parking spaces to be lost along Snelling?

Why aren't the Merriam Park median supporters writing letters clamoring for a median on the northern portions of Snelling in Merriam Park?

> Philip Jacobs Macalester-Groveland

Switching to Snyders

When I first heard about the plan to build a new Walgreens on the site of the Party City store, I greeted the news with dismay, and that is a reaction I have heard from many neighborhood people. The most recent e-mail bulletin from the Highland District Council office made it sound as if the only objections to the plan center around the building design, parking lot and alley access issues. While in no way minimizing those, I am dismayed to think that a new Walgreens there could put Snyders, a locally owned, well-established neighbor, out of

That is undoubtedly the goal of Walgreens, but the values inherent in the business plan of a large national corporation are not always a good match with the values and best interests of a local neighborhood and metro area. Some of those values—diversity, local ties—are more important than increasing profits.

There are two other Walgreens stores within just a few miles of Highland Village. There is no need to drive away a local business. I understand that the city doesn't have the power to stop this from going forward, but I have decided to do what I can about it. I recently switched my prescriptions to Snyders and I will be doing my drugstore shopping there from now on.

> Baya Clare Highland Park

Highland wants to be heard

At the latest Highland District Council committee meeting concerning the Walgreens proposed right next to Snyders in Highland Village, a petition was presented asking for a special HDC meeting to allow the citizens of Highland to vote on whether or not they approve of this development. This vote could then be forwarded to the St. Paul Planning Commission as a statement of the will of the people of Highland. Evidently, the Planning Commission has already given this matter a hearing date, July 16.

Having served on the HDC, I've come to realize that a recommendation brought to the Planning Commission by the district council is taken into consideration with no guarantee of agreement. But the people's voice should take precedence.

The elected members of the HDC need to work pretty fast to hold the special meeting requested, since the meeting date must be advertised 10 days ahead of time and should be held before the Planning Commission's meeting. The people of Highland want a

> Georgia Dietz Highland Park

A green learning curve

A mere week after the green-themed Grand Old Day, I stopped in to pick up some bagels at a Grand Avenue business. I brought my own bag and handed it to the counter help after she had picked out my bagels. She paused like a deer in the headlights and I had to explain to her that I didn't want to use a new bag, that she could put the bagels in mine. Still looking at me like I had lobsters crawling out of my ears. She glanced over at her coworker, smiled and shrugged, as if she simply couldn't wrap her mind around it.

Business owners may want to educate their employees about the full spectrum of ways to be green at work. We clearly have a long way to go before it seems normal to everyone.

> Carolyn Rush Midway

A prison of our own

Gitmo to Alcatraz: Safe, secure and paid for.

Tom Birbilis Highland Park

Bikeway plan raises questions

The proposed Jefferson Avenue bikeway was discussed at length on June 22 at a meeting of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Transportation Committee. Among the opponents, the chief concern appeared to be the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians. It's great that residents are concerned about the safety of their fellow neighbors. I am, too. I'm hopeful the committee will be able to seriously consider the following:

Does the proposal, including signs, pavement markings and traffic calming, serve to slow traffic and therefore make it safer or more dangerous for bicyclists and pedestrians? Does the bikeway serve to raise the visibility and awareness of bicyclists on the street or is the opposite true? Are there features in the proposed design that specifically address the safety of neighborhood residents as they walk across Jefferson or was that forgotten? Will the slowing of traffic increase or decrease the noise of motor vehicles? Will traffic circles increase or decrease the exhaust emitted by motor vehicles? Are traffic circles helpful or harmful to bicyclists and pedestrians?

These are important questions that deserve to be explored to the satisfaction of all residents.

> Ann Kirn Macalester-Groveland

Abortion's place in the Village

Recent letter writers have been outraged about the effects that photographs of aborted fetuses might have on young children passing the pro-life protesters outside Planned Parenthood on Ford Parkway. The irony! Is anyone worried about the effect of abortion on fetuses?

As someone who grew up in Highland Park, I must point out that the Highland Library, Hillcrest Recreation Center, Highland Catholic School, many Highland Village shops and Burger King (where Dairy Queen is now located) all predated Planned Parenthood. Many families used to go out for pancakes at 1965 Ford Pkwy. before the building was sold out to Planned Parenthood.

Many of us view Planned Parenthood as the unwelcome, disrespectful intruder in our otherwise idyllic neighborhood. I doubt Planned Parenthood worried much about offending community members when it set up its bloody business on Ford Parkway.

INBOX ▶10

Volume 57, Number 9

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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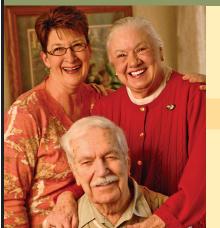
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CIRCULATION

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9**⋖** INBOX

While I am on the fence about the effectiveness of the graphic pictures, I have a feeling that this concern about the display rather than for the dismembered babies themselves is the exact reason the protesters use the signs. We have become so expert at cloaking the reality of abortion in terms of "choice," "women's health" and "women's rights" that many have forgotten or have chosen to ignore the truth that abortion is violent and grisly and horrifying and most certainly an unsettling backdrop for licking ice cream cones with the kids.

> Theresa Lauber Macalester-Groveland

What's happening in Highland

It seems many people are upset about the pictures of dead and mutilated babies displayed outside Planned Parenthood on Ford Parkway. Where's the outrage over what goes on inside? We look back and realize how wrong slavery was. Congress is now debating a bill that would make an official government apology for our behavior of 150 years ago. The Holocaust, Rwanda, Darfur, etc., happened and still go on. Where is the outrage?

What is it about human beings who stick their heads in the sand when confronted with moral and ethical issues? The mothers of small children should explain what is happening so that the children won't repeat the same behavior when they grow up. How can we proclaim to the rest of the world that we are the most advanced of humanity when we legally and openly kill our own offspring and pretend it's no big

My hat is off to those who volunteer their time and effort to make others aware of what is really happening inside Planned Parenthood.

> Dennis Adrian West End

An inconvenient truth

I find it somewhat amusing that when certain folks don't like being subjected to others expressing their freedom of speech, it's immediately wrong to do so ("Abortion protest goes too far," Villager Inbox, June 17). In this case, it's just not right to inconvenience a mother and her children with a view of large posters of dead babies while they're getting a dipped cone at Dairy Queen.

Unlike the mother of the babies on the posters, this mother chose to have her children and, in doing so, took on the responsibility to raise them as best she can. It is her responsibility to either explain what happens behind the seemingly harmless red brick walls of Planned Parenthood or to take them to a different Dairy Queen.

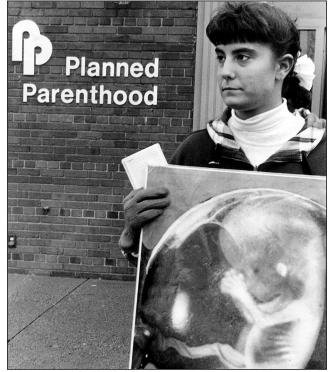
We all makes choices. Please make yours and be responsible for them.

> **Todd Muntifering** Highland Park

Lifesaving images

I understand how the letter writers feel about the graphic pictures of dead babies (Villager, May 20 and June 3). They are a disturbing sight. However, that's the purpose—to help a mother realize that it's her baby that abortion kills, not tissue or cells. This exposure has a purpose—showing what's really happening at Planned Parenthood—to hopefully save an innocent child's life.

> Margee Adrian West End



Anti-abortion activist Denise Adrian demonstrated on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood's Highland Village clinic in 1996. PHOTO BY MIKE LONG

The point of the protest

Those who object to the signs held by abortion protesters adjacent to the Dairy Queen in Highland Village miss the point. They are focusing on the effect of the signs and ignore the cause. The pictures depict what is routinely happening in the Planned Parenthood clinic. False concern for the children who may see the pictures should be replaced with real concern for the children directly impacted by what is taking place in the clinic.

> Stephen Miller Merriam Park

Don't mess with Mother Nature

A June 21 editorial in the Star Tribune, "We can cool the planet," suggests that exotic geo-engineering schemes could be a substitute for tough responses to global warming like carbon taxes and lifestyle changes. The author, Samuel Thernstrom of the conservative American Enterprise Institute, proposes saturating the stratosphere with volcaniclike aerosols or ocean water vapor dispensed from 1,500 ships. That kind of interference with Mother Nature can have unforeseen, often unattractive consequences.

A study by the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the University of Maryland showed that "enhanced volcanic aerosol loading in a geo-engineering simulation study resulted in a one- to two-fold increase of the chemical ozone depletion for the northern hemisphere, resulting in a dangerous increase in harmful ultraviolet radiation at the earth's surface."

Using 1,500 ships at a cost of \$3 billion to spray sea water into the atmosphere would add water vapor to the atmosphere, but water vapor rains out fairly quickly. Whether it is from your lawn sprinkler or ocean evaporation that dwarfs the output of Mr. Thernstrom's ships, the amount of water vapor in the earth's atmosphere stays about the same.

The editorial does in the end propose geo-engineering research only, and it acknowledges the difficulties with geoengineering. However, the typical reader will assume from

the editorial that technology can cool the planet while he continues to cruise in his Hummer.

> Rolf Westgard Macalester-Groveland

Editor's note: The writer is a professional member of the Geological Society of America.

Priceless small businesses

As a resident of Macalester-Groveland for more than 20 years, I continue to appreciate the gems of our neighborhood. Small, locally owned businesses such as Korte's Market provide a great service. I am grateful to have committed small-business owners just a few blocks from my home. At a time when one local business owner was closing and a big-box store was coming into the area, Korte's took on the post-office service. This dedication to the area is priceless. I think of these things when I choose a retailer. I will continue to patronize this wonderful small business as well as many others in our neighborhood. I hope others will do the same.

> Patty Soderberg Macalester-Groveland

It takes a village

Kudos to the volunteers and businesses responsible for all the planters, flower pots and median plantings in Highland Village, including the new hanging baskets at Cleveland Avenue and Ford Parkway. Your work to beautify our village is greatly appreciated and makes it such a lovely place to shop. Thanks also to those who worked on recommendations for the Walgreens development. Although there is disagreement as to whether we need this business in this location, your excellent detailed design recommendations will at least garner for the neighborhood an aesthetic gain.

> Kris Ohnsorg Highland Park

Street art with a purpose

I want to thank the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Transportation Committee and all the volunteers for their efforts on Saturday, June 13, to add street art to the pavement in front of the Edgcumbe Recreation Center. They have not only added more color to the world, but have made a significant effort to slow traffic through this neighborhood. Congratulations on a job well done.

> Mike Kowski, Grid 14 Representative Macalester-Groveland Community Council

Relocating St. Luke's

My association with St. Luke's Church goes back to 1941 when I attended its grade school on the corner of Victoria Street and Portland Avenue. That was the site of the church before it moved to Summit Avenue and Lexington Parkway nearly 100 years ago. The church itself was not located at Summit and Victoria, as the letter from Ms. Soucheray states (Villager, June 3), but a block north on Portland Avenue. There has never been a structure on the northwest corner of Summit and Victoria, now the property of William Mitchell College of Law.

> Jim Murray Downtown St. Paul



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June 22 to remind motorists of the state law that gives pedestrians in a crosswalk the right of way. Not all of the motorists were as mindful of the law—or the 90 days in jail and the \$700 fine that comes with an infraction—as those who stopped above for Ward 4 aide Samantha Henningson, Ramsey County commissioners Toni Carter and Janice Rettman and St. Paul Fire Chief Tim Fuller. Despite a few close calls, nobody was hurt, due to their abiding by the advice held aloft at right by Laura Baum of St. Paul Smart Trips and Julie Oney and Rich Wilber of the Union Park District Council. PHOTOS BY CHAS JENSEN

News Briefs

Judge disallows St. Paul's ban on billboard extensions

The city of St. Paul has lost yet another round in its legal battle against billboards. On June 15 U.S. District Court Judge Donovan Frank threw out a 2006 city ordinance that bans billboard extensions.

The extensions are letters or images that jut out from the side or top of a billboard. Anti-billboard activists contend the extensions make billboards more distracting. Billboard companies contend the extensions are popular with billboard advertisers.

In his ruling, Frank noted that the city failed to outline its reasons for the ban in its ordinance. His ruling voids the measure.

Clear Channel Outdoor, which owns almost 400 billboards in St. Paul, sued the city in August of 2006, arguing that a ban on billboard extensions would harm its business and that the city failed to explain why such a ban was needed. The St. Paul City Council and City Attorneys' office have not indicated whether they will appeal the decision.

Hearing set on proposed domestic partners registry

An ordinance that would allow same-sex couples and unmarried heterosexual couples to register as domestic partners will be considered by the St. Paul City Council at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 15. The measure was introduced on June 24 by City Council members Dave Thune and Lee Helgen.

"St. Paul is a city that values families," Helgen said. "By providing a domestic partner registry, we're creating an opportunity for couples to document their ongoing commitment to each other."

Under the language of the ordinance, couples who wish to register with the city would need to state that they are "committed to one another to the same extent as married persons" and are "jointly responsible to each other for the necessities of life." Domestic partners may not be related by blood or adoption and may have no other domestic partners. Same-sex partners who are married in another state where that is legal would also be able to register as domestic partners in St. Paul.

Municipal status as domestic partners would cost couples a \$20 registration fee. In exchange, couples would receive a certificate from the city that it is hoped would make it easier for them and their dependents to obtain certain benefits through their employers. The ordinance also outlines a process whereby

couples could dissolve their partnership.

The cities of Minneapolis and Duluth already have domestic partners registries. By passing the ordinance, St. Paul would be "joining the rest of the country in acknowledging and accepting domestic partnerships because we respect and care about all people of the city," Thune said.

Comment sought on Central Corridor light-rail transit EIS

The final environmental impact statement (EIS) has been released for the proposed Central Corridor light-rail transit line connecting the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Copies of the EIS are available for review at most public libraries and by visiting www. metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/FEISJuly2009.htm.

The public has until July 27 to comment on the EIS. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will review the comments and then issue a decision on whether or not to fund half of the project's \$914 million cost.

Meanwhile, the Summit-University Planning Council (SUPC) voted unanimously on June 23 to support the Preserve and Benefit Historic Rondo Committee's civil rights complaint against the Metropolitan Council and its Central Corridor light-rail transit project.

PBHRC, a coalition of the Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation, the Community Stabilization Project and the St. Paul NAACP, filed the complaint this spring with the FTA. The complaint alleges the Met Council has not adequately addressed concerns about the light-rail project's impact on minority and low-income people living along the route between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Harm to local businesses, loss of on-street parking, increased property taxes, reductions in bus service and the displacement of local residents were all cited.

Central Corridor has been promoted as a means of bringing a new economic vitality to University Avenue. However, local residents fear that gentrification could drive them out, according to Veronica Burt of the PBHRC. "We want this project to lift people out of poverty, not lift them out of the neighborhood," she said.

For questions or comments on the Central Corridor EIS, contact Kathryn O'Brien at 651-602-1927 or kathryn.obrien@metc.state. mn.us.

News Briefly was compiled by Jane McClure.



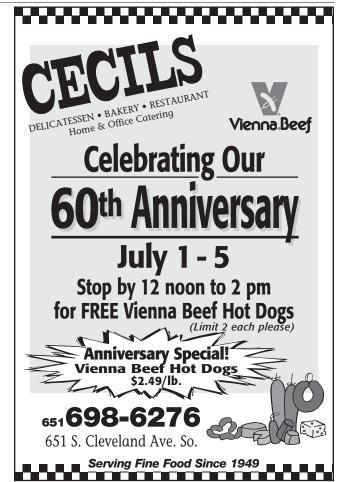


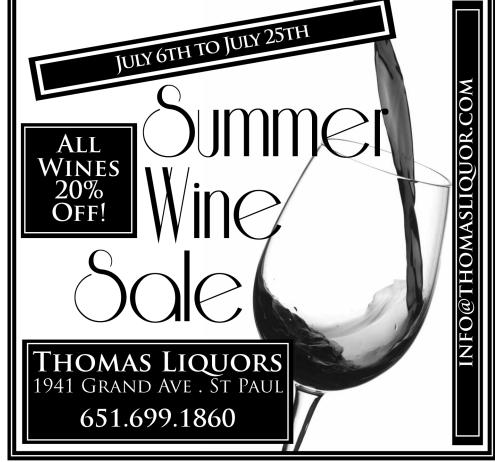
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Last of the Republicans

City's lone GOP office holder, Conlon resigns for the relative calm of Carolina's Blue Ridge

By Kevin Driscoll

fter 18 years as the lone Republican on the St. Paul School Board, Tom Conlon is stepping down on July 6 to manage and co-own the Cedar Crest Inn, a bed and breakfast in Asheville, North Carolina.

Conlon, 49, a St. Paul native, resided for most of his life in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. However, he has a special affinity for the Tar Heel State. He graduated from the University of North Carolina and is the longtime president of the local chapter of the UNC Alumni Association.

"I'd have loved to do this (run a bed and breakfast) in St. Paul, maybe on Summit Avenue, but there's no real market here," Conlon said. "This opportunity arose and I decided to go for it."

Asheville, a city of 70,000 at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains, "has a huge market, about 60 or 70 bed and breakfasts," Conlon said. "There I can still do some photography work and teach for Metro State University via the Internet."

Conlon said he is "proud to have maintained my conservative principles throughout" his tenure on the School Board, though it may have

cost him an appointment as School Board chair or vice chair. From all appearances, he earned the respect of his mostly DFL colleagues, who thanked him for his long service, his perspective on various issues and his consistently respectful manner in expressing his opinions.

School Board member Tom Goldstein credited Conlon for bringing "the true spirit of civic engagement to the School Board. Regardless of party differences, you always looked at what's in the best interest of the children."

School Board vice chair Elona Street-Stewart praised Conlon for his work on various organizations, including representing St. Paul on the Minnesota School Board Association, the Council of Urban Boards of Education, the Metropolitan Learning Alliances and the Minnesota State High School League. "Despite our disagreements, you listened and learned," Street-Stewart said. "We're going to miss you."

Conlon, for his part, credited Street-Stewart for "giving me perspectives on some issues, particularly as they might affect communities of color, that I had never even thought to consider."

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman declared June 16 Tom Conlon Day



After 18 years on the St. Paul School Board, Tom Conlon is moving away to pursue a new business interest in North Carolina. Here he high-fives the panda outside his old elementary school, Groveland Park.

in St. Paul. The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners also recognized Conlon for his "long and distinguished service."

Conlon attended Groveland Park Elementary School through the third grade before moving to Germany where his father taught music for six years in schools run by the U.S. Defense Department. He returned to St. Paul in 1976, graduated from Highland Park Senior High School and then joined the U.S. Marine Corps. After earning a master's degree in public administration at UNC in 1986, Conlon started a photography business—"mostly high school reunions and weddings," he said. In 1997, he founded the Highland Park Senior High School Alumni Association.

Conlon has been teaching Introduction to Management, Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management at Metropolitan State University for several years. Though he will be spending most of his time in North Carolina now, he plans to keep his teaching position at Metro State as well as his home in Macalester-Groveland, which he shares with his parents.

"I suppose most people kind of take where they live for granted," Conlon said. "But since I've announced my retirement from the School Board, I've been driving around St. Paul a lot and really noticing things. It's truly a wonderful city, and no matter where I go or what I do, St. Paul will always, always be home."

Council to decide fate of neighborhoods' dated small area plans

By Jane McClure

Thould a plan for Summit Avenue that is 23 years old remain in place or fade Jaway? That issue may have to be settled this summer by the St. Paul City Council when it acts on 21 development, district and small area land-use plans. The St. Paul Planning Commission voted on June 19 to send its recommendations on those plans to the council, including one to decertify the 1986

Summit Avenue Plan.

Each of the city's 17 planning districts has an overall district plan, as well as small area plans for subdistricts in those neighborhoods. The plans outline recommendations for future land-use changes, public improvements, and public and private investment. They are also part of the city's comprehensive plan, which is required by the Metropolitan Council and must be updated every 10 years.

As the plans age they need to be updated,

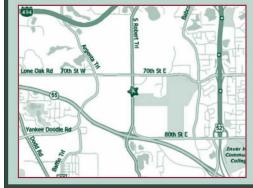
incorporated into other plans or decertified, said city planner Merritt Clapp-Smith. The plans recommended for action by the Planning Commission date from 1979 to 1998. The commission has recommended recertifying eight plans, with the intent of having them updated by the end of 2011. The rest would be decertified.

District councils were asked several months ago to review the plans within their areas and make recommendations. Of the plans proposed for action, the one being challenged is for Summit Avenue, which was developed with input from residents as well as the Ramsey Hill Association and the Summit-University, Summit Hill, Union Park and Macalester-Groveland district councils. Only the Summit Hill Association (SHA) has asked that the plan remain in place. The other groups agreed that it be decertified, as has staff of the St. Paul

SMALL AREA PLANS ► 13

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St. Paul, Ramsey County brace for backwash of governor's unallotment

By Jane McClure

overnor Tim Pawlenty's \$2.7 billion "unallotment" of Minnesota's budget is scheduled to take effect on July 1, with ripple effects that will be felt in every corner of the state for what is likely to be years to come. St. Paul and Ramsey County officials recently got a better idea of what that will mean for the remainder of 2009 and beyond, and are taking steps to address looming budget shortfalls.

St. Paul was slated to receive \$62.6 million in Local Government Aid (LGA) for 2009 and \$64 million next year. Those payments will drop by an estimated \$5 million in 2009 and \$11.6 million in 2010. However, both reductions are less than city officials had anticipated, said finance director Margaret Kelly. The city had expected to lose as much as \$7.7 million this year and \$16 million in 2010.

The city has been able to bring its 2009 budget into balance through several measures, including a hiring freeze and deferred purchases. Almost 140 city positions have been left vacant, and Mayor Chris Coleman and his staff have taken 5 percent pay cuts.

Coleman is not expected to announce his proposed 2010 city budget until early August. Last month he announced he is setting aside a plan that called for closing three recreation centers, reducing operations at two others and finding nonprofit partners to run three more. The centers, which are located in the St. Anthony Park, Hamline-Midway, North End, East Side and West Side neighborhoods, will be stay open until at least the end of the year.

Kelly said that the city has been able to manage the 2009 shortfall. "But for our 2010 budget, it's a much bigger challenge," she said.

Earlier this year, city departments were asked to plan for 5 and 14 percent cuts to their operating budgets. The reductions, when they are made, will not be at the same level for each department. Kelly said the intent is to keep public safety personnel on the street. "But it's going to be difficult given the 2010 challenges," she said.

Coleman had warned that the unallotment impact will be felt by many and for a long time. He and other state mayors in Minnesota have waged a high-profile campaign, criticizing the governor and the unallotment process. Pawlenty, in turn, has responded that he had to use unallotment because legislators did not do their job. He has also criticized city leaders and told them to tighten their belts.

St. Paul City Council members began discussing goals and objectives for city operations on June 24. Council president Kathy Lantry said the policy sessions will help decide which services should get priority when funding decisions are made. The first session focused on public safety.

Ramsey County officials are also trying to understand the effects of unallotment after getting a look at some of the numbers last week. "The picture for the county is a tough one to figure out," said Terry Lindeke, the county's director of public affairs and special initiatives. That is because county programs and services draw on a wide variety of funding sources, as compared to the city's lump sum payments of LGA. As a result, some numbers may not be fleshed out until mid-July.

Overall, Ramsey County fared slightly better than anticipated in the reduction to County Program Aid (CPA), but slightly worse in the reductions to other programs. CPA is used for a wide variety of programs. Ramsey County was slated to receive \$18.2 million in CPA this year and \$18.9 million in 2010. Those payments will drop by \$3.2 million in 2009 and \$6.5 million in 2010.

The cuts were expected, according to Lindeke, and ways to handle them were being discussed before the budget axe fell.

In individual county departments, human services will see some of the deepest cuts. One area that sustained a major hit is the Children and Community Services Grant—a reduction of \$2.2 million in 2009 and \$2.8 million in 2010. Mental health grants will lose \$400,000 in 2009 and \$896,000 in 2010.

In human services, the county will see trickle-down impacts as state programs, including emergency general assistance and emergency Minnesota supplemental aids, are cut.

The county will also lose an estimated \$157,534 in 2009, \$370,900 in 2010 and \$157,534 in 2011 to pay the administrative costs of collecting child support, and Community Corrections will lose an estimated \$100,000 in various grants.

12◀ SMALL AREA PLANS

Heritage Preservation Commission.

The Summit Avenue Plan focuses largely on historic preservation. Its recommendations helped shape the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association and the Summit Avenue West Historic District, among other accomplishments.

The SHA board voted in May to ask that the plan be retained. SHA vice president Tim Pramas said the plan is "of value in helping protect the character of this significant and nationally unique avenue."

Some district councils members expressed frustration about the city requiring plans to be updated, but not providing any resources to do so. Some councils had to hurry to get their district plans updated in time, only to see them sit for years at City Hall as planning staff members were diverted to other projects.

The Summit-University District Plan, for example, won City Council approval in late May after sitting in city offices for three years. The West 7th/Fort Road District Plan, which was approved by that district council in 2006, just had its public hearing before the Planning Commission in June. That means some district plans are out of date before the city even acts on them.

Here is an overview of what is happening to plans in those St. Paul neighborhoods served by the *Villager*:

• Selby Avenue Small Area Plan, 1997. This

plan involves the Summit-University and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods and will be decertified since its recommendations have been incorporated in district plans for both neighborhoods.

• Selby-Snelling Small Area Plan, 1993. This plan was developed by the old Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline community councils and the Snelling-Selby Area Business Association. The Union Park District Council asked that it be recertified with the goal of updating it by the end of 2011.

• Grand Avenue West Parking/Zoning Report, 1983. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council agreed with city staff that this plan should be decertified since many of its recommendations are incorporated in the neighborhood's district plan.

- Grand Avenue Design Guidelines, 1983. Both the Summit Hill and Macalester-Groveland district councils agree this plan is dated and should be decertified.
- Highland Village Plan, 1984. This plan was recommended for recertification by the Highland District Council and city staff, with the idea of updating it by the end of 2011. The HDC has discussed updating it as part of the debate over the construction of a proposed Walgreens store on Ford Parkway.
- Lower Cathedral Hill Plan, 1998. This plan involves parts of Summit Hill, Summit-University and downtown. It is recommended for recertification and updating by the end of 2011.

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Members of the Scarlet Fedoras view handblown glass in the reception room of the governor's residence.



Sweet home Minnesota

Take a peek inside the gov's residence

efore the home at 1006 Summit Ave. was designated as the Minnesota governor's residence in 1965, the state was one of the last in the country to not have an official dwelling for its chief executive. Social pressures had worked against establishing an official residence here for decades. For one thing, rural lawmakers balked at having the governor settle in the Twin Cities. For another, it smacked of elitism to politically progressive groups and recent immigrants who wondered why taxpayers should have to pay the rent for an elegant mansion for an elected official.

However, some leaders saw the need, including state Representative William O'Brien, who persuaded the property owners to donate the house as well as an adjoining lot to the state. Although there was opposition to accepting the gift, the supporters prevailed with a carefully worded bill that called it the State Ceremonial Building whose "living quarters



Close to Home By Lisa Heinrich

may be incidentally provided in such building for the governor."

Built in 1910-1912, the spacious structure at 1006 Summit Ave. was a single-family home for more than half a century before its donation to the state. Though it is only about



Soren Klarquist, 3, isn't quite sure about leaving his post outside the governor's residence to join his mom, Elisabeth, for a tour on June 9. The tours will continue on the first three Tuesday afternoons in July and August. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

a mile and a half from the Capitol, the location was considered remote when the Irvine family built it. According to Minnesota Tastes and Times, a cookbook whose sales help support the site, "When Horace and Clotilde (Irvine) announced where on Summit they would build their home, some people wondered why they would build 'way out on the open prairie." However, architect William Channing Whitney, who designed the home in the Beaux Arts tradition, "declared it a fine place for a country manor house."

The Irvines had two children, Thomas and Elizabeth, when they moved in. Daughters Clotilde and Olivia were born in the house and, after their mother's death, donated it to the state for its current use. Olivia Irvine Dodge, the last member of that family, died this past January at age 90. She was a generous and active benefactor to many causes, including the Dodge Nature Center, which she founded and continued to support throughout her life. "It wasn't just a check," her daughter-in-law said after her death.

Olivia stayed involved with the preservation of 1006 Summit Ave. over the years as well.

Olivia's father, Horace, was the son of Thomas Irvine, one of the state's early lumber barons. The two men worked closely with the Weyerhaeuser lumber enterprise and in 1872, Frederick Weyerhaeuser chose Thomas as secretary of the newly reorganized Mississippi River Logging Company. Horace followed in his father's footsteps in that business. He was a board member of several other companies, including St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance

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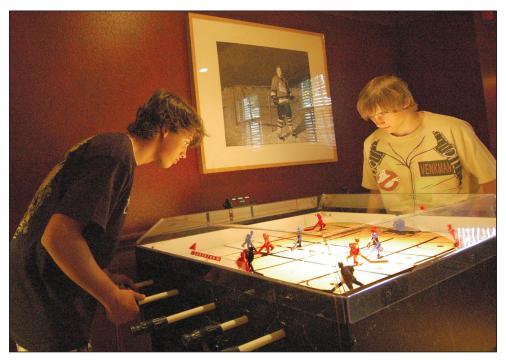


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Preston Anderson, left, and Travis Brezinka play bubble hockey on the governor's personal game table on the lower level of the Summit Avenue mansion. Behind them is the photograph "Barbie Who?" by Mike Krieter of a female hockey player.

14 RESIDENCE

Company (now Travelers), and a cofounder of Northwest Airlines.

Horace, as a prosperous businessman, was able to afford the then-princely sum of \$7,000 for the land and \$50,000 to build the house.

The house was constructed of stone and red brick, which may seem odd for a lumberman's residence, but Irvine compensated with the lavish use of wood inside, including paneling of African mahogany in the living room, bleached Circassian walnut in the dining room, and natural oak in the library and reception hall.

When completed, the house boasted 20 rooms, in-

cluding nine bedrooms and eight bathrooms. (Two additional bathrooms were recently added on the lower level.) Victorians, as Patricia Baker commented in her history of the mansion, loved gadgets, and the house reflected that penchant with a central vacuum cleaner, gas and electric outlets, and a call box and bell system.

Olivia had a darkroom and brother Tom had a ship room, which suggests there was plenty of space for the six members of the Irvine family. The Irvine children also enjoyed playing in the steam tunnel that ran from the house to the garage.

To maintain the house, the Irvines employed several servants, including a butler, cook, server, upstairs maid, laundress, nursemaid, gardener and chauffeur.

Governor Karl Rolvaag and First Lady Florence Rolvaag were the state's first first family to move into the residence in 1966. It has housed every governor since.

On the first level of the mansion, the library has long been a favorite of visitors to the governor's residence. Olivia once recalled the family and staff gathering there to listen to the radio, and her father predicting that singer Bing Crosby "wouldn't last six weeks."

Also on the first floor is the popular so-



Julie Farley views a Paul Grandlund scupture titled "Man-Nam" on the west lawn of the governor's residence.

larium where Eleanor Roosevelt once had tea. The 19-by-39-foot drawing room has been the site of several weddings and receptions for governors' children. The solarium and east porch off the drawing room lead into the formal gardens. On the east side is a garden with plaques commemorating all the children who have lived in the house.

The lower level includes a conference room that features portraits of the state's first ladies. There also is a family room with a big-screen TV concealed behind wooden doors, a foosball table, a hockey game and memorabilia from various administrations.

Following a recent tour, docent Mary Lou Marschall described her favorite parts of the property, which has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974 and is now handicapped-accessible. "I'm partial to the gardens and patio," said Marschall, who has been leading tours of the mansion for 28 years. "And I like the works of Minnesota artists displayed throughout the house."

Free tours of the first floor and lower level of the residence will continue from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on the first three Tuesdays of July and August. Photo ID is required for entry, and food donations for Second Harvest Heartland will gladly be collected. For information, call 651-297-2161.

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District Council News

Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Highland Fest—The Highland Park neighborhood's annual entertainment and art festival, Highland Fest, will return to Highland Village on Friday through Sunday, July 17-19. Volunteers are now being sought to help out. Call the Highland Business Association at 651-699-9042.

As part of the fun, a men's double-elimination slow-pitch softball tournament will be held at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. The entry fee is \$150, and cash prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Registration is due by July 10. For information, call Hillcrest at 651-695-3706.

Neighborhood pride—Highland Park T-shirts and sweat-shirts are now on sale at the HDC office. A variety of colors and sizes are available. T-shirts, which are regularly \$20, are selling for \$15. Sweatshirts are marked down from \$30 to \$25. The HDC office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Recycling bins—Curbside recycling bins may be picked up free of charge at the Hillcrest Recreation Center desk between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Friday.

Dates to remember—HDC Community Services Committee meeting to discuss the emerald ash borer, plans for rain barrel and gardening workshops, and a possible communitywide rummage sale, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy; HDC Community Development Committee meeting to discuss a proposed parking variance for Massage Envy in Highland Village and elect new members, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, Hillcrest; St. Paul Zoning Committee hearing on the site plan for a Walgreens in Highland Village, 3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 16, City Hall; HDC board meeting, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 16, Hillcrest; Highland Fest on the weekend of July 17-19; and National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4 (for help on holding a block party contact HDC crime prevention coordinator Alisha Anderson at 651-695-4005 or hdccrime@visi.com).

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Energy saving—Cooperative Energy Futures is currently working with the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Environmental Committee to improve home energy efficiency in the neighborhood. Residents can learn more about the local cooperative and comment on how it can best serve them by taking a short online survey at www.cooperativeenergyfutures.com/survey.html.

Native Garden Awards—Nominations are now being accepted for the community council's second annual Native Garden Awards. Nominees must be residents of the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, the garden must be weed-free and well-maintained, the house number must be visible both on the street and the alley (if there is one), the garden must be accessible for verification purposes by Environment Committee volunteers, at least 50 percent of the garden must have native plants and all city garden boulevard regulations must be followed. The garden awards recipients will be determined by the end of August. For information, contact the council office.

Alley Garden Awards—Alley gardens may now be nominated for the community council's annual Alley Garden Awards. Judges will be out viewing the gardens between July 5 and 15. Nominations may be submitted before the end of judging to afton@macgrove.org or call Afton Martens at the

council office. For information, visit the website.

Garage sale volunteers—With a staff transition now under way at the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, volunteers are needed to help coordinate the neighborhood garage sale this August. To help out, contact the council office.

Crime notification updates—Those who are interested in receiving updates on crime in Macalester-Groveland should contact Afton Martens at afton@macgrove. org to get added to the email list. Weekly crime reports also are available by visiting mnstpaul.civicplus.com/index. asp?nid=2399. The Western District Police Department, 389 N. Hamline Ave., con-

ducts crime information meetings at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month.

July board meeting—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's board of directors will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 9, at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. For details, call the council office.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Summit Hill cookbook—Neighbors are being invited to submit recipes for possible inclusion in an upcoming Summit Hill cookbook. Submissions should include the recipe's name, background, ingredients, amounts, instructions, number of servings and approximate preparation or cooking time. The submitters name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address should also be included. Recipes may be sent to SHA president Tammy Haas at tamarastable@aol.com or at 1037 Lincoln Ave., St Paul, MN 55105. For more information, call the SHA office.

Environment Committee update—Several enthusiastic volunteers spent the morning of June 20 weeding the Sam Morgan Prairie at the Linwood Recreation Center and earlier on June 13 organizing the SHA's Environment Committee's first Plant & Prairie Party at Linwood Park. The party included a neighborhood plant exchange, master gardeners and information about rain barrels and native plants. The committee will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, at Linwood. The agenda will include HourCar fundraising, rain garden grants, possible fall and winter events, and further plans for restoring the Sam Morgan Prairie. All interested residents and business/property owners are invited to attend.

Get on the move—Area residents are being encouraged to get fit and conserve energy by leaving their cars at home this summer as part of MacGrove/Summit Hill Moves. Jog, roll or stroll log sheets are now available in the Macalester-Groveland and Summit Hill district council offices, the Grand Avenue Business Association and many Grand Avenue merchants. Those who turn in completed log sheets by August 12 will be entered in a drawing for prizes donated by local businesses.

National Night Out—It's not too early to start planning for a neighborhood party for National Night Out on Tuesday, Au-



Summit Hill Association executive director Jeff Roy holds goats beard gone to seed, one of the invasive plants that he and fellow volunteers worked to remove from the Sam Morgan Prairie in Linwood Park on June 20. Photo BY BRAD STAUFFER

gust 4. The SHA office has lots of ideas for the event as well as for getting permits to block off city streets, requesting police and firefighter visits, and making neighborhood gatherings environmentally friendly.

Board meeting—The SHA's board of directors will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 9, at the Linwood Recreation Center. For information, contact the SHA office of visit its website.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Ice Cream Social and Family-Fun Day—The Union Park Parks and Recreation Committee will present its annual ice cream social from noon to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, July 11, at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. Come for ice cream, games and other family activities and family-friendly music by Ocean Sound Entertainment. It's all free of charge.

National Night Out—National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4. Start planning your block party now. For information on hosting a party, contact Union Park District Council community organizer Julie Oney at 651-645-6887 or julie@union-parkdc.org.

Recycling bins—Curbside recycling bins are distributed free of charge between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.

Board of directors meets—The next meeting of the Union Park District Council board of directors will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, in the Concordia University library, 1282 Concordia Ave. For more information and the agenda, visit www.unionparkdc.org.

Join a committee—The Union Park District Council's Neighborhood Issues and Crime Prevention, Parks and Recreation, Land Use, and Internal Affairs committees are seeking new members. Call 651-645-6887.

Electronic newsletter—Union Park residents and business people may receive the district council's monthly newsletter and weekly crime reports by e-mail. To subscribe to either of these mailings, e-mail info@unionparkdc.org with "subscribe to e-news" or "subscribe to crime notification" in the subject line.



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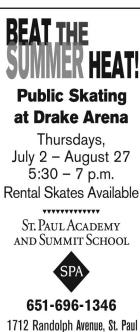
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Ash borer battle could cost St. Paul \$2.8 million and 3,000 trees a year

By Jane McClure

he arrival of the emerald ash borer could end up costing the city of St. Paul millions of dollars a year to cut down and replace thousands of ash trees that are expected to be lost from city parks and boulevards.

"It's going to be a long-term issue," said St. Paul Parks and Recreation director Mike Hahm, who presented the St. Paul City Council on June 17 with the latest plan to slow the ash borers' spread and to manage tree removal and replacement.

The city's plan includes hiring additional inspectors to monitor trees for removal, cutting down 3,000 affected trees a year (or about 5 percent of the estimated 60,000 ash trees on city land), hiring two new crews to remove infested trees and renting removal equipment.

The estimated cost of monitoring, inspecting, treating and removing trees is \$1.2 million in 2009 and \$2.8 million a year in subsequent years. The 2009 figure does not include the cost of replanting.

City Council members are worried that the cost of the looming loss of trees will be a burden in the face of pending city budget cuts, and that many private property owners will be hard-pressed to pay for the removal and replacement of their diseased trees.

Still, Hahm said the diseased trees must be removed. Doing nothing is not an option.

"It's here and it's something we're going to have to deal with systematically over a period of years," he said. He added that no city has successfully eradicated emerald ash borer once it has been discovered.

The tiny, iridescent emerald ash borers are invasive beetles from Asia that were first discovered in this country in 2002 in southeastern Michigan. The pests are already believed to have killed as many as 30 million ash trees in the United States and Canada.

Infested trees discovered in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood in mid-May were the first in Minnesota. It is believed the insects had been in St. Paul as long as four years before they were discovered. Minnesota has about 937 million ash trees, St. Paul about 120,000.

State agencies worked with Parks and Recreation to survey the St. Anthony Park neighborhood this spring. The state has already helped with the cost of removing 68 trees on public and private land there.

However, the state will not be able to assist with the removal of trees on private property over the long term, Hahm said, nor is federal funding available at this time.

Although some private tree firms are marketing chemical treatments, widespread use of chemicals by the city may not be feasible due to the cost. Treating 500 trees annually would cost about \$75,000 a year, Hahm said.

Parks and Recreation is looking at allowing residents to buy and use chemicals to save their individual boulevard trees at their own expense. That is already done with other species of trees with a city-issued permit.

City Council members are also concerned that controlling the emerald ash borer could diminish other ongoing forestry operations. Workers in the city's forestry section trim about 10,000 public trees each year on a 12-year cycle. They remove about 2,500 dead, diseased or dangerous trees and grind up 1,400 stumps. About 1,600 replacement trees are planted each year.

City Council president Kathy Lantry said residents who have waited years to have their missing boulevard trees replaced should not be bumped to the back of the line by the need to replace ash trees.

Other council members had questions about replacement species, noting that some choices, such as gingkoes, have proven unpopular. Council member Melvin Carter III said it is important that the city replace its ash trees with a variety of species.

Parks and Recreation is also updating the city's diseased tree ordinance, which was passed more than 30 years ago to address trees affected by Dutch elm disease. The ordinance allows the city to enter private property to inspect trees, order their removal and, if necessary, cut down trees and assess the costs to the property owner. Amendments to the ordinance are expected to be discussed at a public hearing in July.

City unveils 2010 bonding requests

Saints stadium, University streetscape among wishes

By Jane McClure

entral Corridor streetscape improvements, the replacement of two pedestrian bridges over I-94 and a new baseball stadium for the St. Paul Saints are among the projects included in the city of St. Paul's wish list for bonding during the 2010 session of the Minnesota Legislature.

The list of bonding requests, which was approved by the City Council on June 24, includes several projects that failed to obtain bonding in previous legislative sessions. In fact, most of the projects for which the city will be lobbying in 2010 have been approved in the past by the House, the Senate or both, but not by Governor Tim Pawlenty as well, according to Wendy Underwood, the city's legislative liaison. "These projects are beyond shovel-ready," she said.

As required by the state Office of Management and Budget, the bonding requests were ranked by the City Council. In their order of preference, they are:

- 1. Como Zoo (\$11 million), for a new gorilla habitat and renovations that complement the \$9 million in improvements made in 2006.
- 2. Ordway Center for the Performing Arts (\$17.5 million), for a new 1,100-seat concert hall to be used by the Schubert Club, Minnesota Opera and other organizations.
 - 3. Asian Pacific Cultural Center (\$5 mil-

lion), to renovate the former Hamm's Brewery on St. Paul's East Side for use as a cultural center and theater.

4. St. Paul Saints (\$25 million), for a new 7,500-seat stadium to be used for municipal athletics, regional events and the Saints' 48 regular-season games plus exhibition games and playoffs. Though a stadium site is not specified in the bonding request, Saints coowner Mike Veeck said it would be built in Lowertown on property formerly owned by Diamond Products and Gillette Corporation. Earlier this year, Mayor Chris Coleman had proposed building the stadium on a former Exxon fuel tank farm near West 7th Street and Otto Avenue, but the idea met strong opposition from local residents.

5. New streetlights, boulevard trees, crosswalks, sidewalks and other amenities along University Avenue (\$20 million), to be made in conjunction with the construction of the \$914 million Central Corridor light-rail line, tentatively scheduled for 2010-2014. Earlier this year, state lawmakers rejected a proposal to combine tax-increment financing districts along the light-rail route to pay for the improvements. Other funding requests have also fallen short. The city has promised \$2.5 million of its own funds for the improvements.

6. I-94 pedestrian bridges (\$3 million), to replace the deteriorating pedestrian bridges at Aldine Street in Merriam Park and Mackubin Street in Summit-University. Built in the early 1960s in conjunction with the freeway, the existing bridges lack adequate lighting and do not meet current standards for accessibility.





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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—A burglary was committed at Nova Classical Academy, 1668 Montreal Ave., during the evening of Thursday, May 28.

- -A commercial burglary was reported on the 700 block of South Cleveland Avenue on the evening of Thursday, May 28.
- -A home on the 1900 block of Eleanor Avenue was broken into during the day on Monday, June 1.
- -Police stopped a man walking in the street with two bicycles at Cleveland Avenue and Ford Parkway at about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 10. The 27-year-old Minneapolis man was arrested for burglary when it was discovered that a nearby garage had been bro-
- —A storage garage at Highland on the Park Apartments, 2000 W. 7th St., was burglarized on Saturday, June 13.
- -A home on the 1200 block of Juno Avenue was broken into between 8:00 a.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday, June 13-14.
- -Police responded to a burglary in progress on the 2000 block of Saunders Avenue just after midnight on Sunday, June 14. A 42year-old Florida man was cited for criminal damage to property and trespassing.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred on the 1200 block of Juno Avenue between 12:30 p.m. Sunday and 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 7-9.

Woman killed by ambulance

argaret Adele Kuehn, 79, of Macalester-Groveland, was struck Land killed by an ambulance in an alley near Snelling and Randolph avenues at about 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 20.

The ambulance had responded to a car crash in the alley near the Walgreens store. The ambulance was backing up when it hit Kuehn. Apparently neither the ambulance driver nor Kuehn saw each other.

- -A theft from auto occurred at Cleveland and Randolph avenues between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 9.
- —A license plate was stolen from a boat trailer at the Watergate Marina between April 15 and June 14.
- -A Minneapolis man was cited for shoplifting at ProEx, 2130 Ford Pkwy., at about 1:00 p.m. Sunday, June 14. A clerk took a camera out of a display case to show the man. The man grabbed the camera and fled on foot. Store employees tailed the man until police arrived.
- —A theft from auto occurred at Hidden Falls Park between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. Thursday, June 18. The victim's stolen credit card was subsequently used fraudulently.

Miscellaneous-Graffiti appeared at Lumen Christi Church between 10:30 and 11:00 p.m., Friday, June 5.

- -The United Jewish Fund, 790 S. Cleveland Ave., reported receiving harassing phone calls on Friday, June 12.
 - -Someone threw lit firecrackers into the

mail slot of a house on the 1200 block of Edgcumbe Road at 1:45 a.m. Monday, June 15.

<u>Lexington-Hamline</u>

Burglary—A man traced his stolen cell phone to the 100 block of North Griggs Street at about 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 16. Police recovered many items that had been stolen overnight from vehicles.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Homes near Prior and Summit avenues and on the 1700 block of Berkeley Avenue were broken into on Monday, June 1.

- -Homes on the 1800 block of St. Clair Avenue and 300 block of South Saratoga Street were burglarized on Tuesday, June 2.
- —A home on the 1200 block of Palace Avenue was broken into between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 10.
- —An attempted burglary occurred on the 400 block of South Snelling Avenue between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 11.
- -Money and jewelry were stolen from a home on the 1900 block of Lincoln Avenue between noon Friday and 11:00 a.m. Monday, June 12-15. Entry was gained through a front porch window.
- —Three window screens were torn off and a glass window pane was broken in an unsuccessful attempt to get into a house on the 2000 block of Grand Avenue at around 2:15 a.m. Saturday, June 13.
- —A home on the 1300 block of Summit Avenue was burglarized at about 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 22.

Theft-Thefts from autos occurred at four

locations between 8:00 p.m. Tuesday and noon Wednesday, June 9-10, including on the 200 block of South Fairview Avenue, the 1700 and 1900 blocks of Princeton Avenue, and the 1700 block of St. Clair Avenue.

—A man was cited for stealing a pair of shoes from Grand Performance, 1938 Grand Ave., at about 2:00 p.m. Thursday, June 11. The store owner detained the suspect until police arrived.

-A canoe was stolen from a yard on the 1800 block of Goodrich Avenue between 6:00 p.m. Thursday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday, June 11-

Assault—Three juveniles were cited for assaulting another student in a stairwell at Ramsey Junior High School, 1700 Summit Ave., at about 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 9.

Arson—A fire was set by an arsonist on the 300 block of South Griggs Street at about 1:30 a.m. Friday, May 29.

—A fire was set by an arsonist on the 1900 block of Juliet Avenue at about 8:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31.

-Police responded to a fight at the Subway restaurant, 1820 Grand Ave., at about 1:30 a.m. Friday, June 12. Two men fled as police arrived. Officers caught one man and booked him for criminal damage to property, obstruction and fleeing police.

—A car window was broken on the 1800 block of Princeton Avenue between 8:00 p.m. Thursday and 3:00 p.m. Friday, June 18-19. More criminal damage to property occurred around the same time on the 1900 and 2000 blocks of Princeton.

-A car window was broken on the 300 block of South Saratoga Street between 1:30

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This loft home offers a wall of glass overlooking the park. Electronic blinds, custom built-ins in all the closets, two parking spaces, stainless steel & granite kitchen. Den with built-ins. Unbeatable deal. **StPaulTeam.com**

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A very charming stucco 3-story in the heart of Crocus Hill. Newer kitchen with granite countertops, newer baths including a private master bath, finished 3rd floor with bedroom & bath and a basement play room, backyard patio and front so it screened porch. 644 Góodr JANE AUSTIN McGRATH

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Sunny & bright 4,000 sq. ft. condo in the heart of Crocus Hill. 4 BRs, 2 baths, 2-car parking. This historic home is an all-brick structure with a slate roof on a beautiful double

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This one has them all. Owner's suite with private bath. Open family room and kitchen. Large formal living and dining rooms. New kitchen. Two car garage. Send the kids to Cretin-Derham Hall, walk to Trader Joe's.

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651-282

p.m. Thursday and 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 18-

<u>Merriam Park</u>

Burglary-Homes on the 1900 block of Carroll Avenue and the 2000 block of Selby Avenue were broken into on Thursday, May 28.

-Homes on the 1600 block of Marshall Avenue, the 2000 block of Laurel Avenue and the 1800 block of Feronia Avenue were broken into on Friday, May 29.

—A home on the 1800 block of Feronia Avenue was burglarized on Wednesday, June 3. The resident was home at the time.

-A television and laptop computer were stolen from a home on the 2000 block of Dayton Avenue between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4.

-About 45 cartons of cigarettes were stolen from Lulu's Food Mart, 1626 Selby Ave., between 1:00 and 8:00 a.m. Friday, June 12.

 A home on the 2000 block of Dayton Avenue was broken into at about 2:30 a.m. Sunday, June 14.

-The screen was cut and removed from a window of a home on the 200 block of North Wilder Street between midnight and 9:30 a.m. Sunday, June 14.

Theft—A theft occurred at the University of St. Thomas at about noon Tuesday, June 2.

Sex crime—A peeping Tom was spotted on the 1700 block of Laurel Avenue at about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 17. He fled before police arrived.

Arson—A 50-gallon plastic trash can was set on fire inside Ireland Hall at the University of St. Thomas at about 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 21. It was the third fire at Ireland Hall that week. In the two other incidents, cases of paper were set on fire in a restroom.

Miscellaneous—A St. Paul man was arrested for marijuana possession with intent to sell and criminal damage to property on Tuesday,

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NEW YORK PENTHOUSE

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June 9. He damaged the property on the 1500 block of St. Anthony Avenue at about 1:30 a.m. and was arrested by police on the 1600 block of Edmund Avenue at about 2:30 a.m.

-A suspicious male went door to door claiming to be a college student doing research on children on June 11-13 near Portland and Prior avenues. He did not have any credentials. He was described as a white male in his 20s with light brown hair, blue eyes and freckles.

<u> Snelling-Hamline</u>

Robbery—A male robbed the TCF Bank in the Cub Foods store on University Avenue at about 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 18. The suspect fled on foot with \$1,500 cash. He was described as a black male in his 30s-40s, around 5-foot-5 and 130 pounds, with scruffy facial hair. He fled in a white, late-model GMC Yukon or Chevy Tahoe.

Burglary—A commercial burglary occurred on the 1400 block of Dayton Avenue at about 6:00 p.m. Friday, May 29.

Summit Hill

Theft—A theft from auto occurred at J&R Locksmiths, 768 Grand Ave., between 10:00 p.m. Monday and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 8-9.

—Two female suspects stole several pairs of jeans from Hot Mama, 867 Grand Ave., about at about 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 19.

Summit-University

Robbery-A woman was robbed of her purse at Grotto Street and Selby Avenue at about 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 8.

—Two people robbed a woman at Dale Street and Selby Avenue at about 10:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 16. They threw her against her car, knocked her to the ground, grabbed her wallet and fled on foot.

Burglary—A home on the 600 block of Dayton Avenue was broken into during the day on Friday, May 29.

Assault—A man was assaulted at Sweeney's

West End

day, June 15.

where he later died.

Burglary—A laptop computer and jewelry were stolen from a unit at the Crosby Pointe Apartments, 1115 Elway St., while the residents were away between May 16 and June 10. Management noticed that the apartment door had been pried. Another apartment there was also broken into at about 1:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 10, and TVs were stolen from the building's community room and workout

Bar, 96 N. Dale St., at about 10:00 p.m. Mon-

Homicide—An 18-year-old man was shot

in the head as he walked on the 1000 block

of Iglehart Avenue at about 5:00 p.m. Friday,

June 19. He was taken to Regions Hospital

Sex crime—A man sexually assaulted a

14-year-old developmentally disabled girl at

about 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 18, at St. Al-

Miscellaneous—A 21-year-old Northfield

man was cited for obstruction and criminal

damage to property at the Cathedral of St.

Paul at about 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 15.

bans Street and Ashland Avenue.

Theft—License plate tabs and collector plates were stolen from vehicles parked at the vacant Schmidt Brewery between June 1-15.

—A woman on the 300 block of West 7th Street reported the theft of her key chain at about 9:00 a.m. Sunday, June 14.

 Thefts from two autos occurred at Crosby Park between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Tuesday,

Sex crime—An attempted rape occurred near I-35E and Randolph Avenue at about 11:00 p.m. Friday, June 19.

Miscellaneous-Two windows were broken at the new Mississippi Market, 1500 W. 7th St., between 3:00 p.m. Friday and 8:00 a.m. Monday, June 12-15.

Fire Calls

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

Merriam Park—A vehicle was set on fire on the 300 block of North Roy Street at around 12:30 a.m. Thursday, June 11.

Summit-University—A 15-year-old boy was struck by an automobile turning the corner at Lexington Parkway and Marshall Avenue at around 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 11. Paramedics took him to the hospital.

West End-Paramedics were called to an apartment on the 1200 block of West 7th Street 8:10 a.m. Wednesday, June 10. A 44-year-old man had been stabbed. He was transported to

the hospital.

 A carelessly discarded cigarette was likely the cause of a fire to a garage on the 200 block of Goodrich Avenue at 11:17 am. Monday, June 15. The fire started in a pile of leaves against the garage.

-Firefighters responded to a fire in an overcrowded home on the 1500 block of Middleton Avenue at about 5:15 p.m. Thursday, June 18. Eleven people were living in the home. The fire started in a porch that was being used as a bedroom from a lamp that was left on and ignited some clothing. The smoke detector had no batteries in it. Damage was estimated at \$25,000.



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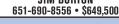


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Food



Home Fires
By Jo Marshall

Simple sodas: How mom met pop

If, for some reason unfathomable to me at this moment, you happened to materialize in my kitchen and flung open the door of the refrigerator, you might conclude, and with good reason, that I was about to prepare the world's wettest martini. There, like erect green soldiers, stand five slender vermouth bottles threatening to do battle with the milk. But wait, their labels belie their contents. And besides, this story doesn't start in my fridge. It starts in a restaurant.

Two of the world's finest people were treating me to lunch one day. When the server asked for our drink order, I said I wanted something cold and interesting but not alcoholic. Maybe a Limonata or a premium ginger ale? She didn't have bottled sodas, she said, but she could serve me a house-made ginger ale. The bartender brewed a batch of fresh ginger syrup nearly every night, and she would add the fizz.

It wasn't the first time I'd had ginger ale made on the premises, but this was a good one. And the idea that a bartender could spare the time to brew up this mystical syrup while wiping down the bar, polishing stemware, prepping limes, brewing espresso, pouring pinot, shaking martinis, muddling mojitos and carrying on an informed debate on the virtues of single-malt scotch led me to wonder if such a syrup might be concocted by a run-of-the-mill home cook while, say, catching a "Seinfeld" rerun or repairing the chips on her pedicure.

Thus began my survey of simple syrups. Simple syrup is essential in any bar and requisite for classic cocktails like daiquiris, Tom Collinses and whisky sours. Basically, it's sugar water, but flavored with various ingredients, it has the power to turn seltzer or mineral water into a cold, fizzy beverage that can be blended to taste and served at a moment's notice.

First on my list was ginger syrup, a recipe that yielded an un-



Beat the heat this summer without having to wonder what is in your soft drink; prepare your own ice cold soda from the syrup you make at home.



A simple syrup made with sugar and fruit, berries or ginger can turn fizzy water into a flavorful soda.

PHOTOS BY

expected bonus: candied ginger that can be eaten out of hand, stirred into a chutney or used to flavor a scone, not unlike the crystallized ginger you pay dearly for at the store.

One success under my belt, I was off and running, scrounging through the recycling bin for another discarded vermouth bottle. (I have no particular affinity for vermouth bottles, but a screw top makes for easy opening and mayo jars aren't nearly as glamorous.) Soon I was asking my husband to step up his martini consumption. Being an accommodating mate, he willingly obliged. As fast as he could sanely drain them, I was refilling them.

Lemons were big on my agenda. (As I mentioned, I'm fond of Limonata, and lemon syrup mixed with mineral water makes a fine facsimile.) Pomegranate juice also got brewed into syrup, and blackberries went through the sieve. When I spied blood oranges on sale, I reamed a pound or two.

Not all of these experiments are worth repeating. At one point, an acute case of overconfidence convinced me that I could, without guidance, devise a mango syrup. I was sorely mistaken. I ended up with a highly sweetened mango puree and a corresponding soda with the clarity of golden mud. But it wasn't a total bust; the puree made a great smoothie and might have made a good sorbet.

But the experiments that were successful led to happy quaffing. When my daughter brought a slew of friends home for brunch, they quickly transformed into mirthful mixologists, concocting their own nonalcoholic cocktails, sampling each others' creations and rating their favorites with the mock snarkiness of a food critic:

"The ginger is perfect with just a splash of orange," one said.

"Absolutely not. It's better with pomegranate," said another. I haven't done the math, but I'm convinced that the beverages I'm producing at home are far more economical than the premium sodas you buy in a store. I also believe they're healthier, having persuaded myself that a copious amount of refined white sugar is downright salubrious compared to the much-maligned, high-fructose corn syrup that sweetens commercial beverages.

Besides, I'm a sucker for any easy trick that elicits the slightest awe. When I brewed that first batch of syrup, my husband strolled through the kitchen, dropped his jaw and flatly muttered, "Wow. I've never known anyone motivated to make

their own pop." And my daughter reported that on a recent rendezvous at a coffee shop, one of her friends pointed to a row of commercial Italian syrups and scoffed, "If this place was any good, they'd make that stuff themselves."

So it's unlikely that my battalion of vermouth bottles will break ranks and retreat from the fridge—at least until the end of summer. In the meantime, the other beverages will have to stand down. It's hot outside, and this mom has found her pop.

Ginger Syrup

8 oz. fresh ginger, about two big knobs 2 cups granulated sugar (plus more for candied ginger) 2 cups water

Peel the ginger and chop into half-inch squares. In a medium saucepan, combine the sugar and water over medium heat, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Stir in the ginger pieces. Simmer gently for an hour or more, stirring occasionally and checking to make sure the mixture isn't evaporating too quickly. (This is the part where you repair your pedicure.) The syrup is done when it's well thickened and tastes heavily of ginger. (The ginger pieces will be soft, and you should have about $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of syrup.) Cool slightly and pass through a mesh sieve, pressing the ginger to release the syrup. Store the syrup in the fridge.

Candied ginger. For an added treat, line a sheet pan with waxed paper. Spread ¼ cup of sugar on pan. Toss the ginger pieces in the sugar and spread evenly on pan. Let them dry for several hours or overnight, then store in an airtight container.

Lemon Simple Syrup

2 cups water

2 cups sugar

Zest from one lemon, plus ¾ cup of fresh lemon juice

Heat the sugar, zest and water in a saucepan over medium heat, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat, and pour through a fine mesh sieve into a bowl. Discard the zest. Cool completely. Stir in the lemon juice. Store the syrup in the fridge. Makes about 4 cups.



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The Kiosk

Wednesday/July 1

A HEALTH CARE TOWN HALL meeting will be held by Congresswoman Betty McCollum from 6:00 to 7:30 this evening at the Highland Park Pavilion, 1270 Montreal Ave. All residents of the 4th Congressional District are invited to share their views as Congress prepares to reform the U.S. health care system.

Thursday/July 2

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will

be held during Taste of Minnesota. Bloodmobiles will be stationed at the main entrance at the Wabasha Street Bridge and Front Street from 3:00 to 8:00 this evening, and from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, July 4-5. Call 1-800-448-3543.

Friday/July 3

THE COMO TOWN amusement park at Como Park will celebrate its fifth birthday today. Free activities include family-friendly tunes with the Radio Disney AM 1440 Road Crew at noon, birthday cake at 1:00 p.m. (while supplies last), a chance to sign the Como Town birthday banner from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and a prize drawing for two tickets to the Jonas Brothers concert on July 8. Visit www.comotown.com for \$5.00 off ride ticket packages good on July 3 only or call 651-487-2121 for information.

Saturday/July 4

AN INDEPENDENCE DAY celebration will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today at historic Fort Snelling. Visitors will be able to toast the nation, enjoy a theatrical presentation, dance with the residents of the frontier fort, play historic games, watch canon salutes and hear one of the great patriotic speeches of history. Admission is \$5.00-\$10. Call 612-726-1171.

SUMMIT AVENUE WALKING TOURS

will be offered at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today and 2:00 p.m. tomorrow from the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The guided tour will include information on the people who owned and built the Victorian homes, as well as the architecture, social history and current preservation issues of the historic neighborhood. The tours will continue each weekend in July. The cost is \$6.00-\$10. Call 651-297-2555.

A FREE HISTORIC BUILDINGS TOUR

will be offered at 10:00 this morning a Fort Snelling. Participants will learn how the buildings along Highway 5 were used throughout the history of the state and nation. Meet at the ballfield parking lot on the corner of Colville and Taylor avenues. Call 612-725-2724.

Sunday/July 5

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:00 this afternoon at Sibley Plaza, 2481 W. 7th St., to carpool to 9 Mile Creek in Bloomington. Call 651-455-0052.

Monday/July 6

REFINEMENT AND CHARM will be taught to girls ages 11-13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today through Friday, July 10, at the Alexander Ramsey House 265 S. Exchange St. The program is designed for young ladies who have already attended the Ramsey Finishing School. Girls will learn



Ten-year witness against war.

Sara Nager, with purple peace sign at left, Ashley Weston, Joanna Flaten and a member of In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre were among those who gathered on June 17 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of peace vigils that have been held every Wednesday evening since 1999 on the Lake Street Bridge. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

needlework skills, bead crafts and making a proper pot of tea. The week culminates with dance cotillion. Girls will wear Victorianera costumes and create a scrapbook for sketching and journaling to take home. The cost is \$160-\$175. Call 651-296-8760.

HELP WITH JOB APPLICATIONS

and resumes will be offered from 10:30 a.m. to noon today at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The free service is sponsored by the Paul Public Library and Goodwill-Easter Seals. Call 651-695-3700.

Tuesday/July 7

A FULL MOON WALK around

the Coldwater Spring area of South Minneapolis will be held at 7:00 this evening. The spring is located south of the 54th Street parking lot off of Highway 55. Visit www.friendsofcoldwater.org.

NOOKS AND CRANNIES TOURS will

be offered at 6:00 and 7:00 this evening and on Tuesday, July 14, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Visitors will be able to explore the back staircases, dust chutes, silver vault and more on this "behind-the-scenes" tour, which will be led by a costumed interpreter. The cost is \$6.00-\$10. Call 651-297-2555.

A CONVERSATIONAL SALON will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the

held from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. The film *Dead Poet's Society* will be shown. The salon is free, but donations are requested for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

THE METRO INDEPENDENT Business Alliance will hold its monthly networking event from 7:30 to 9:30 this morning at Community Shares Minnesota, Suite 323, 1619 Dayton Ave. Call 651-647-0440.

Wednesday/July 8

THE CROSBY PARK PRAIRIE will be tended by volunteers from 6:00 to 8:00 this evening. The three-acre demonstration area includes 1,000 native prairie plants and species markers to educate and inform

visitors. Volunteers will help weed and care for the plantings and surrounding areas. Guidance, tools and gloves will be provided. Children accompanied by a parent or guardian are welcome. Call Sue Rich at 651-222-2193, extension 14.

Saturday/July 11

THE LEXINGTON-HAMLINE Garden

Shuffle will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today. Maps for the free, self-guided garden walk may be picked up at 1162 Laurel Ave. on the day of the tour. All of the gardens are located in a two-block area. Resident gardeners will be on site to share their knowledge. Call 651-646-6674.

"SHOESTRING CHIC," a Minnesota

Historical Society class on everyday fashions from the Great Depression and how creative women with limited resources crafted quilts and clothing, is offered from 10:00 a.m. to noon today at 3338 University Ave SE. in Minneapolis. Participants will also learn how to create their own hair accessories from used materials. The cost is \$10. Call 651-259-3015.

AN INTRODUCTION to the Minnesota Historical Society Library, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., will be offered at 9:15 this morning, and every Saturday year-round. The free class introduces the library's many resources for finding family history and researching term papers, as well as tips on how to use catalogs, request materials and purchase photocopies. Call 651-259-3300.

THE 11TH DAY PRAYER FOR PEACE

will be held at 6:30 this evening in the Presentation of Our Lady Chapel at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. Prayers will be said to prepare for the anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki, including a reflection by former St. Paul mayor Jim Scheibel.

MISSISSIPPI MARKET will hold a storeclosing ceremony from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon for its Highland Park location on Randolph and Fairview avenues. The public is invited to say goodbye, share memories in a special "Story Booth" and be a part of a formal moving of the peace pole ceremony at 3:00 p.m. The market will open its new natural foods co-op at 1500 W. 7th St. on Thursday, July 16. Call 651-690-0507 or visit www.msmarket.coop.

Sunday/July 12

NORWAY DAY will be celebrated from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today in Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. The 78-year-old celebration of Norwegian heritage will include food, arts and crafts booths, music, a children's parade, greetings from Minnesota dignitaries and a prize drawing. Call Shirley Evenstad at 612-861-4793.

A FAMILY PICNIC AND BARBECUE will be held by the Men's Club from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at the Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. The cost is \$7.50-\$12, with a maximum of \$35 for a family. Call 651-698-8874.

Tuesday/July 14

THE COMO-MIDWAY LA LECHE

League will meet at 7:00 this evening to discuss "The Art of Breastfeeding and Avoiding Difficulties." Current and expectant mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. For meeting location, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

LICHENS WILL BE HUNTED during a program offered from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. Join the Bell Museum's Imke Schmitt on a trek through the park in search of local lichens, which are combinations of fungi and algae. The cost is \$8.00-\$12. Call 612-624-9050.

AN OPEN DISCUSSION will take place during a conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. The salon is free, but donations are requested for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

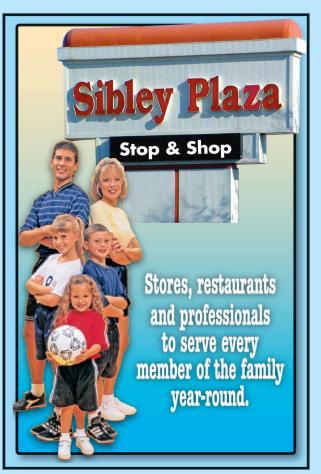
A LILY PAD PARTY will be held this evening to benefit major improvements to Lilydale Regional Park. Initial plans include creating a stone and brick gateway from Harriet Island, views of the river from Water Street and Lilydale Regional Trail, and a creek to divert water away from Water Street. The party will be held in the woodland gardens of John and Colles Larkin. Call 651-292-1229 or visit saintpaulparksconservancy.com.

A SENIORS IN MIND program will be offered at 10:30 this morning at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Broadcast journalist Cathy Wurzer promises fascinating stories about the often ignored sites, historic buildings, markers and abandoned structures she visited along Highway 61 as part of a project for a public television documentary and book "Tales of the Road" published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. Wurzer also will screen a portion of the documentary and sign books. The program is free with museum admission of \$8.00 for seniors. Call 651-259-3000.

A HAZAK GROUP TRIP to see the comedy *Is There a Doctor in the House?* will be offered at 8:00 this evening aboard the Minnesota Centennial Showboat. The cost is \$20. Call the Temple of Aaron Synagogue at 651-698-8874.









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On the Town

A sweeter Taste

New owners say they've found recipe for a better summer fest

By BILL STIEGER

The 27th annual Taste of Minnesota at Harriet Island on July 2-5 will be just a sampling of what's to come for St. Paul's long-running midsummer festival of music, food and fun, according to Andy Faris of International Entertainment Management (IEM).

Faris and IEM partners Dan Hare and Terry Moore purchased Taste of Minnesota earlier this year from the Capital City Partnership. Already they have taken steps to beef up security, expand the food offerings and improve a musical lineup that in recent years has been pockmarked with washed-up celebrities and over-the-hill rockers hoping to reclaim some of their former glory.

Last year Taste of Minnesota offered such headline acts as Badfinger, REO Speedwagon, the Zombies, the Trashmen, the Cowsills, Eddie Money and Barry Williams (aka Greg Brady of "The Brady Bunch") on its single stage. This year Taste will have two stages and such headliners as Whitesnake, Judas Priest, Bret Michaels and Elvis Costello.

"Taste of Minnesota has a great track record," said Faris, who is also the president of Minneapolis-based Zyco USA. "That's why buying the festival was attractive to us. But we had heard about some problems with Taste in recent years, so we did some research. We spoke to city officials, regular festival attendees and St. Paul Police Chief John Harrington. And we got an earful."

Faris and his partners learned that most of the complaints about recent Tastes concerned the lack of security, the shrinking variety of food choices and a drop in the quality of entertainment.

"Our research also made us realize how much people cared about the event," Faris said. "There's a solid sense of public ownership in Taste of Minnesota. People didn't want it to fail, but they had concerns."

To improve security, Taste of Minnesota has introduced an admission fee. Entrance to Taste will continue to be free before 3:00 p.m., but after that it will be \$10, or \$5.00 for those age 55 and older. However, along with their ticket, festival-goers will receive \$10 (\$5.00 for seniors) in food and beverage tickets. And children age 11 and under will be admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

"We want those who come to the festival to do so for the right reasons, not just to hang out," Faris said. "The grounds will have more secure fences and turnstiles as well."

Also new to this year's Taste are \$50 Gold Circle Tickets that along with admission to the festival include a reserved seat in front of the Main Stage for the evening shows. "The reserved seating will help us afford higher-level performers," Faris said. "But this year is just the beginning of the upgrade in our musical acts. We've overhauled the Main Stage and installed a Jumbotron. In the future we'll be booking musical entertainment with a broader range of styles."

Ron Maddox will continue to serve as the festival's general manager. A former St. Paul City Council member and co-founder of Taste of Minnesota, Maddox plans to stay on as general manager through the 2010 festival.

As straightforward, pungent and indefatigable as ever, Maddox was









Taste of Minnesota will bring such national acts to its Main Stage on Harriet Island as (clockwise from top left) Bret Michaels, Judas Priest, Kate Voegele and Elvis Costello.

not entirely satisfied with the turn that Taste has taken. "Nobody talked to me about the sale," he said. "I was never consulted. But I'm happy about the new owners. They got some good ideas."

Taste of Minnesota will have 31 food vendors this year, including such local restaurateurs as Bennett's

Chop and Railhouse, the Holy Land Deli and Dino's Gyros. "We're definitely looking to offer more choices," Faris said. "I'd like to see a lot more local restaurants represented and more ethnic food. I also wanted a Minnesota company for our beer sponsorship. We went down to New Ulm and spent a day at the August

Schell Brewery."

Schell's will be sponsoring one of the stages at Taste this year. The St. Paul Pioneer Press will be sponsoring the other.

"We're looking, in every way we can, to put a Minnesota stamp on this festival," Faris said. "It is, after all, called Taste of Minnesota."

Tweaked Taste festival maintains its Minnesota flavor

The 27th annual Taste of Minnesota August Schell Stage will return to Harriet Island on July 12:00 p.m. T. Albert Lloyd 2-5 with new owners, new admission 2:00 p.m. Rhino policies, a new state-of-the-art sound sys- 4:00 p.m. Free Fallin tem and two music stages featuring national headliners, top regional acts and a few local favorites. The festival grounds will be open daily from noon to 10:40 p.m. with 31 food vendors offering everything from falafel to funnel cakes, cheese curds to gyros, chicken wings to walleye and steak. Fireworks will light up the evening sky over the Mississippi River nightly beginning at 10:00.

The musical lineup is as follows:

THURSDAY, JULY 2

Pioneer Press Main Stage 12:30 p.m. Throw the Fight 2:30 p.m. Quietdrive

5:00 p.m. Halestorm 6:30 p.m. Chevelle 8:00 p.m. Staind

6:00 p.m. Jumbotron of Main Stage

FRIDAY, JULY 3

Pioneer Press Main Stage

12:30 p.m. The 757s 2:00 p.m. The Romantics 5:00 p.m. Pop Evil 6:00 p.m. Whitesnake 8:00 p.m. Judas Priest

August Schell Stage

12:00 p.m. Lynhurst 2:00 p.m. Kurt Jorgensen 4:00 p.m. The Big Wu 6:00 p.m. Jumbotron of Main Stage

SATURDAY, JULY 4 Pioneer Press Main Stage 12:30 p.m. Backseat Boogie Band

2:00 p.m. The Vogues

4:30 p.m. Martin Zellar & the Hardways

6:30 p.m. Kate Voegele

8:00 p.m. Elvis Costello & the Imposters

August Schell Stage

12:00 p.m. Vic Tedesco 2:00 p.m. Ipso Facto 4:00 p.m. Uncle Chunk 6:00 p.m. Jumbotron of Main Stage

SUNDAY, JULY 5

Pioneer Press Main Stage

12:30 p.m. Jason Shannon 2:00 p.m. GB Leighton 4:30 p.m. Lowrider Band 7:00 p.m. Adler's Appetite 8:30 p.m. Bret Michaels

August Schell Stage

12:00 p.m. Backseat Boogie Band 2:00 p.m. Hitchville, featuring Heidi Owens 4:00 p.m. Hairball

6:00 p.m. Jumbotron of Main Stage

Taste of Minnesota will also have a Kids-Zone with midway rides, pony rides, a petting zoo, strolling entertainers, face painting and Kidsdance with a deejay spinning records and others leading the dancing, conducting contests and distributing prizes.

Admission to Taste of Minnesota is free between noon and 3:00 p.m. daily. After that, visitors ages 12-54 will have to pay \$10 to enter, but will receive \$10 in food and beverage tickets. Adults age 55 and older will be charged \$5.00 and will receive \$5.00 in food and beverage tickets. Children age 11 and younger will be admitted free if accompanied by an adult. Gold Circle tickets, good for festival admission and a seat in front of the Main Stage for the evening acts, are available for \$50 each.

For more information on the festival, tickets, parking and the free shuttle service, visit www.tasteofmn.com.

On the Town Briefly

Books

Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave., will present free readings by the following authors: Robert M. Thorson from *Beyond Walden* at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 7; Susan Marks from *Historic Photos of Minnesota*, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 9; Julie Kramer from *Missing Mark*, 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 20. Call 651-225-8989.

The same eight poets who battled in the Grand Slam in May will compete on Monday, July 6, to determine who will represent St. Paul at the Individual World Poetry Slam Championships in October. Each wordsmith will prepare a four-minute, three-minute, two-minute and one-minute poem. The last one standing wins. The showdown begins at 8:00 p.m. at the Artists' Quarter, 408 St. Peter St. Admission is \$5.00. Call 612-207-7991.

The Central Library Book Club will discuss *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield on July 9. The club meets at 10:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the fourth floor Community Room of the library, 90 W. 4th St. Everyone is welcome. Call 651-266-7000, extension 5.

A read-a-thon for teenagers, in which they can enjoy great stories and reduce any library fines they may have at the same time, will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Thursday, July 9, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The teenagers decide what to read—books, comic books or magazines. Refreshments will be provided, and prizes will be awarded hourly. Call 651-695-3700.

Death Note, Vol. 1 by Tsugumi Ohba will be discussed by the Teens and Tweens reading group from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Thursday, July 23, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Teens and tweens are invited to read the book and join the discussion. An animated program based on the book will be shown, and refreshments will be provided. Call 651-695-3700.

The Central Library History Book Club will discuss Stephen Ambrose's *D-Day, June* 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II on July 23. The club meets at noon on the fourth Thursday of each month in the fourth floor meeting room of the library, 90 W. 4th St. Everyone is welcome. Call 651-266-7000, extension 5.



A brash producer and his pals are holed up in a Times Square hotel rehearsing what they think will be a smash hit. They had better work fast. Nineteen hungry actors keep ordering food and the bill for room service alone could close the show before it opens. Scott Keely (left), Emily Dussault and Joel Raney star in *Room Service*, a screwball comedy from the 1930s that is playing Fridays through Sundays from July 3 through August 2 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$20 with discounts for students and seniors. Call 612-333-3010. PHOTO BY ACT ONE, TOO

Exhibits

"The Graphic Art of Maestro Rufino

Tamayo," featuring 22 examples of Tamayo's works from the latter part of his career, is on view through July 10 at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery, 405 21st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. "Bohemian Revolution," renegade works by members of the University of Minnesota's Student Print Club, will also be displayed. Art historian Maria Cristina Tavera will discuss "The Exploratory Nature of Rufino Tamayo and the Fruits of his Labor" at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, at In-Flux adjacent to the Nash Gallery. Admission is free.

"Saib Kuv (See the Hmong in Me)," digitally altered photos, poetry and prose by emerging Hmong-American artists, is being displayed through July 24 in the Third Floor Gallery at Metropolitan State University, 645 E. 7th St. Call 651-999-5942.

"Minnesota Prints and Printmakers," an exhibit that showcases the period between 1900 and 1945 when fine-art printmaking became a truly American scene, is on view

through September 7 at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Admission is \$2.00. Call 651-297-2555.

"Minnesota's Greatest Generation," a 6,000-square-foot exhibit that revisits the Great Depression, World War II and the postwar boom, is on view at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and students, \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-259-3000.

"Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century," an exhibit by the International Wolf Center on the increasingly fragmented habitat for wolves in North America, is being displayed through August 23 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Wolf researcher David Mech will share his insights on wolves from noon to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 22. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for students and seniors, or free for all on Sundays from noon to 5:00 p.m. Call 612-624-7083.

"Piece Process," functional art and sculpture by Chris Ahalt, Garrett Glaser, Mike Larson,

Josie Lewis, Holly Vrieze Murray, Kyle Osvog, Chris Rand and Jason Wismar, is being displayed through August 1 at Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A Meet & Greet and Show & Tell Potluck will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 17. Call 612-728-5745.

"Titanic," a 14,000-square-foot display of more than 250 artifacts from the ill-fated ocean liner recovered from the bottom of the North Atlantic, is on view through January 3 at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Visitors are invited to assume the role of passengers, traveling back in time to April 1912 when the luxurious Titanic embarked on its maiden voyage. They will learn about the ship's construction, what life was like on board, the famous sinking and efforts to recover the wreckage. They will also witness the world's reaction to the disaster and learn of their respective passenger's fate. Tickets are \$23, \$18 for children ages 4-12 and seniors. For reservations, call 651-221-9444.

Photographs by Highland Park pediatrician Dr. Stanley Leonard that capture the natural beauty and complexity of wildlife in remote locales in Florida and Minnesota are on view through August 23 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for students and seniors, or free for all on Sundays from noon to 5:00 p.m. Call 612-624-7083.

"Nothing New," textile art by 28 local and national artists all made from recycled materials, is being displayed through August 1 at the Textile Center, 3000 University Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. Admission is free. Call 612-436-0464.

Painter, photographer and graphic designer Steven David Clark is showing his computerenhanced landscapes through August 27 at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is free.

"Intersections: Where Art and Fashion Meet," a pairing of important works of art and significant designer fashions, will be exhibited from July 11 through November 1 at the Goldstein Gallery in McNeal Hall, 1885 Buford Ave. An opening reception will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, July 10. Admission is free. Call 612-624-7434.

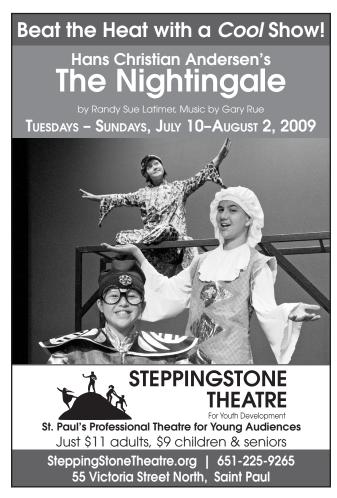
Weavers from the Bolivian highlands will

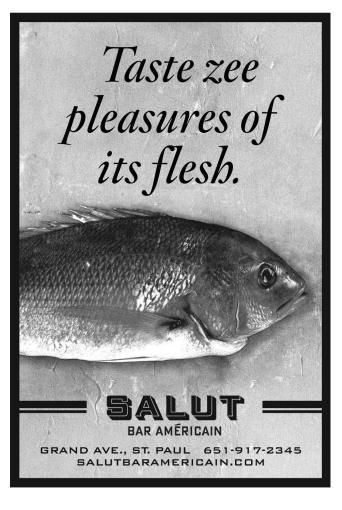


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tell stories, explain their natural dyeing techniques, and demonstrate their traditional weaving in a free program from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, July 16, at the Weavers Guild of Minnesota, 3000 University Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. The Bolivian weavers will also be selling their works. For information, call 612-436-0463.

Film

Journey 12,460 feet below the North Atlantic and view the wreckage of the world's most famous shipwreck in *Titanica*. The Imax film is being shown through January 3, 2010, in the Science Museum of Minnesota's Omnitheater. It features stunning images of the Titanic where it has rested since April 1912, when the luxury liner struck an iceberg and sank about 400 nautical miles southeast of Newfoundland. Detailed images of the wreck are juxtaposed with archival photos of the ship. Tickets are \$7.50, \$6.50 for children ages 4-12. Call 651-221-9444.

Duck Soup, the 1933 political comedy featuring Groucho, Harpo and Chico Marx, will be shown at dusk on Wednesday, July 8, outside the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Film-goers are invited to bring lawn chairs and a picnic supper. Hot dogs and soda will be sold, and the popcorn will be free. For reservations, call 651-698-0751.

The 2008 coming-of-age comedy, Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG-13), , will be shown on July 10 as part of a series of free screenings in the courtyard of St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Based on books, plays or comic strips, the four-week film series will continue with *The Maltese Falcon* on July 17. The screening will be cancelled if it rains. Call 651-222-3242.

Music

Twenty-four of the best young pianists in the world will be competing for \$25,000 and a grand piano in the 2009 Minnesota International Pianoe-Competition, scheduled from June 30 through July 7 in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The public in invited to attend any or all of the recitals. The repertoire will range from the old masters to contemporary composers. The music begins each day (but July 6) at noon and ends in the evening. For a complete schedule, visit www.piano-e-competition.com.

"Summer at Northrop," a series of free concerts from noon to 1:00 p.m. weekdays on Northrop Plaza at the University of Minnesota, will feature Glen Helgeson and the world-beat jazz of Axis Mundi on July 1; Machinery Hill, July 2; Tim Sparks and Phil Heywood, July 6; Mark Stary and Whiskey Roses, July 7; Minnesota Sinfonia, July 8; Galactic Cowboy Orchestra, July 9; Mandragora Tango Orchestra, July 13; Greg Herriges and Telluric Currents, July 14; World Superpower, July 15; and the Moss Piglets, July 16. If it rains, the concerts will be moved inside Northrop Auditorium.

No Doubt, the Grammy-winning rock band led by vocalist Gwen Stefani, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 5, at Xcel Energy Center. Special guests are Paramore and Bedouin Soundclash. Tickets at \$39.50, \$59.50 and \$80 are available at the Xcel box office or by calling Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000.



The French Bohemian sounds of Cafe Accordion Orchestra (above) will be featured on July 7 as part of "Nine Nights of Music," a series of free concerts beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays on the plaza outside the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The series will continue on July 14 with the Motown and soul of Bruce A. Henry and Friends. Instructors from Tapestry Folkdance Center will be on hand each evening to teach the dance steps. Bring a lawn chair, pack a picnic or purchase food from the Terrace Grill. Admission to the museum galleries is also free on Tuesdays. Call 651-259-3000.

Il Divo, the renowned operatic vocal quartet of David Miller, Carlos Marín, Urs Buhler and Sébastien Izambard, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, at Xcel Energy Center. Their 90-minute show will include several new songs along with repertoire off their five albums. Tickets at \$58.70, \$88.70 and \$128.70 are available at the Xcel box office or by calling Ticketmaster at 651-989-5151.

Texas singer-songwriter Carrie Elkin and Minneapolis' own Mother Banjo, both regional finalists in the 2008 Mountain Stage NewSong Contest, will perform at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, July 11, at Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave. The suggested donation from the audience is \$5.00. Call 651-645-2647.

"Mill City Live," a six-week summer concert series, will open with Twin Cities pop singer and songwriter Jeremy Messersmith on July 9, followed by indie rockers Gospel Gossip on July 16 and the indie pop of Caroline Smith and the Good Night Sleeps on July 23. Concerts in the series are held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays in the Ruin Courtyard of Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$5.00 and include admission to the museum between 4:00 and 9:00 p.m. Food and beverages by D'Amico Catering will be available for purchase. Call 612-341-7555.

Market Square Summer Concerts, a series of free outdoor shows at the Village at Mendota Heights, will continue from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 16, with jazz singer Connie Evingson and the Clearwater Hot Club.

Theater

Flower Drum Song, a new adaptation of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic by Tony Award-winner David Henry Hwang, is being performed Thursdays through Sundays through July 12 by Mu Performing Arts. A blending of American razz-ma-tazz and traditional Chinese opera, the musical is set in San Francisco's Chinatown, where a father struggles against his son's attempt to turn an old opera house into a swinging nightclub. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Ordway's McKnight

Theatre. For ticket information, call 651-224-4222.

Take a wild romp through France, compliments of the University of Minnesota Showboat Players. *Is There a Doctor in the House?*, an adaptation of Moliere's classic comedy *The Imaginary Invalid*, is being performed afternoons and evenings through August 29 aboard the Centennial Showboat docked at Harriet Island. Tickets are \$15-\$25 for the theater, or more with lunch, dinner and river cruise options. For reservations, call 651-227-1100.

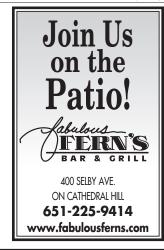
Shakespeare & Company is back for another summer of classical theater on the outdoor stage at Century College, 3300 Century Ave. N. in White Bear Lake. Running in repertory through August 2 are three comedies— Shakespeare's The Two Gentlemen of Verona and Much Ado About Nothing and Moliere's The Imaginary Invalid. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and a picnic supper. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for seniors, free for children under 12. For show dates, call 651-779-5818 or visit www. shakespeareandcompany.org.

The Skin of Our Teeth, Thornton Wilder's tribute to the invincibility of the human spirit, will open on Thursday, July 2, at the Minneapolis Theater Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave. Written in 1942, the Pulitzer Prizewinning comedy tells of a suburban American family, their maid and a host of other characters who prevail over a succession of natural and man-made catastrophes. Girl Friday Productions will present the show at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday through July 25. There is no performance on July 4, but an additional pay-what-you-will show at 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 13. Tickets are \$20 with discounts for students and seniors. Call 612-729-1071.

Family

"Creepy Crawlies," a close-up look at insects, will be offered to toddlers from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, July 2, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Learn about the miniature marvels with the help of a magnifying glass to count their legs,





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The historic John H. Stevens House Museum in Minnehaha Park, open from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays in July, will present the following free programs at 2:00 p.m. on the following dates: "The British Era in Minnesota," including Jonathan Carver's 18th-century visit with the great Chief Wabasha and Little Crow II, as told by storyteller Duke Addicks, July 5; "Native Plants as Medicine" with Jerry Foley of the Dowling Garden Group, July 12. Visit www.johnhstevenshouse.org.

Music, magic and juggling are on tap for children this summer at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. As part of the St. Paul Public Library's summer reading program, 30- to 45-minute programs will be offered by the following entertainers beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays: Bill the Juggler, July 7; magician Matt Dunn, July 9; Wendy's Wiggle, Jiggle & Jam, July 14; Half Pint and Oscar, July 16. Call 651-695-3700.

The Nightingale, Hans Christian Andersen's tale about friendship and forgiveness adapted for the stage by Randy Sue Latimer, will be performed from July 10 through August 2 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. The drama tells of a Chinese emperor and a nightingale whose song is so enchanting, the emperor thinks there is nothing more beautiful—until he is given a bejeweled mechanical bird. The poor Nightingale is practically forgotten until illness strikes the emperor. Shows

are scheduled mornings, afternoons and evenings Tuesdays through Sundays. Tickets are \$11, \$9.00 for seniors and children ages 2–17. Call 651-225-9265.

Examine a wolf skull, play a wolf game and go on a wolf scavenger hunt through the dioramas of the Bell Museum of Natural History on Saturday, July 11. The drop-in program "Wolves of the World" will run from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Bell, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors, students and children ages 3–16. Call 612-624-7083.

"Saturday Live!," free entertainment for children at 11:15 a.m. Saturdays at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., will feature the Schiffelly Puppets in "Willie Wonka and the Mystery of the Neverlasting Snobsnaucer" on July 11 and a program on insects with Bruce the Bug Guy on July 18.

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 a Wizard of Oz Storytime with Auntie Em at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 11; a publication party for *Mercy Watson: Something Wonky This Way Comes* with author Kate DiCamillo, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 18. Call 651-224-8320.

Discover lichens with Bell Museum of Natural History curator Imke Schmitt on a trek from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, in Minnehaha Park. The cost is \$12. Call 612-624-7083.

Children ages 6 to 11 are invited to explore books with a woman and her

dog on Saturday, July 18, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The "Paw Pals" team is offering free 15-minute sessions between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. To register, call 651-695-3700.

Et cetera

The North Star Morgan Americana Horse Show will be held July 2-5 at the state fairgrounds Coliseum. Performances are scheduled at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free to all but Saturday evening's show, which costs \$2.00 for children and \$5.00 for adults with the money benefiting the Westen Wood Respiratory Fund of Children's Hospitals. Visit www.northstarmorgan. com or call 651-222-3297.

Cirque du Soleil's touring production of *Kooza* will set up from July 3 through August 2 under a Grand Chapiteau at Kellogg Boulevard and Broadway Street. The comedy combines acrobatics and clowning to tell the story of the Innocent, a melancholy loner in search of his place in the world who meets up with a panoply of characters, including a king, trickster, pickpocket and tourist. Tickets are \$65-\$130, \$45.50-\$91 for children ages 2-12. Visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/kooza.

A "Doctor Who" Discussion Group will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 16, in the Hillcrest
Recreation Center Activity Room,
1978 Ford Pkwy. The group will watch
an episode of the BBC science fiction
program and then talk about it. All who
follow the good doctor and his amazing
adventures are welcome.



Sports



The Wright Call
By Dave Wright

There's another new stadium on campus

wo new football stadiums will open on Twin Cities college campuses this fall. Much has been written about the one in Minneapolis for the Golden Gophers. But the one that will be opening in St. Paul for the Golden Bears is an interesting story in itself.

It started two years ago when Concordia University athletic director Tom Rubbelke had an idea he wanted to share with Eric LaMott, the school's vice president for administration, chair of the kinesiology and health services department, and faculty representative for athletics. In addition to those titles and a full professorial load, LaMott was considered to be a voice of reason on the St. Paul campus. If he liked Rubbelke's idea, chances are he'd recommend it to president Bob Holst. And if Holst likes something, it happens.

So Rubbelke pitched LaMott on his idea of trying to raise enough money to build a football stadium on campus. LaMott's reaction? "He laughed," Rubbelke recalled.

But Rubbelke was serious. LaMott, a fair fellow, listened to Rubbelke wax eloquent on what it would mean to get football back on campus. He told him that it could kick-start plans for other athletic programs that would help Concordia contend in the tough Division II Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). Rubbelke convinced LaMott that building a stadium was the right thing to do. Holst, who might be the only college president who is a former track coach, also signed on.

The fundraising drive began. And when Sea Foam Sales ponied up with a \$5 million donation, the project was off and running.

Playing football on campus was only part of a long-term plan at Concordia that included moving the baseball and softball fields. The football field is actually located on the spot where the school's successful softball team had played for many years.

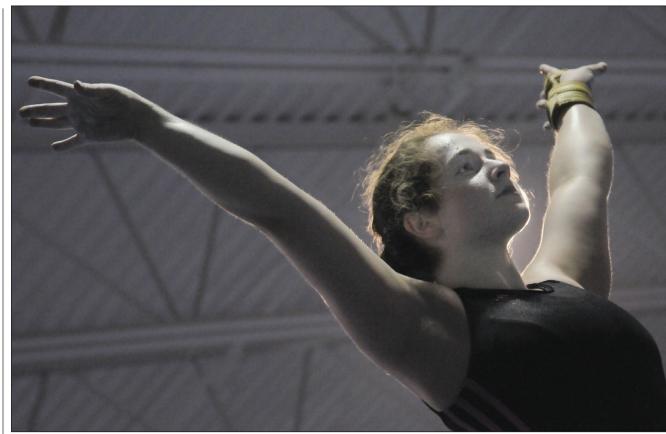
With two months remaining before the gates are due to open, Sea Foam Stadium still looks more like McMurray Field with light standards. But construction is speeding along.

"What's amazing to me is how fast this thing will come together now," Rubbelke said. "This morning they started to lay the grass for the field. Now they're telling me it will be done by July 4. An entire field laid down in two weeks. I told the guy I didn't care about the speed, but it better be a good job."

In early August, the concrete will be poured for the 2,500 seats in the main grandstand. Shortly after that, the temporary press box and bathrooms will be into place. In mid-August, the all-weather track that will circle the field will be installed. The 25-by-21-foot scoreboard will go up shortly thereafter. The 500 temporary seats that will constitute the visiting section will be the last thing added.

WRIGHT CALL ►30

(952) 435-1898



Lucy Meyer practices her balance beam routine for the 18th Maccabiah Games. Photo BY ANNE BRANDRUD

By leaps and bounds

Highland gymnast to represent U.S. at Israel games

By Brian Johnson

ucy Meyer makes a strong case that she was born to be a gymnast. The 16-year-old Highland Park resident and St. Paul Academy student's half birthday is February 29—Leap Day—and by the time she was 3 she could be found leaping and tumbling in a neighborhood gymnastics program.

"My parents put me in gymnastics because I was so energetic," she said.

Meyer has channeled that energy well. A competitive gymnast since the age of 9, she has participated in elite meets across the country in recent years, consistently turning in strong performances in the floor exercise, vault, beam and uneven bars.

Now a member of the Twin City Twisters, an elite gymnastics club, Meyer has vaulted her way to the 18th Maccabiah Games that will be held in Tel Aviv, Israel, on July 13-23. She qualified for the international competition last December with a strong showing at the U.S. team trials in Oklahoma. She was one of six gymnasts from across the country to qualify in the senior women's category.

Meyer started out the spring by winning the level 10 all-around title for seniors (16 and older) in the Rising Stars Invitational on March 21 in Oakdale. She was first on bars and beam, second on vault and fourth on floor.

She also won the all-around crown for level 10 seniors with a score of 37.575 at the Minnesota USAG State Gymnastics Championships in April. She was especially impressive in the vault, where she took first with a 9.65, but also competed well on the uneven bars (9.125), beam (9.4), and floor (9.4).

Later that month, she took fourth all-around at the Region IV championships with a combined score of 37.425, including first in the vault, third in floor and fourth in bars.

In mid-May, Meyer tuned up for the Maccabiah Games with a stellar performance at the Junior Olympic Nationals in Puyallup, Washington, where she tied for sixth in the vault and placed eighth in the all-around. (For video clips, visit simplesite.com/lucymeyer10.)

"I didn't go into it thinking I was going to place in the top 10," Meyer said of the national meet, "but I knew I'd do well

because I'd trained for it."

As sweet as that showing was, Meyer said the Minnesota meet stands out in her memory because her team won the level 10 title. "That was really exciting," she said. "And then I won the all-around. It was a really fun meet. I always do better when I have fun."

At the same time, she feeds off the pressure. "I enjoy the competition," Meyer said. "It makes me work harder. When I get there, I know that I've prepared, so I'm ready for the pressure. I thrive on it."

Meyer's father, David, said she puts in up to 35 hours a week in the gym, balancing that workload with a challenging academic schedule and family life. "It's kept her out of trouble," he said with a laugh.

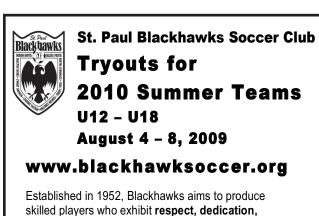
Meyer said she gets a lot of support from her family, which also includes mother Lynn and younger brother Charlie. In fact, her family will be along for the flight when she travels to the Maccabiah Games, which are held every four years in Israel. The family aims to make

LUCY MEYER ▶29



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and a passion for the game.



Down but not out, Hamline Villa goalie Bob Frank gathers himself after defending a scoring attempt in the HGRA's 35 and older league.

Seasoned soccer

Players in the HGRA's adult league are still kickin' and lovin' every minute of it

By BILL WAGNER

ompared to college soccer games, the games played in the Highland Groveland Recreation Association's premier 35 and older league are pretty much snailpaced. There are more than a few balding heads and gray beards among the players, and a liberal sprinkling of substitutions for those who have pulled a muscle or are simply too winded.

But there's something undeniably attractive about watching the Hamline Villa, Highland United, Groveland Rangers and Athletico Snelling teams, which play on the Carondelet Fields across from Cretin-Derham Hall every Sunday night from mid-May through the end of July. If you look close, the players are generally smiling from ear to ear.

"I wouldn't miss a game," said Silverio Rios, a 45-year-old printing company project manager who lives within walking distance of the fields. One of the things Rios likes best is the fact that the HGRA makes the field dimensions more user-friendly for older players. It's only 200 feet rather than he standard 300 feet between goals and the teams play seven-on-seven, or six-on-six if there aren't enough subs.

"I like it because you don't have to do as much running," said Rios, who also coaches his 8-year-old daughter in HGRA youth soccer.

Few people seem to know or care which of the four teams is currently in first place. That's because there is no scoreboard or standings. The games do have officials, however, to keep everybody honest.

"It's competitive, but it's also very friendly," said Euan Kerr, a Snelling-Hamline resident who works for Minnesota Public Radio and has taken a fancy to soccer over the rugby he once played.

Kerr said the league, which was formed in the late 1990s, has changed a mite in recent years. "It used to be that there was a European flavor to it," he said, "but now it's more bornand-bred Americans who are looking for a game."

"It's competitive, but it's also very friendly," said Euan Kerr.

Jim Imholte, 35, a Macalester-Groveland resident and director of special exhibits at the Science Museum of Minnesota, said he didn't play soccer all that much growing up, but has played on HGRA leagues for about five years

"It's very welcoming to people who haven't played, but would like to play," said Imholte, who has talked a few of his neighbors into also playing. "I try to drive the numbers to get people interested."

Rick Macpherson, 58, a South St. Anthony Park resident and attorney for Legal Aid in Minneapolis, said there is a pretty good mix of players in the older league. "A lot of people



Rod Brewer of the Groveland Rangers sends the ball flying during a Highland Groveland Recreation Association 35 and older game on the Carondelet Fields. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

have played soccer and there are others who are learning," said Macpherson, who plans to keep on playing as long as he can. "I need the exercise. I hate doing workouts by myself."

The entry fee is \$50 and games are played rain or shine, although the teams do vacate the fields if there's lightning. The games are co-ed and the program is working on trying to get more women to come out.

One woman who plays a lot is Jean Bannick, a Macalester-Groveland resident and confirmed soccer mom. Bannick played intramural soccer in high school at Benilde-St. Margaret and coached her kids in the HGRA system. She also would like to see more women in the league.

The 35 and older league has attracted more than just a scattering of former players from local colleges. One, former Macalester player Jim Weiss, just turned 50. "But we've had guys who are 60 playing here," he said.

One player with a recognizable local soccer name is Kevin Lagos, the son of Minnesota Thunder founder and former coach

Buzz Lagos.

Many players like the fact that there is minimal pressure in the 35 and older circuit. "Some people keep score and some people don't," Kerr said, "but it's a lot of fun, and you can see some good soccer played out here."

Except for an occasional contribution from local businesses, the league is entirely self-supporting. The HGRA, which has 1,400 soccer players in leagues that begin at age 5, is allowed to use the Carondelet Fields free of charge as part of a shared-use agreement between Cretin-Derham Hall and the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation. The fields, which underwent a \$1 million makeover in 1998, are named for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, who operated Derham Hall before that school merged with Cretin.

HGRA president Bill Driver said the association is grateful to the city for the use of the fields. "Every once in a while," he said, "we send a donation to Parks and Rec and say, 'Thanks for your support."

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27**⋖** LUCY MEYER

the most of their time in the Middle East.

"She said, 'If I make the team, I'm not going all the way over there without seeing the pyramids," David said. "Her mother said that if she made the team, she could go to Cairo. So we are. Most of the group is getting on a plane to fly to the states when the closing ceremonies are over. We're going to Egypt."

This fall, Meyer will be a senior at SPA. A year later, she hopes to be competing in college gymnastics and studying pre-medicine on her way to becoming a pediatric orthopedic surgeon. It is a subject she can relate to. In the spring of 2006, while competing at the elite National Training Center, she suffered a back injury that sidelined her from competition for a year. She aggressively treated the condition medically and physically.

"I had to work through it," said Meyer, who bounced back nicely in 2008 by taking first in the vault and third in the bars

at regionals and 10th in the vault at nationals, which was only her third full meet of the season.

All the hard work is paying off in a big way for the 4-foot-10½ dynamo, who lives by the motto, "It's not the size of the dog in the fight,

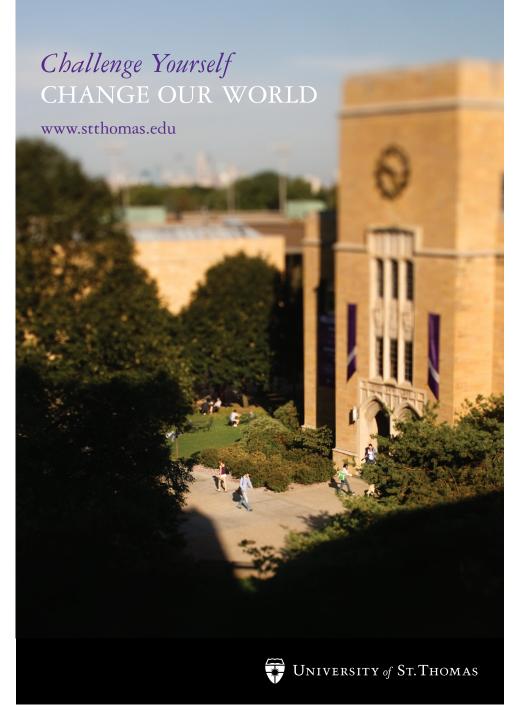


Lucy Meyer shows her power off the vault, one of her strongest events. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

but the size of the fight in the dog."

"We're very proud of her," David said. "She's persevered through quite a lot. The school she's going to isn't easy. She's still able to do her homework and maintain an 'A' average. She's an impressive little kid.

"Actually," he said, "she's a big kid now."



Sports Shorts

Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., will offer the following: jewelry making for grades K-6 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. July 13-16 (\$40); and preschool science for parent and child from 9:30-11:00 a.m. July 13-16 (\$75). A S'more Fun program for youths ages 6-12 also is being offered and features arts and crafts, gym games, swimming, field trips and more. Call Hillcrest at 651-695-3706 or visit www.stpaul.gov/parks.

Groveland Recreation Center, 2045 St. Clair Ave., will offer the following: a "Where the Wild Things Are" class for ages 3-5 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. July 20-24 (\$30); and a "Dr. Seuss is Our Muse" class for ages 3-5 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. July 20-24 (\$25). Call 651-293-8760 or visit www.stpaul.gov/parks.

PAM-o-rama Tours will be offered this summer by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. Each tour will highlight a different area. The series will continue with tours of the Gibbs Farm on July 11, a canoe trip down the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers on August 8, a bus visit to Owatonna on August 15, and walking tours of Fort Snelling's Upper Post on September 26 and St. Paul fantasy homes of the 1920s on October 10. The cost is \$15 per tour (\$22 for the Owatonna trip). Call 651-293-9047 or visit www.mnpreservation.org.

Summer youth trips are being offered by the cities of Mendota Heights, West St. Paul and South St. Paul for kids ages 6 and older, unless otherwise noted. The schedule includes a trip to the Minnesota Zoo and IMAX Theater on Thursday, July 9 (\$23); a trip to the Apple Valley Family Aquatic Center on Thursday, July 16, for those 7 and older (\$15); a trip to Valleyfair on Thursday, July 23, for those 10 and older (\$29); a trip to Cascade Bay on Thursday, July 30, for ages 8 and older (\$16); and swimming at the West St. Paul Pool from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, August 6

(\$8.00). Transportation is included, except for the West St. Paul pool. Kids should bring a bag lunch or money for concessions. Call Mendota Heights at 651-452-1850, West St. Paul at 651-552-4150 or South St. Paul at 651-306-3690.

The 2009 Freedom Cup will be held on Friday through Sunday, July 10-12, at Roy Wilkins Auditorium. The event will feature more than 200 acrobatic gymnasts from around the world in senior, junior and age-group divisions. Tickets are \$50 for an all-session pass, or \$15-25 per day, and are available at the Xcel box office and Ticketmaster locations, or may be charged by phone at 1-800-745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

"Saturday Night Nine for Nine" is being offered this summer at the Highland 9-hole Golf Course. Golfers will be able to play nine holes of golf for \$9.00 on Saturdays, with tee times from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Beer and wine will be sold at half price from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. For information, visit www.golfstpaul.org or call 651-695-3708.

Teddy VanRanst of Highland Park, David Bettenburg of Cretin-Derham Hall and Santiago Morales of Sibley were all members of the Metro East All-Star team playing in the 35th annual Lions All-Star Baseball Tournament on June 19-20 in Chaska. They were among 80 recent high school graduates selected for the four-team, round-robin tournament, which benefits the Lions Children's Eye Clinic at the University of Minnesota. Former local all-stars who made it to the major leagues include Joe Mauer of CDH in 2001.

Fall sports registration will begin Monday, July 6, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Sports offered are outdoor soccer for ages 4-14 and co-ed flag football for ages 8-10. Call 651-695-3706 or visit www.stpaul. gov/parks.



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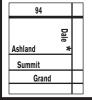
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27**⋖** WRIGHT CALL

Come early September, Sea Foam Stadium will open for business. The Golden Bears, who had been playing football in nearby Griffin Stadium for years, will officially open the new field on September 19 against Winona State. Before that, some high school games are scheduled to take place there. Soccer games also have been scheduled. Suddenly, Concordia, a school with fewer than 1,000 full-time students, has become a major player in the stadium game.

"I view it as part of the growing process of being in the Northern Sun," Rubbelke said. "This is a very competitive league. If you're going to attract players to your school, you have to have good facilities to do so."

Rubbelke thinks playing football in an 8,000-seat high school stadium, with its small locker rooms, is not as appealing as walking from your own locker room to a 3,000seat, on-campus college stadium—even when what you'll see in September is not the finished product.

"A lot of schools take two years to build a football stadium," Rubbelke said. "We're doing this in phases. It'll be better down the line, but it'll still be very good this year."

The first phase will cost \$14 million. A year or two down the road, a permanent press box, more seats and locker rooms are scheduled as part of the second phase.

Some of the drawbacks include a temporary press box this year. A decision on concessions also hasn't been finalized yet, but assistant athletic director Tom Mauer said that's not a big deal. "You can build a (concession) stand in two weeks if you have to," he said.

Rubbelke, who coached softball for two decades before becoming athletic director, remembered the last time football was played on campus. Back then, Concordia was still in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and sports weren't a big deal on campus. Now, with the Golden Bears having shown success in other sports in the NSIC, including two NCAA volleyball crowns, the time seems to have come for football to step up as well.

Hiring Mark Mauer, a well-known St. Paulite who has a 25-20 record in four seasons as head coach, was a big start. The new stadium is another. But what tickles Rubbelke the most is that 75 out of a possible 90 students are returning to play football this fall. "That's important," he said. "It tells me we're headed in the right direction."

Tom Conlon's other job also open

Tom Conlon's departure from the St. Paul School Board to become North Carolina's version of Dick Loudon leaves more than just an ideological political gap among St. Paul elected officials. It also means Central High School will be looking for a new public address announcer and scorer for its basketball games. For the last decade or so, Conlon handled the dual role for Central hoops. He took on the same position for years at Highland Park and also worked a few games at Humboldt.

"I was a student manager for basketball when I was a student at Highland," Conlon recalled. "After college, I came



Concordia University's proposed \$14.5 million, 2,500-seat Sea Foam Stadium.

back and just did the starting lineups. But people were asking me how may fouls there were so often that I just started doing all the p.a. duties. I've always enjoyed it."

He leaves town short of attaining his goal of working in a state tournament. Ever the politician, he refused to say which job gave him more pleasure. But he did drop a hint. "I'll be coming back to town a few times over the winter," he said. "Hopefully, Nate (Galloway, the Central athletic director) will save me a game or two to do."

A woman of many skills

My mother-in-law, Colleen Larkin, passed away recently at age 80. She was such a crackerjack Scrabble player that my record against her looked like the Detroit Lions' record against the Minnesota Vikings. What I didn't know was that her daughters had stopped playing her years ago. No wonder she welcomed me into the family with open arms.

A few years ago, she displayed another skill I never knew she had. My wife and I took her to a Twins game at the Metrodome. Although I knew she watched games on TV and listened on the radio, this was the first game she had attended a Twins game in person since Jack Kralick's no-hitter in 1962 at Metropolitan Stadium. I bought a program for her, but didn't think much of it. A few innings into the game, I looked over in surprise to see she was keeping a neat, perfect scorecard.

Members of the Greatest Generation never cease to amaze.

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

Run until the cows come home

The 25th annual Minnesota State Fair Milk Run is scheduled for 7:45 a.m. Sunday, August 30. The 5K race begins on Randall Avenue and winds through St. Anthony Park and the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus before finishing at the fairgrounds.

The race is limited to the first 1,500 registrants. As of June 23, a little more than 300 slots remained. The entry fee is \$20 and includes a collector T-shirt, fair admission, malt coupon and a chance to win door prizes, including an energy-efficient gift basket from Great River Energy. The deadline is July 24. Visit www.mnstatefair.org, call 651-288-4395 or e-mail msfent@mnstatefair.org.



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