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**The first bite of summer.** Shelbey Geldon and Jace Manthe juggled ice cream sandwiches while navigating the crowd that turned out on June 2 to celebrate the Grand Old Day that almost wasn't. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## District court rules city must put trash collection on ballot

BY JANE McCLURE

The future of St. Paul's organized trash collection system may be in the hands of voters. Ramsey County District Court Judge Leonardo Castro ruled on May 30 that the city must hold a referendum on the system as provided by the City Charter. That was a big win for the group St. Paul Trash, three members of which sued the city in February to force the ballot question.

Last fall St. Paul Trash collected 6,469 valid signatures on a petition asking that St. Paul residents be allowed to vote on the ordinance. Though the petition had more than the minimum number of signatures required by the City Charter for a referendum, the City Council rejected the petition, citing contractual law and state statutes on organized collection.

Castro's ruling orders the city to honor the petition and place organized trash collection on the general election ballot on November 5 or hold a special election. It also orders that organized collection be suspended as of June 30.

In a memorandum attached to his ruling, Castro scolded the city for not abiding by its own City Charter. "This court has already established that the referendum supports an important public purpose because it ensures that the constitution of St. Paul is being followed and protects voter rights," he wrote.

The ruling sparked a celebration among organized collection foes, a scramble at City Hall and pleas from

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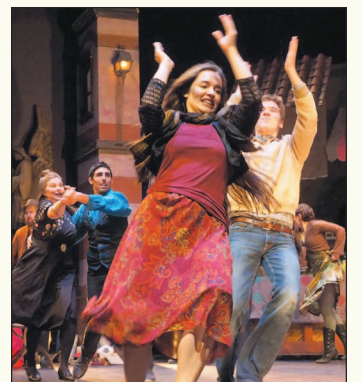


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## When GOP was progressive: A Republican remembers

Former U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger looks back at bygone era in politics

BY FRANK JOSSI

Former U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger likes to remind people of an era in Minnesota politics when Republicans saw government less as an enemy and more as an ally in helping the economy run smoothly and offering all citizens a better chance at prosperity.

In his new book, *When Republicans Were Progressive*, Durenberger and co-author Lori Sturdevant delve into an epoch of Republican liberalism in Minnesota bookended by the election of Governor Harold Stassen in 1939 and

the completion of Governor Arne Carlson's two terms in 1998.

In his forward for the book, Minnesota political scientist Norman Ornstein calls Durenberger "a particularly admirable lawmaker who worked diligently in the Senate to find ways to solve important national and state problems, from health care to climate change to foreign affairs and intelligence." The book, Ornstein writes, "reminds us that there is a different and better path that for many decades worked for Minnesota and the country. We need it back."

Dressed in a plaid shirt and employing the engaging conversational style that stood him in good stead with voters and fellow politicians alike, Durenberger, 84, reminisced about his career at a coffeeshop not far from the Summit Hill home he shares with his wife, author Susan Bartlett Foote. He recalled in great detail the pri-

orities of progressive Republicans he has known, the strategies that got them elected and the scenarios that happened or did not happen over the course of their careers.

"The real reason for writing the book was to talk about who these progressives were," Durenberger said. "The two-party system used to work just great. When you have two philosophies of government, whether it's health care, infrastructure or education or whatever it might be, you once could find practical ways to a middle ground."

Durenberger begins his excursion into Republican progressivism with a discussion of Stassen, the so-called "boy governor" who spearheaded social service reform and a labor relations act at a time of tense employer-worker relations. Repub-

DAVE DURENBERGER ▶ 3

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# City hearings resolve disputes over unpaid trash service bills

By Jane McClure

The first round of challenges to St. Paul's mandatory garbage collection program wrapped up on May 22 with mixed results for homeowners and landlords. The City Council and its legislative hearing officers reviewed hundreds of delinquent trash bills along with the explanations of the property owners who made the challenges.

Most of the property owners were ordered to pay the full amount. Some bills were reduced or late fees were removed. However, most of the reductions stemmed from billing errors. Those who refuse to pay their trash bill will have the unpaid balance added to their property tax statements.

When the legislative hearing process began in April, about 1,112 properties were assessed. Their unpaid bills totaled over \$120,000. However, many of the bills have since been paid.

Mandatory organized trash collection began in St. Paul on October 1, 2018. The owners of all single-family homes and two-, three- or four-unit apartment buildings were assigned a garbage hauler and given a choice of 35-, 64- and 96-gallon trash carts and weekly or every-other-week collection for each of their dwelling units.

While the program has been popular with those who are paying less or who enjoy the

comparative quiet of having only one garbage truck rumbling past their house each week, it has drawn protests from landlords and homeowners who generate little trash, used to share a trash cart or hauled their own trash.

Most of the disputes over unpaid trash bills were resolved before a legislative hearing officer, but seven property owners took their complaints to the City Council. City Council members had to remind the complainants that they needed to focus on their individual situation and not make complaints about organized trash collection in general. That advice was not always heeded.

Landlord Eric Lien appeared before the council on behalf of two of his properties. He owed \$297.12 for a triplex on Grand Hill and \$294.60 for a triplex on Summit Avenue. Lien said he handles all the garbage hauling from his properties himself and should not have to pay for a service he does not use. "There was zero trash picked up at my properties," he said.

City Council member Rebecca Noecker replied that the charges are not based on the amount of trash collected, but on the size of the trash cart and frequency of service. She suggested to Lien and other property owners that they reduce the size of their trash carts and consider every-other-week service to save money.

Mike Schumann lives in a duplex he owns in Ramsey Hill and rents out a third unit in



an adjacent carriage house. He was away from home during the fourth quarter of 2018, and one of his units was vacant at the same time. Legislative hearing officer Marcia Moermond reduced his trash bill from \$169.37 to \$93.58, but Schumann was not appeased. He predicted before the City Council that St. Paul Trash will prevail in its lawsuit and criticized several aspects of the city's organized collection program.

"This whole deal sucks," Schumann said. One of his objections is the city's requirement that every dwelling have its own trash cart, saying that is clogging alleys with trash and

recycling carts, many of which sit empty.

Timothy Ward, who lives in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood, said that before organized collection began, he had negotiated a three-year contract with a private garbage hauler. "It's not fair," he said. "I'm very frustrated. Our costs are almost triple what we used to pay." The City Council referred his case to a legislative hearing officer for further review.

Two West Side landlords who own adjacent multi-family buildings said they were unhappy that their properties can no longer share dumpsters as they had for many years. "This program seems incredibly beneficial for the haulers," landlord Wayne Carlson said. He wondered whether the haulers had returned the favor with donations to the City Council members' campaign funds.

Zona Butler, who owns rental properties on the West Side, asked if the city or the haulers could figure out a way to combine the trash bills for people who own multiple properties. She said that monthly bills would be easier to handle than quarterly ones.

Butler had ordered three trash carts from the city, one for each of her West Side properties. She received 10—one for each dwelling in her buildings. The city would not forgive the bills for unused carts. Butler was able to get some fees reduced for vacant units, but she was still ordered to pay more than \$275.

## 1 ORGANIZED TRASH LAWSUIT

private trash haulers for customers to wait and see what happens in the weeks ahead before requesting new trash service. Robert Stewart, whose family owns Highland Sanitation, said consortium members have been inundated with telephone calls since Castro's ruling was announced.

Stewart posted on social media: "Please don't call to set up service just yet. None of the haulers in St. Paul will be creating accounts until this has been appealed by the city and is finalized with absolute certainty."

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter announced on May 31 that the city will appeal Judge Castro's ruling. Carter, City Council president Amy Brendmoen and St. Paul Public Works director Kathy Lantry said that there will be no interruption in organized trash collection. The city has until June 30 to appeal the ruling and could seek an injunction blocking the June 30 suspension of organized collection.

"The city of St. Paul has received the ruling

on the St. Paul Trash lawsuit and is assessing the impact it has for the city and its residents," said City Attorney Lyndsey Olson in a statement. "We will continue to work with the consortium to ensure trash service continues for our 70,000 households."

Gregory Joseph, the attorney for plaintiffs Robert Clark, Peter Butler and Ann Dolan, said his clients anticipate an appeal by the city. They savored their victory nonetheless with a toast on May 30 at Tin Cup's on Rice Street. "This is a win not only for the people of St. Paul, but for the voters in charter cities across Minnesota," Joseph said.

Judge Castro wrote in his ruling, "there is no evidence in the record that the petition presented (by St. Paul Trash) in October 2018 was deficient in any way." The City Council even admitted that the petition was sufficient for a ballot question and that it was an "improper exercise of power" for the City Council to refuse to put organized collection on the November ballot, the judge stated.

In a 15-page memo attached to his ruling,

Castro disputed the city's arguments that a referendum is not allowed in this case. Castro took issue with the city's basis of contractual law and state and constitutional law in its argument, saying that state law does not pre-empt the City Charter. A referendum on organized collection, he wrote, is not "unconstitutional interference" in the city's contract with the hauler's consortium.

Castro in his memo acknowledged that his ruling will likely create an inconvenience for the city. "However, this inconvenience cannot justify the circumvention of the plain language of the City's Charter and the right of the citizens to cast a vote," he wrote.

St. Paul's new system of organized trash collection took effect in October 2018 for all single-family homes and multifamily buildings of from two to four units. The private haulers in the consortium St. Paul Haulers LLC were assigned areas of the city according to their share of the St. Paul market prior to the beginning of organized collection.

For many homeowners, the new system

has meant a reduction in costs with new options for smaller trash carts and every-other-week service. The system has been praised for greatly reducing the number of garbage trucks plying the city's alleys and streets. However, many other households saw higher costs because they no longer could share a trash cart with a neighbor or haul their own trash. St. Paul's landlords also saw higher costs with the requirement that they pay for a trash cart for each unit in their building.

Organized collection ended St. Paul's long practice of allowing residents to contract for their own trash service with a hauler of their choosing. Under that system, residents could shop around for the best deal.

The city began discussing organized collection several years ago. In the fall of 2017, the city completed negotiations with the 15 private haulers then operating in St. Paul and signed a contract. Since then, about half of the haulers have sold their market share to other members of the haulers' consortium.

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1 ◀ DAVE DURENBERGER

lican Governor Luther Youngdahl made Minnesota a national leader in treating mentally ill people in the 1950s. Governor Elmer Anderson followed with the passage of fair housing legislation and the establishment of new state parks.

Progressive Republicans hit their stride in the 1960s when a group of young Turks won seats in the Minnesota Legislature, Durenberger said, most notably Bill Frenzel, who went on to serve 10 terms in the U.S. House. The progressive wing of the Republican Party scored another victory in 1966 with the election of Governor Harold LeVander, who had one of the most consequential tenures in modern Minnesota history, according to Durenberger.

LeVander's administration helped create the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the state departments of Human Rights and Labor and Industry, the Metropolitan Sewage Commission and the state college system. The Twin Cities were growing dramatically during those years, and new agencies were needed to manage a growing list of challenges, Durenberger said. The state's response to that growth was measured, necessary and supported by both parties, according to Durenberger.

A graduate of St. John's University and the University of Minnesota Law School, Durenberger was married and the father of three children when he took a pay cut to serve as LeVander's chief of staff. When LeVander lost the governorship to DFLer Wendell Anderson in 1971, Durenberger took a job with H.B. Fuller Co. That was a difficult time in his life, both personally and professionally. His wife, Judy, had died of cancer and the political winds in Minnesota were shifting in favor of the DFL.

In the 1970s Durenberger worked on a plan for regional parks and trail systems while plotting to run for governor or another high office. When a seat in the U.S. Senate opened up in 1978 after the death of Hubert Humphrey, Durenberger saw an opportunity and handily won the special election over Democrat Bob Short.

During his 17 years in the U.S. Senate, the self-proclaimed "middle of the road" Republican witnessed the passage of health care reform and the spread of health maintenance organizations pioneered in Minnesota. He advocated new



Former U.S. Senator and now author Dave Durenberger. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

protections for the environment, inviting prominent business people to speak for more stringent regulations for clean air and water. He worked to improve the Clean Air Act and reduce acid rain. He also chaired the Senate Intelligence Committee as the Iran-Contra Scandal broke and engulfed President Ronald Reagan's second term.

It was in Durenberger's second term in office that the Republican Party began to change, he said. Though Reagan often railed against big government, he cut deals with Democrats on tax reform, immigration, Social Security and health care. However, a new cadre of Republican supporters began exerting their influence on the GOP, from talk radio hosts to anti-tax crusaders.

Progressive Republicans were becoming an endangered species as the party tilted right "because of the South, the single issue of abortion and the thing that links the two, which is the religious right," Durenberger said. Minnesota was not immune to that trend as big Republican donors set the party on a more conservative path, he added.

With 10 years in the Senate under his belt, Durenberger easily won a third term in 1988 against Democrat Hubert "Skip" Humphrey III, but trouble emerged a year later when a Senate investigation ensnared him and several

colleagues for violating Senate rules on outside income. In Durenberger's case, the violation involved reimbursement for his residence at a friend's condominium in Minneapolis. Three years of federal court proceedings followed, leading Durenberger to agree to repay the Senate \$40,000.

Despite his troubles, Durenberger continued to focus on health care and other progressive issues in the Senate, but the spirit of bipartisanship eroded through the George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations. In 1994 Durenberger decided the era of progressive Republicanism was over and he chose to step down.

Durenberger has kept busy in retirement, serving on the board of the United States of Care, which supports the expansion of health care coverage, and on the steering committee of the nonpartisan advocacy group St. Paul STRONG. He is not a fan of the Republican Party's continued tack rightward, and he believes the party's losses in all of the campaigns for Minnesota's constitutional offices since 2008 reflects voter unease with its values.

Durenberger will discuss his book in a free program beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, at Subtext Books, 6 W. Fifth St. For information, call 651-493-2791.

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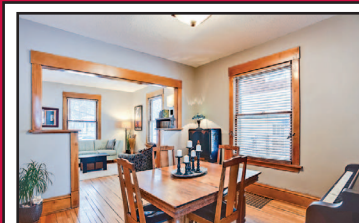
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# Carter opens city budget process with seven ward meetings

By JANE McCLURE

All over St. Paul, people are playing “the budget game.” The game is Mayor Melvin Carter’s way to involve his constituents in the preparation of the 2020 city budget.

A series of seven meetings are being held in each of the city’s wards. The first was held in Ward 3 on May 22 at Tiffany Sports Lounge. The series will conclude this week with meetings from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, June 6, in Ward 2 at Villa Del Sol, 88 Cesar Chavez St., and from 5:30-7 p.m. Monday, June 10, in Ward 5 at Tracks Bar & Grill, 1091 N. Rice St.

“We should call the budget game Misery Loves Company,” Carter joked at the opening of the meeting at Tiffany, which attracted about three dozen local residents and business people. Humor aside, the mayor said it is very helpful for his Office of Financial Services staff to hear what people have to say about the budget and any ideas they may have for adjusting it. “We get a chance to learn from you,” Carter said.

St. Paul begins every year of budget preparations with a roughly \$10 million budget gap that is largely due to inflation, according to city budget analyst Madeline Mitchell. “The majority of city expenses are

actually people,” Mitchell said, and those expenses are increasing more rapidly than city revenues, which come in the form of local government aid from the state, property taxes, city fees and outside grants.

Several people at the Ward 3 meeting said that after last year’s property tax increases, they could not bear another big tax hike from the city. “I think the format is skewed to support budget hikes,” said Highland Park resident Gary Martland. Property taxes are getting too high, he added, “and I can’t take it any more.”

St. Paul property owners were hit this year with a 10.5 percent increase in the city’s tax levy, a 4.4 percent increase in Ramsey County’s tax levy and a 7.8 percent increase in the tax levy for the county’s Regional Rail Authority. The St. Paul Public Schools increased its tax levy for 2019 by 3.9 percent, and St. Paul voters approved an \$18.6 million increase in the school district’s excess operating levy, raising the St. Paul Public Schools’ overall levy close to 16 percent. The city of St. Paul’s budget for 2019 totaled \$606 million, an increase of \$37 million or 6.5 percent from 2018.

Several people at the Ward 3 meeting offered pointed comments on poorly delivered city services and city employees slacking on the job. Mary Schaak said she is tired of



Mayor Melvin Carter opened a series of seven public meetings on the 2020 city budget on May 22 at Tiffany Sports Lounge in Highland Park.

seeing city crews that are involved in a task such as tree removal with several workers apparently doing nothing at all. She also criticized certain city expenditures, including \$300,000 for a recent alley plowing survey.

However, Schaak said her biggest objection was having to discuss city budget issues at Tiffany. “We shouldn’t be in a bar,” she said. “It’s disrespectful.”

Carter said that while he respected complaints about meeting locations, he and his staff were seeking

new ways to reach citizens by varying the times and the locations of meetings. The headquarters of a nonprofit organization, a library and a brew pub were among the budget forum settings.

“What I really appreciate is people bringing their passion to this process and sharing their ideas,” Carter said after the May 22 session. “I’m looking forward to reading the budget game sheets. I pore over every single one to see what people have to say.”

The mayor’s staff distributed bud-

get game sheets that included about a dozen suggestions for city budget additions, such as \$500,000 to \$1 million to improve snow removal and more police officers and firefighters at a cost of about \$100,000 each.

The budget game sheets provided eight suggestions for cost-cutting or revenue-raising. For example, closing three of the city’s 25 recreation centers would save about \$650,000 per year. Installing parking meters on commercial streets outside of downtown would bring in about \$750,000 per year. And increasing the property tax levy by 1.5 percent would raise an additional \$10.5 million.

The budget game sheets had two suggestions that are not completely within the city’s control. One involved voluntary payments in lieu of taxes from nonprofit organizations that own real estate in St. Paul. The other was an increase in the city’s sales tax, which would require a citywide referendum and the approval of the Minnesota Legislature.

Mayor Carter will present his 2020 city budget in August. That will be followed by several months of review by the City Council. The council will approve a maximum property tax levy for 2020 in September and a final tax levy and budget in December.

# City considering the scope of Ford redevelopment impact study

By JANE McCLURE

An upcoming study of the environmental impact of the redevelopment of Ford Motor Company’s former assembly plant in Highland Park was outlined on May 21 for the Community Development Committee of the Highland District Council (HDC).

The study, known as an alternative urban areawide review (AUAR), will look at a wide range of issues, including traffic, transportation, air quality, noise, wetlands, water resources, fish and wildlife, land use, geology, soil conditions and historic resources. Ryan Companies, the Ford site’s master developer,

will pay for the study, which will be carried out by consultants hired by the city of St. Paul. The study has an estimated cost of \$270,962, but a Metropolitan Council grant will cover \$100,000 of that amount.

The AUAR is currently in the planning stages, according to Tony Barranco, Ryan Companies’ senior vice president for development. “We’re working on the study’s phases, how everything will be put together,” he said.

The public will have two opportunities to comment on the study. The first opportunity is on the scoping, which will outline which issues are to be studied in the AUAR. The second opportunity is on the AUAR itself. Each comment period will last for 30 days. Open

houses are tentatively planned for August and September, but the city will also be accepting comments online.

The Ford development is expected to include approximately 3,800 new housing units, 150,000 square feet of retail and service businesses, and 265,000 square feet of offices. Several members of the HDC committee asked for a thorough study of the potential impact on traffic in the area. Concerns about traffic congestion on arterial streets leading to and from the Ford site have frequently been a flash point in the debate over the 122-acre development. Other concerns include disruptions in adjacent neighborhoods during construction, which could last 10 years or more.

“I think we need to be concerned about construction and wear and tear on the streets,” said Community Development Committee chair Susan Duffy. “A lot of building materials will be brought into the site.”

According to Barranco, contractors will be instructed to use designated routes to and from the Ford site. “We’ll have two years of significant earthwork to do before construction even starts,” he said, referring to the installation of utilities and the paving of new streets. “But there’s no way around the fact that it’ll be disruptive.”

The AUAR will draw on numerous studies of the Ford site that were done during the master planning process.

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# Not practicing what it preaches?

## City sued for not offering workers sick and safe time

BY JANE McCLURE

A Merriam Park high school student who worked as a lifeguard for the city of St. Paul has served a class action lawsuit against the city claiming that it had violated its own ordinance requiring all employers in St. Paul to grant their employees earned sick and safe time.

Benjamin Smith contends that the city failed to give him and other seasonal and part-time workers for the city access to paid sick and safe time when it was requested. Nor did Smith's supervisors in the Department of Parks and Recreation's Aquatics Division tell Smith that he had qualified for accrued sick leave. Smith reported for lifeguard training this season, but said he was told by city staff that because of the lawsuit he would not be employed by the city.

As of late last week, the lawsuit had not been formally filed in Ramsey County District Court. However, the 24-page class action suit could involve hundreds of the city's part-time and seasonal employees. It claims several violations, not just of the city's earned sick and safe time ordinance but also the Minnesota Whistleblower Act. The state act is intended to prevent retaliation against employees who report violations.

The lawsuit asks for more than \$50,000 in damages, attorney's fees and a full investigation of all city departments' earned sick and safe time practices.

Smith is being represented by the Merriam Park law firm of Wrobel and Smith. "It's pretty straightforward," said attorney Mark Smith, a member of the firm and Benjamin's father. "The city needs to be in compliance with its own ordinance." He said the family tried several times to resolve the case outside of court, but got nowhere.

Mark Smith emphasized that the lawsuit is not an attack against earned sick and safe time. The concern, he said, is the lack of response on the part of the city to questions about its practices and how St. Paul officials are enforcing the city's own ordinance.

At a May 22 policy session, the St.

*"The city is currently in the process of reviewing (Smith's) complaint," said City Attorney Lyndsey Olson. "After becoming aware of this matter and prior to receiving the complaint, the city initiated an investigation that is still underway."*

Paul City Council was told that proper procedures were not followed for about 80 Parks and Recreation employees in earned sick and safe time and vacation time. The names of the employees have not been released. However, the council was told that city staff are looking into the matter. That same day, several workers from fast-food restaurants in St. Paul rallied at City Hall, saying that their employers are also not following the ordinance.

"We believe in the earned sick and safe time policy in St. Paul," said Toni D. Newborn, director of the city's Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity. "We're continuing to work with all of our city departments to ensure that we're following this important ordinance and leading by example."

"The city is currently in the process of reviewing (Smith's) complaint," said City Attorney Lyndsey Olson. "After becoming aware of this matter and prior to receiving the complaint, the city initiated an investigation that is still underway."

Earned sick and safe time was approved by the City Council in 2016 to ensure that workers across St. Paul can meet their health needs and the those of their families. That same year, the council and then-Mayor Chris Coleman de-

clared that the city would be among the first employers in St. Paul to implement the practice.

Under the ordinance, employees accrue an hour of paid sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked. The employees may use that paid time off when they or a member of their family are sick or when they are in a domestic abuse situation.

The ordinance was phased in beginning July 1, 2017. Its provisions are complex and include numerous requirements, including rules about notifying employees about their rights under the ordinance. Part of the notification requirement is to let employees know how much sick and safe time they have accrued. Benjamin Smith contends that such procedures were not followed by Parks and Recreation.

Smith contends that accrued sick time was not shown on his pay stubs and that he had no way to access information about it. The complaint states that Smith's requests for that information from his supervisors were met with evasive, misleading and accusatory responses. He said he was told by one supervisor that all employees had lost their accrued sick time at the end of 2017, when in fact he was paid for that unused time at the end of that year.

Smith tried to use some sick time in 2018 on a day when he was ill. He said he was told he had not accrued enough sick time to cover a full shift. A supervisor told him that employees could not use earned sick and safe time during the year, but that the hours would be paid out at the end of the year.

Smith states in the lawsuit that he held off on filing a formal complaint in 2018 because supervisors had told him he would be paid the accrued time at the end of the year. When that pay never arrived, he filed the complaint.

Under the city ordinance, employers are not required to pay their workers for the earned sick and safe time they do not use. Employers may also decide how much of a worker's accrued sick and safe time to carry over from year to year above a certain minimum amount.

### A study of emergency care involving victims of severe brain trauma is to be performed in this area.

Regions Hospital is conducting a research study to learn if either of two strategies for monitoring and treating patients with severe traumatic brain injury in the intensive care unit (ICU) is more likely to help them get better. Because head injury is a life threatening condition requiring immediate treatment, some patients will be enrolled without consent if family member or representative is not rapidly available. Before the study starts, we will consult with the community. We welcome your feedback and questions. For more information or to decline participation in this study, please visit [boost3trial.org](http://boost3trial.org) or contact our study staff at

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# News Briefs

## Planning Commission releases design standards for Ford site

What a redeveloped Ford site will look like is taking shape. The St. Paul Planning Commission on May 31 released a set of design standards for redeveloping the former Ford Motor Company assembly plant in Highland Park. The commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed design guidelines at 8:30 a.m. Friday, June 28, at City Hall.

The May 31 release also launches a 30-day comment period on the guidelines. The Highland District Council's Community Development Committee will review the design standards on June 18. A Planning Commission committee will review all comments and public hearing testimony before making a final recommendation to the full commission. The design standards will likely be considered by the St. Paul City Council by the end of the summer. Once approved, they will become a chapter in the master plan guiding redevelopment of the 122-acre Ford site.

The Ford site design standards have been in the works for several months, according to senior city planner Mike Richardson. Since January, a focus group had discussed what buildings, infrastructure and open space at Ford should look like. The group has included city staff, LHB Design, Placemakers LLC, Forecast Public Art, and representatives of the Highland District Council and Highland Business Association.

The standards will be used by developers once the new streets and other infrastructure are installed. There are general standards as well as specific standards for each zoning district on the Ford site, including the areas along Mississippi River Boulevard, the commercial and residential districts, gateway



Construction began last month on an \$8.1 million project that will nearly double the size of Mendota Heights' only fire station at 2121 Dodd Road. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

districts, central open space and bike and pedestrian trails.

## Permit allows reuse of 1905 Ramsey Hill carriage house

A carriage house at 479 Ashland Ave. that has been vacant for several years can be reoccupied following the St. Paul Planning Commission's approval of a conditional use permit on May 31.

Reusing the carriage house will complete Kevin Greenlee's work to restore the building, which he has owned and occupied for about

1½ years. He received a conditional use permit in 2017 to convert the main house into a four-room bed and breakfast. He plans to use the carriage house as a regular or short-term rental unit.

The primary residence at 483 Ashland Ave. was built in 1900. The carriage house followed in 1905, likely with living quarters for a chauffeur. The floor has a large plate that was used to turn vehicles around, Greenlee said.

City records show that in 2011 a pipe burst in the carriage house. Permits were obtained to make repairs, but the second-story space was never reoccupied. Because it was vacant

for more than a year, a conditional use permit was needed before it could be used again.

The carriage house and bed and breakfast have adequate off-street parking, and no other changes were needed because the property is zoned for multifamily use.

Neighbors supported the conditional use permit and city staff recommended approval.

## \$200,000 city loan to help pay Keg and Case project overrun

The St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board, has approved a \$200,000 loan to Schmidt Keg House Holding LLC to help pay for the \$10.4 million project that turned a warehouse at the historic Schmidt Brewery into the Keg and Case Market at 928 West Seventh St.

City Council members and Bruce Corrie, the director of the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development, praised the market, which has won national recognition as a food hall with over two dozen unique vendors and an outdoor event space.

The redevelopment project came in at about \$500,000 over budget, largely due to the high costs of historic rehabilitation and the abatement of hazardous materials. The development team, led by Craig Cohen, has covered about \$300,000 of the cost overrun. The city will cover the rest with funds drawn from a business assistance loan program.

Loan repayment will be deferred through the end of the historic tax credit compliance period in 2024. It is also possible that interest on the loan will be forgiven with the developer's participation in one of the city's Cultural

NEWS BRIEFS ►7



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# Alatus discusses plans for mixed-use building near Lexington-University

By JANE McCLURE

Redevelopment of a long-vacant site at 411-417 N. Lexington Pkwy. needs to be done in a way that provides affordable housing, business opportunities and an east-west bicycle connection.

Those were themes that emerged on May 20 when Minneapolis-based Alatus met with more than 30 local residents to discuss its plans to construct a six-story, mixed-use building on the 2.05-acre site.

The meeting was hosted by the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Land Use Committee. The district council has reviewed several housing developments recently, but all have been for market-rate or luxury units. Many of the people at the May 20 meeting pushed for more affordable housing and larger units that families can occupy.

Chris Osmundson of Alatus said the development team is interested in hearing what the public wants at the site, which is just south of TCF Bank and White Castle. He said the ideas brought forward on May 20 will influence the development plans as they move ahead.

The site has been vacant for more than two decades and was occupied this winter by a giant snow pile. It is owned by the Wilder Foundation, whose headquarters are just to the northwest. A new building would complete the southeast corner of the site, which

was once occupied by Lexington Park baseball stadium, the home of the original St. Paul Saints.

Alatus' ideas for the site include first-floor commercial space with five floors of apartments above. About 250 housing units and an undetermined amount of structured parking spaces are proposed. Rental rates have not been determined.

The property is zoned for Traditional Neighborhoods 4. It is one of the densest zoning categories outside of downtown St. Paul and allows building heights of up to 75 feet. Additional height is only allowed through a conditional use permitting process.

Osmundson said the property is appealing for its proximity to the light-rail Green Line and several bus routes. The city also has plans for an east-west bike route that would connect Fuller Avenue to the Midway Peace Park being developed on Griggs Street.

Some Frogtown and Summit-University residents attending the meeting said they were worried about the additional traffic and parking that the project could bring.

"Are you seriously looking at 250 units with all that's going on at this intersection?" asked Debbie Montgomery, a former City Council member who lives in Summit-University. She said that stretch of Lexington already carries about 26,000 vehicles per day.

## 6 NEWS BRIEFS

Destination Area projects.

The keg house was built in 1937 as an expansion of the Jacob Schmidt Brewery. Schmidt Keg House Holding LLC acquired the long-vacant and deteriorated structure in 2015 and redeveloped it according to St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission and State Historic Preservation Commission standards. The food hall opened in September with about two dozen shops.

## City considers encouraging an increase in homeless shelters

The growing number of homeless people in St. Paul has prompted the city's Planning Commission to conduct a study of zoning changes to accommodate more overnight shelters. The Planning Commission released the study on May 31 and will hold a public hearing on the proposed zoning changes at 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 23.

The study examines whether to rezone more areas of downtown to permit overnight shelters. New requirements, such as a minimum 600-foot distance between homeless facilities, will be considered. The reason downtown alone is being studied is because that is where mass transit, social services and various food services for homeless people are located, according to city planner Bill Dermody.

The growing incidence of homelessness in the Twin Cities has led to an increase of people seeking temporary shelter in skyways and on Metro Transit's Green and Blue Lines. Those are not appropriate places for people to be sheltered, Dermody said.

The study was requested by the St. Paul City Council, which recently voted to extend a 64-bed shelter for homeless people in the Ramsey County Government Center East on Kellogg Boulevard from winter to year-round use.

## City Council lays over vote on right-of-way assessments

Saying that more time was needed to consider the propriety of new city assessments for street mill and overlay work in St. Paul, the City Council has laid over a decision on the matter until June 5. The layover is the third for the assessments, which have been levied for projects on Victoria Street, Stryker Avenue,

Arlington Avenue and Forest Street.

Several homeowners, including a group on Victoria Street in Summit Hill, have objected to the assessments, which they consider too steep. They have contested individual bills that range from \$1,200 to more than \$8,000 for the mill and overlay work on the street in front of or beside their homes. For example, the \$366,705 mill and overlay project on Victoria Street between Summit and St. Clair avenues was paid for by the city with the help of \$99,722.65 in assessments on 33 private properties.

The layover comes as the city and a group of St. Paul property owners await a ruling by Ramsey County District Judge Robyn Milenacker on the latest challenge to the city's right-of-way maintenance assessment policies. The policies were revised in 2017 following a successful lawsuit by two downtown churches that challenged the constitutionality of the street maintenance charges that were being assessed on all St. Paul properties, tax-exempt or not.

A ruling on the revised right-of-way maintenance assessments is expected soon, according to John Hoeschler, an attorney for the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

The costs for mill and overlay and seal-coating work on St. Paul's streets used to be spread citywide, but beginning in 2018 more of the costs have been borne by the owners of abutting properties.

## Corps seeks public comments on master plan for Mississippi

The St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is revising its Upper Mississippi River Master Plan and is seeking public comments on it. The plan is intended to serve as a blueprint for how the corps' federal lands are managed for recreation and environmental stewardship for years to come. The current plan was approved in 1988 and was supplemented in 2011.

The existing plan, an interactive map and an online comment form can be found at [tinyurl.com/y539y5us](http://tinyurl.com/y539y5us). Comments also can be emailed to [UMRMasterPlan2019@usace.army.mil](mailto:UMRMasterPlan2019@usace.army.mil). A public meeting on the plan will be held at a date still to be determined.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and John Wadell.

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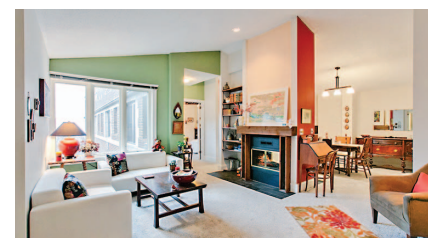
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# Viewpoint

## Licensed or not, illegal immigrants help drive our economy

BY ANNE ATTEA

As someone who has worked with the local Latino community for the past 21 years, first as director of Latino ministry for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and then as coordinator of Latino ministry at the Church of the Ascension in North Minneapolis, I respectfully disagree with Andrew Cilek that granting driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants is disrespectful to our laws (*Villager Viewpoint*, May 8). I wish to illuminate the humanity of people without documents and to dispel some of the myths surrounding immigrants.

Josefina, Eduardo, Attilia and many others from Latin America and Africa staff our restaurants, nursing homes, meat packing plants, farms and construction and landscaping businesses. They clean our big box stores, office buildings, skyways and hotel rooms. They replace our roofs and repair our roads. Virtually every business sector in Minnesota relies on immigrant

workers. Documented or not, we are human beings first.

Regardless of what immigrants are doing to contribute to the quality of life in our state, first and foremost, I believe—and my faith teaches—that every human being is a child of God. Every one of us is born with inherent dignity and deserving of welcome, protection, promotion and integration in society. The immigrants I know and have had the honor to live and work with are hard-working, loving family members. Most did not choose to come here, but felt they had no other option, fleeing poverty or violence in their home countries.

Mr. Cilek asserts that giving access to driver's licenses to undocumented individuals rewards them for breaking the law. I have personally witnessed how the

law breaks them. Our economy demands that immigrant workers do many low-paying and back-breaking jobs. The Internal Revenue Service openly provides workers without a Social Security number with an Individual Tax Identification Number so

they can pay taxes but are ineligible to receive refunds. The IRS does not share this information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Nationally, we all reap the benefits of undocumented workers' contributions, which include over \$11 billion in state and local taxes and approximately \$3 billion in Medicare funds each year. Numerous sources, including the chief actuary of the Social Security Administration, estimate that undocumented workers' annual contributions to Social Security amount to at least \$12 billion.

In no way does Minnesota House File 1500 offer amnesty to undocumented immigrants or provide any protection in immigration proceedings; only federal comprehensive immigration reform can do that. Instead, HF-1500 offers a driver's license to people who can pass a driving test and gives the individual the ability to buy car insurance and to travel more securely to and from work, school, appointments and church. Ultimately, the bill, which has garnered broad-based support from the state Department of Public Safety, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce as well as labor and religious groups, offers safer roads and communities for all Minnesotans.

I hope and pray Minnesota joins the 12 other states in our nation that offer driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants. These are states that see all of their residents as human beings, acknowledge immigrants' many contributions and their courage in choosing life over death.

Anne Attea is a resident of St. Paul's West End.

*We all reap the benefits of undocumented workers' contributions, which include over \$11 billion in state and local taxes and approximately \$3 billion in Medicare funds each year.*

## Inbox

### Dismayed by direction of city

I am truly dismayed with what I hear and read these days. The city of St. Paul is now considering a parking ban on Summit Avenue for bike lane cleaning and snow removal (*Villager*, May 22). Isn't the city assessing property owners to fix streets? We're the ones who already pay the taxes for the city to do this. Let's tax or charge a toll on all bicyclists to pay for bike lane cleaning. Yes, bicyclists have a right, but so do motorists and property owners and taxpayers.

Or better yet, let's elect new city representatives to stop the madness. Our representatives should be using our already too high taxes to do what they promised to do decades ago. Stop spending money that doesn't exist.

Kathy Voss  
Lexington-Hamline

### Trashing small businesses

I am saddened to see Ken Berquist and Sons Disposal go out of business. They have served our family well for 40 years. I wish them well.

St. Paul's new trash collection service is for the birds. It appears that our City Council and city administrators do not care about small mom-and-pop businesses. Take a look at the empty shops on Grand Avenue. We need our representatives and administrators to deal with real-life issues (potholes, etc.) and not be running after lofty ideas that they think make them look good but leave us short.

Judy Schultz  
Summit Hill

### A step backward in city service

I have lived in St. Paul since 1972. For many years, I have had the utmost respect for the way the city has been run. As of late, that has changed. I believe that forcing people to pay for services that are unnecessary or unwanted is a form of extortion.

Regarding St. Paul's mandatory garbage collection service, I have not had a residential container since the week after it was first dropped off. I notified City Council member Rebecca Noecker's office that I did not want a container, and I dropped it off at the Fort Road Federation office. I have been billed for trash pickup since last October from a company out of Chicago. I do not need this service, and I will not willingly pay for it. If you feel the need to extort money from me through my property taxes, then do so, but stop harassing me with bills and invoices.

I believe, Mr. Mayor and City Council members, that small businesses are the backbone of St. Paul. I am a small-business owner with trash service at my place of business, and that is



where I have disposed of my one bag of residential trash for the last 19 years. If St. Paul's leaders are forcing this service on me and others, then they have taken a step backward in serving the residents of this great city.

Steven VandeWater  
West End

*Editor's note: The writer is the owner of JS Bean Factory in Highland Park.*

### The quiet of organized trash

I see letters to the editor from a lot of people angry about the new organized garbage collection system. I would like to present an alternative view. I am thrilled to be able to sit on my screen porch six days out of seven without the incessant whine-slam-crunch of multiple garbage trucks traversing my alley. Now, if we could just get rid of those pesky gas-powered leaf blowers.

Ron Pearson  
Highland Park

### Road salt is poisoning our water

Recently, a very important issue has come to the attention of my science class: Road salt is killing our ecosystems.

Road salt is not only affecting Minnesota. When the salt is dumped into the rivers, it also affects the drinking water and plumbing in other states. Other states shouldn't have to pay for our mistakes, especially when we can fix them.

In a recent study, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences investigated the long-term chloride impacts in 371 freshwater lakes in North America. The study showed that chloride concentration had risen by more than a third. We need to keep our freshwater lakes clean because they contribute to our drinking water and recreational areas.

Another reason we should be more aware of the issue of road salt is because it affects all of the animals that live in the water and by its banks. When they eat the fish or drink the water, they are also ingesting road salt, which can be deadly.

There are many alternatives to road salt. Sand, kitty litter and coffee grounds are safe and affordable alternatives. Also, if everyone used the same type of salt, the effects on

8 ◀ INBOX

the environment wouldn't be so large. We strongly feel that if more people knew about the alternatives, more people would use them.

*Summer Kaeppe, Susie Swanholm, Sarah Weber  
Freshmen, Visitation School*

## Memories of Ramsey Hill

I want to let you know how much I enjoyed the story about the rebirth of Ramsey Hill (*Villager*, May 8). I have fond memories of 275 Summit Ave. It was my first home in St. Paul. After graduating from high school, I came to the city to work and attend the University of Minnesota. I rented a room on the third floor and later on the second floor and used the community kitchen on the third floor.

Coming from a small town, it was a very different experience for me. The owners of the house, Howard and Helen Sullivan, were very good to me, even making me breakfast. I grew to really like the Ramsey Hill area and have many memories of the people who lived at 275 Summit and in the surrounding area.

In 1959 I went into the Army, and left the Summit-University neighborhood until the early 1970s when we rented a house at 770 Hague Ave. while we were having another house built. I recall several times having "johns" knock on our door looking for "love." I also remember my insurance agent telling me my car insurance would be more expensive while I was living in a "grey" area.

Now when I drive by there and see how it and the neighborhood have changed, I'm so happy for those young couples and people with money who had the foresight to restore the Ramsey Hill area to its former glory. They performed a wonderful service for the city.

*Bill Baumgarten  
Maplewood*

## Holding vaccine makers accountable

The Vaccine Safety Council of Minnesota and state legislators held a press conference in mid-May to discuss a bipartisan resolution asking "the president and Congress to hold vaccine manufacturers liable for design defects that result in adverse side effects."

Representative Jeremy Munson (R-Lake Crystal) kicked off the conference by explaining the backstory of Vaccine Court. In 1986 seven vaccines were routinely administered to American children. There were so many catastrophic injuries caused by the schedule that some vaccine manufacturers threatened to stop producing vaccines due to the large damage rewards they were being ordered to pay when people were injured or killed. The pharmaceutical industry lobbied Congress to pass the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act. This law established a program to compensate those killed or harmed by vaccines.

Since the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 went into effect in 1988, vaccine manufacturers have been the only industry in this country to be completely shielded from liability. The U.S. Court of Claims has awarded over \$4 billion to vaccine victims for their injuries and death, even though two out of three applicants have been denied compensation.

Minnesota attorney Randy Knutson spoke at the press conference. Earlier this month, Knutson won a \$2.49 million award for a client who had contracted transverse myelitis as a result of a flu vaccination. The client suffered paralysis, loss of vision and other injuries. Knutson, who handles anywhere from 35 to 50 vaccine injury cases at

a time, said Vaccine Court is pretty much "secret court" since so few know about it. He added that many of the people he represents die of their injuries before they get to compensation. "Because the vaccine manufacturers cannot be sued, there is no motivation for them to test (their vaccines) for safety," Knutson said.

Dr. Sarah Bridges, a neuropsychologist and mother of six from Minneapolis, agreed. "We are one of the cases in which the government has acknowledged that a vaccine caused my son's brain damage and autism," she said. "The American people need to understand that the pharmaceutical industry has total blanket immunity to lawsuits. They have no incentive to study or improve safety. If your child is injured by a vaccine, you cannot sue in the American court system. You are sent to Vaccine Court."

"If vaccines are safe and everyone believes that they don't cause injury or can't, then there should be no problem with allowing people to have civil cases against vaccine manufacturers," Munson said.

*Kristin Heinmets  
Highland Park*

## A war on children

During the recent protests against legislation aimed at protecting unborn children, women held signs that read, "Stop the war on women." That message would be laughable if it weren't so sad. "Stop the war on the unborn" is more accurate. A nearly 50-year war on American soil has deprived more than 60 million unborn children of their right to life.

*Ann Redding, President  
Christian Action League of Minnesota*

## Immigrants enrich our state

The anti-immigrant stance expressed in a recent guest editorial ("Licensing illegals lays waste to respect for law," *Villager* Viewpoint, May 8) does a disservice to St. Paul and Minnesota. Each of us benefits directly from the contributions of immigrants. We can only be enriched by encouraging immigration and welcoming immigrants to our communities.

Today, about one St. Paul resident in five is an immigrant, born in some other country and now calling St. Paul home. They are doctors in our hospitals, home health aides who help seniors stay in their own homes, roofers, painters, engineers and judges. They are fellow Minnesotans and frequently fellow U.S. citizens. Nearly half of all immigrants living in this country have become U.S. citizens.

Past immigrants built and enriched Minnesota and St. Paul, and immigrants continue to do so today. My Norwegian grandfather immigrated here and then went back to Norway to bring my grandmother here. The current administration calls that chain migration and is trying to end it. We called it family and still do. Family-based immigration has always been an essential foundation of our immigration laws. We need to value family migration, not limit it.

My Norwegian grandfather came to Minnesota and started a lumber business in Brainerd. In 2014, Minnesota had 18 Fortune 500 companies, and almost 40 percent were founded by an immigrant or the child of an immigrant. That includes 3M, Medtronic, Hormel Foods and Thrivent Financial. Today's immigrants continue that entrepreneurial tradition. On the West Side, El Burrito Mercado has grown from an 800-square-foot market some 40 years ago to today's market, two restaurants, food truck and packaged food company. University Avenue is lined with vibrant immigrant businesses:

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# VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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9◀ INBOX

doctors, lawyers, restaurants, grocery stores and more. Across the city and across the state, immigrants start new businesses at a greater rate than native-born citizens. This immigrant energy and entrepreneurship enriches all of us.

Immigrant workers contribute to Minnesota's economy and strengthen our tax base. Without them, Minnesota and St. Paul would shrink. With them, we can continue to grow and prosper.

**Bill Mahlum**  
Summit-University

*Editor's note: The writer is the founder of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota.*

### The cruelty of animal testing

Imagine sitting in a small, cramped, metal cage awaiting the next experiment to be performed on you. You have no control over when you eat or when you sleep. At any moment, you could be poked, prodded, burned or injected. This is what millions of animals feel every day because of animal testing. In the end, many animals end up dying after suffering a painful life of being experimented on.

Animal testing is inhumane. There are alternatives, but people do it anyway. Sometimes, animal testing is necessary, but it should be limited when it's not. Animals feel pain while being tested as much as a person would. They should not be tested for the same reasons humans are not forcibly tested.

Animals that are experimented on are blinded, addicted to drugs, burned, injected with lethal diseases and forced to inhale toxic substances. In 2016 the USDA reported that close to 71,000 animals suffered pain through experiments while being given no anesthesia. They are used as tools in a science lab and are not treated as living creatures.

Animal testing is not always effective. Drugs might work on certain animals, but they may have a different effect on humans. Some will argue that the benefits of animal testing outweigh the harm done to the animals, but the Food and Drug Administration reports that 92 out of 100 drugs tested on animals were ineffective on humans. Some alternatives to animal testing include computer modeling or testing on human volunteers, human cells or tissue samples. There is evidence that testing on cell and tissue samples or in vitro techniques can come up with faster, more precise and more relevant results.

Animal testing facilities produce a large amount of waste. In 2011, just 13 animal testing facilities produced 700 tons of waste. Testing also contributes to air and water pollution. Groundwater can become contaminated from the drugs and toxins the animals are tested with. Every year, an estimated 115 million animals die from animal testing, and they're disposed of as toxic or potentially toxic waste.

**Hana Rottach**  
Prospect Park, Minneapolis

*Editor's note: The writer is an 8th-grader at Friends School of Minnesota.*

### A respite from the crowded city

As I was out and about over Memorial Day weekend, I reveled in the lack of congestion in the streets, the quiet, not having to wait in line for anything. I love these long weekends in town when, I'm guessing, one quarter to one third of the population makes its periodic exodus to lake homes or campsites, leaving the town a very pleasurable place to be.

In 1970 my husband and I read *The Population Bomb* by Paul Ehrlich on the coming problems that would arise from geometric population growth: overcrowding, scarcity of resources, rising prices, wars for territory and resources, a dying off of species. Our backgrounds in science convinced us that Ehrlich was right, and before we had been married two years we took steps not to have any children. It was our gift to the planet. We figured it was the single most significant thing we could do.

That was back when people routinely asked, "How many children do you have?" When we told people our family was complete with no children, we were told how selfish we were, which we could never figure out, as we were paying for a public school system that we weren't using. We and like-minded people were active in a local branch of the National Organization for Non-Parents to give each other moral support against the onslaught of criticism.

Well and truly, the chickens are coming home to roost, just as Ehrlich predicted. I see the degradation of our planet and the dying off of species, hoping the planet will last for another 30 years because I don't have any kids who'll suffer the consequences beyond that. When I walk through the neighborhoods around me, I sometimes daydream about what it would be like if only every other house were on the blocks and there were no unaffordable six-story high-rises

being crammed onto every corner where something of a much smaller scale once stood.

I truly believe we'd all be calmer and more social given a little more space and that with less crowding there would be less violence.

**Kathleen Deming**  
Macalester-Groveland

### Video games strengthen brain

I am writing regarding the effects of video games on a developing human brain. While video games were originally intended to entertain, their intent has grown and is now to also help us develop our skills and intelligence. Even though I play video games solely for amusement, studies have shown that subconsciously video games help with our skill development, mental health and intelligence. Now, more than ever, is a crucial time to support the expansion of video game use across the globe.

A frequently heard argument is that violent video games can cause developing brains to lash out in an aggressive manner. However, a study by Oxford University found no correlation between teenagers playing video games and the level of real-world violence they caused. According to professor Andrew Przybylski, an experimental psychologist and director of research for the Oxford Internet Institute, "the idea that violent video games drive real-world aggression is a popular one, but it hasn't tested very well over time....The research has not demonstrated there is cause for concern."

Another argument that most people use against video games is that they make you dumber, when in fact studies have shown that this claim is inaccurate. Philip Zimbardo, the lead psychologist behind the well-known Stanford Prison Experiment, found from fMRI scans that video games strengthen our fluid intelligence, which is our ability to take in and absorb new information. In his book, *Everything Bad Is Good For You*, Steven Johnson writes that gamers learn to "telescope," meaning they can keep in mind long-term goals and focus on current problems simultaneously.

The limit or removal of video games would just put a restraint on human abilities to grow mentally. Video games have led to many discoveries, and without them our brains would not function at the same capacity they do now.

**Carlos Leatherman**, Eighth Grade  
St. Paul Academy and Summit School



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# Friends of river oppose senior housing plan along Lilydale bluffs

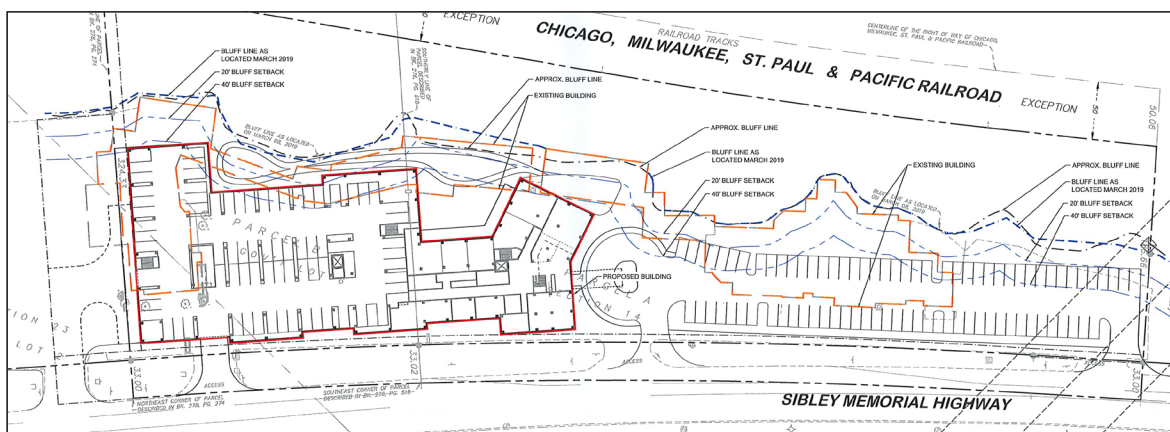
BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

The Opus Group's plan to build a five-story senior apartment complex on the site of the vacant River Bluffs Center on Highway 13 in Lilydale is drawing fire from Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) regarding the proposed height of the project due to its proximity to the river bluff.

The strip mall property, which was once home to Moose Country Whiskey & Food and about 16 small shops, has sat dormant for nearly a year after an initial prospective sale fell through. Opus signed a purchase agreement for the 5.66-acre property with owners Joe and Linda Schaefer last December.

Opus is proposing a planned unit development (PUD) for an approximately 150-unit River Bluffs Senior Housing complex. The project would include a mix of independent, assisted-living and memory care units, along with a restaurant, bistro, spa, fitness center and community spaces. Ebenezer Homes would manage the facility.

The Lilydale Planning Commission met on May 22 to discuss the project, but laid the matter over



The Opus Group is proposing a five-story senior apartment complex (outlined in red) on the site of the vacant River Bluffs Center (outlined in orange above and pictured at top) on Highway 13 in Lilydale.

until at least June 12 after hearing concerns raised by FMR regarding several zoning variances that the group says will threaten the ecological health of the river.

“Opus asked for variances on the height of the building, setbacks on both the river side and the Highway 13 side of the building and for storm water management techniques,” said Colleen O’Connor Toberman, river corridor program director for FMR. “The law allows for 35 foot heights with a maximum variance of 50 feet. Opus wants to build to 56 feet. That’s too high because, by their own schematics, the building

could be seen above the tree line from various angles.”

Phil Carlson, an independent planner hired by Lilydale, said the site poses significant obstacles to development due to bedrock prohibiting underground parking and the parcel’s narrow dimensions.

“Consideration of variances to height and setbacks is reasonable,” he wrote in a letter to the Planning Commission. “The proposed height of 56 feet is reasonable and necessary given these conditions.”

The minimum setback from the river bluff is 40 feet, O’Connor Toberman said. “In some places in

its plan, Opus has setbacks of just 18 feet on the river side and 14 feet on the highway side,” she said. “The river side is far too close, especially since it’s in the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area.”

Carlson said the proposed plan reduces encroachment to the river bluff by more than 60 percent compared to the structures that are there now. The overall impervious coverage of the property will also be reduced by about 25 percent.

O’Connor Toberman called the proposed stormwater management plan “inadequate” and said it would have water flowing under the build-

ing and discharging over the bluff into the river. She suggested that Opus use the drainage culvert already in place on Highway 13.

FMR executive director Whitney Clark wrote in a letter to Lilydale officials that the proposed building places the river bluff at risk of degradation. “We urge the city to deny Opus’ concept plan and its request for a PUD,” he wrote. “Lilydale deserves development that respects its tremendous riverfront assets and this project fails to do so.”

That is not to say there is nothing Opus can do to change FMR’s mind. “We’re just hoping that the Planning Commission and City Council take a hard look at any final design to preserve the recreational and ecological values of the Mississippi River,” O’Connor Toberman said.

The Schaefers had owned Moose Country since 1984 (it was originally called Pony’s). They bought the former Diamond Jim’s Mall in 2004 and renamed it River Bluffs Center.

Early last year the couple announced plans to sell the site to Tim Nichols and Lifestyle Communities LLC for a senior housing complex. All of the tenants were told to evacuate. Opus took over after Lifestyle pulled out.

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The main entrance at Central Baptist Church, 420 N. Roy St., shown here while celebrating its 125th anniversary last year. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Central Baptist to raze two houses for new parking lot

By JANE MCCLURE

Two Roy Street houses will be torn down to make way for a new parking lot as a result of a 5-0 vote by the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals on May 20. The BZA approved several variances for the project at the request of Central Baptist Church, 420 N. Roy St., and over the objections of a neighbor who does not want to see the houses torn down.

"I understand the desire to not lose housing," said BZA member Joyce Maddox. "But there is also a need for parking."

The houses at 400 and 396 N. Roy St. are owned by the church and have been used over the years by people with connections to the church. Central Baptist has a handful of parking spaces along the alley between Fry Street and Snelling Avenue. It has also shared parking spaces at the nearby Bremer Bank. However, a six-story, 152-unit apartment building is now being planned for the Bremer Bank site. Wellington Management is expected to break ground on the mixed-use development later this year.

"The loss of the Bremer parking spaces is going to be a hardship for us," said the Reverend Joel Lawrence, senior pastor at Central Baptist. The church needs parking throughout the week, but demand is heaviest on Sundays, he added. The church has about 300

members who can also use the Spruce Tree Center parking ramp a block away, but that is too far for some elderly members to walk, according to Lawrence.

City staff and the Union Park District Council recommended approval of the variances. The project also received two letters of support, one from Spruce Tree Center and another from a neighbor.

According to Scott Reiter, who lives across Roy Street from the church and the planned parking lot, the neighborhood has dealt with spillover parking from Central Baptist and nearby Bethlehem Lutheran Church for years. He does not believe that the 43-space parking lot will have much of an effect. The parking lot will be a "big fat eyesore," he said, and will negatively affect his family's property value. "To lay waste to houses on the block to create a parking lot isn't the right decision," he added.

Central Baptist needed two variances for the parking lot just south of the church. One was for a 4.7-foot setback from the Roy Street right-of-way, and a second was for a 4.6-foot setback from the adjoining property line.

Lawrence said his congregation is interested in acquiring other homes in the area to accommodate church workers, interns and others who have occupied the two homes that are being torn down.



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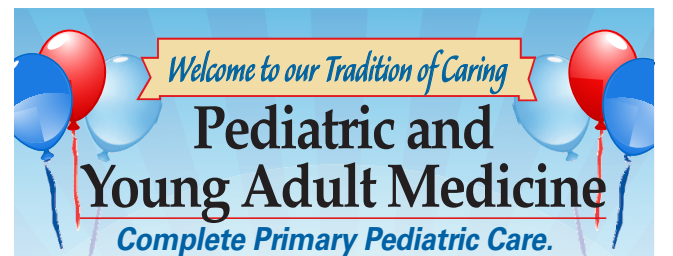


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# Crime Report

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

## Highland Park

**Shooting**—A woman was shot in the upper back at 3:18 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, on the 500 block of South Lexington Parkway. She was taken to the hospital with injuries that were serious, but not life-threatening.

**Robbery**—A boy was assaulted and robbed of his cellphone by three males who stated they had a gun at 3:35 p.m. Friday, May 24, outside the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

**Burglary**—Residential burglaries were reported on the 1300 block of St. Paul Avenue on May 17-23, on the 2100 block of Eleanor Avenue on May 20 and on the 2100 block of Niles Avenue on May 20.

**Theft**—A boy was arrested for attempting to steal a vehicle at Hertz Rent-a-Car, 1420 Davern St., at 5:48 a.m. Thursday, May 16.

—Laptop computers were stolen from vehicles at Crosby Farm Park on May 18 and on the 1700 block of Rome Avenue on May 19.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 700 block of Woodlawn Avenue on May 17-18 and on the 600 block of Sumner Street on May 21.

—A handgun was stolen from a vehicle at the Highland Ridge Apartments, 2285 Stewart Ave., during the evening of May 17-18.

—Equipment was stolen from a trailer on the 1800 block of Worcester Avenue between 1:55-2 a.m. Sunday, May 19.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Robbery**—A 33-year-old man was arrested for a strong-arm robbery at 1:31 a.m. Thursday, May 16, on University Avenue and Syndicate Street.

—A robbery was reported on Hamline and University avenues at 1:08 p.m. Sunday, May 26.

**Theft**—A firearm was stolen from an apartment on the 1100 block of Dayton Avenue between May 11-20.

—A vehicle was reported stolen on St. Anthony Avenue and Syndicate Street at 3:34 a.m. Friday, May 17.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on Hamline and Marshall avenues between 8:34-9:15 p.m. Monday, May 20.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Robbery**—A man said he was robbed at gunpoint by three males on Brimhall Street

and Stanford Avenue at 11:12 p.m. Monday, May 13. Arrests were later made based on the information provided by the victim.

**Theft**—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on Brimhall Street and Randolph Avenue between 8-10 p.m. Thursday, May 16.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1200 block of Randolph Avenue on May 18 and on the 1400 block of Grand Avenue on May 26-27.

**Assault**—A felony assault with a weapon was reported on the 400 block of South Griggs Street at 7:47 p.m. Monday, May 20.

## Mendota Heights

**Burglary**—Work tools were reported stolen at a job site on the 1000 block of Northland Drive at 11:58 a.m. Monday, May 13.

**Theft**—several items were reported stolen from vehicles on the 1000 block of Highway 13 on May 10 and on the 1000 block of Northland Drive on May 17-18.

**Weapons**—A hiker reported finding a large number of guns on the 1000 block of Highway 13 at 9:17 a.m. Sunday, May 12. At least one of the guns had been reported stolen.

## Merriam Park

**Burglary**—A woman kicked in the front door of her ex-boyfriend's residence, struck him twice in the face and stole his cellphone at 2:42 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, on the 1900 block of Ashland Avenue.

—Homes were broken into on the 300 block of North Cleveland Avenue on May 25, and on Wilder Street and Ashland Avenue on May 27.

**Theft**—A laptop computer was stolen at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 436 N. Roy St., between 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 11.

—An iPad and bag of tools were reported stolen on the 200 block of Moore Street at 7:55 a.m. Monday, May 13.

—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 1900 block of Selby Avenue between 5-5:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 14.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 200 block of Montrose Place on May 17-18.

—A utility trailer was stolen on the 2100 block of Carroll Avenue between May 21-23.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a taxicab on the 500 block of North Prior Avenue at 12:58 a.m. Thursday, May 23.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Robbery**—A female was robbed of cash and food by a male suspect near LA Fitness,

1370 University Ave., at 2 p.m. Friday, May 24.

**Theft**—Police were dispatched to the Midway Walmart at 10:10 p.m. Monday, May 6, where a woman said she gave her new TV to a stranger because he offered to drive it to her home, but he never showed up with it.

—A camera bag, battery and press pass were stolen from a vehicle at the Midway Walmart between 9-9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 16.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1500 block of Laurel Avenue on May 18 and on the 1300 block of University Avenue on May 24.

## Summit Hill

**Burglary**—A man was arrested for breaking into a residence on the 300 block of Grand Avenue at 2:40 a.m. Thursday, May 9.

—Live Green Apartments, 622 Grand Ave., was broken into at 9:20 p.m. Saturday, May 11.

—An apartment was burglarized on the 600 block of Summit Avenue between May 11-17.

—A woman said she was doing yard work when someone stole the remote from her vehicle and entered her garage on the 1100 block of Osceola Avenue at 10:20 a.m. Monday, May 20. She confronted the suspect, who fled in a vehicle.

—A suspect was seen on video prying open the front door and entering the laundry room of an apartment building on the 300 block of Grand Avenue at 1 a.m. Friday, May 24.

—Several storage units were broken into at an apartment building on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue between May 25-27.

**Theft**—Amplifiers, a PlayStation, TV and stereo system were stolen from a vehicle on the 700 block of Summit Avenue during the evening of May 12-13.

—A laptop computer and other items were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Goodrich Avenue at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 18.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1000 block of Fairmount Avenue on May 18 and on the 700 block of Goodrich Avenue on May 19-20.

—A trailer was stolen on the 700 block of Linwood Avenue between 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 26.

## Summit-University

**Robbery**—A victim was robbed of a cellphone at gunpoint on Marshall and Western avenues at 6:15 p.m. Monday, May 13.

—An attempted strong-arm robbery was reported on the 600 block of Dayton Avenue at 8:15 p.m. Monday, May 13. A suspect's

vehicle was located and multiple juveniles were taken into custody at 11:12 p.m.

**Burglary**—Suspects broke into the package room and stole several items at an apartment building on the 400 block of Selby Avenue during the evening of May 18-19.

**Theft**—Vehicles were stolen on the 500 block of Laurel Avenue between May 13-17 and on the 700 block of Selby Avenue on May 16.

**Weapons**—A man with a BB gun damaged property on the 900 block of Laurel Avenue at 9:46 p.m. Thursday, May 16.

## West End

**Burglary**—Two vehicles were stolen from an underground garage at Victoria 2 Apartments, 750 Otto Ave., between May 11-20.

—A home break-in occurred on the 500 block of Michigan Street between 1-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14.

**Theft**—Vehicles were stolen on West Seventh and Erie streets between May 10-13, on the 500 block of West Seventh Street on May 20, and at Journeys Secondary School, 90 S. Western Ave., on May 24.

**Assault**—Assaults of faculty and staff were reported at Journeys Secondary School, 90 S. Western Ave., on May 20 and 24.

**Miscellaneous**—A fight involving a group of people was reported at 4:20 a.m. Saturday, May 18, at Mickey's Diner, 1950 W. Seventh St.

# Fire Calls

The following local calls were gathered from recent reports by the St. Paul Fire Department and other sources.

**Arson fires**—The St. Paul Fire Department reported that 12 fires were intentionally set between 11 p.m.-4:50 a.m. on May 26-27. The department is investigating the fires, but is asking for the public's help for the ones set in close proximity to each other in the Macalester-Groveland and Merriam Park neighborhoods, including ones on Juliet, Jefferson, Dayton and Goodrich avenues. Anyone with information or video footage is asked to call the arson hotline at 1-800-723-2020.

**West End**—A pedestrian was taken to the hospital after being struck by a vehicle on Randolph Avenue and Shepard Road at 6:04 p.m. Friday, May 24. The 27-year-old female driver was cited for using a wireless device and failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

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**SOLD** 3141 36th Ave S Mpls

**\$362,500**

**SOLD** 1740 Eleanor Ave Highland Park

**\$495,000**

**SOLD** 4848 Ewing Ave S Mpls



# The Storied Owl

## Moonlighting book lovers open new store for readers of all ages

BY ANNE MURPHY

There is yet another story unfolding on St. Paul's literary scene. A work in progress for the past several months, Storied Owl Books will hold its grand opening from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, June 8, at 2059 Randolph Ave. Owners Amy Turany and Marcus Mayer invited people in for a preview on Independent Bookstore Day in late April. Since then, they have filled their shelves with books for children and adults, and as a sidelight, they will be selling bulk candy.

For the past few weeks, the couple—self-described partners in life as well as business—have been working long hours to ready the store for its opening. Not an easy undertaking, they said, since they also have careers outside of the book business.

“We’ve both been big readers our whole lives,” said Turany, who works in web accessibility. “Marcus has been a librarian in the St. Paul Public Schools for 20 years. When we met, we found that we shared a huge interest in children’s and young adult literature as well as other books. We’ve always felt a strong pull toward stories, the people who love them and the magic that happens whenever you step into another world through a great book.”

“We have various interests related to books,

and we were trying to decide what to put our energy into,” Turany said. “We were looking for a central starting point that other projects could stem from. We tossed around several ideas, but always came back to a bookstore as the foundation. We’re excited at the prospect of Storied Owl itself, but also with what it could grow into.”

In addition to a lifelong love of reading and 25 years working in bookstores, Mayer brings to the new store his experience as a librarian and as a co-owner of Addendum Books, 478 S. Cleveland Ave. That store, which closed last year just around the corner from the Storied Owl, specialized in books for children and young adults.

At Storied Owl, “we wanted to offer books for all ages, but we couldn’t deny our passion for children’s literature,” Turany said.

“So instead of being a general bookstore that traditionally has a higher percentage of adult titles, we decided to go 50/50. We feel there’ll be something for everyone who comes in.”

The couple considered several locations for their new bookstore, “but none of them fit,” Turany said. “Some were too close to other bookstores, some were too small or too large. When we heard this space was available, we knew we needed to move on it. The neighbor-

*“Storied Owl’ captures what we love about reading—stories of all kinds and whatever that magic is that takes you to another world.”*



Owners Marcus Mayer and Amy Turany were stocking their shelves at 2059 Randolph Ave. with books for readers of all ages in preparation for a June 8 grand opening.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

hood is wonderful, full of people who have been so kind and welcoming. Our landlord is the most supportive person, and the space itself feels warm and friendly, so lovely looking out at St. Kate’s. We’re absolutely thrilled to be part of the neighborhood.”

On the choice of a name, “we talked about lots,” Turany said, “all centering around stories. ‘Storied Owl’ came up in one of the iterations and just stuck. It captures what we love about reading—stories of all kinds and whatever that magic is that takes you to another world.”

“We want people to feel like we’re a bit of an oasis, a place they look forward to visiting for a warm, fun and friendly atmosphere,” Turany said. That is why they decided to market candy in addition to books. “We both happen to love vintage-style candy, so it just seemed

natural to offer it,” she said.

“Encouraging a love of stories and books has been something that both of us find extremely important,” Turany said. “We hope that Storied Owl will be a place that kids can come to spark that interest and realize just how important and enjoyable reading can be. We want our shop to stay focused on the magic of books and stories, and hope to collaborate with schools and our community in meaningful ways.”

“In the future we hope to offer author events, possibly some programming for book clubs or writing groups, partnerships with schools and local businesses. We definitely want to work with as many local authors as possible.”

STORIED OWL ► 15

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# Commission paves way for apartments on Island Station site

By Jane McClure

The long-anticipated redevelopment of the old Island Station site along the Mississippi River is moving ahead. Illinois-based Stoneleigh Companies wants to break ground this fall on its \$6 million Waterford Bay project, a 250-unit market-rate apartment building at 380 Randolph Ave.

The St. Paul Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit on May 31 that increases the maximum building height to 45 feet, instead of the 35 feet allowed under the property's Traditional Neighborhoods 2 zoning. The permit also allows a fire access road that will double as a river trail.

The developers plan to provide Mississippi River access and parking spaces for canoeists and kayakers. Stoneleigh will need to secure an agreement with Xcel Energy, since the power company owns property that the boaters would have to cross to reach the river.

The building's main entrance will not face Randolph, which required one variance. A front-yard setback variance also was needed because the building will be as much as 90 feet from Randolph, and the zoning only allows a setback of up to 25 feet.

A variance also was needed for the slope after fill is brought onto the site, said senior city planner Josh Williams. The slope will be steeper than what is allowed under the zoning code.

The 9.56-acre site has already had some

pollution cleanup, but the developers are working with city staff to finish that work. It will cost an estimated \$1.6 million to remove contaminated soil and bring in clean fill.

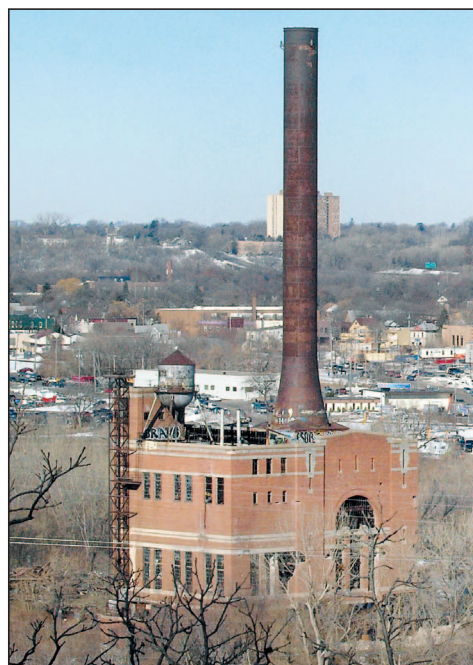
The site poses several challenges due to its irregular terrain and proximity to the Mississippi River. Stoneleigh officials have completed a floodplain development application and say the project will not affect flooding in the area.

Additional complications include Xcel Energy's easements for power transmission lines and city easements to get to nearby city-owned property. A natural gas line also crosses the property. The easements restrict where any structures can be built. "There's not a lot of flexibility," Williams said.

The project has been met with mixed reactions. Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) cites the city's vision for the site outlined in its Great River Passage Plan, which calls for the area to be a destination for river recreation and gatherings, with an emphasis on public ownership.

"We're disappointed that the city has decided to abandon this vision...and is considering a luxury housing development for the site instead," stated FMR river corridor program director Colleen O'Connor Toberman in a letter to the city. "The Great River Passage Plan was developed with very extensive community input and it should be embraced by the city at every opportunity."

While praising Stoneleigh's inclusion of



The Island Station power plant and its 289-foot smokestack just moments before being leveled in 2014. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

challenging. "It's very important that we have more housing units, period," she said.

However, she noted that the West End has the fastest-rising rental rates in the city, and that there is a growing need for affordable housing.

Much of the debate before the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee on May 23 centered on affordable housing. A few commissioners wanted to see if Stoneleigh could be required to add affordable apartments. Williams said there is nothing in the city's zoning code to force developers to do so.

Ryan Swingruber of Stoneleigh said the building will have smaller micro-units and studios in its mix and those will have lower rental rates. The range of rents has not yet been determined.

"We wouldn't oppose adding affordable housing if we could make it work," Swingruber said.

He and other development team members are excited about the project. "There's a significant history here that we've inherited," Swingruber said.

The St. Paul Gas & Light Company commissioned the construction of the former coal-fired power plant in 1921. It began operating in 1926, but never at full capacity and was decommissioned in 1975. Several developers looked at reusing the plant, but its deteriorated condition and ongoing issues with trespassers prompted the demolition of the plant and its 289-foot smokestack in 2014.

## 14◀ STORIED OWL

When asked about their current reading, Turany said, "we don't have much on our night stands now since we've been so busy getting the store ready. But we've both been listening to a lot of audio books. We love Li-

bro.fm and will be one of their independent bookstore partners."

Turany said she loved reading *Louisiana's Way Home* by Minneapolis author Kate DiCamillo and listening to *Gingerbread* by Helen Oyeyemi. Mayer has enjoyed Tana French's *The Witch Elm* and *The Silent Patient* by Alex

Michaelides.

As for children's literature, Mayer likes the *Lockwood & Co.* series by Jonathan Stroud, *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang and *Blended* by Sharon Draper. Turany's favorites are *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi, *The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall and *Flora & Ulysses*

by DiCamillo.

All of the above might be on the shelves when Storied Owl Books opens. For now, "we're just concentrating on getting the doors open," Turany said. "We're excited to become a part of the indie bookstore community in the Twin Cities."

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# District Council News

## Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

**Board opening**—The Highland District Council has an opening for an at-large alternate on its board of directors. An election to fill the seat will be held at the board meeting on Thursday, July 18. For information, contact Kathy Carruth at 651-695-4005 or kathy@highlanddistrictcouncil.org.

**District 15 Plan**—Public comments on the District 15 Plan for the Highland Park neighborhood may now be made on the HDC website or by visiting [stpaul.gov/departments/planning-economic-development/planning/current-activities](http://stpaul.gov/departments/planning-economic-development/planning/current-activities). The St. Paul Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the plan at 8:30 a.m. Friday, June 28, in Room 40 at City Hall.

**BrightSide summer produce**—BrightSide FarmStands will host a neighborhood pod in Highland Park again this summer. The weekly drop-off of fresh produce will run for 10 weeks from June 22 through the end of August (no delivery the week of July 4th) at the Highland Park Community Center. For information, visit [brightsidempls.org/collections/neighborhood-pods](http://brightsidempls.org/collections/neighborhood-pods) or email Alaina at [brightsidempls@gmail.com](mailto:brightsidempls@gmail.com).

**Music and a movie**—Highland Park's Summer Music Series will feature a free concert at 6:15 p.m. Thursday, June 13, on the lawn of the former Highland Pool House on Montreal Avenue and Edgumbe Road. The family-friendly event will include food trucks and children's activities. Participants are being encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. A showing of the movie *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* will follow at dusk.

**Jazzed about Highland**—The HDC and Highland Business Association will host their fifth annual summer jazz concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 20, at Langford & Karls Chiropractic on Cleveland Avenue and Highland Parkway. Joyann Parker will perform. Food and beverages will be sold beginning at 6 p.m. There will also be prizes and family activities. Attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

**Upcoming meetings**—Board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, June 6; Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 11; and Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 18. All three meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

## Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

**Alley garden flags**—Volunteers are needed to construct 700 flags for this year's Alley Garden Awards. The flags will be assembled at 7 p.m. Monday, June 10, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Refreshments will be provided. Email [mgcc@macgrove.org](mailto:mgcc@macgrove.org) to register. Judging for the gardens will take place on June 20-27. Visit [macgrove.org/aga](http://macgrove.org/aga).

**Mac-Grove Fest**—Registration is now open to sponsor or exhibit at the 2019 Mac-Grove Fest on Saturday, September 7, at Groveland Park. Visit [macgrove.org/macgrovefest](http://macgrove.org/macgrovefest).

**Century building plaques**—Many residential and commercial buildings in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood are now nearing 100 years old. The community council is once again offering owners a chance to purchase plaques identifying their building's age. All buildings constructed in 1925 or before are eligible. Learn more at [macgrove.org/100years](http://macgrove.org/100years).

**Get involved**—The community council currently has openings on its board of directors for Grid 2 and at-large business, renter and student representatives. The board also has three standing committees that meet once a month.

**Upcoming meetings**—Community Building Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 10, Edgumbe Recreation Center; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 24, Edgumbe; and Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 26, Groveland Recreation Center.

## Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

**Union Park bike tour**—Join biking enthusiasts and local residents for a slow ride in the Union Park neighborhoods. Riders should meet at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 15, at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The tour will stop at the Brew Hall at the new Allianz Field soccer stadium before heading back to the rec center.

**Citywide cleanup**—A citywide cleanup and drop-off event will be held from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, June 8, at the northeast corner of the State Fairgrounds (enter from eastbound

Larpenteur Avenue). The event will allow residents to get rid of large items and recyclable materials not collected in the curbside program, and share usable goods with others. Volunteers will receive snacks, lunch and a voucher to dispose of one load for free. Contact the UPDC to participate.

**Upcoming meetings**—Board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 10, Griggs Midway Building, 1821 University Ave.; Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 17, Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy.; and Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.

## West 7th

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

**New office location**—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation office has moved to 882 W. Seventh St., Suite 6, in the rathskeller building of the former Schmidt Brewery. The next board of directors meeting will be held there at 7 p.m. Monday, June 10. An open house will take place at 6 p.m. to meet the new board and tour the office.

**Garden tour and plant sale**—The 12th annual West End Neighbors' Garden Tour will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 8. There will be a historical scavenger hunt, plant sale and flea market. A guide book with maps of the 12 gardens and history of the neighborhood may be picked up at the start of the tour at 974 W. Seventh St. See the website for details.

**Board update**—At its meeting on May 13, the Fort Road Federation's board of directors heard presentations about a possible futsal soccer court at the West Seventh Community Center and a new self-storage business at 875 Montreal Way. No zoning change is needed for the storage business. The board also heard a request to support relocating a billboard at 210-218 Grand Ave. to a new building in that area. The board tabled the topic. Chairs were selected for the Community and Board Outreach, Development and Fundraising, and Transportation and Land Use committees. Those interested in joining a committee may email [emily@fortroadfederation.org](mailto:emily@fortroadfederation.org).

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# The Kiosk

## Wednesday/June 5

**AGING WITH GUSTO.** The Vital Aging Network program continues from 1-3 p.m. at the Waters of Highland Park, 678 S. Snelling Ave. The program is free. To participate, call 651-363-3040.

## Friday/June 7

**FARE FOR ALL'S** monthly distribution of fresh produce and frozen meat will take place from 10 a.m.-noon at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. The food will be available in packages priced from \$10-\$25. Cash, credit and debit cards are accepted. Call 651-298-5493.

**THE LONGFELLOW AREA** of South Minneapolis will hold a neighborhood garage sale from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. today and Saturday, June 8. For a map of participating households, visit longfellow.org.

## Saturday/June 8

Discover the hidden history of St. Paul's first neighborhood on a two-hour walking tour of the West End, stepping out at 10 a.m. from St. Stanislaus Church, 398 Superior St. The tour will follow twisting side streets, pointing out the architectural gems and relating stories of the immigrants, veterans, entrepreneurs and opportunists who lived and worked in the area. Tickets at \$14 are available at cart.mnhs.org or 651-259-3015.

**THE ANNUAL WEST END** Neighbors' Garden Tour will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. A guide book with maps of the gardens and a history of the neighborhood can be picked up at the start of the tour at 974 W. Seventh St. A historical scavenger hunt, plant sale and flea market will be part of the fun. For details, visit fortroadfederation.org.

## Sunday/June 9

**"BEYOND THE PINT:** The Architecture & Landscape of Brewing in St. Paul will be explored by bus from 1-4:30 p.m. Kristin Anderson, professor of art and architecture at Augsburg University, will lead the tour through the city's West End and East Side. The cost is \$40, beer included. To register, visit mnpreservation.org.

## Monday/June 10

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY,** a program for people in recovery from addiction, is meeting every Monday evening at Central Baptist Church, 420 N. Roy St. A meal is served at 5:45 p.m. A large group meeting follows at 6:30 and a small group meeting at 7:30. Call 651-646-2751 or email steve.nuessle@centralbaptistchurch.com.

## Tuesday/June 11

**A CLASS IN HAND DRUMMING** for beginners will be offered from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. The cost is \$10, and drums are provided. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

**LA LECHE LEAGUE** of the Midway-Como area will hold its monthly meeting for pregnant and nursing mothers from 7-8:45 p.m. at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Babies, toddlers and support persons are welcome. Breastfeeding, parenting and pregnancy will be discussed. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527.



**Fun for all ages.** Makenna Zeagar, 18 months, enjoyed swinging with sister Breckin, 3, as grandma Sharon Nelson provided the propulsion during Mendota Heights' annual parks celebration on June 1 at Mendakota Park. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

**WILD & RARE:** Tracking Endangered Species in the Upper Midwest author Adam Regn Arvidson will tell of Minnesota's endangered species and the landscapes that nurture them in a free program at 7 p.m. at Gibbs Farm, 2097 Larpenteur Ave. A tour of the restored prairie will precede the program at 6 p.m. For information, call 651-646-8629.

## Wednesday/June 12

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

**"MONEY IN POLITICS:** Restoring Fair Representation to the People" will be discussed in a free League of Women Voters program from noon-1 p.m. in Courtroom 317 at Landmark Center. Speakers include University of Minnesota law professor Richard Painter and Vicki Barnes, state coordinator of an effort to amend the U.S. Constitution and reverse Supreme Court decisions that have allowed corporations and labor unions to contribute to political campaigns. Visit lwvsp.org/events.

**GROWING IRISES** will be discussed at the monthly meeting of the Longfellow Garden Club at 7 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Join the club in listening to iris expert Tim Moore tell about the many varieties of irises and how to plant and care for them.

## Thursday/June 13

**WANT TO IMPROVE** your speaking skills in a light-hearted and supportive atmosphere? Join Midway Toastmasters. The club meets from 6-8 p.m. every Thursday at Seventh Street Social, 2176 W. Seventh St. No reservations are necessary.

**ST. PAUL POLICE** will be serving grilled meat and side dishes at a Safe Summer Nights barbecue from 5-7 p.m. at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. The public is invited to join in the free picnic, meet with their local police officers and take part in activities for children.

**ST. PAUL CITY ATTORNEY** Lyndsey Olson will hold a public meeting on a new Neighborhood Justice Program from 5-7 p.m. at St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. The program, which is expected to be launched later this year, will use a restorative justice model as an alternative to traditional criminal prosecution. Come learn about the program, ask questions and offer your views. Visit stpaul.gov/neighborhood-justice-program.

**A FREE SUICIDE PREVENTION** workshop will be offered from 3-6 p.m. at the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1919 University Ave. Learn to recognize the early warning signs, identify people who are at risk and apply the Tell, Ask, Listen and KeepSafe method of getting a person needed help. Call 651-645-2948.

**A FREE SUPPORT GROUP** for persons with anxiety disorders meets from 6:30-

8 p.m. today and the second and fourth Thursday of every month in Room 108 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. For more information, call the National Alliance on Mental Illness at 651-645-2948.

## Friday/June 14

**EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS,** a 12-step program for people who want help in dealing with daily stress, is offered at 7 p.m. today and every Friday at the Twin Cities Friends Meeting House, 1725 Grand Ave. For information, call Paul at 651-402-6774.

**"CRIME & JUSTICE,"** a history of the trial and execution of Ann Bilansky in 1859-60, will be told in 75-minute programs beginning at 7 and 8:30 p.m. at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. The St. Paul woman was convicted of murdering her husband, although doubts remained about her guilt. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for seniors and college students. Visit cart.mnhs.org or call 651-259-3015.

## Saturday/June 15

**THE ART OF THE CAPITOL** will be highlighted in 90-minute tours beginning at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Minnesota's majestic state house. Hear about the artists, learn about the muralist movement in America, and discover the harmony of the Capitol's architecture and overall decoration. Tickets are \$10, \$9 for seniors, veterans and college students, \$8 for children. Visit cart.mnhs.org or call 651-259-3015.

**MISSISSIPPI MARKET** will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a block party from 3-7 p.m. at the co-op, 1500 W. Seventh St. The free event will feature live music by Chris Koza and Seasaw, arcade games, a bouncy castle, photo booth, face painting, free samples from local food vendors, a sale of original art, and refreshments sold by local food trucks and a craft brewery.

## Sunday/June 16

**A FREE MENTAL HEALTH** support group for young adults sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness meets from 6:30-8 p.m. today and the first and third Sundays of every month at Unity Church Unitarian, 733 Portland Ave. Contact Leah at 207-272-4450 or leahwilcox9@gmail.com.

## Tuesday/June 18

**THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB** will step out for a three-mile hike beginning at 7 p.m. at Dodge Nature Center, Charlton Street and Marie Avenue. The hour-long hike will traverse trails in the nature center. New members are welcome. Call 651-425-1753.

## Thursday/June 20

**"HOW RELAXATION TRAINING** Promotes Healthy Sleep" will be explored in a free class from 2-3 p.m. at the Shaller Family Shalom East Campus, 740 Kay Ave. Refreshments will be served. For reservations, call 651-328-2117.

**A FARMHOUSE TOUR** that delves into the family history of original owners Jane and Heman Gibbs will be offered from 6-8 p.m. to visitors ages 21 and older at the Gibbs Farm, 2097 Larpenteur Ave. The \$20 cost includes a complimentary beverage and light refreshments. Call 651-646-8629.

# School Notes

Mr. Patrick Bowlin's fourth-grade class at St. Mark's Catholic School (right) kept a much-loved Marker tradition in May making a giant map of the U.S. with cakes in the shape of the 50 states and decorated with the features of those states. The students presented reports on their respective states and invited their fellow students to join them in consuming their culinary creation. State Cakes Day has been observed at St. Mark's for at least 15 years. However, this year's will be the last. The K-8 parochial school at 1983 Dayton Ave., which opened in the fall of 1913, closed on June 4, though the preschool will remain open.



**Minnehaha Academy students** Kate Hennings, Annis Cairns, Annika Benson and Anna Forslund all received scores of "Excellent" for their performances at this year's state French competition, held at the University of Minnesota on April 17.

**Ed Clark**, chief information officer and vice president for information technology services at the University of St. Thomas, was named the Twin Cities CIO of the Year for nonprofits as part of the annual ORBIE Awards. The ceremony was held on April 26 at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis.

**St. Thomas Academy** competed in the national high school quiz bowl tournament the weekend of May 24-26 in Atlanta. STA went 4-6, including victories over St. Louis Park High School from Minnesota,

Emmaus from Pennsylvania and Cistercian from Texas. The Cadets were eventually knocked out by Grosse Pointe from Michigan. Team members included Peter Holmes, Teddy Farrell, Jack Libbesmeir, Joseph Michel and Cason Willman. They were coached by James Mark Jurkovich and Jessica Sutherland. STA has been to nationals eight times before. The last time was in 2018 when the Cadets finished 5-5.

**The Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE)** hosted 800 people for its third annual fundraising bash on May 11 in St. Paul. A record \$1.5 million was raised to support learners at the 79 local Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Cretin-Derham Hall donated \$1 million to bring the CS-

COE-Groves Academy Literacy Initiative to many Catholic schools. The initiative works to have every student fluent in reading and spelling by the end of third grade. The remainder was raised specifically to fund the needs of students with a range of learning difficulties.

**Deanna Thompson** of Highland Park has been appointed the founding director of the new Lutheran Center for Faith, Values and Community at St. Olaf College, her alma mater. Thompson is currently a professor of religion at Hamline University. She will begin her new role at St. Olaf on July 10. The Lutheran Center was established this fall with a \$1 million gift from St. Olaf regent Tim Maudlin and his wife Jan Maudlin, both graduates of the school.

# Religious Notes


**St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church**, 60 N. Kent St., will host a farmers' market from 9 a.m.-noon on Sundays beginning June 9 in the church parking lot. Call 651-228-1172.

**Dr. James Ulness**, professor emeritus in psychology at Concordia College-Moorhead, will speak about working with angels in a public presentation of the Theosophical Society at 7 p.m. Monday, June 10, in Conference Room S-127 of the Griggs-Midway Building, 1821 University Ave. Refreshments will be sold. A \$10 donation is suggested. Call 651-235-6645.

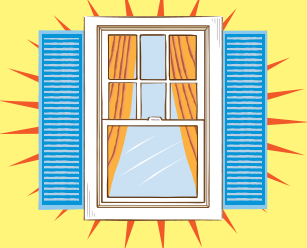
**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**, 700 S. Snelling Ave., will present a series of summer writing workshops led by seven members of the congregation who are writers or authors. The series will focus on the gifts and challenges of those age 55 and older. The workshops will run from 1:30-3 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The leaders include Jan Borgschatz on June 13; Deanna Thompson, June 18; Lenore Franzen, June 24; Martha Wegner, July 15; Ruth Halvorson, July 31; Nancy Agneberg, 7-8:30 p.m. August 5; and Ann Niedringhaus, August 21. For more information or to register, call Nancy Agneberg at 608-698-8100 or visit [gloriadei-istpaul.org/summer-writing](http://gloriadei-istpaul.org/summer-writing).

**The Reverend Bohdan Vadis**, a Minnesota native and pastor of Tierrasanta Lutheran Church in San Diego, will speak on "Little Town of Bethlehem Behind the Great Big Wall" on Saturday, June 22, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Tea and crumpets will be served at 9:30 a.m., with the program to follow from 10 a.m.-noon. Vadis will share his 20 years of Palestinian perspective that began with an archaeological dig in 1999 and continued with multiple pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Admission is free. Call 651-699-1378.


**Open Eye Figure Theatre** will perform its puppet show "Katie Tomatie" at 7 p.m. Friday, June 28, at St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4600 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis. The outdoor show is appropriate for all ages. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. Call 612-722-8000 for information.



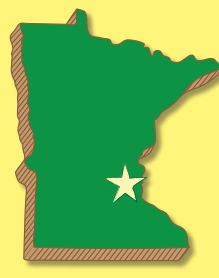
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# On the Town

## A 'Heaven' made in hell

Like the humanity it depicts, the beauty of musical stands in stark relief to brutality of war

BY FRANK JOSSI

**H**eaven would seem to be an unlikely title for a drama about the horrors of war in 1990s Bosnia where long-simmering religious and ethnic differences tore a country apart. Yet *Heaven* covers that territory and more in a new production opening on June 7 on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place.

Created by Joe Chvala and the Flying Foot Forum, the musical tells the fictional story of photographer Peter Adamson, who while covering the Bosnian conflict agrees to accompany his translator, Faruk, on a journey to find and save Faruk's wife. First presented in 2011 at the Guthrie Theater, *Heaven* returns with a cast of 21 accompanied by a live band.

"This is one of my favorite pieces that we've ever done and one of our most successful," Chvala said. "People who saw it really loved it, so I thought it beared repeating."

Twenty-five years after the Bosnian war, the play still resonates as threats of an expanding conflict in the Middle East emanate from Iran, Saudi Arabia and Washington, D.C. Bosnia was a relatively peaceful country before the war, Chvala said, but religious and ethnic tensions fueled by the media led "to neighbors fighting neighbors."

"We're going through something similar here (in the United States)," Chvala said. "People are more divided and acting out on their hate."

The war in Bosnia came on the heels of the breakup of Yugoslavia. After the provinces of Croatia and Slovenia seceded from that Balkan nation, the Muslim-majority Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina passed a similar referendum in 1992. Bosnians of Serbian descent rebelled with the backing of the neighboring state of Serbia and began a campaign of ethnic cleansing. The war raged until 1995 when a peace agreement



The foot-stomping dance of the Flying Foot Forum serves as a percussive backdrop to the action in the musical *Heaven*, opening on June 7 at Park Square Theatre.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

was brokered by international authorities and the United States.

*Heaven* takes its name from a sign in a Bosnian airport featured in a wartime photograph: "Welcome to Sarajevo, Destination Heaven." Chvala saw the sign as the tongue-in-cheek greeting of some prankster, but it inspired him to open his musical in a cafe named Heaven where a thug comes in and destroys an evening of fun.

The drama mixes Balkan pop music from the 1990s played by the local band Orkestar Bez Ime with songs by Chvala and former Suburbs and New Standards bandleader Chan Poling. Several of the songs are new to this production of *Heaven*. The plot remains largely the same, though Chvala has toned down the violence. Roughly half of the cast has returned from the 2011 production, he said, and some new dances have been added.

Musical theater has delved into dark themes before and with astonishing success, Chvala noted, among them Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. In creating such theater, however, "you're always walking a tightrope between ridiculous and compelling," he said. "You have to make sure the music supports the drama."

Merriam Park resident Jake Endres has returned as the musical director of *Heaven*. In the drama, Orkestar Bez Ime delivers "crazy, wonderful, complex and fun

*Musical theater has delved into dark themes before. In creating such theater, however, "you're always walking a tightrope between ridiculous and compelling," Chvala said.*

dancing beat music" with cello, piano, guitar, accordion and violin, he said, and Chvala has taught the actors to use their bodies as percussive instruments.

Endres was not convinced at first of the suitability of a musical to a story about war. The score goes back and forth between Balkan folk music and Poling's 1990s-style pop music. Some of the musicians have small roles in the play, and a handful of actors play musical instruments in scenes.

"The music is completely interwoven in all scenes and underscores the emotions of characters," Endres said. "The idea is to find the positivity and connections among people in the most horrific of circumstances."

Much of the production is life affirming and poignant, according to Endres. Poling's song "The Day

That the World Ends" is a heart-breaking account of the invasion of the home of an older woman who wonders if she will be killed or spared by the combatants.

Endres works as a freelance musical director, singer, actor and composer. Following its premiere, he never thought *Heaven* would be produced again because of its complexity and the size of its cast. Nevertheless, "it's one of best shows I've ever been involved with," he said, "and I'm pleased that Joe is bringing it back at Park Square."

Highland Park actor Peter Colburn plays several roles in the production, including a Serb militia leader, a Bosnian scholar and a United Nations general. The characters, he said, "are living like it's their last day on earth" and their dialogue includes plenty of gallows humor along with a steadfast belief in the robustness of life despite such grim circumstances.

Colburn worked in theater in the Twin Cities for years before moving to Los Angeles. Ten years later, he returned to Minnesota and for the past few years has found plenty of work in musical theater. *Heaven* represents his first stint with Flying Foot Forum. "Joe (Chvala) does wonderful, creative visionary work," he said.

*Heaven* will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays through June 23. For tickets, priced from \$25-\$60, call 651-291-7005.



Playwright and director Joe Chvala (center) of the Flying Foot Forum joins the band on trumpet in this scene from *Heaven*.

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# On the Town Briefly

## Music

**“Groovin’ in the Garden,”** an eight-week series of free concerts, has returned from 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays to the grounds in front of the Como Conservatory. The schedule includes the Innocent Reggae Band on June 5; the five-piece rock ‘n’ roll band Kiss The Tiger, June 12; and the rock, country and pop of the April Fools, June 19. Pack a picnic supper and bring a blanket to sit on. Vendors will have food and beverages. Lawn games, a climbing wall and bouncy house will be available for children. In case of rain, the concert will be moved inside the Conservatory.

**Music as free** as the water lapping the shores of Como Lake is being performed this summer at Como Pavilion. The concerts all begin at 7 p.m. The schedule includes: the New Orleans roots music of the Everett Smithson Band, June 5; acoustic guitarists Pat Donahue and Jeff Ray, June 6; blues and soul of Annie Mack, June 7; Curtiss A in a Hank Williams tribute, June 8; City of Lakes Community Band, June 9; Capri Big Band, June 10; North Star Chorus’ Parade of Quartets, June 11; Center for Irish Music Youth Ensemble, June 12; Becky Kapell and the Fat 6, June 13; the Dollys, June 14; Roux Lala Cajun band, June 15; Brass Lassies, June 16; Northern Winds Concert Band, June 17; Bad Companions, June 18; Mestifonia with Leonoris Causa, June 19; and Ticket to Brasil, June 20.

**The Lowertown Sounds** summertime concert series will kick off on June 6 with performances by Jaedyn James and the Hunger, the Federales and Hailey James in Mears Park, Sixth and Sibley streets. The live music is being presented from 6-9:30 p.m. every Thursday (except July 4) through August 29. Two or three acts are featured each evening, including Alex Rossi and the Fattenin’ Frogs on June 13 and the Twin Cities Jazz Fest on June 20. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. Local craft beer, cider and wine will be available for purchase along with the fare of several food trucks.

**“Shout! Sister, Shout! Voices of Women,”** a program celebrating great women composers and writers, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 8 and 9, at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Works by Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Laura Nyro, Carole King, Phoebe Snow, Joni Mitchell, Bonnie



**Jazzed About Highland.** Jazz singer Joyann Parker will perform on Thursday, June 20, in the fifth annual Jazzed About Highland concert sponsored by the Highland Business Association and Highland District Council. Part of the Twin Cities Jazz Fest, the free show will begin at 7 p.m. in front of Langford & Karls Chiropractic on Cleveland Avenue and Highland Parkway. Bring a lawn chair. Food and beverages will be available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m. There will also be prizes and family activities.

Raitt, Lady Gaga and India.Arie will be interspersed with words from Maya Angelou, Terry Tempest Williams and Mary Oliver. Performers include singers Judi Donaghy Vinar, Yolande Bruce, Joyann Parker, Rachel Holder Hennig, Katie Gearty, Anna Christy and Joy Ohana, actress Eden Bodnar, pianist Lori Dokken, bassist Liz Draper and percussionist Pete Hennig. Tickets are \$32-\$40. Call 651-292-4323 or visit historytheatre.com.

**The 150-voice Minnesota Boychoir,** its Alumni Choir and Adult Choir will perform at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 9, in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 S. Fourth St. in Minneapolis. Free and open to all, the program will feature a mix of traditional and contemporary sacred and secular works, including songs by U2, Billy Joel and Bradley Ellingboe.

**Brazilian recorder player** Cléa Galhano and classical guitarist Rene Izquierdo will perform the world premiere of German composer Soren Sieg’s “Cadiz” in concert

at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 9, at the St. Paul Conservatory of Music, 1524 Summit Ave. The “Landscapes” program will also feature works by Eduardo Martin, Ari Barroso, Maximo Diego Pujol and Astor Piazzolla. Composer Sieg will discuss his piece at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$20. Visit thespcm.org.

**Aizuri String Quartet,** featuring native Highland Park violinist Ariana Kim, will celebrate their 2019 Grammy-nominated album “Blueprinting” in concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The program will include Mozart’s Quartet in F Major, Gabriella Smith’s “Carrot Revolution,” Evan Premo’s “Deeply Known” and Caroline Shaw’s “Blueprint.” Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors, \$15 for students. Call 651-450-0527.

**Northrop Auditorium’s Plaza** will reverberate with the live music of a variety of Minnesota bands this summer. A campus tradition since the 1950s, the series will run

from noon-1 p.m. Wednesdays. The schedule includes Funktion Junction on June 12 and the New Riverside Ramblers on June 19. In case of rain, visit northrop.umn.edu for news of cancellation or revised location.

**Live music returns** to Landmark Center’s cortile from noon-1 p.m. every other Thursday this summer. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the free sounds of Pushing Chain on June 13. Visit landmarkcenter.org.

**Studio Z,** 275 E. Fourth St, Suite 200, will play host to the following: the jazz quartet Musical Ecology exploring the intersection of nature and the human world in music at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 14 (tickets are \$15, \$10 for seniors and students); and New Ruckus Composer Night with Ben Winkler, Michael Reid Winikoff, Downrange Telemetrics and Christian Langheinrich, 7 p.m. Monday, June 17 (free). Call 651-755-1600.

**Composer Mary Ellen Childs** and visual artist Lindsay Halleckson will present video, photographs and field recordings from their 2018 trip to the Arctic Circle, and Zeitgeist will perform music by Childs inspired by the trip in a Lowertown Listening Session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, at Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St, Suite 200. Admission is \$10. Call 651-755-1600 or visit studiozstpaul.com.

**The life and music of Dominick Argento** will be celebrated in a free concert at 3 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S. in Minneapolis. Conducted by the late composer’s longtime collaborator Philip Brunelle, the concert will feature performances by Sam Nelson, Maria Jette, Michael Sutton, Vern Sutton, Jeffrey Van and members of VocalEssence and the Minnesota, Metropolitan Symphony and St. Paul Chamber orchestras.

## Theater

**Small Mouth Sounds,** Bess Wohl’s off-beat tale about six strangers who flee the city, meet up at a yoga retreat in the woods and there confront their internal demons, is playing through June 16 at Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Directed by Lauren Keating, the drama stars Christina Baldwin, Becca Hart, Jim Lichtscheidl, Eric Sharp, Michael Curran-Dorsano, Jay Owen Eisenberg and Faye M. Price. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2

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and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$40-\$50. Call 612-822-7063 or visit [jungletheater.org](http://jungletheater.org).

**Blood Knot**, playwright Athol Fugard's 1961 drama about two brothers who share a one-room shack in apartheid South Africa and a piercing metaphor for racial tension today, is being performed through June 16 at Pillsbury House Theatre, 3501 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Directed by Stephen DiMenna, it stars James A. Williams and Stephen Yoakam. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, call 612-825-0459.

**The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance**, a Wild West drama that like the 1962 John Ford film is based on a short story by Dorothy M. Johnson, is playing through June 23 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The play tells of a young man from New York City who falls victim in the lawless West and ultimately must decide if he should run or fight. Brian Joyce directs. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$25. Call 612-333-3010 or visit [theatreintheround.org](http://theatreintheround.org).

**The small-town musical Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant** will open on June 21 on the thrust stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Written by Keith Hovis, the drama tells of Frannie Foster Wallace, who blames all of her failures in life on losing out 20 years earlier on the chance to become Jefferson's Sparkling Junior Champion. The show has been expanded from its premiere production in the 2017 Fringe Festival. Directed by Laura Leffler, it features the original cast of Zach Garcia, Kelly Houlehan, Ryan London Levin and Leslie Vincent but with additional songs and plot twists. Following previews from June 14-20, it will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays through July 28. Tickets are \$25-\$60 with discounts for seniors, military personnel and those under age 30. Call 651-291-7005.

## Books

**The 75th anniversary of D-day** will be marked with a reading of the book *Still* by Rebecca Bender in a free program on Thursday, June 6, at Historic Fort Snelling. A personal history of World War II, *Still* was co-written by Bender and her late father, Major Kenneth M. Bender, a Silver Star and Purple Heart recipient. It follows five generations of Benders, a Jewish family that fled Russia in 1905 and settled in North Dakota. Bender will share her dad's recollections of training at Fort Snelling and participating in the Allied invasion of Normandy. Doors open at 6 p.m. The event begins at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

**Next Chapter Booksellers**, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will play host to readings and discussions with contributors to *Under Purple Skies: The Minneapolis Anthology* on June 7; author Cara Black and her detective novel, *Murder in Bel-Air*, at 3 p.m. June 9; author Jennifer Chiaverini and her historical novel, *Resistance Women*, June 11; author Deborah Stevens from her murder mystery, *Holy Predator*, June 13; poet Ethna McKiernan from her collection, *Swimming With Shadows*, June 18; and poets Tony Plocido, Jas Abramowitz, Jeremy O'Neal, Lia Rivamonte and Amoke Kubat, June 20. The programs are free and begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. Call 651-225-8989.

**Erica Spitzer Rasmussen** will speak about the bookmaking practice and discuss her 2018 Minnesota Book Artist Award-winning book *The Love Affair* in a free program at 6 p.m. Monday, June 10, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Rasmussen inherited two handmade wooden boxes filled with love letters between her maternal grandparents in the 1930s, and that inspired her to handcraft her book of old family

letters. Call 651-695-3700.

**SubText Books**, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to readings by author Matt Goldman from his thriller, *The Shallows*, on June 11; poets Steven Schild and Nicole Berg and short-story writer Lee Henschel Jr. from their new collections, June 12; novelist Deborah Shapiro from *The Summer Demands*, June 13; novelist Mary Sharratt from *Ecstasy*, June 18; and former U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger from his book, *When Republicans Were Progressive*, June 19. The programs are free and begin at 7 p.m.

**Poetry and art will light up the night** at the Poetry and Seeds in the Park in the Dark celebration beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13, at Frogtown Farm, 941 Lafond Ave. The free program celebrates the publication of 10 poems and the 10 visual art pieces that accompany them with readings and discussions led by the poets and artists themselves. A free seed giveaway will be part of the fun.

**"Women at the Heart of the Great War"** will be discussed on Friday, June 14, by Ames Sheldon, author of the novel *Eleanor's Wars*, about a woman who served as an ambulance driver in World War I and how her long-buried memories of the conflict threaten her marriage at the outbreak of World War II. The Mendota After Hours program will run from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Sibley Historic Site, 1357 Sibley Mem. Hwy. in Mendota. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets at \$20 include light refreshments and one drink for ages 21 and older. Visit [cart.mnhs.org](http://cart.mnhs.org) or call 651-259-3015.

**The Merriam Park Book Club** will discuss *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante at its meeting from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, June 24, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. New members are welcome. Call 651-642-0385.

## Exhibits

**"The Mighty Elements,"** works in clay, paper and metal by artists Jody Williams, Tim Lloyd and Bill Gossman, are on view through July 19 at the Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave. Williams' artist books and boxes explore the connections between information, communication and containers. Ceramicist Gossman draws his inspiration from nature and the elements of earth, air, fire and water. Sculptor Lloyd works in metal, altering it with various tools, including hammers, chemicals, waxes, heat, oxidation and light. Admission is free. Call 651-644-9200.

**"Pollinators: All The Buzz,"** a 2,500-square-foot exhibit of live bees in a greenhouse garden filled with pollinator plants, is now open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily through September 2 at the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. Blue orchard mason bees, alfalfa leafcutter bees and Eastern bumblebees are on display in covered enclosures. The plants come from the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory collection and illustrate how different flowers attract different pollinators.

**The Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam** is open for tours beginning at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily through Labor Day, September 2. The free tours are limited to 20 participants, first-come first served. Reservations are not available. The public is also invited to explore the St. Anthony Falls Visitor Center, which is open from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, and the lock wall, open from noon-2 p.m. daily. For information, call 651-293-8412.

**Walking tours of Summit Avenue** highlighting the Gilded Age mansions that line the street and the people who lived in them are being offered by the Minnesota Historical Society on weekends through September 29. The 90-minute tour steps out at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday from



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the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The cost is \$14, \$12 for seniors and college students, \$10 for children ages 5-17. Visit [cart.mnhs.org](http://cart.mnhs.org) or call 651-259-3015.

**“Stumps & Roots: Painting Life’s Patterns,”** a collection of paintings by Lorraine Omley, will be exhibited from June 6-30 in the AZ Gallery, 308 Prince St. An opening reception will be held from 6-9 p.m. Friday, June 7. The artist will also be in the gallery from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 8 and 9 a.m.-noon June 9. The gallery is otherwise open from 5-8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. For information, visit [theazgallery.org](http://theazgallery.org).

**Chicago photographer** Whitney Bradshaw’s portraits of women screaming, including 45 shot during “scream sessions” in St. Paul in early April, will be displayed from June 6-30 at the Show Gallery Lowertown, 346 N. Sibley St. An opening reception for the artist will be held from 6-9 p.m. Friday, June 7. Her purpose is to provide a space for women to be heard, supported and believed. Visit [theshowgallerylowertown.org](http://theshowgallerylowertown.org).

**“Convergent Voices,”** an exhibit of art inspired by family, culture and heritage, will open with a public reception from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, June 6, at Landmark Center. The exhibit, which will be on view through July 28, includes “Voice of the Mother,” photographs by Kyong Juhn from her 370-mile journey in Minnesota that replicated her mother’s trek to freedom from North to South Korea in the 1950s; “Voices of a People,” the work of four Palestinian artists; and “Voices of the Ancestors,” traditional beadwork by Leah Yellowbird. Admission is free. Visit [landmarkcenter.org](http://landmarkcenter.org).

**“Another Fine Mess,”** large-scale drawings and sculptural installations by Russ White that reflect on such issues as police brutality, plastic pollution and body politics, will be displayed on June 7-9 at Squirrel Haus Arts, 3450 Snelling Ave. S. in Minneapolis. An opening reception featuring grilled cheese sandwiches from All Square restaurant, beer from Surly Brewing and a deejay set by Preston Drum will be held from 5-10 p.m. Friday, June 7. Beer sales and a portion of all art sales will go to We Are All Criminals, a nonprofit storytelling project. The exhibit will continue from noon-5 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Visit [squirrelhausarts.com](http://squirrelhausarts.com).

**Explore St. Paul’s** historic downtown and riverfront on free guided walking tours beginning at 10 a.m. Wednesdays this summer. The area around Rice Park will be explored on June 12 and the second Wednesday of every month. On June 19 and the third Wednesday of each month, the Heart of the City Tour will travel down St. Peter Street past some of the city’s most famous landmarks and influential buildings. Reservations are required. Call 651-292-3063.

## Family

**Merriam Park Library**, 1831 Marshall Ave., will offer the following free programs: Board at the Library, board game competition for all comers, from 2-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays; Family Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m. Fridays; You Can Make It, hands-on craft activities for children ages 7-11, 3-5 p.m. Mondays; Paw Pals, a chance for children ages 6-12 to read to a friendly dog, 6-7 p.m. Thursday, June 6. Call 651-642-0385.

**Dodge Nature Center**, 1701 Charlton St. and 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul, will offer Hunters of the Sky, a program on raptors for children ages 3-8 with parent, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13 (the cost is \$10 per child); Dodge’s Amazing Race for ages 21 and older, a local version of the televised competition for teams of two to four, from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, June 14 (\$80 per team includes beer or wine); and Snakes and Smores Family Campfire, from 6:30-7:30

p.m. Monday, June 24 (\$7 per person). Call 651-455-4531 or visit [dodgenaturecenter.org](http://dodgenaturecenter.org).

**Gibbs Farm**, a historical museum of 19th century Dakota and pioneer life at 2097 Larpenteur Ave., is serving homemade ice cream free of charge with tours every other Sunday through August 25. Visitors will make their own sundaes on June 16. The farm is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday through October. Admission is \$8, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for children ages 4-16. Call 651-646-8629.

**Intergenerational Play Time** with stories, songs and live ukelele music will be offered from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 18, at the Minnesota Veterans Home, 5101 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The free program is open to babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents. Call Erin Betlock at 612-548-5751.

## Film

**Apollo 11: First Steps Edition**, a giant-screen version of Todd Douglas Miller’s critically-acclaimed documentary about NASA’s first manned mission to the moon’s surface, is being shown through August 4 in the Science Museum of Minnesota’s Omnitheater, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. Tickets are \$9.95, \$8.95 for children ages 4-12 and seniors. For reservations, call 651-221-9444 or visit [smm.org](http://smm.org).

**“One Giant Leap,”** a planetarium production that puts audiences on the surface of the moon with Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong, is being presented all summer long at the Bell Museum, 2088 W. Larpenteur Ave. The show transforms archival footage of the moon landing of 1969 into a 360-degree experience. For show times and ticket information, visit [bellmuseum.umn.edu](http://bellmuseum.umn.edu) or call 612-626-9660.

**Sound Unseen** will screen *Parallel Love*, a new documentary on the cult band Luxury, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, at Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St., Minneapolis. The film follows this band of Georgia musicians who have a near-death experience in a horrific car crash, become Eastern Orthodox priests and continue to perform. Tickets are \$12. Visit [soundunseen.com](http://soundunseen.com).

## Et cetera

**Deutsche Tage** (German Days), an annual celebration of St. Paul’s Germanic heritage, will return on June 8 and 9 to the grounds of the Germanic-American Institute, 301 Summit Ave. For the past 60 years, the GAI has shared the arts, traditions and cuisine of German-speaking people around the world. The event will run from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Enjoy food from the Black Forest Inn and quench your thirst with such German spirits as Paulaner beer, various wines, Jägermeister, Apfelschorle and a special Deutsche Tage cocktail. Musical performers include the Joey Johnson polka band, accordionist Ron Machel, the Swiss Alp Horns and concertina virtuoso Josh Eidsor. An Environmental Pavilion will have displays about alternative energy, energy efficiency, passive house design and the ecological advantages of goats. Children’s activities and a 27-kilometer bicycle ride beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday will also be part of the fun. A \$3 wristband will be required before purchasing alcoholic beverage. For more information or to register for the ride, visit [gai-mn.org/deutschetage](http://gai-mn.org/deutschetage).

**“Whose Line Is It Anyway?”** comedians Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood will present their improvisational Scared Scriptless show at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 15, in the Ordway Concert Hall. The duo create original scenes on the spot from audience suggestions. Tickets are \$58-\$79, \$100 for VIP. Call 651-224-4222 or visit [ordway.org](http://ordway.org).

# Sports



## The Wright Call By Dave Wright

### U of M, UST softball take center stage

With Minnesota's professional sports teams all clamoring for attention this summer, it's tough for the college baseball and softball teams around town to get noticed. Add in that one of those pro teams—the Twins—is off to a very good and, to many, unexpected start, and the task gets ever harder to get someone to check out other winning squads.

Cue the University of St. Thomas and University of Minnesota softball teams. As of this writing, they had 89 wins between them this season and both made their way to the College World Series in their respective divisions.

The Tommies have been the team to beat for some time in the MIAC. They have won 18 of the last 20 conference titles, which any coach would envy. The architect of a majority of those wins, current head coach John Tschida, came into 2019 already figuring he had a good team. After all, there were 13 seniors, many of whom were there in 2016 when UST last advanced to the Division III national championships.

"My expectations were high," Tschida said. "I knew the talent was there, but you still have to go out and do it. You only get better by playing good competition. As a northern school, you know in advance you'll have to be flexible and be able to practice and play when you can."

Accordingly, the Tommies played their first six games in a dome in Rochester. The last of those was on March 3. Their next game was 20 days later in Florida. Once back home, they had some early struggles, splitting doubleheaders with St. Benedict and Hamline, before getting rolling. They lost just one more MIAC regular-season game and then, backed by the strong arm of pitcher Kierstin Anderson-Glass, a Visitation grad, won three close games in their conference tournament. Anderson-Glass tossed shutouts in all of them, two of which were 1-0 affairs.

"It was a very good conference this year," Tschida said. "The tournament was like a super regional."

UST then swept through Northwestern and Wisconsin-Eau Claire in the first round of regionals and blew away Wisconsin-La Crosse in a best-of-three super regional.

Unfortunately, the run ended in the College World Series in Tyler, Texas, when the Tommies lost 2-1 to Eastern Connecticut State and then 3-2 in 11 innings to Williams, ending their season with a 43-7 record.

Tschida was asked if he was disappointed by the final games. "No," he said. "You're playing the best teams in the country. To win those games, everything has to go right and you need a break or two."

The fun is continuing for the Gophers. The team that started its season with 31 road games finished with 11 of its last 14 at home, Jane Cowles Stadium. The last two were the most notable—a pair of wins over Louisiana State University in the NCAA super regional that sent the team to Oklahoma City for the Division I College World Series.

Suddenly, a team that had been anonymous all spring and drew just 710 fans for its first home game was on ESPN TV.

The national championships started on May 30. By now, many will know how Amber Fiser, MaKenna Partain, Maddie Houlihan and the rest of the Gophers fared in the matchups against teams from warmer climates.

"They're used to being in the hornet's nest," Tschida observed about the Gopher women. "They spent a lot of time on the road playing some of the best teams in the country at their ballparks."

Along the way there were setbacks, such as a 17-6 loss at Florida State and a 7-2 decision at Alabama. Of games like that, Tschida said, "You're not a loser. You're a learner."

The Gophers obviously learned well, going 20-2 in the Big Ten regular season. They lost to Michigan in the conference

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Minnehaha's Jake McCabe slides safely into third on an overthrow during the Redhawks' 5-2 win over New Life Academy in the Section 4AA playoffs on May 28. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Back on deck— Deep, solid Redhawks primed for return to state baseball tournament

BY BILL WAGNER

It would be premature to say that Minnehaha Academy has a lock on returning to this month's Class AA state baseball tournament. However, the Redhawks are doing a lot of the same things that have gotten them there for the last four years.

Minnehaha (17-4) has been ranked among the best high school baseball teams in the state all season. The Redhawks made it to the Section 4AA finals by outscoring Academy for Sciences & Agriculture, Concordia Academy, New Life Academy and Johnson by a combined 34-7.

As of press time, the top-seeded Redhawks were waiting to see whether they would face St. Agnes or Johnson in the section final on June 6. Minnehaha would have to lose twice to be kept from returning to the state tournament that opens on June 13.

The Redhawks, who have won two state baseball crowns and one consolation title in the past three years, have not been as much of a powerhouse this spring despite their record. Still, coach Scott Glenn was upbeat at the outset of the season, having lost only one senior and getting eight players back from a

team that finished 18-6.

He liked the fact that he had more experienced players in the field this spring and the basic ingredients for another run at state—outstanding pitching, a stout defense and solid hitting. However, he spent much of the spring looking for more pop in the lineup.

Glenn spoke to his players about that recently. "I said to them, 'As long as we pitch and play defense, we'll be in every game,'" he said. "But if we also get the hitting, it's scary how good we can be."

There have been signs that Minnehaha's hitting has been improving. Even though the Redhawks didn't tear the cover off the ball versus New Life, they did get RBI doubles from seniors Bennett Theisen and Conor Johnson to provide most of the offense they needed.

Senior Brock Brumley pitched the complete-game victory against New Life, giving up five hits and striking out seven for his fifth win of the season. He and Theisen have been an effective one-two punch on the mound for Minnehaha all year.

"This year we probably have the deepest pitching staff we've ever had," Glenn said.

The bats did come around for the Redhawks in the second round of

sections in an 11-1, five-inning win against Concordia Academy on May 23. The offensive explosion was led with home runs by Theisen and senior Noah Dehne.

Theisen also was the complete-game victor on the mound.

Among the team's victories so far, Glenn pointed to a 5-4 thriller against Duluth-Marshall in mid-April. He was particularly pleased with the way his players hit that day, given that they faced 6-foot-5 flamethrower Ben Peterson, a Division I college prospect.

Though the Redhawks scored only one run against Peterson, who "throws about 93 mph" according to Glenn, they did manage to stay tough at the plate and run his pitch count up.

Once Duluth-Marshall went to its bullpen, Minnehaha's bats took over. Dehne's three-run homer was the big difference-maker, and Brumley provided a walk-off RBI single to win it. Junior Will Wamre picked up the win in relief.

No matter who the Redhawks play the rest of the post-season, Glenn believes that it's going to take a pretty good team playing a pretty good game to oust his squad. "We have the depth," he said, "and we have the experience."

## Vis makes state, CDH falls shy in softball playoffs

BY BILL WAGNER

The Visitation softball team lost 14-4 to Holy Angels in its first game of the Section 3AAA championship on May 31. However, the Blazers regrouped to take the second game 6-2 in the double-elimination tournament to advance to state for the third time in coach Dan Jameson's tenure at the school.

Vis (11-14) will face Mankato West (23-1) in the opening round of state on

June 6 at Caswell Park in Mankato. No matter how well the Blazers do there, they have established themselves as a great feel-good story in the sections.

Going in as the seventh seed, Vis first defeated second-seeded Highland Park 8-4, then third-seeded South St. Paul 2-1, and finally top-seeded Holy Angels to set up the championship round, in which the Blazers would have had to lose twice to be denied a state berth.

However, following a lopsided loss in the first final contest against the Stars,

Jameson, whose team is heading to state without any seniors, said his squad just needed to settle down. "We wanted them to hit the reset button," he said. "Our defense showed up in the second game."

Jameson said junior relief pitcher Ceci Baillon entered the game in the third inning of that first final and managed to drag the joust out on a hot day. The heat, he said, made it difficult on the Holy

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# SPA makes fourth straight trip to state boys' tennis tourney

BY BILL WAGNER

St. Paul Academy advanced to the state boys' tennis tournament for the fourth straight season with a 7-0 whitewash of Holy Angels in the Section 4A final at SPA on May 16.

The Spartans, who were seeded No. 1 in section play, were impressive enough that they received a bye in the first round and then beat Minnehaha Academy 6-1 in the semifinals before going on to clinch the state berth.

Still, veteran coach Viet Pham wanted to make sure that his players remained properly grounded before they faced Thief River Falls in the opening round of the state Class A team competition on June 4-5 at the Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center in Minneapolis. Individual state competition follows on June 6-7.

Pham was adopting a "not-so-fast" posture

about his team, which took third at state last year. Unlike some past seasons, he said, the Spartans are "good" but not "great," and do not have a true top gun as a major threat. Instead, they have a steady bunch of good players who know how to win.

SPA got off to a slow start this spring, but seem to have resolved any issues at the right time. The Spartans are entering state on a seven-game winning streak and had a 9-3 record in dual matches.

"We weren't match-tough early on," said Pham, whose team has not lost since a 6-1 setback against Hopkins on April 24. "We win with our depth and we're always improving. We're clicking now and headed to the big dance."

Pham, whose team has only two seniors, doesn't like to give individual players too much praise, feeling it detracts from the over-

all team concept. Still, he knows that you can't get to state without talented players and a strong work ethic.

Juniors Nathan Sebotka and Max Soll rotate playing first and second singles. Pham said he likes the fact that the two have different styles, with Sebotka showing more of a finesse game and Soll playing more power tennis.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the season has been freshman Kai Sih, who has performed admirably at both third and fourth singles. "There's been a night-and-day difference between last year and this," Pham said about Sih's play.

The Spartans' doubles game is also in capable hands. Senior Jeffrey Huang has plenty of experience and, according to Pham, is "one of the best doubles players I've ever had."

Huang has had several partners at first doubles, and Pham is just as comfortable teaming

him with junior Brennan Keogh or sophomores Liam Lynch or Luka Shaker-Check. "And our second doubles will be just as good," Pham said.

Though he doesn't like to pinpoint "signature" wins, the coach said defeating Cretin-Derham Hall 7-0 on May 10 was an encouraging sign heading into sections. The Spartans also logged a 4-3 win over Breck and 6-1 wins over Woodbury and St. Thomas Academy. And they lost by a 4-3 margin to Mounds Park Academy, which earlier this year had broken into the state's top 10 teams.

In the section final victory over Holy Angels, Sebotka, Soll, Sih and Keogh all won at singles by no worse than 6-2 in any match. The doubles teams of Huang/Shaker-Check, junior Sameer Bijwadia/Lynch and senior Riley Tietel/seventh-grader Maik Nguyen also won their matches convincingly.

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Angels pitchers, which showed up in the second game. Vis' top pitcher, sophomore Izzy Griffin, was rested for the second contest, where she picked up the complete-game win.

The Blazers also got a solid second game from junior catcher Jenna Hoops, who went two-for-four at the plate and drove in two runs. She is hitting over .500 for the season. Freshman short-stop Hannah Allen helped break a 2-2 tie with a leadoff single in the sixth inning.

If the Blazers are to continue their Cinderella story, they'll have to do it the hard way. Their first-round opponent at state is Mankato West, the top-rated team in AAA. "We have our work cut out for us," Jameson said.

### CDH softball

Fourth-seeded Cretin-Derham Hall nearly pulled off its first trip to state in 28 years in the Section 4AAAA softball playoffs. The Raiders

only needed to beat Stillwater once in the championship round on May 30, but bowed 8-1 and then 16-7 to the top-ranked Ponies.

The Raiders (8-16) didn't have that great of a regular season, but they were nearly unstoppable in the postseason when they beat Woodbury 8-3, Stillwater 6-5 and Roseville 4-3 to make it to the final.

It actually looked pretty good for the Raiders in the final game as they led 2-1 into the sixth inning, but they could not hold on. "We just didn't get it," said CDH coach Patrick Bowlin, "but Stillwater was the better team. Their lineup, one through nine, is arguably one of the best in the state. It wouldn't surprise me if they win it all."

Bowlin attributed his team's late surge largely to a handful of junior and sophomore players who were "locked in." He singled out junior first baseman Emily McQuillan, sophomore catcher Frances Staples and junior pitcher Stella Dolan for having outstanding seasons that added hugely to the Raider cause.



Raider pitcher Stella Dolan leans into her windup in the first of two games played against Stillwater to determine the Section 4AAAA champion.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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tournament championship game, but recovered well to roll into the College World Series.

"They were prepared for what they saw in the regionals," Tschida noted. "At this time of year, it's all how they handle the pressure. You know what you're getting into."

Minnesota is a bit of an intruder at the College World Series. Like baseball, the NCAA softball tournament tends to be home to warm-weather teams. Thus, it was easy for the Gophers to adopt a chip-on-the-shoulder attitude. That made for an enjoyable ride in the two regionals that were played on their home turf.

Now that they've made it to the big show with a 46-12 overall record, the emphasis shifts to showing they belong.

As was the case a few years back when the U of M volleyball and women's basketball teams advanced in the NCAA tournaments, this has been an enjoyable ride into a rarefied atmosphere. Minnesota's success is a pleasant reminder how much fun sports can be, even for those who had no idea a month ago who this Gopher team was.

## Starr, Buckner provide history lesson

Memorial Day is always a time for reflection. Two recent deaths in the sports world over Memorial Day weekend served as a reminder that a person's legacy can cut both ways.

Bart Starr was a rarity—a Green Bay Packer who most diehard Vikings fans couldn't dislike even when he won a lot of games at Minnesota's expense. Granted, it was a different era. There were no social media to inflame folks.

The fact is that Starr simply went to work without melodrama. The Packers of that era won solidly, but they never seemed to embarrass their opponents. Starr was the epitome of calm and class, moving his team methodically to victory. Off the field, he was the same way. He was pleasant, courteous and complimentary to players who did well against his team. He signed autographs graciously. He was a likeable guy, something not always seen in modern pro and college athletes and coaches. When he passed away on May 26 at age 85, he was duly mourned by friend and foe alike—a well-deserved legacy.

Fate was not so kind to baseball legend Bill Buckner. It was almost overlooked that he recorded 2,715 hits during a

22-year career. That's more hits than such well-known names as Ted Williams, Reggie Jackson and Mickey Mantle—all surefire Hall of Famers. It's nearly 600 more hits than the recently retired Joe Mauer, who has a good chance of making it to the Hall someday. It's nearly 800 more than Tony Oliva, who, in the minds of many locals, should have been in Cooperstown long ago.

However, the enduring memory of Buckner was a ground ball that rolled through his legs in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series, giving the New York Mets a dramatic win over the Red Sox. When the Mets won the World Series two nights later, Buckner's fate was sealed in the minds of many.

Eventually, Boston's hard-nosed fans came to terms with it and welcomed him back to town. But the memory came up from time to time, the final of which occurred when he passed away on May 27 at age 69.

It was a sad reminder that history really is forever. It's even more so in this age of the Internet. People may eventually be willing to forgive a misdeed that occurs on or off a playing field, but they rarely if ever forget.

Dave Wright can be reached at [dwright53@msn.com](mailto:dwright53@msn.com).

# Sports Shorts

**The Central High School softball team** (13-8) won the St. Paul City Conference title this spring for the first time since the conference was established in 1978. It went on to defeat Minneapolis South 8-6 on May 30 to win the Twin Cities' championship game. Central's baseball team (15-5) also won the conference title, giving the Minutemen both city titles for the first time in the school's history.

**The Great Amazing Race**, a family-friendly adventure to support pediatric cancer research, will take place at Kenwood Park in Minneapolis at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 14. Two-person teams (adult/adult, adult/kid or kid/kid) will complete a 1.5-mile cross country course speckled with up to eight challenge stations. Participants can choose either the recreation or competitive course and should

be prepared to get a little dirty and wet. Tickets are \$49.99 per team in advance and \$59.99 on race day. Visit [greatamazingrace.com](http://greatamazingrace.com).

**The Macalester College** men's basketball team will conduct basketball camps during the weeks of June 17-21 and August 5-9 for boys entering grades 4-8 next fall. Visit [tinyurl.com/y6qgyb7e](http://tinyurl.com/y6qgyb7e) or contact coach Abe Woldelessie at 651-696-6245 for more information.

**The Highland Park High School** boys and girls won the St. Paul City Conference track and field team championships on May 23 with scores of 241 and 214, respectively. Central finished second in both instances. Highland's track teams have combined to win 17 of the last 20 conference championships. The head coach is David Zeitchick.



The Central High School softball team poses for a photo after defeating Minneapolis South 8-6 on May 30 to win the Twin Cities' championship.

# Classifieds

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ESTATE SALE. 1676 Eleanor Avenue. June 7-8, 9am-4pm both days. Crystal, China, Costume Jewelry and other various household items.

**BIKE SALE**

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**PLANT SALE**

PLANT SALE and Flea Market. Saturday, June 8, 10am-3pm at 974 West 7th Street.

**CRAFTERS WANTED**

CRAFTERS WANTED. Arden Hills, June 13-15, 9am-5pm. Quilt material, beads galore, craft books and magazines, stain glass sheets and pieces, art paints, craft supplies, hundreds of mystery/romance audio books, music CDs, movie DVDs, housewares, work tables and much more! 1355 Indian Oaks Trail.

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Updated 2BR, 1BA home features a beautiful kitchen w/SS appliances and granite counters, open layout, LR with a wd-burning fireplace, a window-lined den, and stunning deck that perches you among the trees! Two main floor BR's. Tuck-under 1GA 800 Wentworth Ave. \*click on [www.teamedelstein.com](http://www.teamedelstein.com)

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**COMING SOON!**

Home to only it's 3rd owner, this 2BR, 1 BA home is a delight! Situated in desirable Highland Park, this home features original hardwood floors, updated bath, large flat backyard and new roof/windows /siding! Bring your finishing ideas for the bsmt to build instant equity.

**MORAGHAN DeROSIA**  
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**OWN FOR LESS THAN RENTING!**

Situated only minutes from both downtown Minneapolis and Saint Paul, this 2BR, 2BA condo has so much to offer! Featuring newer mechanicals, in-unit laundry, a private deck and wood burning fireplace. Located in the highly desired Roseville School District.

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**Price Reduced!**

**1795 SARGENT AVENUE!**

4BR, 3BA home on an extra large lot in the Tangletown neighborhood of Mac-Groveland. The home features 3BR's on one level, recently remodeled kitchen with granite countertops and an updated lower level. Great value in a wonderful location.

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612-432-4771 • \$374,900



**BRIMMING WITH CHARACTER!**

This charm-filled 2BR, 2BA gem is accented with refinished hardwood floors, living room with fireplace, formal dining and den. Watch the changing seasons from the inviting porch and fenced back yard. Attached 2-Car. 1757 Juliet Avenue. \*click on [www.teamedelstein.com](http://www.teamedelstein.com)

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**PREMIER HIGHLAND LIST!**

This original owner is now ready to sell this meticulously cared for 3BR, 2BA post war bungalow. Numerous improvements and updates include kitchen, bath, windows, steel siding, garage and custom shed, main floor FR walks out to stunning landscaping and lot-rare opportunity now available.

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**PREMIER OFFER!**

5BR, 4BA late mid-century gem with all originality intact and in absolutely mint condition! Numerous improvements include inground pool, 3 car gar, windows and more! Majestic bluff views and conveniently located to everything! Rare opportunity! Call Lolly for details.

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**CLASSIC COLONIAL!!!**

1095 Vail Drive: Spacious center stair Colonial featuring a completely renovated kitchen, fabulous master bedroom suite, beautiful maple floors and a delightful three season porch.

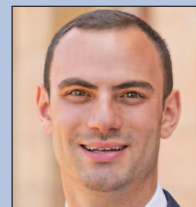
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**EXPECT TO BE ENVIED!!!**

743 Goodrich Ave: Stunning 5 bedroom brick home designed by Clarence Johnston featuring a spectacular kitchen, entertainment sized living and dining rooms, cozy main floor den, and an amazing 3rd floor game room.

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**PORTLAND AVENUE JEWEL!**

This elegant 5BR/2BA home is on a beautiful block in a prime location. Open front porch, light filled spaces, and pristine exterior. 1008 Portland. \$595,000

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**MID-CENTURY MODERN LIVING!**

Mid-century modern living just off the Mississippi River. Private lot that is perfect for summer entertaining with large deck. Open floor plan with original details. Updates throughout. 3 car attached garage.  
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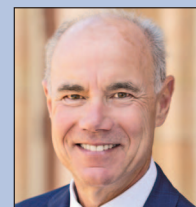
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**HOME OF FRANK B. KELLOGG!**

This stately Crocus Hill home features 9,000 sq ft, breathtaking interiors, inlaid and pegged floors, a 1/2 acre lot with reflecting pool and a carriage house. This was an ASID showcase home in 2004 and is a designated National Historic Landmark. 633 Fairmount Ave.

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**RAMSEY HILL CONDO!**

Condo features updated BA's & kitchen, vaulted kit w/maple flrs & cabinets, granite center island & balcony w/tree-top views and reflection pool. It has spacious DR & vaulted LR w/hrdwd flrs, built-in buffet. Each unit has its own furnace, AC, wtr htr & laundry. Includes 2 parking spots: middle stall of heated underground parking & detached gar. #3 in back.

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651-282-9621 • \$449,000



**CLASSIC CATHEDRAL HILL CONDO!**

This classic features 3BRs, 2BA, fireplace, sun room, hardwood floors & over 1700 finished square feet in Cochran Park Condominiums. You will enjoy the sunny & bright open floor plan with many large windows on 3 sides and beautiful natural woodwork. 436 Holly Ave #3.

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**CLARENCE JOHNSTON MANSION!**

This magnificent home has over 14,000 square feet, 10 bedrooms, 17 bathrooms, rich mahogany paneling, huge beamed ceilings, you will love the superb carriage house.

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