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City thinks liquor may be a quicker way to revive University's streetscape

By JANE McCLURE

A plan to bring more bars and night clubs to University Avenue by creating as many as a dozen new commercial development districts will be the subject of a public conversation hosted by the city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. The measure is seen as a way to revitalize the vacant storefronts and other underdeveloped properties on University.

"We've heard interest from the business community to see what can be done to further revitalize University," said DSI deputy director Dan Niziolek. The prospect of encouraging more night-life has been discussed for some time, but it is gathering steam with the approach of the open-

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT ►3



New Rondo rendezvous. Rasheda Jenkins tours the Rondo Commemorative Plaza during its grand opening on July 14 at 820 Concordia Ave. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Sign ordinance changes raise red flags for Scenic St. Paul

Some fear revisions targeting new sports facilities could have unintended results

By JANE McCLURE

Amendments to St. Paul's sign ordinance to accommodate new signs at Treasure Island Center and Tria Rink in downtown and at the Allianz Field Major League Soccer stadium in the Midway have been recommended for approval by the St. Paul Planning Commission. However, Scenic St. Paul and Ward 7 City Council member Jane Prince have asked that the proposed changes get more scrutiny before they go to the City Council for a vote.

John Mannillo of Scenic St. Paul said his group was not aware of the proposed changes until after the Planning Commission's public hearing on the amendments. Representatives of the soccer stadium's developer and the St. Paul Port Authority were the only people to

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Proposed rezoning offers 'bold reimagining' of Marshall

City considers high density along avenue in Union Park

By JANE McCLURE

A large-scale rezoning of properties on Marshall Avenue between Hamline Avenue and the Mississippi River is now being reviewed by the St. Paul Planning Commission following a June 29 public hearing on the proposal. The planning commissioners are poring over dozens of verbal and written comments as they prepare to make a recommendation on the rezonings on August 10.

The rezonings are intended to strike a balance between encouraging more dense, mixed-use residential and commercial development

and protecting Marshall's many historic single-family homes.

More than 300 properties line that stretch of Marshall Avenue. Over half of them are currently zoned for single-family residential, but with an underlying zoning that allows buildings of up to five stories tall. That is what happened recently at the northeast corner of Marshall and Moore Street, where two homes will be torn down to make way for a five-story apartment building.

The proposed rezonings, which have the support of the Union Park District Council (UPDC), call for higher-density mixed-use development between the Mississippi River and Cretin Avenue and at the major intersections at Cleveland, Fairview and Snelling avenues. Marshall already has mixed-use Traditional Neighborhoods (TN) zoning near Snelling. That was changed last year

as part of a South Snelling zoning study.

TN1 zoning allows building heights of up to 35 feet, TN2 allows heights of up to 45 feet and TN3 allows heights of up to 55 feet, though buildings can go higher with a conditional use permit.

A half dozen new zoning classifications are being contemplated for the Marshall properties. Some changes are from one form of multi-family residential to another, with some areas rezoned for more density and others rezoned for less.

The rezonings are on a fast track, partly because the six blocks of Marshall between Wheeler and Wilder streets are under a development moratorium that expires in October. The moratorium was imposed to give city planners time to complete a study of old homes in the area for

MARSHALL AVE. REZONING ►2

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St. Paul airs plan for a more pedestrian-friendly Midway Area

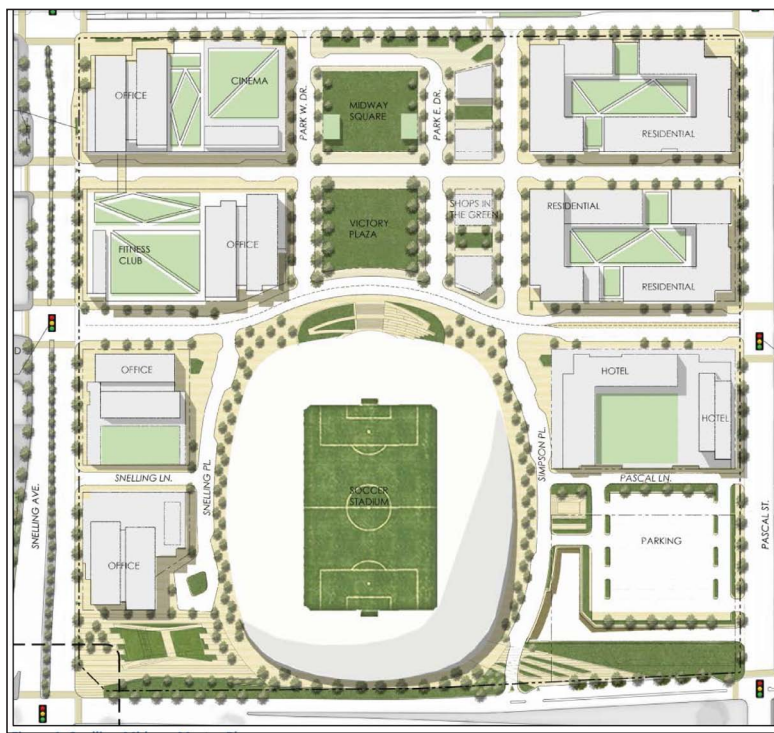
Boulevard and three parks planned near University-Snelling

By JANE MCCLURE

A plan for new plazas, parks, streets, sidewalks and bicycle facilities near the Green Line's Snelling Avenue and Westgate stations will be the subject of a public hearing before the St. Paul Planning Commission at 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 27.

The proposed facilities require amendments to the Snelling and Westgate plans that were adopted by the city of St. Paul in 2008 for land uses within a quarter mile of the two light-rail stations. The changes near Snelling and University is related to work that is going on in conjunction with the construction of Allianz Field for the Minnesota United Major League Soccer team. The changes near Westgate are being driven by Dominion Development's redevelopment of the former Weyerhaeuser lumberyard.

The 2008 Snelling station area plan called for redevelopment, but not at the scale envisioned by



The plan for the blocks adjacent to the new soccer stadium includes three small plazas and a pedestrian boulevard on Snelling Avenue.

the subsequent Snelling-Midway Master Plan released in 2016 by a 21-member task force for the blocks bounded by University, Snelling, St. Anthony and Pascal streets. In addition to the new soccer stadium,

the Snelling-Midway Master Plan included new retail stores and restaurants, hotels and multi-family residential buildings. It was adopted in 2016 by the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council.

The proposed amendments to the Snelling station area plan incorporate provisions in the Snelling-Midway Master Plan. One major amendment involves what the 2008 plan called the Snelling Transit Plaza at the southeast corner of Snelling and University. That area is now being eyed for The Boulevard.

"The Boulevard will transform Snelling Avenue with wider sidewalks, street trees and active ground-floor uses such as shops, cafes and office building lobbies," the station area plan amendment states. It will be a place of respite for transit riders and pedestrians with new landscaping and street furniture, according to the amendment.

Other amendments incorporate plans for three open spaces southeast of Snelling and University. Two of the spaces are north of the stadium—Victory Plaza and Midway Square. The third open space—United Champion Plaza—would be located on the northeast corner of Snelling and St. Anthony avenues. Those areas could be used for such things as festivals, farmers' markets and food trucks and would include public art.

The proposed amendments

would incorporate the extension of Shields Avenue east of Snelling and plans for other new streets around the stadium, as well as the moving of the traffic semaphore on Snelling from Spruce Tree Drive to Shields and an improved pedestrian crossing at Spruce Tree Drive.

Near the Westgate station at University and Curfew Street, Dominion is building 360 new apartments, including 240 units of senior housing. In recent months, local residents and business people have worked with the city and the Riverfront Corporation to flesh out ideas for new open spaces in the area and better connections to adjacent neighborhoods.

More market-rate housing is being eyed for the Westgate area, as well as a new headquarters for Sunrise Bank and a future brewery or distillery. A new Public Storage business and Vertical Endeavors climbing emporium recently located there. Plans call for a new street and sidewalk grid, two small parks and the conversion of an abandoned railroad into a section of St. Paul's Grand Round bicycle and pedestrian trail.

1◀ SIGN ORDINANCE CHANGES

testify at the June 1 hearing, and they supported the changes.

Scenic St. Paul has worked for years to reduce sign clutter and the number of billboards in the city. "We didn't get a chance to weigh in," Mannillo said. "We weren't even aware changes were being considered. Some of these changes could have citywide impacts. In some ways we'd be gutting the sign ordinance."

Prince, who worked on the city's sign ordinance as a legislative aide to former Ward 4 City Council member Jay Benanav from 1998-2007, agreed with Mannillo. The changes go beyond accommodating sports facilities, she said, they could remove protections that a lot of people worked hard for.

"A quick look at the amendments reveals a lot of big changes," Prince said. One of her greatest concerns is that residential properties might be exposed to dynamic or electronic signs that are brightly lit and flash several new messages every minute.

The zoning code has a minimum 300-foot distance requirement between new advertising signs and any homes, houses of worship or schools. That distance requirement would be dropped under the proposed amend-

ments. Allowing advertising signs, especially dynamic signs, so close to homes and houses of worship could have a deleterious effect on the quality of life, according to Mannillo.

The proposed changes to the sign ordinance are meant to address several issues, according to senior city planner Kady Dadlez, including advertising or sponsorship signs at professional sports facilities and temporary signs.

The city defines advertising signs as signs that direct attention to a business, profession, commodity, service or entertainment that is not on the premises where the sign is located. A billboard is an example of an advertising sign. The zoning code prohibits new advertising signs in the city, although there are exceptions for certain sports facilities, facility sponsorship signs and bicycle sharing facilities.

One proposed amendment would reduce the minimum seating requirement from 10,000 to 1,000 for a professional sports facility getting a new advertising sign. That amendment would accommodate the Tria Rink at Treasure Island Center.

Under current code, sports facility sponsorship signs are considered to be advertising signs and are only allowed at specified locales, such as the outfield signs at the Little League

Dynamic display signs are planned at Sixth and Wabasha and Sixth and Cedar streets.

fields at Dunning Recreation Center. The city's sign ordinance would be amended to allow those signs at Allianz Field.

New advertising signs are being sought above stadium gates and on directional pylons at Allianz Field. The soccer stadium ownership group is also seeking to retain the large billboard at the northeast corner of Snelling and St. Anthony avenues, although an earlier development agreement reached with the city called for the billboard's removal.

At Treasure Island Center—the former Macy's and Dayton's department store in downtown—changes are being sought to allow dynamic display signs. Those electronic signs, which are now displayed outside Xcel Energy Center, flash messages and pictures. New signs advertising off-premise products and services are anticipated at Treasure Island Center, according to Dadlez.

Treasure Island Center, which is home to the Minnesota Wild's practice facility, is

also used as home ice by Hamline University's hockey team and contains offices, retail stores, clinics, restaurants and a brewery. Dynamic display signs are planned at Sixth and Wabasha streets and Sixth and Cedar streets to advertise activities at Treasure Island Center as well as other downtown venues. These signs would trigger the need for yet another zoning code amendment that would remove the requirement that dynamic signs be on arterial streets. None of the four downtown streets where the Treasure Island Center signs would be located are arterial streets.

According to Dadlez, the changes are not considered to be controversial issue for downtown. Besides, she added, the city zoning administrator has the authority to limit the illumination of signs during the night when a determination is made that the lighting is affecting neighboring properties.

A final sign ordinance amendment would affect temporary signs. Currently, a temporary sign of no more than 50 square feet is permitted to identify engineers, architects or contractors at a construction site. That regulation would be amended to allow recipients of St. Paul Sales Tax Revitalization grants to post a second sign indicating that city funds have been allocated to the project.

1◀ MARSHALL AVE. REZONING

possible historic designation. The city's goal is to have the zoning changes in place before the moratorium ends.

Local residents who testified on June 29 said they would like to see new high-density housing constructed on Marshall, but in a way that enhances the neighborhood and takes advantage of transit. They want new mixed-use developments with businesses they can walk to, but they also want the area's historic homes preserved and they want buffers between high-density developments and adjacent single-family homes.

Marshall Avenue resident Dean Nelson, who co-chairs the UPDC's Land Use Committee, called the rezoning plan a "bold reimagining" of Marshall that offers new opportunities for higher-density housing on transit routes.

The UPDC is asking the city for more housing density than the plan recommends for the properties at 1801 and 1809 Marshall Ave. "We need to put the growth where the

transit opportunities are," said Carroll Avenue resident Mark Morrow.

The UPDC has conducted several workshops and walking tours on the zoning changes. Neighbors who brought forward changes asked for the rezoning of two service stations on Marshall as well as the Town and Country Club golf course in the interest of long-term planning. However, city staff balked at those requests.

The UPDC and neighborhood residents also recommended that industrially zoned property between Snelling and Albert Street be rezoned to TN3 to promote high-density mixed-use development in the long term. However, the St. Paul Port Authority opposed the loss of industrial land.

David Kvasnik, whose family owns several commercial, residential and mixed-use buildings in Merriam Park, asked the Planning Commission to consider TN3 zoning for his family's properties on Marshall at Cretin and Cleveland avenues. TN2 zoning has been recommended for those intersections, but that would not allow for the type of redevelopment

his family envisions, Kvasnik said.

Some of the properties have been owned by his family for more than 30 years, Kvasnik said, and they are ready to be redeveloped. The family does not intend to build new housing that appeals to college students, but wants to provide one-, two- and three-bedroom units in new mixed-use buildings. The higher-density TN3 zoning would make that financially feasible, he stated.

"Through proper zoning we could open the door to non-students at some of our most important corners and start to fill the neighborhood with families and workers rather than students and dorms," Kvasnik wrote in a letter to the Planning Commission.

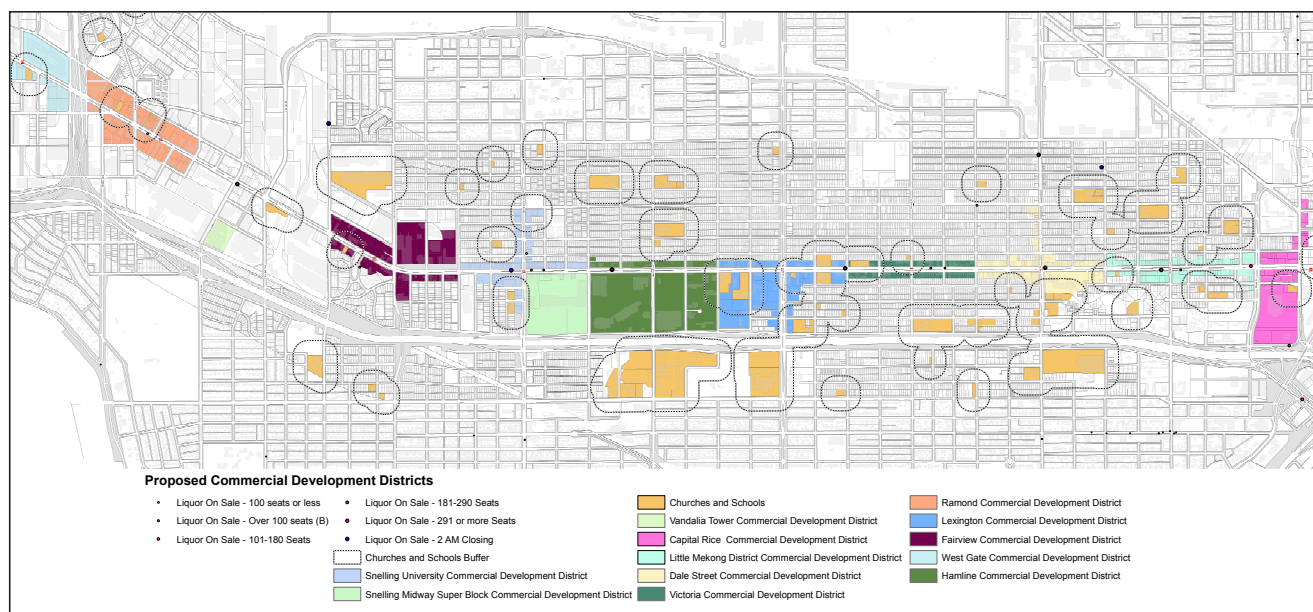
Local residents have complained of developers pressuring Marshall Avenue homeowners to sell and thus pushing families out of the neighborhood. Pat McFaden, a longtime Marshall resident, said the "frenzy" to redevelop does not serve the neighborhood well. "It's top dollar for your home, no repairs needed, immediate closing," she said. New families would like to move onto Marshall, she added,

but can no longer afford to.

Overshadowing the issue is the proliferation of off-campus student housing in the neighborhood. "Those challenges are real and they have a direct impact on our neighborhood," said UPDC Land Use Committee member Eric Molho.

With that in mind, the UPDC is asking the city to delay some of the rezonings until changes can be made to the city's student housing zoning overlay district, which established a minimum distance requirement between undergraduate rental properties in neighborhoods around the University of St. Thomas.

The existing single-family zoning on Marshall should be retained until the city's student housing zoning overlay district regulations can be amended, the UPDC stated. Concerns have been raised that with the rezoning, landlords could more easily convert single-family student rentals into duplexes, according to UPDC executive director Brandon Long, and that would be counter to the intent of the student zoning overlay district.



The map above of the University Avenue corridor in St. Paul shows church and school property in light brown and the proposed commercial development districts where bars and nightclubs would be allowed in other colors.

1 UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT

ing of the \$200 million Allianz Field Major League Soccer stadium in early 2019.

St. Paul limits the number of on-sale liquor licenses in each of its seven wards. However, the smaller commercial development districts are exempt from those limits.

According to Niziolek, the testimony of local residents and business people will help shape the size and number of commercial development districts to be established along University.

Local business owners have had a mixed response to the idea. "We've anticipated something like this for some time, especially close to the soccer stadium," said Dan O'Gara, whose family has owned O'Gara's Bar and Grill at 164 N. Snelling Ave. for the past 77 years. "If it brings more people into the area, we're for it."

"I think the neighborhood definitely needs some help to develop in a smart way," said Wesley Burdine, who is currently transforming the Town House bar at 1415 University Ave. into Black Hart of St. Paul, a soccer-themed bar with a GLBT-friendly vibe that is scheduled to open later this summer. "I see this as a positive step. We have a lot of long-term business owners (on University), and some of the spaces need attention."

Shannon Forney, co-owner of Workhorse Coffee Bar at 2399 University Ave., said she understands the appeal of having more nightclubs on University,

"I think the neighborhood definitely needs some help to develop in a smart way."

but questioned whether redevelopment along the light-rail Green Line should not have a broader focus. "I'm an artist," Forney said. "I'm not against more businesses and more liquor. But I'd like to see as much of a focus on bringing in new artists and other entertainment, maybe filling up some of the empty storefronts with galleries and shops."

The district councils in St. Anthony Park, Union Park, Hamline-Midway, Frogtown and Summit-University have been asked to weigh in on the matter, as has the Midway Chamber of Commerce. Dan Taylor, president of the Union Park District Council, said the idea deserves serious consideration. However, members of the UPDC's Land Use Committee have had mixed reactions, as have residents of the Union Park neighborhood.

One hindrance to any prospective bar owner may be the rising price of real estate in the area. Burdine said he searched for several years for a bar to purchase near his Midway home. Hot Rod's bar at 1553 University Ave. is for sale, he said, but the price is \$1.485 million.

New commercial development districts are being contemplated along

University in the Capitol and Rice Street areas, in the Little Mekong area near Western Avenue, and at Dale Street, Victoria Street, Lexington Parkway, Hamline Avenue, Snelling Avenue, Fairview Avenue, Vandalia Avenue and Highway 280 and the Westgate Station area.

The city of St. Paul created its first commercial development districts in the 1980s as a way to cluster bars and restaurants in entertainment districts. Several districts were created then, including one near the former Amtrak Station on Transfer Road and one near University and Hamline avenues. While some commercial development districts, such as the one in Cathedral Hill, have flourished, others never took off.

Two years ago, the City Council made major changes to its liquor regulations to allow restaurants with full menus to obtain on-sale liquor licenses. While that has not generated a flurry of on-sale liquor licenses as expected, there are businesses that want on-sale liquor licenses without having to meet the full menu requirement.

In June the City Council approved an expansion of the commercial development district around Can Can Wonderland, which is located about a half mile north of University Avenue in the former American Can Company factory at 755 N. Prior Ave. The expansion allowed nearby FlannellJax's to seek an on-sale liquor license. FlannellJax's, which opened in April, also offers competitive sawing, log rolling and hatchet throwing.

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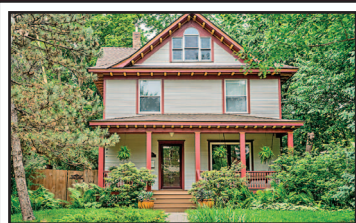
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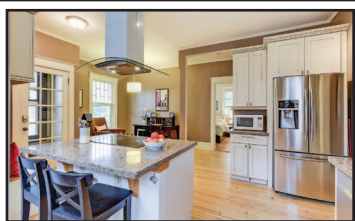
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Area projects wishing upon \$2.7 million in STAR funds for 2018

Grants for Treasure Island, Boyd Park playgrounds among those rejected

By JANE McCLURE

Twenty-five projects could split \$2.7 million in 2018 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) funds if the recommendations are approved by Mayor Melvin Carter and the St. Paul City Council. The projects, which were recently recommended by the Neighborhood STAR board, lean heavily toward small-business efforts. That reflects the direction urged last year by the City Council, which is expected to approve the funding allocations this summer.

Fifteen projects did not make the cut and one project was withdrawn out of the 41 submitted. The rejected projects included a \$100,000 grant request from Expo Elementary parents and teachers to replace the Treasure Island Playground at 540 S. Warwick St., and a \$50,000 grant request from the Vivienne's Joy Foundation to add new play areas at Boyd Park, 335 Selby Ave.

The lone park project recommended for funding is the St. Paul Parks Conservancy's request for improvements to Rice Park. A \$200,000 grant is recommended with a \$1.3 million match proposed.

STAR requests this year topped the \$5.4 million mark, with proposed matches totaling more than \$28.4 million. This year the city eliminated the need for matching dollars on the first \$50,000 of loan requests. Grants still require a dollar-for-dollar match. The STAR program is funded by the city's extra half-percent sales tax.

The largest local project recommended for funding is for the renovation of former Fire Station 10 at 754 Randolph Ave. Developer Travis Temke is seeking a \$100,000 grant and a \$125,000 loan with a \$1.9 million match to convert the former fire hall into a restaurant, craft brewery and event space. The project was ranked 20th overall.

The highest-ranked project citywide is for Sabrina's Cafe and Deli, 518 N. Snelling Ave. It has been recommended to receive a \$10,000 grant with a \$10,000 match for interior and exterior improvements.

Another project recommended for funding near the new Midway soccer stadium is by Black Hart Properties, which recently purchased the Town House bar and restaurant at 1415 University Ave. Its request for a \$50,000 grant with a \$531,770 match for interior and exterior improvements to create a soccer-themed establishment ranked 23rd.

Afro Deli, 5 W. Seventh Place, which plans to renovate a new storefront at 56 E. Sixth St., was recommended to receive a \$37,500 grant and \$37,500 loan with a \$75,000 match. That project ranked second overall.

Two requests for the new Keg & Case Market, 928 W. Seventh St., are also moving forward. Pimento Inc. ranked fifth with its bid for a \$25,000 grant and \$50,000 loan with a \$200,000 match to build a 5,000-square-foot commissary to create ethic food products. A request from Gazta & Enhancements for a \$50,000 grant and \$50,000 loan with a \$250,000 match to build a cheese bar at the market ranked 18th.

St. Paul Guitar Repair, 1101 W. Seventh St., ranked eighth with its request for a \$15,000 grant with \$15,000 match to build a space for restoring and finishing stringed instruments.

Two requests from the Summit-University neighborhood are still in the running. The Running Tiger gym ranked 29th with its request for a \$75,793 grant and \$75,793 loan with a \$151,585 match to renovate a vacant building at 1040 Selby Ave. Taste of Rondo, 976 Concordia Ave., ranked 25th and is recommended for a \$35,125 grant and \$35,125 loan with a \$150,000 match to renovate a private club and create a new restaurant.

Local projects that were not recommended for STAR funding came from the Art Farm advertising agency at 310 Sherman St., St. Clair Properties for its mixed-use building at 1580 St. Clair and 245-251 S. Snelling Ave., a Selby Maker Space at 1161 Selby Ave., Guild 842 for a co-working space at 842 Raymond Ave., a Family Place garden at 722 Concordia Ave. and a Treasure Island Center public space at 400 N. Wabasha St.

Two of the three groups seeking STAR funds to encourage ethnic business development citywide are still in the running. The African Development Center's request for a \$100,000 grant and \$300,000 loan with a \$400,000 match for a small-business revolving loan fund ranked 11th. The Asian Economic Development Association's request was cut in half to a \$125,000 grant with a \$250,000 match for small-business improvement loans. That request ranked 14th.

A request from African Economic Development Solutions for a \$200,000 grant with a \$305,000 match to provide loans for African-American entrepreneurs was turned down.



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Traffic issues raised by O'Gara's project get closer scrutiny

By JANE MCCLURE

Neighborhood residents are asking St. Paul officials to address the growing problem of parking congestion on side streets around the intersection of Snelling and Selby avenues where the second five-story building in four years is currently being planned.

Dan O'Gara is working with Ryan Companies on plans for a 163-unit apartment building on the site of O'Gara's Bar and Grill at 164 N. Snelling Ave. The building on the southeast corner of Snelling and Selby would also have about 6,100 square feet of commercial space on the first floor, including a smaller, 4,100-square-foot O'Gara's.

A plan for managing traffic increases related to that project is now being reviewed by the city's Department of Public Works. Although final numbers were not available last week, Joe Peris of Ryan Companies told the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Transportation Committee on July 9 that the proposed development is not expected to have a significant impact on traffic levels.

The traffic plan, known as a travel demand management plan, will be reviewed by the UPDC's Transportation Committee on August 13. The St. Paul Planning Commission recommended in June that the City Council rezone the O'Gara's property from Traditional Neighborhoods 2, or TN2, to TN3, which would allow a building height of up to 55 feet. At the same time, the Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit that would allow the building to be as high as 63 feet.

The rezoning will be considered by the City Council following a public hearing later this summer.



An artist's rendering of the five-story building planned for the current site of O'Gara's Bar and Grill, looking southeast from the intersection of Selby and Snelling avenues.

Dan O'Gara's hope is to clear the development site this fall by demolishing his buildings along with three houses at 1551-1559 Hague Ave., which would also be rezoned to TN3. However, until the plan for managing traffic is approved by city staff, demolition permits may not be pulled for the project, according to Tony Barranco of Ryan Companies.

Parking congestion was a flash point at the UPDC meeting on July 9. When the 214-unit Vintage on Selby apartments and Whole Foods Market was built on the northeast corner of Snelling and Selby four years ago, O'Gara's lost the large surface parking lot it had shared for many years. At the same time, the resident-only permit parking district in the area was changed to allow two-hour customer parking. Local residents immediately noticed a large increase in parking on their streets. According to them, employees of Snelling-Selby businesses park on their streets all day long knowing the two-hour limit will

not be enforced. Those residents are now hoping to restore resident-only permit parking on their streets.

Another challenge is event parking. For many years, O'Gara's has operated a shuttle bus for patrons attending major concerts and professional sporting contests. To discourage spillover parking, O'Gara signed a contract to share parking in the Associated Bank lot at 202 N. Snelling Ave., and Dan O'Gara said he is now working with other local businesses on shared parking agreements.

O'Gara, whose family has owned and operated the bar and grill for 77 years, pointed out that his establishment will be downsizing from 20,000 square feet with the new building. The capacity of O'Gara's Bar and Grill will also drop from 966 to about 350, he said, which should ease the demand on parking.

However, local residents are still wary. Laurel Avenue resident Gretchen Robertson said she has seen a significant increase in on-

street parking over the past few years, with the most parking congestion on game days. "The neighborhood has changed immensely, for good and bad," she said.

Sue Rohland, whose family owns a triplex directly across Hague from O'Gara's, said her tenants have no place to park. While she praised the proposed development and the O'Gara family's willingness to work with neighbors, she said, "at the end of the day this is going to significantly increase the number of cars in the neighborhood."

A city staff report indicates that the permit parking district around the intersection of Snelling and Selby may need to be reviewed in light of the opening of the Major League Soccer stadium next March less than half a mile to the north. Since the parking district was established in 1982, O'Gara's has paid for one parking permit per household in the district.

Peris said the developers' goal for the new building is to keep the cars of patrons and tenants off of neighborhood streets by promoting walking, biking and mass transit. The plan is to provide a total of 205 off-street parking spaces, including 158 spaces and 15 "stacked" parking spaces for tenants of the 163 apartments and 32 spaces for customers of the commercial tenants. Space would also be set aside for parking 124 bicycles.

In addition to disseminating information on transit and bike routes, the developers are considering providing Metro Transit cards for tenants. A parking space near Selby and Snelling is planned for taxi, rideshare and food delivery services. Pedestrian safety improvements are planned around the building, with wider sidewalks and a reduction in the number of commercial curb cuts from four to two.

Summit Hill urges caution in allowing accessory dwellings

Residents fear addt'l homes on single-family lots may lead to blight

By JANE MCCLURE

A proposal to allow accessory dwellings on single-family residential properties across St. Paul is being reviewed by the city's 17 district councils in advance of a public hearing scheduled before the City Council on August 15.

Thus far, nine district councils have voted in support of the proposal, including the Union Park and Macalester-Groveland district councils. The Summit-University Planning Council hosted a neighborhood meeting on ADUs earlier this month. The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation reviewed the issue on July 9 but opted not to make a recommendation. The Highland District Council has scheduled a vote on the issue later this month.

The Summit Hill Association (SHA) Zon-

ing and Land Use Committee will hold a public hearing on the matter at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 19, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.

Under the proposed change, a single-family homeowner may add an ADU above a garage, within an existing home or in a new structure in a back yard. The city has allowed ADUs for the past two years within a half mile of the light-rail Green Line between Lexington Parkway and the western city limits, but so far only one has been built.

One issue is cost. With the need for new sewer and water lines, the addition of an accessory dwelling can require upwards of \$150,000. Another issue is lot size. The minimum lot size required for an ADU is 5,000 square feet. The Planning Commission is considering easing that restriction to accommodate the many city lots that are just under 5,000 square feet. However, homeowners who want to add a small detached ADU or an ADU above a garage would still have to meet the 5,000-square-foot minimum.

Some older homes in St. Paul have had ADUs for many years in the form of car-

riage houses. However, only a handful of new ADUs have been allowed over the past two decades. Last year, the City Council asked that ADUs be considered for the West Side, the West End, Frogtown and a portion of the East Side. The study was expanded citywide when interest was heard from other corners of St. Paul.

The citywide proposal took a few district councils by surprise, so the City Council postponed the public hearing, which was originally scheduled for July 11.

Lori Brostrom, who chairs the SHA's Zoning and Land Use Committee, said the short time allowed for public discussion showed a lack of transparency on the Planning Commission's part. "This move citywide certainly took us by surprise," she said.

"This is a really important issue for our area," said Andrew Rorvig, who chairs the SHA's board.

While ADUs create new and more affordable housing options and enable elderly parents or other relatives to live near their family while maintaining some privacy, they may also create problems with added density,

parking pressures and the prospect of absentee landlords in the future, some folks fear.

To qualify for an ADU, the main residential property must be owner-occupied, and homeowners who add the dwellings are required to have deed restrictions to ensure the property continues to be owner-occupied. However, some SHA board members questioned how realistic it is to expect the city to enforce such restrictions in perpetuity.

Summit Hill residents have raised concerns about the proliferation of Airbnb-type short-term rentals in ADUs. The city has looked at that issue, according to senior city planner Jamie Radel, and determined that a property with an ADU could have only one short-term rental unit.

The West Seventh Federation has expressed support for the concept of ADUs, according to Becky Yust, president of the West Seventh Federation. However, her board opted not to take a position because of the lack of detail in the regulations.

"I don't think we'll see lots of requests for new units," said federation board member Wendy Underwood.

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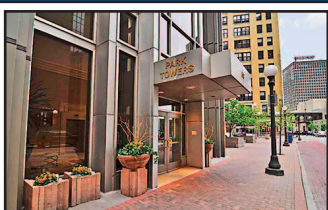
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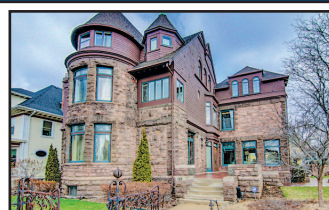
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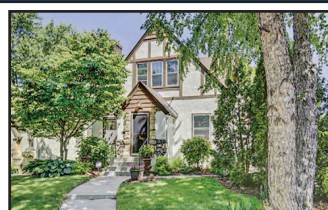
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Central High School hosted its **Overnight Senior Graduation Party on June 7, 2018**, with amazing community support. Thank you to those who helped plan, organize and work this event. The graduates enjoyed a safe, fun and affordable evening because of the kind contributions of time, talent and donations from families, friends of CHS and staff. We also want to thank the following businesses for their generous donations of food, supplies, funds and door prizes. The community involvement helped make this evening a huge success!

Blue Plate Restaurants	Italian Pie Shoppe	Ramsey County Public/
Breadsmith	Izzy's Ice Cream	Environmental Health
Buffalo Wild Wings	Jamba Juice	Red Balloon Bookshop
Café Latte	Jimmy Johns (Snelling)	Regina's Candy
Chipotle (Grand)	Kowalski's Market	Sencha Tea Bar
Dairy Queen-Roseville	L.A. Fitness	Shamrock Ace Ice
Davanni's Pizza & Hoagies	The Lexington	Snuffy's Malt Shop
Dunn Bros (Grand)	Phill at Maurudas	St. Paul Saints
Gingko Coffee House	Minnesota Vikings	Sunrise Banks
Great Harvest Bread Company	Mississippi Market	St. Paul College
Hamline University	Mister Car Wash	The Villager
Highland Bank	The Naughty Greek	Western Bank
Hoa Bien	New Asia Express	
Holiday Station Stores	Pizza Lucé (Selby)	

Thanks to these businesses for supporting Central High School and the Graduating Class of 2018!

**CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL**

Commission recommends plan for five-mile bike and pedestrian trail

Proposed route along old railroad spur is still many years, many dollars away

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul Planning Commission voted unanimously on July 13 to recommend a preliminary plan for new bicycle and pedestrian trails and a possible transit route along the old Canadian Pacific Railroad spur through the Highland Park and West End neighborhoods.

The City Council is expected to hold a public hearing on the plan in August. If the plan is approved by the mayor and City Council, it will guide future design and engineering work and be used in applications for federal and state transportation funds.

It could be several years before the trail improvements are made, according to city planner Mike Richardson. The project not only needs funding, but organizational support. "This is a project that really needs a champion," he said.

The five-mile-long bike and pedestrian trails would extend from Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant to the area around St. Clair Avenue and West Seventh Street. The trails are expected to cost about \$12.4 million to build. If room for a new form of transit is needed, the costs would increase to about \$13 million. Building a bridge for the trails up and over West Seventh Street—which was a strong preference of the advisory committee that helped draft the plan—would add another \$8 million to the cost.

Those figures do not include the cost of acquiring the property from CP Rail, nor do they include such things as rest stops or small parks along the route.

Any purchase of the CP Rail property would happen only after a legally mandated rail abandonment process. "We really don't know who is going to own (the property)," Richardson said. In the past, Ramsey County has taken the lead on such improvements.

Another question is the future disposition of the railroad spur that lies within the boundaries of the former Ford Plant and how that would be incorporated in the redevelopment of the rest of the Ford Plant.

The preliminary plan for the Ford rail spur was drafted with the support of a \$100,000 federal grant and \$100,000 in matching funds from the city of St. Paul and private entities. "We were able to do a lot in 1½ years of study," Richardson said.

City staff and consultants, along with technical and community advisory committees, mapped out the available space and documented existing conditions, including potential environmental issues that could add to the project's cost. The spur line passes by and through several current and former industrial sites.

One challenge for planners was the width of the railroad right-of-way, which varies from less than 50 feet to more than 70 feet. In the narrowest areas, there is 10 feet for two-way bike traffic and six feet for pedestrian traffic. In the widest areas, there is 12 feet for two-way bike traffic and 10 feet for pedestrian traffic.

City planners have already held three open houses on the project. According to Richardson, public comments were mostly favorable. Many people liked the idea of enhanced bike and pedestrian connections to downtown St. Paul and the parks along the way. However, some people were concerned about the proximity to nearby homes, especially if new mass transit is included.



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News Briefs

Parking improvements sought for Starbucks on Snelling Ave.

A plan to mitigate traffic tie-ups at Starbucks, 234 N. Snelling Ave., will go to the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 19, at City Hall. The plan, which was filed in April, includes proposed modifications to the parking lot at an estimated cost of \$100,000.

The modified site plan was not available by the deadline for this issue of the *Villager*, but was to be posted online soon. Starbucks could not be reached for comment.

The coffee shop has generated controversy since 2015, when it replaced a vacant gas station at the corner. The move was part of a larger redevelopment plan that brought the Vintage on Selby, a new Associated Bank and a Primrose School to the neighborhood.

Starbucks and city staff have struggled to find ways to address traffic backups, vehicles blocking the Marshall Avenue bike lane, U-turns on Marshall Avenue and vehicles not being able to navigate the coffee shop's drive-through lane. Bollards and different traffic movements have been tried. A police officer is on-site most mornings to direct traffic.

The hashtag #carbucks on social media cites the ongoing problems, and many videos of vehicle mishaps have been posted online. The Union Park District Council, which has been dealing with neighborhood complaints for months, has pushed for the city to find a solution or to revoke the conditional use permit that was issued for the coffee shop's drive-through service.

RiverCentre parking ramp to receive \$1.25M in repairs

The St. Paul City Council agreed on July 11 to spend \$1.25 million on netting to protect people and vehicles from falling concrete at the St. Paul RiverCentre parking ramp.

The ramp closed in May after concrete fell and damaged a parked vehicle. It was completely closed for more than a month. Parts of the ramp have reopened since then, but the potential for concrete to delaminate and fall persists.

Interim fixes may be the city's only option for a while. The 2018 Minnesota Legislature did not fund a bonding bill request to replace the ramp at a cost of \$58 million. The city has funding to demolish the structure, but not to replace it.

Last month, the board of the RiverCentre Convention & Visitors Authority, which manages the ramp, approved the use of netting to mitigate any further damage. That came after the firm of Reigstad and Associates performed a study of the ramp to identify and remove any pending delaminations. The study found that the ramp is structurally safe, but that protective netting installed along the ceiling was the best option to protect people and property in the ramp.

Semi-annual inspections also will be conducted to remove concrete in the ramp before it falls. No public access will be allowed in ramp areas until the netting is installed.

Sound variance granted for Lexington Pkwy. resurfacing

The long-awaited mill and overlay work on Lexington Parkway gets underway this week. The St. Paul City Council on July 11 approved a sound variance for the stretch of the street between St. Anthony and Marshall avenues. That will allow overnight work for one evening between July 11-August 5.

Hardrives Inc. is working with Ramsey County Public Works on the mill and overlay project. The variance is for a sound level limit of up to 70 decibels for an evening of work from 7 p.m.-7 a.m. No jackhammering will be allowed.

Which evening is chosen depends on the progress of the project and the weather. The contractor will notify residents in writing at least 48 hours in advance.

The variance is part of a larger project to resurface Lexington from University to James avenues, which is expected to take around five weeks to complete. The project generated attention for several months due to a proposal from the city of St. Paul to add bike lanes on the portion of Lexington between James and St. Clair avenues in conjunction with the work. Neighbors protested the loss of on-street parking. One neighbor has since obtained approval from the Board of Zoning Appeals to add a front-yard parking pad to make up for the loss of on-street parking.

For updates on the Lexington resurfacing, visit ramseycounty.us/lexingtonparkway.

City stays fine for Trend Bar's failure to record spring assault

The Trend Bar, 1537 University Ave., was fined \$500 by the St. Paul City Council on July 11 for a license violation. However, the fine will be stayed for one year and waived altogether if there are no further violations.

In May an assault occurred outside the bar, which is required to have working video cameras inside and outside the premises. However, the cameras reportedly malfunctioned and police were unable to get a videotape of the assault, said Assistant City Attorney Therese Skarda.

Bar co-owner David Imsdahl admitted the violation and said he would pay the fine, but asked for a hearing before the City Council. He has since purchased new surveillance equipment.

"It's a really tough neighborhood right now," said Imsdahl, who added that he and his staff have had to deal with loitering, illegal drug transactions, public intoxication and fights outside the bar. "We struggle with it every day," he said. "We're doing our best."

Imsdahl said he has gotten feedback that the Trend is not being cooperative with police, which he said is not the case. Ward 4 City Council member Samantha Henningson said she is aware of the bar's cooperation with police and the area's problems.

Henningson agreed with a suggestion by council president Amy Brendmoen to stay the fine and waive it if there are no more violations in a year.

Skarda said the bar's last violation was in 2016 when a patron left the premises with alcohol.

City fines Budget Towing for last year's license violations

Budget Towing, 560 Randolph Ave., must pay a \$500 fine that was imposed by the St. Paul City Council for license condition violations following a public hearing on July 11.

Budget Towing is licensed by the city to provide tow truck services and sell used vehicles. Last year a city inspection found that vehicles were not properly parked on-site in violation of its license conditions. The lot also was not maintained with striping as required by the city.

A notice of the violations was sent to old addresses for the business which caused some confusion. The issue was sent to an administrative law judge after Budget Towing contested the city findings at a public hearing in May.

One issue the business owner pointed out was that some of the vehicles in question were not associated with Budget Towing. Another contention was that the parking lot could not be striped during the winter.

The administrative hearing was held in June and a \$500 fine was recommended. Budget Towing did not contest the outcome.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.

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PRESENTS



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Viewpoint

Capp development inspires a tip of the hat to site's former use

BY C. DENNIS MILLER

Each time I drive by The Capp, now under construction at 46th Street and Hiawatha Avenue in Minneapolis, I'm drawn back to the '70s when I worked for Martin Capp at Capp Homes.

After World War II, there was a tremendous need for housing for the returning veterans and their young families. If you drove around the first-ring suburbs, hundreds of capped basements were evident. A family would buy an inexpensive lot, put in a basement and cap it off. The family lived in the basement while the dad built the rest of the house in his spare time. Martin Capp saw an opportunity. He had specifications drawn up for various floor plans, pre-cut the studs and joists to the plan's specifications, and delivered the lumber to the building site. A crew was sent to enclose the house before it was turned over to the owner for finishing.

In 1963, I went to work for Mr. Capp as an accountant at his new Minneapolis Hotel, Capp Towers, at 13th and Nicollet. In 1967, he leased it to the Holiday Inn as one of its first high-rise hotels in the nation. I then transferred to the U.S. headquarters of Capp Homes at 3355 Hiawatha. The Minneapolis lumberyard was at 46th and Hiawatha. There were other Capp Homes locations in Columbus, Ohio; Des Moines, Iowa; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Walnut Grove, California; and Seattle, Washington. At its peak in the late '70s, Capp Homes built more than 10,000 houses each year. Unfortunately, inflated mortgage interest rates, up to 20 percent in the early '80s, killed the business.

The lumberyard on 46th and Hiawatha was run by Duane (last names not used



Construction continues on The Capp, an apartment complex that will be anchored by a Cub Foods at 46th Street and Hiawatha Avenue in South Minneapolis. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

to protect the guilty). There was a distinct disparity between the yard and office personnel. If you had a good relationship with the yard staff, you could load up your car trunk at lunchtime with scrap lumber for home projects or your fireplace. You could also get advice on building projects or even borrow a tool or two. The price of this goodwill was usually a chocolate cake. Since I delivered the paychecks, I was always on good terms with the yard guys. Quite often the personnel staff was not well-liked, since

they had to explain and enforce procedures and policies.

The personnel staff had to be careful where they parked when they visited the yard office. Often a car would be raised by a forklift, then a wooden block would be placed under the rear axle so the tires were an inch off the ground. One time, an auto was found sitting on a flatbed railcar that had just delivered lumber. The head of personnel ordered pre-cut lumber for a garage he was building at his house. Each stud was cut to specification

and then nailed to the previous board. The load was then delivered to his site and left in one solid block. What a surprise he found when he got home.

The yard carpenters were also worthy of note. There was Paul, who would cut boards by lifting his left leg, placing the board on his knee and then cutting it to size with a power saw. He ate a jar of pickled onions every day for lunch. Nels was more than 90 years old and he worked outside roughing up houses in the middle of winter. I suspect that Duane's brother, Ole, was the culprit who lifted cars with the forklift.

The office also had characters of note. Bill was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He would creep down the halls of Capp Homes with his back and both hands against the wall. Ev, a former sailor, would tell us stories of his raucous times in the Navy, not to be shared with his wife and child. Ethel was the company mother figure, and would solve and soothe all problems. She was also an officer of the corporation, which was unusual for a woman at that time.

It was a great place to work and I really enjoyed the people I worked for and with. The next time you go by The Capp, think twice if you need to park nearby.

The writer is a resident of Lilydale. The Capp now under construction at 46th and Hiawatha is a four-story development that will include 148 apartments atop a Cub Foods, other ground-floor retail spaces and a large public plaza when it opens next year. The late Martin and Esther Capp lived in Highland Park and were major donors to a variety of Twin Cities organizations, including the Jewish Community Center of St. Paul.

Inbox

One small step for sustainability

Many *Villager* readers have expressed their opposition to St. Paul's organized trash collection program. They complain about government overreach and lament having to pay more and no longer being able to choose a trash hauler. But what about the reduction in emissions that will result from a single garbage truck driving through a neighborhood every week instead of many trucks? And the fuel savings? How do we quantify those positive impacts?

The way we live is not sustainable. We will have to make many changes if we want a habitable planet. If we have this much difficulty making small changes, how are we going to handle the hard stuff?

Mike Chutich
Macalester-Groveland

Wages as entitlement

Paul and Nancy Pappas, in criticizing Ed Christie's guest editorial on the proposed \$15 an hour minimum wage (*Villager Viewpoint*, June 20), use the age-old tactic of cherry-picking facts. They state, "gross sales in the (restaurant) industry increased by \$212 billion between 2010 and 2017. Where did the increase go?" Does the term "overhead" ring a bell? Wages, I'm sure, increased somewhat in that time, along with benefits, rent, mortgages, supplies, startup fees, etc. If they mentioned a significant *net* revenue increase, I may have been more impressed.

The Pappases state, "The government would not have to mandate the increase (in wages) if the owners had done the right thing in the first place." The government never has to mandate anything. It chooses to abuse its power in social engineering, deciding that it's in a wiser place to dictate wages and prices than the marketplace. I have yet to hear anyone support the proposed \$15 minimum wage who actually has

any skin in the game. To Paul and Nancy Pappas, do you run a small business? If I've learned anything in living more than 70 years, it's that nothing is easier than spending someone else's money.

Presumptions have changed a lot since I was young. It used to be that a minimum wage was considered just that—minimum. It was for entry-level jobs for high school students, part-time jobs, etc., and many of us worked them. Generally, it was unskilled labor, and we never expected to be paid a living wage for them. You worked at a job while gaining experience, training, education, etc. Enter the age of entitlement. Why work for something when you can have it handed to you?

I'm not unsympathetic to the fact that some people have a tough go of it. I work at my share of charities, and I can remember more than one night my mother crying because she wasn't sure we could make the rent payment. But I don't think the work ethic in this country is helped by being handed something one should earn, nor wages being determined by a government bean counter.

Mike Casey
Macalester-Groveland

No excuse for excess school levy

According to a story in the June 20 *Villager*, "67 percent of the 600 registered voters responding said they would be willing to pay an extra \$125 a year in property taxes to shore up (the St. Paul Public Schools') finances." It is highly unlikely that any of those 67 percent are St. Paul voters. The majority of St. Paul voters would most likely be opposed. They are well-aware that when the School Board hired Superintendent Joe Gothard last year, it failed to require Gothard and his family to relocate to St. Paul. The Gothards are not paying St. Paul property taxes. They are not experiencing the extreme

financial hardship of having to pay St. Paul's outrageous, continuously soaring, unaffordable property taxes.

Until Superintendent Gothard and his family reside in St. Paul, their children are enrolled in St. Paul public schools, and they are paying property taxes supporting St. Paul and its school district, it is irresponsible for the superintendent and the School Board to ask St. Paul voters to pay an extra \$125 a year in property taxes. They can find other revenue sources by cutting their own salaries or monthly auto allowances or layers of bureaucratic jobs in the administrative offices at 360 Colborne St.

The aging population of St. Paul voters are already paying more than their fair share of property taxes to support the school district.

Sue Shetka
Macalester-Groveland

The harm in low wages

John Phelan disapproves of increasing the minimum wage in St. Paul (*Villager Inbox*, July 4). Mr. Phelan is an economist for the ultra-conservative Center of the American Experiment. He references three studies that support his position. The problem is, each paper was primarily authored by one person, David Neumark. Mr. Neumark writes for the ultra-conservative National Bureau of Economic Research, which gets almost all of its funding from four right-wing foundations: the John M. Olin, Lynde and Harry Bradley, Scaife and Smith Richardson foundations.

Let's review a couple of facts that are avoided by economists who are paid by the top 1 percent. First, in Minnesota, if you work 40 hours a week for 52 weeks, you'd have to make over \$18 per hour to afford an average two-bedroom apartment. Second, in U.S. dollars, the minimum wage is \$14.81 in

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Australia, \$12.10 in France and \$10.79 in Germany. The federal minimum wage in the U.S. is \$7.25.

Also, the increase to a \$15 minimum wage will be gradual in Minneapolis, Seattle, New York and other places that have adopted this plan. Under the Minneapolis ordinance, large businesses—those with 100 or more employees—will phase in the \$15 minimum wage by July 1, 2022. Small businesses have six years, until mid-2024. St. Paul will also certainly adopt a gradual phase-in.

Increasing the minimum wage helps workers and the community. Walmart workers can stop relying on food and rent assistance to support their families; we all subsidize Walmart through such necessary programs. Workers' living wages will be reinvested in the local community if they support local businesses. Most important, people feel better about themselves when they earn a living wage.

If you feel that hard-working people should make a living wage if they work full time, please call your City Council member and Mayor Carter to request that they support a \$15 minimum wage with no exceptions.

Thor Backus
Highland Park

City trashed on several fronts

Complaints about the organized garbage collection system in St. Paul:

- The new system does not reward those who are diligent and conscientious recyclers.
- It greatly increases our costs for garbage collection, and makes it very difficult for those of us on a fixed or low income.
- We won't be able to use the garbage hauler that we have a good relationship with, who allows us to set up a collection schedule as needed and picks up large objects for a small fee.
- The plan to reduce truck traffic in the alleys doesn't mean much when the recycling trucks have to make two passes down each alley because their lift arm is only on one side.
- Repeated pleas to our City Council member to fix our greatly deteriorated alley are ignored because he's too busy working with TIF projects that will increase the tax burden on us common folk. A token filling of three potholes out of scores in our alley is an insult. The patch lasted a few days, and this after two years of complaints. Our alleys would withstand traffic better if the city actually spent some of the extra fees it's always collecting from us to maintain the alleys, especially as we have to pay for the plowing of our alleys ourselves.

Nan Roberts
Macalester-Groveland

Let's impose a fee on carbon

I see lots of letters about bike lanes, potholes and urban development—all valid concerns needing discussion. But a much bigger issue, climate change, leaves us silent. It seems too big and daunting to even discuss, especially if there's nothing we can do about it. But there is something we can do about it.

We should put a price on carbon, specifically a Carbon Fee and Dividend. CF&D would place a fee on carbon at the source of extraction, making clean energy more attractive than dirty, polluting energy. The money raised would be returned in the form of a monthly rebate or dividend, helping people adapt. CF&D has been predicted to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions by 50 percent

below 1990 levels. Plus, it would create jobs in the green-energy sector. Our air quality, health and economy would all be improved. The World Bank, the bipartisan Climate Leadership Council, and Citizens' Climate Lobby all recommend a fee on carbon as the best, most equitable way to decrease our carbon-based energy use and make the transition to cleaner, healthier renewable energy sources. We need to tell our representatives at all levels of government to take action on climate change, and ask them to support a national CF&D.

Cathy Ruther
Macalester-Groveland

A distraction from the real issues

All this concern about traffic in our alleys during garbage pickup days? And organizing trash collection at huge expense and with a lack of democracy and choice for homeowners and taxpayers?

Like a distracting shell game, we're led down one new path after another, with more and more government interference and a lack of follow through. Trust diminishes as property taxes and fees go up for homeowners but not for the new business or idea makers. Buildings stand empty with "retail space available" signs proliferating like the overgrown weeds in the untended new roadway medians.

Alley traffic? Come on! A real issue—the increasing traffic on roads that need repair—could be effectively and positively addressed by connecting Ayd Mill Road. We get so distracted by the handlers, we can't address the real issues in our city.

Chillon Leach
Merriam Park

Sneaking suspicions in St. Paul

I have no more energy to waste on trying to get legitimate concerns through to the deaf and dim who serve on the St. Paul City Council. There is a lot of money behind all of the building and zoning issues we citizens have been unsuccessfully slogging through to try to get some neighborhood-friendly decisions, and there have been a lot of machinations out of public view. I would like to know who the players are and where all the money is going. I think the only difference between us and Chicagoans is that they know their city leaders are corrupt and we just think ours aren't. The frosting on the cake was to read in the *Villager's* latest issue that of the 163 units to be built at the O'Gara's site, 160 will be market-rate and only three will be affordable housing. So much for the fable of affordable housing.

Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland

Trade war will hurt Minnesota

Little noticed in the chaos caused by President Trump's immigration policies is the effect that his trade wars are having on U.S. businesses and farmers. Minnesota farmers are clearly exposed to foreign retaliation resulting from Trump's new duties on imports. China ranks second to Canada in Minnesota exports, with \$3.5 billion in Minnesota goods and services going annually to China. The U.S.-China business council estimates that 21,500 Minnesota jobs are directly supported by exports to China.

Rolf Westgard
Merriam Park

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VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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Awaiting the Snelling weedians

I can't wait to see all of the varieties of weeds that will eventually take over the new Snelling Avenue medians.

*D. Matschina
Highland Park*

Nelson has my vote

Mitra Jalali Nelson has my vote to be our next City Council member in Ward 4. Mitra has an impressive grasp of issues and the background and ability as a coalition-builder to be an effective change-maker. As an organizer, daughter of immigrants and younger leader with significant policy and political experience, Mitra has the vision that encompasses what St. Paul has been and what we are becoming.

During my years representing my neighbors in the Minnesota House of Representatives (1981-94), I learned that people in this area have an extraordinary understanding of issues and the need to work for the common good. We deserve a council member who is skilled in promoting these values. Please join me in supporting Mitra Jalali Nelson for Ward 4 City Council on August 14.

*Kathleen Vellenga
Macalester-Groveland*

A vision for Ward 4

If you read Mitra Jalali Nelson's statement about affordable housing, you will find plenty of sensible stuff that anyone can support. Then you come to the heart of it: upzoning and turning single-family homes into rental units. "Upzoning" is code for tearing down single-family homes to put in rental fourplexes. As the candidate explains on her website, "These zoning changes also help us convert existing homes into duplexes, triplexes and quadplexes, which are a great way to increase the number of units available while maintaining neighborhood character."

Now you see her vision for the future of Ward 4: hundreds, maybe thousands of single-family dwellings cut up and turned into rental property. And who would own these rental units? Absentee landlords most likely. Is this what we understand to be maintaining neighborhood character?

Ms. Jalali Nelson says that she aspires to be a homeowner one day, but what would her proposal do? It would reduce the number of houses available for sale by turning them into multi-unit rental properties, thus driving up the cost of the remaining single-family dwellings.

Her heart is in the right place, no doubt, but her proposals are naive and heedless of the obvious consequences.

*Paul Nelson
Merriam Park*

Vote for Erstad on August 14

It's well known that parks add great value to a city. It's well known, too, that we have good parks in St. Paul. What's less known—City Hall doesn't want you to know—is that our parks have \$57 million in deferred maintenance costs awaiting them. That's \$57 million just to keep them in the condition they are in now. And City Hall has no plans to pay for it.

One candidate for the City Council in Ward 4, Shirley Erstad, is a parks expert and advocate. She is executive director of Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County. She has been battling for our parks for years. In our city we have some distressing inequalities of income and opportunity, but public parks benefit all, every citizen and visitor. Let's elect a parks advocate to our City Council. Vote for Shirley Erstad on August 14.

*Gregg Gridley
Merriam Park*

Women deserve better

It is unfair that men are considered leaders and business people when women are not offered the same opportunities. Women leave the house and even do the same jobs as men, but they are still discriminated against. Our society is still built around the belief that men are better or more capable than women in many different things.

Women are commonly mistreated, often without their noticing. Sometimes they realize that something is not right, but think of it as a fact of life and not something to worry about. Often people (especially men) think that a lady must be polite, delicate and always answer to a man. This is an old-fashioned way of looking at the world. It would make this

issue easier to solve if more people were aware of the situation and were conscious about how they treat each gender in comparison to the other.

An example of this mistreatment is the pay gap. According to businessinsider.com, on average an Asian woman makes 87 percent, a white woman makes 79 percent, a black woman makes 63 percent, and a Hispanic woman makes 54 percent of a white man on average. These facts are inexcusable. In a society run mainly by white men, it makes sense that they would favor people similar to them. But just because it makes sense does not mean it should be left the way it is.

If more women were in leadership, would it really change things or would they play along with what has been the norm for hundreds of years? Will advocacy and inclusion really make a difference? Yes! These things will make a big difference. But what really needs to change is men's general attitude toward women. If men could truly accept that women are their equals, that would make the biggest difference. Can we ever make that happen?

*Abby McKinney, Age 10
Highland Park*

Raising the bar on propriety

American society has lowered the bar for human behavior to its bottom. Respect your elders, protect life, use clean speech and refrain from sexual immorality have been erased from the chalkboard. Senior citizens are beaten in road rage and abused at care facilities. Bans on late-term abortions are deemed too restrictive. Shootings continue at schools. STDs, sexual harassment and rape are pandemic. Child pornography is traded online.

It isn't just the Internet that has a dark side. As a Christian, I believe the words of Jesus in John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." People of all faiths and even those of no faith must not be satisfied remaining on the bottom rung. Standards, even excellent standards, can be achieved.

*Ann Redding,
Fuller, Minneapolis*

Editor's note: The writer is president of the Christian Action League of Minnesota.



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'Back to the Beginning'

35th annual fest celebrates Rondo of old

Roy Wilkins, who grew up in St. Paul and later rose to national prominence as head of the NAACP, once described the Rondo neighborhood of his youth as a "community where a riot of warm colors, feelings and sounds... would make one from the rural portions of the South feel at home."

Friends and family from across the Twin Cities and beyond will gather to celebrate that feeling of community when the 35th annual Rondo Days is held this weekend. The celebration honors the memory of the predominantly African-American Rondo neighborhood that was split in two in the 1960s by the construction of I-94.

Every summer since 1983, Rondo Days organizers have done their best to span the concrete canyon that was created by the freeway. This year's festival carries the theme "Back to the Beginning," and is once again expected to attract upwards of 80,000 people.

Rondo Days will begin with the annual Senior Recognition Dinner

from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, July 19, at Mount Olivet Baptist Church, 451 Central Ave. The free dinner offers an opportunity for 300-plus members of the old Rondo community to reunite and reminisce over a home-cooked meal provided by festival-sponsoring Rondo Avenue Inc.

The festival will get jump-started on Saturday, July 21, with the Frank Adams 5K Walk & Run co-hosted by the Inner Cities Athletic Association. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with the 5K at 8:30 a.m.

The 5K will begin at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center on Kent Street, make its way to St. Peter Claver Church on Central Avenue, then loop back to the center. Information is available by calling Henry Combs at 651-263-1136.

The Rondo Days parade will step off at 10 a.m. on Saturday from St. Peter Claver and wend its way to the main festival grounds at the Rondo Education Center, 560 Concordia Ave. Following the parade, the Rondo Days festival will be celebrated at



Backed by saxophonist David Wright, jazz singer Debbie Duncan serenaded the crowd during last year's Rondo Days celebration. This year's festival is set for July 19-21. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

the center until 7 p.m. The festival will feature live music, along with food, children's games and other entertainment.

For the second year, a second stage will be set up just to the south of the center at Martin Luther King Park, where music and activities will cater to the more mature set.

The park offers plenty of shade, less ground to cover walking and, if people get there early enough, a chance to catch the end of the parade. Rondo Days co-chair Gayle Smaller said around 150 free box lunches will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis for the older adults celebrating there.

For those who do not want to hassle with parking, Smaller said Metro Transit will once again provide free rides to the parade and festival on Saturday from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

For more information on Rondo Days, visit rondoavenueinc.org or call 651-315-7676.

St. Paul takes historic look at preserving its African-American culture

By JANE MCCLURE

As Rondo Days is celebrated this weekend, those who are interested in St. Paul's African-American history have a new resource to draw on. A 166-page study called "St. Paul African-American Historic and Cultural Context, 1837-1975" won approval earlier this year from the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC).

It is the first context study focused on a non-European cultural group in St. Paul. The study was led by the Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation, a local task force and the 106 Group consulting firm. A grant was received in 2016 from the Minnesota Historical Society to conduct the study.

The goal of the study is to ensure that significant African-American buildings and other resources are protected with the same due diligence that historic assets of groups with European origination have received. The end date of 1975 is tied to National Park

Service guidelines that most properties be at least 50 years old to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

"We're excited about the study," said Nieeta Presley, executive director of the Aurora-St. Anthony NDC. "It gives us a good starting point for future preservation work."

The report ties together existing African-American histories in the city and outlines next steps for preservation. HPC commissioner Steve Trimble, who served on the study's advisory group, praised the process and said the results will be a resource for years to come. "This is work that was long overdue," he said.

"It's an important study and it provides a starting point for ongoing preservation," said advisory group member Carol Carey, executive director of Historic St. Paul. "African-American history needs to be preserved, be it buildings or historic accounts. This gives us a good start toward that."

Though African Americans have had a

presence in St. Paul for more than 150 years, their history here is fragmented. The study notes that adequate research has not been done to account for and protect African-American sites with historic significance.

The study details this area's African-American community over time, starting with Fort Snelling. African Americans were first brought there as slaves for military personnel in the 1820s. It is estimated that 15-30 slaves were brought to the fort.

St. Paul's first African-American resident was James Thompson. His freedom was purchased in 1837 by Methodist missionary Albert Brunson. Thompson sold liquor, worked as a carpenter, and built and operated the first ferry between downtown and the West Side of St. Paul. By 1849, records show that St. Paul had 30 African-American residents.

The study describes African-American institutions—including churches, newspapers, civic groups and businesses—that flourished over the years and includes many short

biographies. Those who worked on the survey said they would like to see more personal histories preserved.

Part of the focus of the study was to find historically significant African-American properties, evaluate their significance and set preservation priorities. Although much of the Rondo Avenue neighborhood was destroyed in the 1960s, there are still homes, religious institutions, and commercial and civic buildings that could be studied for preservation.

The advisory group made many recommendations and highlighted the most urgent. One is to obtain more oral histories from the city's elders. A second is to conduct a survey of potentially historic African-American buildings and sites in the area. Other needs are to develop a team of watchdogs to stay alert to threats to historic African-American resources in the city and to secure financial means to do more work.

To read the full study, visit tinyurl.com/ybqrwu2j.

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Highland Fest

Jump for joy

Festival to roll out its 35th annual celebration of summer July 20-22

BY FRANK JOSSI

From live music and fine art to food and inflatables, much of what has kept 65,000 people coming back in the past has been coupled with a few changes for the 35th annual Highland Fest from Friday through Sunday, July 20-22, in Highland Village.

"We have a pretty good recipe that the neighborhood loves, and we tweak it just a bit every year to run the festival a bit more smoothly and make sure we have a nice variety of entertainment and artists and events," said Kari Tierney, executive director of the sponsoring Highland Business Association.

One significant move this year brings the "fun" races from Sunday morning to opening night. The Oh Hi There Highland 1K Kids Fun Run and 5K Walk/Run will start at 6:30 and 6:45 p.m., respectively, on Friday. The cost is \$5 in advance or \$8 on the day of the event for the kids' race, and \$30-\$35 for the 5K. The runs will start at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., and travel along nearby streets before returning to the festival grounds, which extend along Ford from Howell to Finn streets.

"There are a lot of runs along the river and people in that area get tired of seeing them," Tierney said. "We thought the route around the neighborhood would tie into Highland Fest better and be a lot of fun."

Live music will begin at 4 p.m. on

Friday, with the beer tent and inflatables opening at 5 p.m. Tired runners can retire to a beer and wine tasting event from 6-9 p.m. The festival will close that day with a dose of romance in the form of the 1980s classic *Moonstruck* being shown in the park at 10 p.m.

Live music continues to be a big draw during the festival. Headlining the main stage in the community center fields will be the party cover band Candy Shop on Friday night, the rock cover band Viva Knieval on Saturday night, and the '70s and '80s cover band Atomic Beat on Sunday afternoon.

"We're excited about the lineup," said festival co-coordinator Calida Cogan. "We made sure there's a wide variety of performers so that there's something for everyone. I think the community will be pleased."

Saturday is the busiest day of the fest, with several of the day's attractions also being offered on Sunday. Alchemy starts off the day with a fitness class at 9 a.m. on the main stage. Music takes place there almost continuously from 11 a.m.-10 p.m., followed by fireworks.

Additional music will be available at the community stage on Finn, where local bands perform Saturday from 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon-4 p.m. The community stage offers a chance for audiences to see musicians who sometimes end up on the main stage a few years later.

"The community stage is always



Inflatable arms took their toll on youngsters while circling the Ninja Warrior Dome during last year's Highland Fest. More fun is in store for the 35th annual festival on July 20-22. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

changing and there's always something interesting going on down there," Cogan said.

Dozens of artists will be showcasing their works during the 51st annual juried Highland Art Fair from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday on Ford east of Cleveland.

Saturday and Sunday will also include free tours of the historic Highland Water Tower from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on both days. The Business Fair, Community Village and Home Expo run from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday on Ford west of Cleveland. Kids can enjoy the Magic Bounce Inflatables from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

The always popular bingo and meat raffle will take place in the beer tent from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday.

Wiener dog races will return at

12:30 p.m. on Saturday at the community center. Registration starts at noon, with a \$15 entry fee required. Dogs gain the spotlight again from 2-3 p.m. on Saturday during a demonstration by the St. Paul Police K9 Unit.

No one will go hungry or thirsty during Highland Fest. Food vendors and the beer tent open at 10 a.m. each day and run until the festival closes.

Sunday starts with the popular Breakfast in the Park hosted by the Highland Catholic School Men's Club from 8 a.m.-noon. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids under 10. People can work out before or after breakfast by taking part in a fitness class by the Power House at 9 a.m. on the main stage.

Sunday's other highlights include the All-Ford Car and Truck Show from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. "The festival takes place on a street named after the plant, so it's great that every year

these collectors bring their historic Ford autos to share with the neighborhood," Tierney said.

The fest offers a couple of other treats on Sunday as well. The Boy Scouts will present a safe archery program for kids from noon-2 p.m. at the community center, while inside the library local author Brian McMahon will speak at 1 p.m. on the history of the Ford Plant and the Highland Park neighborhood. McMahon wrote the definitive history of the plant, *The Ford Century in Minnesota*, published by the University of Minnesota in 2016.

"Last year we had a talk about the Ford plant and didn't expect a big crowd, but we got an overflow one," Cogan said. "This year we have a bigger room to accommodate more people."

For more information, visit highlandfest.com or call the HBA at 651-699-9042.

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Highland Fest 2018 schedule of events

FRIDAY, JULY 20

- 5-10 p.m.—Magic Bounce Inflatables
- 5-10 p.m.—Food vendors
- 5-10 p.m.—Beer tent
- 6-9 p.m.—Wine and beer tasting
- 6:30-6:45 p.m.—Oh Hi There Highland 1K and 5K
- 10-11:30 p.m.—Movie in the Park: *Moonstruck*

On the Main Stage

- 4 p.m.—Community Youth Jazz Band
- 5:30-7 p.m.—General B and the Wiz (blues/indie rock)
- 7:30-10 p.m.—Candy Shop (party cover band)

SATURDAY, JULY 21

- 9 a.m.-5 p.m.—Highland Water Tower open house
- 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.—Community Village Stage
- 10 a.m.-7 p.m.—Highland Art Fair
- 10 a.m.-7 p.m.—Business Fair
- 10 a.m.-7 p.m.—Home Expo
- 10 a.m.-7 p.m.—Community Village
- 10 a.m.-10 p.m.—Food vendors
- 10 a.m.-10 p.m.—Beer tent
- 10 a.m.-10 p.m.—Magic Bounce Inflatables
- 11 a.m.-5 p.m.—Bingo and meat raffle (beer tent)
- 12:30 p.m.—Wiener dog races (\$15 to enter)
- 2-3 p.m.—St. Paul Police K9 Unit demonstration
- 10-10:20 p.m.—Fireworks in the park

On the Main Stage

- 9 a.m.—Fitness by Alchemy
- 11 a.m.-noon—Axtell (Argentine/MN folk duo)
- 12:30-1:30 p.m.—Owen Ray (Americana rock band)
- 2-3 p.m.—Release the Craicen (Irish folk punk)
- 3:30-5 p.m.—Axis Mundi World Music Ensemble (Latin jazz quartet)
- 5:30-7 p.m.—Sal Paradise (soft, sensitive rock)
- 7:30-10 p.m.—Viva Knieval (rock cover big band)



Candy Shop will be playing some sweet tunes from 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, July 20, during Highland Fest.

SUNDAY, JULY 22

- 8 a.m.-noon—Breakfast in the Park (\$5-\$8)
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m.—Highland Water Tower open house
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m.—All-Ford car and truck show
- 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—Highland Art Fair
- 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—Magic Bounce Inflatables
- 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—Business Fair
- 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—Home Expo
- 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—Community Village
- 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—Food vendors
- 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—Beer tent
- 11 a.m.-3 p.m.—Bingo and meat raffle (beer tent)
- 11 a.m.-3 p.m.—Petting zoo
- Noon-2 p.m.—Safe archery by the Boy Scouts
- Noon-4 p.m.—Community Village Stage
- 1 p.m.—History of the Ford Plant and Highland Park

On the Main Stage

- 9 a.m.—Fitness by the Power House
- 10:30-noon—Pan-handlers (Caribbean steel drums)
- 12:30-1:30 p.m.—10th Wave (contemporary)
- 2-3 p.m.—Kaye (neo soul funk)
- 3:30-4:30 p.m.—Atomic Beat ('70s-'80s cover band)

Tower has room with a view

St. Paul Regional Water Services will once again open the arched wooden doors of the historic Highland Water Tower for free, self-guided tours from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 21-22, during Highland Fest.

The water tower is situated on a knoll at the southeast corner of Snelling Avenue and Ford Parkway—the second-highest point of land in St. Paul. (The highest point, at 1075 feet above sea level, is at the 14th tee of the now-closed Hillcrest Golf Course in the northeast corner of the city.)

Those who negotiate the 151-step winding staircase leading to the Highland Water Tower's observation deck will be rewarded for their efforts with a panoramic view of much of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Convenient landings with benches are situated along the interior staircase for those who need a break during their climb to the top.

The construction of the Highland Water Tower was completed in 1928 at a cost of \$70,000. Credit for the design of the tower is given to architect Clarence Wigington, who was hired in 1915 by the city of St. Paul. Wigington, who was the first African American archi-



The historic Highland Water Tower will be open for panoramic picture taking during Highland Fest. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

tect to be employed by a major American city, took a 200,000-gallon steel water tank and encased it in a distinctive octagonal structure made of Kasota and Bedford stone. A collection of original blueprints of the 127-foot-tall tower, many of which bear Wigington's signature, will be on display during the open house.

The open house is intended to inform residents about the water utility's efforts to preserve and protect local water resources. Information about the utility's water purification process and distribution system will be available and utility employees will be on hand to answer questions.

The tower will also be open the weekend of October 13-14 for the annual viewing of autumn colors. For more information, call St. Paul Regional Water Services 651-266-6350.

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Art is more than an abstraction for Mac-Groveland painter

Rylander returns to Highland fair to show and sell his art

By ERIN ROBINSON

Nate Rylander is only 29 years old, but he is already well into his second career. For the past five years, the Macalester-Groveland resident has worked as a full-time artist, creating big, bold and sometimes playful paintings inspired by such abstract artists as Jackson Pollock and William de Kooning.

Rylander uses reclaimed materials and homemade brushes to create his paintings, and he shows and sells his works at coffee shops and art fairs in the Twin Cities, Western Wisconsin and Michigan. He exhibited at Grand Old Day and the Stone Arch Bridge Festival earlier this summer and is one of 80 artists who will be featured in the Highland Art Fair held in conjunction with Highland Fest on July 21 and 22 in Highland Village.

The 51st annual art fair will run from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday on Ford Parkway between Cleveland Avenue and Kenneth Street, which will be closed to traffic for the fair.

Rylander works with latex house paint for the most part, applying the paint to canvas or hollow-core doors, sometimes with wooden sticks that he has carved into dif-



Nate Rylander poses among his paintings in the garage of his Macalester-Groveland home.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

ferent shapes. This allows him to stamp abstract designs and incorporate fractal patterns from nature.

"Growing up, my parents encouraged active play in the natural world," Rylander said. "That's where I developed a deep-seated and ongoing love with the outdoors."

Rylander grew up in Burnsville and honed his artistic skills during high school. He focused on other subjects in college, earning a degree in renewable energy. He went on to work in Oklahoma where he met his wife and later moved to Utah to work in General Electric's Power and Water Renewable Energy Divi-

sion repairing wind turbines.

When that job became too physically demanding, Rylander returned to Minnesota and took up his brush again. He converted a room in his house to a studio and now paints throughout the day, drawing his inspiration from the Mississippi River and the numerous parks nearby.

Rylander is looking forward to Highland Fest. This is his second consecutive year that he is exhibiting at the Highland Art Fair. "I have customers that come back and collect my art," he said. "I appreciate that, and I love the community here. Highland Fest is especially im-

portant because it's so close to my house. Last year when I was there I ran into people we knew, and it's important for me to know that people recognize my work."

He also likes how Highland Fest exposes the neighborhood to local artists. "It's got the music and the vendors and the kids are running around having fun," he said. "I think it's important for children to see that and know that there are so many things in life you get to enjoy along with the different career paths that you can take."

Rylander began painting as a way to relieve stress, and he hopes his

artwork has a similar effect on those who view it. "From examining the color of a single leaf or looking across the Mississippi River, I've felt and still feel emotions that can cure any ailment," he said. "My paintings are an ongoing attempt to convey these feelings to others."

"The Highland Art Fair is a juried art fair," said Becky Kerkow, the president of the Highland Business Association, co-owner of Pearle Vision in Highland and chair of the art fair. The artists' portfolios are reviewed by a jury, and only the best are accepted, she said.

"In my opinion, Nate Rylander has great work and he brings something different to the fair, something unique," Kerkow said. "I think he did great last year. His pieces were super-interesting to the crowd."

"It's a humbling career," Rylander said of being a professional artist. "It doesn't matter to me if somebody likes or hates my work, just as long as it creates emotion and it provokes a response. I enjoy people's responses to my work. I can be my true self. It makes me stronger. Nothing I do is a lie. It's all my complete self, and I feel that helps me be the best person I can be, the best husband I can be, the best brother, the best son."

Rylander is also open to commissioned pieces, for individuals or businesses. "I like to paint very large canvas murals and would like them to be scattered throughout the Twin Cities for people to enjoy in restaurants, health care clinics, public and personal collections," he said. "No size is too large or too small."

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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—The Family Dollar Store in Sibley Plaza was broken into during the evening of June 29-30.

—A break-in was reported at the Superday Gas Station, 2525 W. Seventh St., at 6:31 a.m. Monday, July 9.

Theft—A vehicle was stolen on the 1400 block of Hartford Avenue on June 25-26.

—A woman's wallet was reported stolen at Pacifier, 714 S. Cleveland Ave., at 4:12 p.m. Friday, June 29.

—Tools, paperwork and mail valued at \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle at Fort Road Flats, 2242 W. Seventh St., at 3:40 p.m. Saturday, July 7.

Weapons—Police said a male pointed a handgun at a couple at Hidden Falls Park before walking toward the Mississippi River.

Miscellaneous—An 18-year-old man was arrested for felony possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia at 7:49 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, in the park's north lot of Highland Park.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery occurred on Concordia Avenue and Griggs Street at 1:46 a.m. Saturday, June 30.

Burglary—A bicycle and camping equipment were reported stolen from a garage on the 1100 block of Central Avenue at 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, July 10.

Theft—A 22-year-old was arrested for trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 10:53 a.m. Tuesday, June 26. The suspect tried to flee after being handcuffed, but was apprehended a short time later.

—Two Apple iWatches were stolen from a display case at Verizon Wireless, 474 N. Hamline Ave., at 4:13 p.m. Saturday, June 30.

—A 37-year-old woman was cited for trying to steal an air conditioner from the Midway Target at 4:46 p.m. Wednesday, July 4.

—More than \$1,000 in merchandise was stolen by a shoplifter at the Midway Target on Friday, July 6.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 1200 block of Dayton Avenue between 2-8:30 a.m. Saturday, July 7.

—A purse was reported stolen from a vehicle at Aldi, 1134 University Ave., at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, July 8.

Assault—A woman said her ex-boyfriend drove his vehicle onto the sidewalk and struck her on the 300 block of North Dunlap Street at 1:11 p.m. Sunday, July 8. She was taken to the hospital.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A .22 caliber rifle and a vehicle were stolen from a residence on the 1400 block of Randolph Avenue between 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, June 28.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on Cretin and Grand avenues on June 24, on the 2100 block

of Berkeley Avenue on June 27-28, and on the 2100 block of Juliet Avenue on July 6-7.

—Cash was stolen from the register at Nothing Bundt Cake, 1580 Grand Ave., at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 8.

Assault—A 23-year-old man was arrested for felony assaults after he struck two family members in the face and violated a restraining order at 2:10 p.m. Sunday, July 8, on the 1100 block of Juliet Avenue.

Miscellaneous—Gang-related graffiti was sprayed on a garage door next to a moped that had been abandoned on the 1700 block of St. Clair Avenue between 1-7:30 a.m. Sunday, June 24. The moped had been pushed from the alley two doors down and was sprayed with silver paint.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—A suspect was arrested for breaking into a building on the 900 block of Highway 13 at 6:48 p.m. Sunday, June 24.

Theft—Three packages of mail were reported stolen on the 1000 block of Walsh Lane at 11:44 a.m. Monday, June 25.

—Several items were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Highway 13 at 9:09 p.m. Friday, June 29.

—Mail was reported stolen on the 1000 block of Veronica Lane at 12:07 p.m. Tuesday, July 3.

—Several items were stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Lexington Avenue during the evening of July 4-5.

Assault—A suspect was arrested for striking an employee with a television at 3:06 p.m. Tuesday, July 3, on the 300 block of E Street.

Miscellaneous—Someone placed fecal matter inside a vehicle on the 1500 block of Commerce Drive over the weekend of June 23-24.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A man was robbed at gunpoint at the Days Inn, 1964 University Ave., at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 7.

—A victim had his skateboard stolen and was struck in the knee by an extendable baton when he tried to chase the suspect at 12:13 a.m. Wednesday, July 11, on Snelling and University avenues.

Burglary—A home break-in occurred on the 2300 block of Beverly Road on Saturday, June 30.

—An apartment was burglarized on the 2200 block of Marshall Avenue on July 8-9.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 2100 block of Dayton Avenue on June 24-25, on the 600 block of Desnoyer Avenue on June 28 and on the 400 block of North Wilder Street on July 5.

—Mail was stolen on the 300 block of North Roy Street between 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Tuesday, June 26.

—A pop-up camper was stolen on the 1700 block of Portland Avenue on June 30-July 1.

Assault—A 42-year-old man was wanted for felony assault and violation of a restraining order after he got into a fight with the mother of his child and took the baby without her

consent at the Days Inn, 1964 University Ave., at 2:11 a.m. Saturday, July 7.

Weapons—Gunfire erupted near Dayton Avenue and Fry Street at 12:16 a.m. Monday, July 2.

—A male was taken to the hospital after being stabbed near the intersection of University Avenue and Fry Street at 1:26 a.m. Friday, July 6. Two males were suspected in the stabbing.

Miscellaneous—Police handed out more than half a dozen citations to people ages 26-59 for drinking in public between June 26-30 on the northwest corner of Snelling and St. Anthony avenues. The incidents occurred between 2-7 p.m. and most of the suspects were homeless. Another two people also were cited for drinking in public there on July 5 and 10.

—Officers were sent to check on a homeless camp at St. Anthony and Cleveland avenues at 12:14 a.m. Monday, July 9, and found an unconscious 38-year-old man slumped in the driver's seat of a vehicle next to marijuana and an open container of alcohol. He became combative with medics and officers, and was arrested for refusal to be tested for DWI.

—A 57-year-old woman was cited for drinking in public on Snelling Avenue near Spruce Tree Drive at 2:14 p.m. Tuesday, July 10. A 49-year-old woman also was cited for drinking there at 8:13 that evening.

Snelling-Hamline

Theft—A wallet was stolen at the Subway Restaurant in the Midway Walmart at 10:23 p.m. Monday, June 25. The wallet was found in the women's restroom, but was missing \$260.

—A 23-year-old homeless woman was cited for theft from an auto and tampering with several parked vehicles at LA Fitness, 1370 University Ave., and at the Midway Walmart on Tuesday, June 26.

—An iPad was stolen at the Midway Cub Foods between July 3-9.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 300 block of North Hamline Avenue on July 5, on the 1400 block of University Avenue on July 8 and on the 1400 block of Marshall Avenue on July 9.

—A woman was arrested for stealing prescription drugs from the Midway Walmart at 7 p.m. Monday, July 9. She also had two outstanding warrants for theft.

Assault—A fight between two customers resulted in one of them being cited for assault at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, July 5, at the Midway Walmart.

Miscellaneous—A 60-year-old man was cited for drinking in public near McDonald's, 1570 University Ave., at 2:34 p.m. Tuesday, July 10.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A woman was robbed on the 1000 block of St. Clair Avenue during the evening of June 27-28.

Burglary—Linwood School, 1023 Osceola Ave., was burglarized between July 3-5.

Theft—A 21-year-old man was cited for stealing cash and a wallet from a vehicle between 10:41 a.m.-noon Tuesday, June 24, on

Grotto Street and Osceola Avenue.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1000 block of Linwood Avenue on June 25-26 and on the 900 block of Lincoln Avenue on July 3-8.

—A laptop computer and television were reported stolen from an apartment on the 600 block of Grand Avenue at 10:22 a.m. Tuesday, June 26.

—Mail was stolen on the 700 block of Lincoln Avenue between 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday, June 26.

Summit-University

Burglary—The burglary of an occupied residence was reported on the 1000 block of Carroll Avenue at 8:31 a.m. Sunday, July 1.

Theft—A bicycle valued at more than \$500 was stolen from an apartment complex on the 100 block of North Western Avenue between 6:34-7:31 p.m. Monday, June 25.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 300 block of Dayton Avenue between 5:31-7:16 p.m. Tuesday, June 26.

—Mail was reported stolen on the 1000 block of Marshall Avenue at 11:40 a.m. Friday, June 29.

—Several items were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Summit Avenue at 1:10 p.m. Thursday, July 5.

—Leaf blowers were stolen from a truck trailer on the 300 block of North Dale Street between 2-3 p.m. Thursday, July 5.

—A weed whip and edge trimmer were stolen from a vehicle on the 200 block of Summit Avenue at 5:07 p.m. Monday, July 9.

Miscellaneous—A window peeper was seen looking into a porch where a woman was sitting on the 1000 block of Marshall Avenue at 12:35 a.m. Friday, June 29.

West End

Burglary—A coin collection was stolen from a garage on the 300 block of Goodrich Avenue at 1:06 p.m. Sunday, June 24.

—A home break-in occurred on the 800 block of Watson Avenue during the evening of June 28-29.

—The office was broken into and cash was stolen at Eagle Street Grille, 174 W. Seventh St., between July 4-5.

Theft—A vehicle was reported stolen at Music-Go-Round, 933 W. Seventh St., at 1:16 p.m. Friday, June 29.

—Two Apple laptop computers were taken from the office of a school building at 1780 W. Seventh St. between July 3-5.

—An iPad was stolen from a vehicle on the 800 block of West Seventh Street on July 3-4.

—A guitar was stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of West Seventh Street between 3:30-4:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 10.

Assault—A woman was assaulted by another woman near Walnut Street and Smith Avenue at 2:22 p.m. Thursday, June 28. Police said the unprovoked suspect grabbed a handful of the victim's hair and threw her to the ground. The suspect fled south on Smith.

—An assault occurred at Burger King, 244 Grand Ave., at 4:24 p.m. Thursday, July 5.

Debate continues over changes to St. Paul's permit parking program

By JANE MCCLURE

Long-awaited changes to St. Paul's residential permit parking regulations are on hold until July 18. After a public hearing on the proposed changes last month, the City Council laid the matter over for additional comments. About two dozen people attended the hearing, and most of the concerns came from neighbors of the University of St. Thomas, and from the area around West Seventh Street and Goodrich Avenue.

The city currently has 27 residential permit parking districts in areas where institutional

and commercial uses have caused spillover parking on nearby residential streets. A city study of proposed changes to the permit regulations was conducted over the past two years.

Though the changes are not the sweeping overhaul some people had hoped for, they are expected to standardize rules, including the number of permits a household can purchase. Under the changes, each household in a district could buy up to three resident permits and two visitor permits. Some districts have allowed up to six resident permits per household. The new regulations also would allow permits to be purchased online as well as by

people who drive leased vehicles.

Council members Samantha Henningson and Rebecca Noecker pushed for the layover. Henningson said she wanted more time to discuss the changes with residents who live in permit parking districts around St. Thomas. One key change being sought by her would be to consolidate only areas 18 and 20, instead of 18, 19 and 20 near the university. That would prevent residents in area 19 from parking in the other two areas to be closer to campus.

A fee increase is also proposed and would take effect next year in conjunction with the new online renewal system. Vehicle and visi-

tor permits would increase from \$15 to \$25. Annual visitor placards for nonprofits would increase from \$1 to \$5. One-day hang tags would increase from \$1 to \$3.

Noecker wanted to continue discussions with residents of Area 7, a permit parking district in the West Seventh and Goodrich area. West End neighbors testified last month for and against expanding the district, which already includes residential streets on either side of West Seventh. Some neighbors said they would like to see a compromise to allow two-hour commercial parking or shared use of parking lots to address concerns.



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Wednesday/July 18

WARD 4 CITY COUNCIL hopefuls Shirley Erstad, David Martinez and Mitra Jalali Nelson will take part in a candidates forum beginning at 7 p.m. in Room 100 of the University of St. Thomas' McNeely Hall on the southwest corner of Summit and Cleveland avenues. The forum is cosponsored by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council. Free parking is available in St. Thomas' surface lots and the ramp at Grand and Cretin avenues.

Thursday/July 19

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES and bread will be distributed free of charge from 4-6 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The bounty is available for anyone, though it is especially intended for the many lower-income families in the area who do not have easy access to fresh produce. A collaboration among the JCC, the Fabulous Friends Club and Second Harvest Heartland, the free produce will be available during those same hours every other Thursday through October 4.

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.

Saturday/July 21

ST. LUKE FARMERS' MARKET is open from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. today and every Saturday through early October in the parking lot at 1807 Field Ave. Fresh produce and baked breads are available. In July the produce offerings will expand and beef and bakery items will be added. Cash and EBT, debit and credit cards are accepted.

DELIGHTFUL PECULIARITIES of West Seventh Street and stories of the entrepreneurs, opportunists and immigrants who lived and worked in the Capital City's first neighborhood will be highlighted in a two-hour walking tour stepping out at 10 a.m. from St. Stanislaus Church, 187 S. Western Ave. Tickets are \$14. Visit cart.mnhs.org or call 651-259-3000.

THE BUSTLING FUR TRADE in Mendota in the 1830s will be revisited from noon-5 p.m. today and tomorrow at the



The beat goes on. Mendota's musical heritage was celebrated in song by Amiyah Perron, 6, Madison Swenson, 5, Brooklynn Swenson, 7, and Kori Perron, 8, who joined Three Chord Monte's Steve Mollick, Paul Peine and Bambi Alexandra in a rendition of "You Are My Sunshine" at Mendota Day on July 14. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Sibley Historic Site, 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy. in Mendota. Learn about the fur trade, interact with historic reenactors, tour the grounds and enjoy live music. Admission is \$5-\$7.

Sunday/July 22

THE FEAST OF MARY MAGDALENE will be marked by morning prayer and song from 7:30-9 a.m. at the outdoor labyrinth on the south side of the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. Wisdom Ways invites all to wear red and celebrate the woman who is depicted in all four Gospels as being among the first to witness the resurrection of Jesus. To register, call 651-696-2788.

A FARMERS' MARKET is available from 9 a.m.-noon every Sunday in the parking lot of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Portland Avenue and Kent Street. Hmong-American farmers from Holy Apostles Parish will be there selling fresh produce, herbs, and flowers.

THE LEX-HAM NEIGHBORHOOD will serve up its 46th annual Ice Cream Social from 1-3 p.m. in the tot lot off Hague Avenue and Ayd Mill Road. Enjoy ice cream sundaes, rootbeer floats, live music and a visit from the St. Paul Fire Department. Bring a nonperishable food item to donate

to those in need.

Monday/July 23

A SUPPORT GROUP for the family members and friends of people living with mental illness meets from 6:30-8 p.m. today and the fourth Monday of every month at the Wilder Foundation, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. The program is sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Contact Jennifer 507-254-5524.

Tuesday/July 24

GUIDED TOURS of the governor's residence at 1006 Summit Ave. will step out every 10 minutes between 10:30 a.m. and noon today, August 7 and 21, and between 5 and 7 p.m. July 31. Reservations are encouraged, though walk-ins are welcome if space is available. Admission is free, but visitors are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for Second Harvest Heartland. Email residence.gov@state.mn.us.

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.

Saturday/July 28

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be accepting blood donations from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 700 Wesley Lane in Mendota Heights. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended. Visit redcrossblood.org or call the church office at 651-452-5683.

Sunday/July 29

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather at 2:30 p.m. at Davanni's restaurant, 41 S. Cleveland Ave., for a five-mile hike in the Merriam Park neighborhood. New members are welcome. For information, call Charlotte Svobodny at 651-455-0052.

Tuesday/July 31

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be accepting blood donations from 1-7 p.m. at Unity Unitarian Church, 733 Portland Ave. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

Wednesday/August 1

THE LAKE HIAWATHA Neighborhood Festival will be held from 5-8 p.m. on the grounds at 2701 E. 44th St. in Minneapolis. The 23rd annual event will feature canoe rides, a water slide, moonwalk, children's games, face painting, hair coloring, a caricaturist and other vendors. Registration is now open for the talent contest and family fitness challenge. For more information, visit lhrc.freesevers.com.

Thursday/August 2

SAFE SUMMER NIGHTS, a barbecue picnic, will be served up by the St. Paul Police from 5-7 p.m. at Palace Community Center, 791 Palace Ave. Get acquainted with the officers in blue who work to protect the peace and maintain the public's safety in the capital city and enjoy a free meal and children's activities in the company of neighbors.

HOMEMADE PIE AND ICE CREAM will be served at an old-fashioned ice cream social from 6-8 p.m. outside Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, 1523 Fairmount Ave. Meet your neighbors and have a slice and a scoop with coffee or lemonade for \$5.

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District Council News

Highland Park

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651-695-4005

Ford site redevelopment—Representatives from Ryan Companies will attend the Highland District Council's next board meeting on Thursday, July 19, to spend 15 minutes introducing their team that will be working on redevelopment of the Ford property. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. A discussion of the redevelopment plan itself will take place at a large public meeting to be held in August or September. Details of that meeting will be released soon.

Highland Fest booth—The HDC will host a booth during Highland Fest on the weekend of July 20-22. Look for it on Ford Parkway between Cleveland Avenue and Finn Street. Stop by to learn more about what the district council does and how to get involved.

Highland Park Play Center—Construction of a new play area at the Highland Park Community Center is tentatively set to begin the week of July 23 and be completed by the end of October. Access to the community center will be available north of the play area, but at times will be temporarily restricted when work is being done near the building.

National Night Out—Highland Park residents are being encouraged to hold a block party during National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7. For information, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/national-night-out.

Upcoming meetings—Board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, July 19; and Community Engagement Committee, 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, July 24. Both meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center. For other meetings, see the HDC website.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Mac-Grove Fest—Neighborhood businesses, organizations, groups and artists are still being sought as sponsors or exhibitors for the annual Mac-Grove Fest that will be held from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, September 8, at the Groveland Recreation Center fields on St. Clair and Prior avenues. The event will feature musical performances, food and children's activities. For information, visit macgrove.org/what-we-do/macgrovefest.

Mac-Grove garage sale—Registration is now open for the Great Macalester-Groveland Garage Sale that will take place from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday August 25. The fee is \$20 for households and \$30 for businesses, and includes a garage sale sign and inclusion in all advertising. Register online at macgrove.org/garagesale or pick up a form in the office at the Edgumbe Recreation Center.

Ward 4 candidate forum—A forum with the three candidates seeking the open Ward 4 seat on the St. Paul City Council will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, in Room 100 of the University of St. Thomas' McNeely Hall on Summit and Cleveland avenues. Shirley Erstad, Mitra Jalali Nelson and David Martinez are running in the special election, which will take place during the primary election on Tuesday, August 14.

Battling the borer—Those who are curious about the city of St. Paul's efforts to combat the emerald ash borer infestation are invited to join the community council's Environment Committee for a discussion at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 24, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center.

Blend Awards—Now in St. Paul, the Blend Awards recognize new remodels, newly constructed homes and a multitude of other projects that fit into the fabric of a neighborhood. The deadline for submissions is July 31. Learn more or submit a project at blendaward.org.

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 23; En-

vironment Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 24; and Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, Groveland Recreation Center. The meetings are at the Edgumbe Recreation Center unless noted.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org •
651-222-1222

Accessory dwelling units—The Summit Hill Association's Zoning and Land Use Committee will hold a meeting on Thursday, July 19, regarding the St. Paul Planning Commission's recommendation to allow homeowners citywide to add accessory dwellings. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. Details regarding the meeting and the Planning Commission proposal are on the SHA's website for review.

Hyacinth liquor license—The SHA's Zoning and Land Use Committee on June 26 discussed the liquor license application for Hyacinth Restaurant, which is looking to open in the former Golden Fig location at 790 Grand Ave. (The Golden Fig has moved into larger quarters next door.) The committee recommended that the license be issued without conditions.

Linwood WaterStories—Local artist Annie Hejny has presented the final paintings of second-grade science students from Linwood Monroe School. The students participated in a WaterStories art activity that involved using paint mixed with rainwater and sediment collected from the Linwood Recreation Center's rain garden. The paintings will be on loan for one year at the school, the recreation center and the Capitol Region Watershed District office. Notecards with images of the three paintings are now available for purchase at the SHA's office in the rec center.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Rethinking I-94—Throughout the summer, the UPDC will host a series of four events to engage neighbors on topics relating to I-94 with support from the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Department of Transportation. Each event will feature live entertainment, free food and volunteers who will discuss the future of I-94 in Union Park. The next event will take place from noon-3 p.m. Saturday, July 28, at the Merriam Station Community Garden, 2001 Gilbert Ave. The discussion will center on the potential extension of the Midtown Greenway from Minneapolis into St. Paul via the railway bridge or I-94. Visit tinyurl.com/ycdhpxoo.

Puppet show in the parks—"The Sleeping Child," a story about a child who is guided in her dreams by a magical sprite and helps her family find a home, will be presented at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, at Aldine Park and Wednesday, August 8, at Dunning Park. The show is a production of an original script and music written by Marya Hart with puppets created by Margo McCreary.

Ice Cream Social—The annual Lexington-Hamline Ice Cream Social will be held from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, July 22, at the Hague Tot Lot, 1328 Hague Ave. There will be treats for sale, music by Taikollaborative, kids' activities and a visit from the St. Paul Fire Department.

Upcoming meetings—Environment and Parks Committee, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.; and board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 1, 1821 University Ave., Suite 330.

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



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On the Town

Lifetime achievement Chutzpah of Highland teens spawns insiders' view of Hollywood's heyday

BY DAVE PAGE

David Fantle and Tom Johnson were barely 14 when they first saw *That's Entertainment!* in 1974. The film was a compilation of scenes from popular MGM musicals of the 1920s through the 1950s. The Highland Park boys were smitten, and they resolved to see the full-length versions of all of the musicals featured in the movie.

At a time before streaming video, Netflix, Redbox or even VHS stores, if you wanted to see a movie that wasn't in the theaters, you either consulted the schedules for the handful of television stations in town or you rented a 16mm reel. The latter could cost upwards of \$200—way beyond Fantle and Johnson's budget. So the enterprising duo hit upon a plan. They would convince local retirement homes to share in the cost.

Calling their venture Films on Wheels, they borrowed a Bell and Howell projector from the Jewish Community Center of St. Paul, made arrangements with a Chicago film distributor and brought celluloid delight to the elderly residents of nursing homes across the Twin Cities.

Enamored by what they saw on the silver screen, Fantle and Johnson sent fan letters to their favorite stars. In their missives, they had the audacity to ask for face-to-face interviews with the stars.

In 1978, they got their wish when Fred Astaire and Gene Kelley agreed to a personal interview. Taking money they had saved from working at Twins games at old Metropolitan Stadium and securing the permission of their parents, the nascent Hollywood reporters flew to Los Angeles following their graduation from Highland

Park Senior High School.

But it didn't stop there. Over the next 40 years, the pair spoke with hundreds of the biggest Hollywood artists of the 20th century, those who worked in front as well as behind the camera. Out of those conversations comes Fantle and Johnson's new book, *Hollywood Heyday: 75 Candid Interviews with Golden Age Legends*.

The authors will discuss their four decades of chasing Hollywood greats from the 1930s-50s in a free program at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 19, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave.

Capra told them he wanted to attend Sunday church services and see "Mark Twain's river." Johnson and Fantle chauffeured him to the Cathedral of St. Paul. "Then we drove him down West Seventh Street toward Fort Snelling," Fantle said. "He'd never seen the Mississippi. We drove over the river three times."

For Johnson and Fantle, that first interview in 1978 is still the most memorable. To ensure that they made a good impression, they purchased new suits at two of St. Paul's finest men's stores, Juster's and Milbern Clothing Company. "We were baking in those clothes," Johnson said, "but I'm sure Astaire and Kelley appreciated the effort."

Having learned a few things about preparing for an interview from their days on the staff of their high school newspaper, *The Plaid Line*, Johnson and Fantle picked up as much Hollywood history as they could find on the shelves at Midway Book and Harold's Bookshop. "We put together a long list of questions," Johnson said, "but we soon learned that just listening was the best approach."

Parlaying their experience with Astaire and Kelley into a gig as entertainment columnists in *The Minnesota Daily*, the student newspaper at the University of Minnesota, Johnson and Fantle sent out more letters to Hollywood. They always included a photo of themselves with Astaire.

"Astaire was so respected in the movie industry, he was like a Willy Wonka golden ticket," Johnson said.

"James Cagney, who was known to be notoriously reclusive, told us that 'If Freddy will see you, I'll see you,'" Fantle added. "He even gave us a ride in his Bentley."

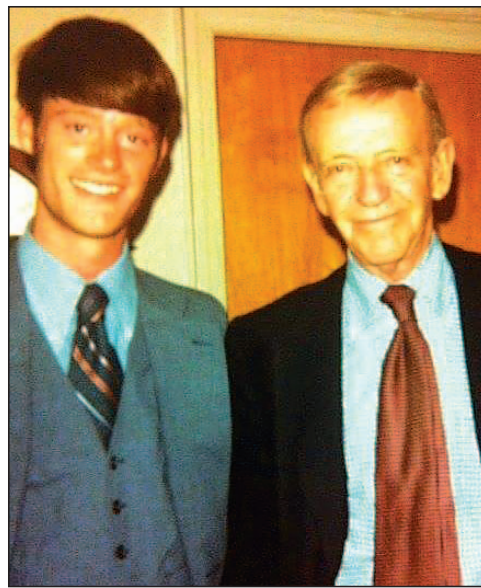
Johnson and Fantle extensively reworked those earlier profiles for *Hollywood Heyday*. "We went back to our notes and recordings," Johnson said. "Mostly for reasons of length, there were lots of things we couldn't put in the originals."

Several of the stories have Minnesota connections. One of the more interesting has to do with their interview of Frank Capra.

William Wyler had died the day before their scheduled interview with the Academy Award-winning director of *Mrs. Miniver*, *The Best Years of Our Lives* and *Ben Hur*, so Johnson and Fantle were not about to take any chances with the eighty-something Capra. When they were not able to hook up with him as



Hollywood Heyday authors David Fantle (wearing glasses) and Tom Johnson with three of the 75 Hollywood legends they interviewed over the course of 40 years (from top to bottom): George Burns in the early 1990s, Stanley Donen in 2015, and Fred Astaire in 1978.



promised at a Minneapolis film festival, they tracked Capra down at the Sheraton-Ritz Hotel downtown and were able to get his room number.

"When he didn't answer our knock, we convinced a hotel manager that Capra might be ill," Johnson said.

The manager unlocked the door and discovered that Capra was in the shower. The three-time Academy Award winner burst out of the bathroom and spewed a stream of invective at the hapless pair. They mumbled an apology and told Capra they would wait in the lobby for the interview. Against all odds, he showed up.

The director of *It Happened One Night*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and *It's a Wonderful Life* told them he wanted to attend Sunday church services and see "Mark Twain's river—the Mississippi." Johnson and Fantle chauffeured him to the Cathedral of St. Paul. "Then we drove him down West Seventh Street toward Fort Snelling," Fantle said. "He'd never seen the Mississippi. We drove over the river three times."

Their interview with George Burns was the only one that came about without an initial pitch by the writers. On their first

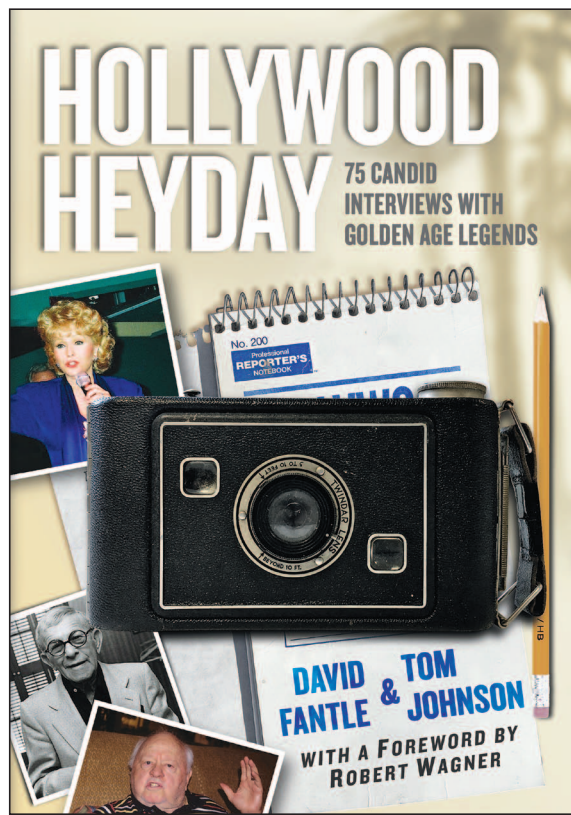
trip to Los Angeles, a cabbie not only told Fantle and Johnson that their \$27-a-night hotel was really a brothel, he also mentioned he was good friends with Burns. To prove it, he drove them up to Burns' door, then disappeared when they knocked.

"That was certainly one time we were really rubes," Johnson said.

It all worked out when the houseboy gave them the telephone number of Burns' office. The next day, they called and convinced Burns' assistant to let them see him.

Not surprisingly, Johnson and Fantle both ended up working in the film industry. Johnson lives in California, where he served as a senior editor at Netflix writing content for the company's websites. Fantle teaches film as an adjunct professor at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

The two of them decided to write their book now because the audience for such a publication is dwindling. "Our market is dying off," Johnson said. "Fewer and fewer people are going to understand references to Charlie Chaplin. At the same time, the book can feel very contemporary. For example, in our interview with André Previn, there's a reference to (Donald) Trump."



On the Town Briefly

Music

Bands on the Boulevard, the Minnesota History Center's free concert series, continues from 6:30-9 p.m. on Tuesdays in July on the plaza outside 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating and enjoy an evening of country tunes by Saddle Sores on July 17; the reggae of Ipso Facto, July 24; and Beatles songs by Rubber Soul, July 31. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The History Center's galleries are also open to the public free of charge from 3-9 p.m. on Tuesdays. Call 651-259-3000.

Como Lakeside Pavilion's Spring Cafe, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy., will play host to free concerts by the following performers, all at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated: guitarist Zacc Harris, 5 p.m. July 18; Indian musician Nirmala Rajasekar, July 20; guitarists Pat Donohue and Dean Magraw, July 21; Como Pops at 3 p.m. and Lake Country Chorus at 7 p.m. July 22; Miss Becky, July 23; Medalist Concert Band, July 24; Bend in the River Big Band, July 25; Star of the North Concert Band at 3 p.m. and Hopkins Westwind Concert Band at 7 p.m. July 29; River City Choral, July 30; St. Anthony Park Community Band, July 31; and Minnesota State Band, August 1.

Groovin' in the Garden, a series of free outdoor concerts by some of the best bands in the Twin Cities, continues from 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays outside of the Conservatory in Como Park. The schedule includes Paddy Wagon on July 18; the Flamin' Oh's, July 25; and the Alex Rossi Trio, August 1. Music lovers are invited to pack a picnic supper, dancing shoes and blanket. And bring the children. A climbing wall, bouncy house and lawn games will be available along with hot dogs, ice cream, beer, wine and soda. In case of rain, the event will be moved inside the Conservatory.

Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St., Suite 200, will play host to the following: New Ruckus Composer Night, 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 18 (admission is free); the All Originals Jazz concert "What We Have Here" featuring cellist Michelle Kinney, violinist Laura Harada, guitarist and pianist Adam Zahler, cornet player Noah Ophoven-Baldwin, drummer Greg Schutte, sax player Ivan Cunningham and guitarist Chris



High time for Lowertown. St. Paul will swell with the sounds of blues and funk music on Friday and Saturday, July 20 and 21, when the annual Blues and Funk Fest returns to Mears Park, Sixth and Sibley streets. Friday is funk night with shows by Free and Easy at 4:30 p.m., High & Mighty (top right) at 6 p.m. and the Ohio Players at 8 p.m. Saturday's performers will be playing the blues from two stages beginning with the Mae Simpson Band (top left) at noon, Scottie Miller Band at 1:30 p.m., Big George Jackson Blues Band at 2:30 and 4:15 p.m., the Minnesota band Crow on its 50th anniversary tour at 3 p.m., Chicago blues guitarist Toronzo Cannon (above left) at 4:45 p.m., the Everett Smithson Band at 6 and 8 p.m., Chubby Carrier (above right) and the Bayou Swamp Band at 6:30 p.m., and barrelhouse piano player Marcia Ball (above center) at 8:30 p.m. Admission is free, though preferred seating may be reserved in front of the stage for \$60 per day or \$100 for the weekend. Visit lowertownbluesfestival.com.

Cunningham, 8 p.m. Thursday, July 19 (\$10); and an All Originals Jazz concert featuring the Will Kjeer Quintet, 8 p.m. Thursday, August 2 (\$10). Call 651-755-1600.

The Swider-Swanger Duo, featuring MacPhail Center instructors and violinist Jeremy Swider and pianist Luke Swanger, will perform sonatas from the Romantic Period by Anton Rubinstein, Edvard Grieg and Antonin Dvořák in a benefit recital at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, July 21, in Antonello Hall

at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 S. Second St. Children are welcome. Admission is free, though donations will be taken for CureSearch for Children's Cancer.

"Let It Be Jazz," a swinging version of the Beatles songbook, will be performed by singer Connie Evingson at 4 p.m. Sunday, July 22, at the Jungle Theatre, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. From blues to tango and bossa nova to reggae, Evingson reimagines 13 Beatles hits with

the accompaniment of pianist Mary Louise Knutson, bassist Gordy Johnson, drummer Greg Schutte and saxophonist Dave Karr. Tickets are \$30. Call 612-822-7063.

Music in the Cafe, Landmark Center's free lunchtime concert series, has returned at noon on Wednesdays in the skylit Musser Cortile. Bring a bag lunch or purchase food from Anita's Cafe and enjoy the rich and soulful sounds of singer-songwriter Kashimana on July 25.

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The award-winning Roe Family Singers will be featured in a Summer in Shepard Park concert from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 26, in front of the Wellington at 2235 Rockwood Ave. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, treat yourself to a free chili dog, purchase wine or beer from Bad Weather Brewery and enjoy the free show. For more information, call 651-699-2664.

Flamenco and jazz artist Juanito Pascual will perform traditional and contemporary flamenco music at 7 p.m. Sunday, July 29, at Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre, 3012 Minnehaha Ave. S., Minneapolis. Tickets are \$15. Call 612-234-1653.

Books

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to readings and discussions with authors Lorin Robinson and his adventure novel, *The 13: Ashi-niswi*, on Thursday, July 19; Greg Brick and his book, *Minnesota Caves: History and Lore*, Wednesday, July 25; poets Janet Jerve (from *Excavation*), Kathleen Weihe (from *Unless You Count Birds*) and Tracy Youngblom (*One Bird a Day*), Thursday, July 26; and Nick White and his story collection, *Sweet and Low*, Friday, July 27. The programs are all free and begin at 7 p.m. Call 651-493-2791 or visit subtextbooks.com.

The Merriam Park Book Club will discuss *White Birch, Red Hawthorne* by Nora Murphy at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 23, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. New members are welcome. For information, call 651-642-0385.

The Highland Park Library Book Club will discuss *In The Midst of Winter* by Isabel Allende in its meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 25. New members are welcome. Call 651-695-3700.

Exhibits

“Black & White Blues,” a free exhibition of photographer Marc Norberg’s iconic images of blues musicians, will be displayed from July 19-22 at the Show Gallery Lowertown, 346 N. Sibley St. Audio recordings of the musicians accompany the portraits. An opening party with live music, a cash bar and snacks will be held from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, July 19. Admission is free.

“All About St. Paul,” watercolor paintings of the capital city by local artist Jeanne Kosfeld, will be displayed from July 19-August 31 in the North Gallery at Landmark Center. An opening reception for the artist with wine and hors d’oeuvres will be held from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 26. Kosfeld is a former newspaper illustrator and faculty member at the University of Alaska who led the design department at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts for 18 years. She will offer free, two-hour sketching workshops at 10 a.m. Saturday, August 11, and 1 p.m. Sunday, August 19, in downtown St. Paul. For workshop reservations, call 651-292-1239 or email jbrooks@landmarkcenter.org.

The childhood haunts of novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald will be explored in 75-minute walking tours stepping out at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. Saturday, July 28, and noon and 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 29, from the Commodore Bar & Restaurant, 79 N. Western Ave. Learn about Fitzgerald’s early years in St. Paul near the turn of the 20th century, his relationship with his wife Zelda, the impact of St. Paul on his writing, and his connections to the James J. Hill family and other prominent neighbors. Tickets are \$14, \$12 for seniors and college students, \$10 for children ages 5-17. Visit cart.mnhs.org or call 651-259-3000.

Relive Minneapolis’ railroad history during a 105-minute walking tour of the city’s riverfront stepping out at 1 p.m. Sunday,

July 29, from the Mill City Museum, 704 S. Second St. From the laying of Minnesota’s first railroad in 1862 to the building of the Stone Arch Bridge and Milwaukee Road Depot, learn about the industries and people that filled the freight and passenger trains in Minneapolis. Along the way, discover clues to the vanishing of the trains and learn of the future of rail. The cost is \$14. For reservations, call 612-341-7582 or visit cart.mnhs.org.

Film

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the following movies under the stars compliments of the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation: *The Incredibles* (2004) on July 19 at Groveland Recreation Center, 2021 St. Clair Ave.; *Moonstruck*, July 20, Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; *Up*, July 26, Palace Community Center, 781 Palace Ave.; and *The Karate Kid* (2010), August 3, Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. All of the screenings are free of charge and will begin around dusk.

Sexual Revolution: 50 Years Since Humanae Vitae, a new documentary on the fallout of the sexual revolution against the backdrop of Pope Paul VI’s 1968 encyclical about love, sex and marriage, will be shown on Wednesday, July 25, in Helene Houle Auditorium at St. Agnes School, 530 Lafond Ave. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and the movie begins at 6:30 p.m. Concessions will be available before the movie and during intermission. Tickets are \$5, \$2 for children ages 14 and under. For reservations, visit archspm.org and click on “events.”

Family

Argonautical, a stage adaptation of the mythical story of Jason and the Argonauts and their search for the Golden Fleece, will be performed at 3 and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, July 18 and 19, on the south end of Powderhorn Park, 3400 15th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A production of Powderhorn Theater Arts, the outdoor show will feature 22 youthful actors along with puppets and masks. Admission is free. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket for seating. Call 612-370-4960.

Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy., will offer the following free programs: Baby Storytime at 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday; Nature Smart, a trading post in natural history, biology and geology, 4 p.m. Wednesdays; Paw Pals, a chance for kids ages 6-12 to read with a dog and its mistress, 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 18; Createch, high-tech fun for teenagers, 3:30 p.m. every Thursday; Fur, Feathers, Scales and Slime, a live introduction to critters from Como Park Zoo, 6 p.m. Thursday, July 19; children’s storytime, 11 a.m. every Saturday and 10:30 a.m. every Monday; GED class, 5:45 p.m. every Tuesday; Amharic storytime, 6 p.m. every Tuesday; and fun science experiments with Dr. Tyronne E. Carter, 6 p.m. Thursday, July 26. Call 651-695-3700.

Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., will offer the following free programs: Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m. every Friday; Maker Camp, hands-on activities for children ages 7 to 11, 3-5 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays; Circus Manduhai, the acrobatics of a Mongolian family, 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday, July 24; and Paw Pals, a chance for children ages 6-12 to read to a friendly dog, 6-7 p.m. Thursday, August 2. Call 651-642-0385.

Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. and 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul, will offer a family campfire with songs, stories and roasted marshmallows followed by a hike from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, July 23 (cost is \$7, \$20 per family) and a Farm Tour from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 28 (\$7, \$20 per family). To register, call 651-455-4531.



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James and the Giant Peach will be staged by the Highland Park Community Theater on July 26-28 and August 2-4 at Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy. Based on the book by the same name, the musical tells of a boy who is sent by his aunts to chop down an old fruit tree only to discover a magic potion that sends him on a fantastic journey. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Tickets are \$10. Visit tinyurl.com/hpcctheaterprogram.

Theater

Glensheen, Jeffrey Hatcher and Chan Poling's dark comedy about the 1977 murders of Duluth millionaire Elisabeth Congdon and her nurse Velma Pietila, is playing through July 29 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. The musical stars Jennifer Maren and Dane Stauffer as chief suspects Marjorie Congdon and Roger Caldwell. Tickets are \$25-\$58. Call 651-292-4323 or visit historytheatre.com.

Ideation, a comedy by Aaron Loeb that satirizes office politics and groupthink, is playing through July 29 at Gremlin Theatre, 550 N. Vandalia St. Directed by Brian Balcom, the drama tells of a gathering of stressed-out corporate consultants who have 90 minutes to present their recommendations on a mysterious project. As they brainstorm, what they haven't been told by higher-ups looms large. Kathy Kupiecki, Peter Christian Hansen, Nikhil Pandey, Brian P. Joyce and Ben Shaw star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$8-\$28. Visit gremlintheatre.org or call 1-888-718-4253.

Jeeves in Bloom, a comedy by playwright Margaret Raether based on the characters of P.G. Wodehouse, is playing through July 29 at Theater in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The drama tells of the adventures of Bertie Wooster and his



Come fly with us. Circus Juventas, the nationally renowned youth circus school, will take audiences on a journey through the fertile imaginations of writers H.G. Wells and Jules Verne in *Steam*, running July 27 through August 12 under the big top at 1270 Montreal Ave. Set in 1890s Paris, the high-flying adventure plunges 20,000 leagues under the sea, floats high above earth and travels to distant times aboard such acrobatic apparatuses as the wheel of steel, Russian cradle, Spanish web, wall trampoline and teeter board. Show times are 1 and 7 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Tickets are \$18.50-\$45. Visit circusjuventas.org or call 651-699-8229.

valet Jeeves who pay a visit to the English countryside and Bertie's school chum Gussie. Soon, Bertie is fending off the advances of the fanciful Madeline Basset, reluctantly participating in a burglary and fleeing from a homicidal French chef. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$22 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010.

The game's afoot in a hilarious thriller that's anything but elementary. Playwright Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* is playing at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through August 5 on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Directed by Theo Langason, the comical mystery stars Eric Sumangil, Sara

Richardson, Marika Proctor, McKenna Kelly-Eiding and Ricardo Beaird. For tickets, call 651-291-7005 or visit parksquaretheatre.org.

The Mill City Summer Opera is performing Bizet's *Carmen* from July 17-24 in the Ruin Courtyard at Mill City Museum, 704 S. Second St., Minneapolis. Set in 19th-century Spain, *Carmen* tells of the love and jealousy of Don José, who is lured away from his military post and beloved Micaela by a cigar factory girl. Fenlon Lamb directs the production, which stars Audrey Babcock, Adam Diegel, Karen Slack and Luis Orozco. The soloists will be accompanied by a live orchestra and a chorus of 24 singers and dancers. Show times are 7:30 p.m. July 17, 19, 20, 22 and 24. An hour-long family show will be presented at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 18. Tickets are \$50-\$125 for the evening shows, \$200-\$250 for opening night, and \$5 for adults and free for children for the matinee. Call 612-875-5544.

Mamma Mia!, the Tony Award-winning musical set to the hits of the Swedish band Abba, will open a three-week run on July 17 at the Ordway Music Theater. Set on a Greek island, the drama tells of an unforgettable trip down the aisle taken by a mother, a daughter and the daughter's three possible fathers. Directed by Martha Banta, it stars Christine Sherrill, Ann Michels, Erin Schwab, Caroline Innerbichler, Robert O. Berdahl, Dieter Bierbrauer and Aloysius Gigl. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets start

at \$48. Visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

Hand to God, a comedy that traces the fragile nature of faith and morality through the story of a mild-mannered teenager and his spectacularly foul-mouthed puppet, will open on July 21 at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Christina Baldwin directs the Twin Cities premiere of playwright Robert Askins' raunchy and irreverent drama about a young man whose relationships with the town pastor, the school bully, the girl next door and his mother are thrown into upheaval when his puppet takes on a scandalous and impertinent personality. Riley O'Toole stars. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays through August 19. Tickets are \$37-\$47, or \$15 for the previews at 7:30 p.m. July 18 and 19. Call 612-822-7063.

Et cetera

The Minnesota State Fair is accepting registrations until 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, for its Amateur Talent Contest. Top prizes are \$10,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000 in the Open Division and \$2,500, \$750 and \$500 in the Teen and Preteen Divisions for first, second and third place, respectively. The talent contest's opening rounds will be held on July 23-29 in the Leinie Lodge Bandshell at the fairgrounds. They will begin at 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, and are open to the public free of charge. The State Fair will run from August 23 through September 3. Talent contest semifinalists will compete in the Leinie Lodge Bandshell beginning at 6 p.m. on the first 10 days of the fair. The finals will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, September 2, in the Grandstand, and they are free with fair admission. To register for the contest, visit mnstatefair.org. For information, call 651-288-4395 or email msfent@mnstatefair.org.

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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

The shifting State of Hockey

One fine night in late May of last year, a fellow wandered into a favorite bar and restaurant in downtown Las Vegas and was surprised to see a Stanley Cup playoff game on television. The server said she was a longtime Montreal Canadiens fan and missed hockey after moving to Sin City from her native Canada. The fellow mentioned to her that Las Vegas was about to get a new NHL team.

"That's nice and it'll be fun, I guess," she said, "but they probably won't be very good right away. People here will have to be patient."

Fast forward to this July. The same fellow visited the same city to discover Las Vegas Golden Knights T-shirts and hats being worn everywhere and a lot of folks talking hockey even though the season was long over.

"The hockey thing was fun. It was very good for business, particularly the Stanley Cup games," said a different server this time. "A lot of those games were on during Happy Hour."

Las Vegas used to be a place where visitors only came to gamble and see entertainers. They still come for those reasons, but it's suddenly become a town where locals have a hockey team to root for. As is the case with most first-year teams, the Golden Knights took the town by storm. The fact that they advanced to the Stanley Cup Finals captivated folks in a totally unexpected fashion.

A quick check at StubHub, a well-known ticket broker, revealed a fellow could purchase tickets—there were four left at this writing—for \$115 for the Golden Knights' game on October 6. The only problem for Vegas residents is that the game will be at the Xcel Energy Center in downtown St. Paul against the Minnesota Wild. Vegas locals interested in seeing home games, if they haven't bought tickets already, will have to look elsewhere. The only tickets StubHub has left for Knights' games are on the road. Everything else, even preseason contests, is sold out.

However, the Knights will have a tough act to follow. In chatting with some transplanted Minnesotans in Vegas, the view is that last season's success was just a stepping stone. One hesitates to pour cold water on such a thought, but the reality is that things are likely to get dicier this year when teams that have had a year to study the Knights put their plans in place.

Enjoy the honeymoon while you can, folks. The denizens who work in downtown St. Paul can tell their western hockey fans what happens when you don't meet expectations.

The Wild made a fun run to the Stanley Cup semifinals in their second year as a franchise. They did so with a pair of seventh-game road wins and having the dice roll the right way at the right time. Since then, the team has gone through several coaches and is now on its third general manager. The great expectations that were once there have vanished.

The conversation about the team now tends to revolve around whether the duo who were supposed to lead the Wild to greatness—forward Zach Parise and defenseman Ryan Suter, who each have seven years remaining on their \$98 million contracts—can stay healthy long enough to guide the team past the first round of the playoffs.

Tickets for the Wild's three preseason home games at the X range from \$19-25 on StubHub.

In the days before the NHL went to the shootout to decide regular-season games, an old saying among some puck fans was: "We're with you, win or tie." That's changed now. The immediacy of the Internet and the variety of other entertainment options have changed how we view our teams. While there's still a fan base for each team, there are a lot more people than ever before who jump on and off bandwagons on a moment's notice.

The regular season still has importance around here

WRIGHT CALL ► 24

Love to play tackle

Kulhaneks part of Vixen squad headed to nationals

BY BILL WAGNER

First cousins Danielle and Debra Kulhanek have played their fair share of sports, but they probably didn't have their current one in mind when they were high school athletes.

Danielle (Dani), a 2011 graduate of Cretin-Derham Hall, and Debra (Dee), a 2012 graduate of Visitation, are both rookies with the Minnesota Vixen, the longest continuously operating women's tackle football team in the nation.

They earned their spots on the squad as a wide receiver and linebacker, respectively, by impressing coach Laura Brown with their athleticism in open tryouts last October. Dani was a volleyball, basketball and softball player at CDH, while Dee was captain of the Visitation softball team during her senior year. Still, playing football, at least initially, seemed like a stretch.

"I'd played it in the backyard," said Dani, a West End resident, "but I'd never watched football. I didn't even know what it meant to run a route."

"I'd never played football at all," said Dee, a Highland Park resident, "but I wanted to. It seemed like it'd be fun."

Making the Minnesota squad is not a cakewalk. Coach Brown said some 150 women tried out for 45 spots on this year's roster. The Kulhaneks caught the eye of Brown and they have been productive players for the Vixen, who compete in Division II of the Women's Football Alliance (WFA).

The Vixen were 7-1 through the regular season. They beat the Wisconsin



Debra and Danielle Kulhanek are rookies on the Minnesota Vixen team that will play for the WFA Division II title on July 27 in Atlanta. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

sin Dragons 35-7 on June 30 in the first round of the playoffs and topped the Mile High Blaze 29-6 in the semifinals on July 14, both at their home field at Simley High School. The Vixen will now play for the Division II national title on July 27 in Atlanta.

The WFA's caliber of play is high and, as one might expect, injuries tend to sideline quite a few players over the course of the season. Still, the cousins have found their first foray in organized football to be a positive one.

"These women hit hard—very hard," said Dani, who still has a bad knee left over from her high school days. "I'm bruised up and I'm only 25. But this is an amazing group of women. I enjoy being out there and I'm learning a lot."

"I'm still perfecting my tackling abilities," Dee said. "It's a lot more fun to hit someone else than to get hit yourself."

Dee said it's funny to hear the response from co-workers when she tells them she plays for the Vixen. "They might say, 'Oh, we have a women's football team?'" Dee said with a chuckle. "Or it might be, 'Is it a lingerie league?'"

You don't get rich playing in the WFA. Players don't earn a salary, though most get some form of sponsorship money to cover the costs of travel, equipment and the like. Each player also has to pay a participation fee, which can run about \$1,000 a year.

Most players also have jobs or college classes that they have to work into their schedules. Dee is a research scientist at the University of Minnesota. Dani is a bartender and waitress at McGovern's Pub and recently graduated from nursing school. She would like to get a job in that field, but said first things first.

"I wouldn't be able to start until after the season," said Dani, who added she is grateful for the sponsorship dollars that come from McGovern's owners Pat

and Dianne Boemer to help make ends meet.

The list of occupations of other Vixen players include personal trainer, pharmacist, technology project manager and software engineer.

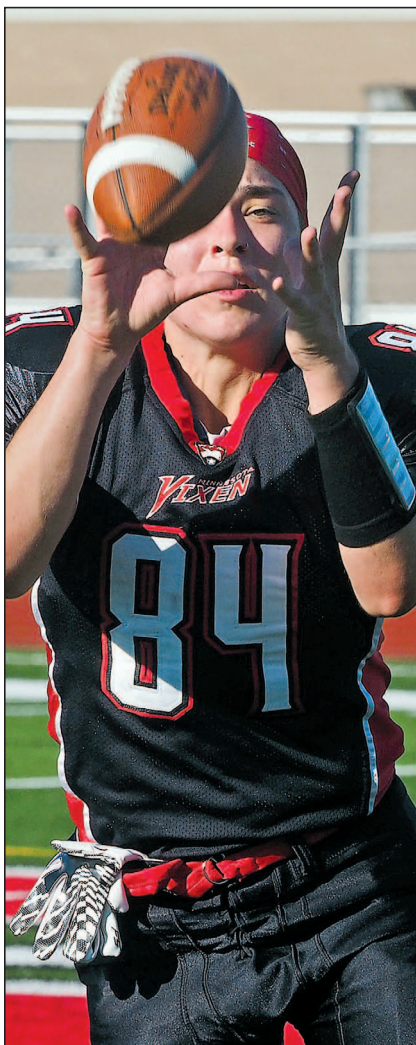
"It's a challenge to manage time between job, family and football," Dee said. She saluted coach Brown, who owns the team with her husband James, for doing a good job of outreach. "I've been lucky enough to have a lot of family and friends who (contribute)," she said.

The Vixen were founded in 1999 as part of a barnstorming tour that featured games against the Lake Michigan Minx at venues across the country. The success of that tour led to the formation of the Women's Professional Football League the following year. The Vixen were undefeated that season, but lost in the playoffs to the Houston Energy.

The team had several ownership changes over the next few years. It joined the Independent Women's Football League in 2013 and was purchased by the Browns the following year. The Vixen played in the first Legacy Bowl in South Carolina that season and won the Eastern Conference championship in 2016. The team departed that league last year to join the WFA.

Among the other teams that play in the same division as the Vixen are the Madison Blaze, the Wisconsin Dragons, the Kansas City Titans, the Detroit Dark Angels, the Columbus Vanguard and the Mile High Blaze.

The Vixen have several premium players who have contributed to this year's fine season. Running backs Grace Cooper and Jeannette (Tank) Nelson have both been named to the all-star team. The Vixen also have a standout quarterback in Kiersten Hansen, who played with boys in youth football while going to school in Eden Prairie.



Wideout Danielle Kulhanek focuses on the ball during pre-game drills.

Full speed ahead

International duathlon competitor Kirk still running strong at age 72

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

As the facilities director for St. Paul College, Daniel Kirk does his best to coax as much life as possible out of the more than 60-year-old buildings under his care.

Kirk takes a similar approach to his own well-being. At age 72, he competes at a high level in running, cycling and swimming. He headed to Denmark just before the July 4th holiday to represent the United States in a world duathlon meet, which consists of a 5K run, 20K bike ride and final 2K run.

Competing against 20 other racers in the 70-74 age group, Kirk finished ninth overall and second among Team USA members with a time of 1:22:18. In the process, he achieved his goal of cracking the top 10 in the world.

"It's a thrill to represent the United States, to be a 72-year-old man and on Team USA," Kirk said shortly before leaving for Denmark with his wife, Pamela. "I can hardly believe it."

Kirk grew up in South Minneapolis, but he also has deep ties to St. Paul—first as a long-time facilities director for Metro State University and then at St. Paul College, where he has worked for the past five years.

In Denmark, Kirk was among the 5,000 athletes from around the world who partici-

pated in the Fynske Bank Multisport World Championships Festival from July 6-14 on the island of Fyn.

Kirk qualified for the world meet by finishing third at the U.S. National Championships in Oregon last year. The top eight finishers in his age group earned a berth on Team USA.

As in any long-distance race, strength and endurance are the keys to success. However, Kirk said attention to detail also is important.

Shaving a few seconds off the transition time between running and biking is a good example. The transition includes changing from running shoes to biking shoes, mounting the bike, going full speed ahead with the bike, and then changing back to running mode.

"You need to practice to be as efficient as you can," Kirk said.

Athletics have long been a big part of Kirk's life. As the starting quarterback, he led Minneapolis Central to

a high school championship in the 1960s. He also played football at Dakota Wesleyan University in South Dakota and in the military.

When he was not on the gridiron, Kirk participated in track and other sports. In later years, he took up long-distance running. He said he ran marathons "off and on for a few years" and then transitioned into duathlons and triathlons. The latter adds swimming to



Daniel Kirk of Team USA



St. Paul College facilities director Daniel Kirk finished ninth overall and second among Team USA members in the 70-74 age group during the duathlon at the Fynske Bank Multisport World Championships Festival held July 6-14 in Denmark.

the race, which was a bit of a challenge at first.

"My goal was not to drown," he said with a laugh regarding his first triathlon. "I felt like a beached whale the first time getting in the water. I was exhausted, but I finished second in my age group."

"I was kind of pumped," he added. "I was 69 and here I am getting some recognition on the podium. It's a good motivator from a vanity perspective."

The event in Denmark was not Kirk's first international competition. Last fall, he finished seventh in his age group at the world triathlon championships in the Netherlands.

In Denmark, comparisons with past performances are difficult because of the unique circumstances. For example, the course coincides with the length of "ancient roads and streets" and the first run was 5.5K (3.41 miles) versus the typical 5K (3.1 miles), Kirk said.

The weather in Denmark was warm and sunny, but a "gusty head wind" on the bicycle leg posed challenges for all of the athletes, he said.

"I hit about 30 mph at times, but the sec-

tions going out and back into town snaked through an industrial area where the road was rough and uneven in places, and I had to slow to 15 or 16 mph," he said. "And the overall distance was slightly different than the standard 20K."

Though he intends to retire from his job at St. Paul College next year, Kirk has no plans to hang up his running shoes, swimming goggles or bicycle helmet anytime soon.

In August, he will be off to the USA Triathlon National Championship in Cleveland, where he hopes to finish in the top eight and qualify for the 2019 ITU World Championships in Switzerland.

Then in September, he goes down under to Australia, where he will take part in the 2018 World Triathlon Championship.

While it is a heady experience to go up against other athletes in those international events, Kirk said he always enjoys just competing against himself.

"If I can beat my best time from a year ago, even though I'm a year older, that's a motivator for me," he said.

Blazing a new trail: Mestas leaves long-time Roosevelt connection

BY BILL WAGNER

It will be a little strange for Robert Mestas during the 2018-19 high school basketball season. After starring for Minneapolis Roosevelt in the mid-1990s and coaching the Teddy boys' team for the last six years, Mestas has been named the new coach of the boys' basketball team at Burnsville High School.

Michael Walker, another Roosevelt alumnus who is well-acquainted with Mestas, has been named as his successor. Walker is director of the office of black male student achievement for the Minneapolis Public Schools and

has worked as a coach in the Howard Pulley pro-am summer basketball league.

Mestas, who was named Minnesota's Mr. Basketball in 1995 and went on to play Division I ball at Miami University in Ohio, said there is a part of him that will be "a Teddy for life." However, he also acknowledged that his decision to change jobs was born out of necessity. As an untenured teacher in the district, Mestas said he faced the likelihood of losing his job as a physical education teacher at Roosevelt.

He expects to be a substitute teacher at Burnsville to start and plans to work some-

where in the district for sure, though not necessarily in a high school physical education position. The new job is just a 10-minute drive from his home in Apple Valley.

"It was difficult," Mestas said about his decision to leave Roosevelt. "I'm a city guy forever, but there were other things that I had to consider as well."

Mestas, who led the Teddies to a 17-10 record last season, will be taking over a Burnsville team that logged only six victories last winter. He said he is keeping tabs on his new players over the summer and is optimistic that the Blaze will be better than last year.

As for the Teddies, Mestas had only good things to say about Walker, even though he said the two of them have different coaching styles.

"We grew up together and went to school together," Mestas said. "He's godfather to one of my kids. I have no doubt that he's going to get it done (at Roosevelt). I think he can take Roosevelt to the next level. I'm old school; he tends to think out of the box more."

Mestas also expressed appreciation to his former athletic director at Roosevelt. "Dennis Stockmo gave me my opportunity," he said, "and I'll always be grateful for that."

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because it's the conveyor to the postseason where the real fun begins. But you take such stuff with a grain of salt. In 2017-18, the Wild were one of just two teams that the Golden Knights didn't defeat. The other was the New York Islanders, who missed the playoffs, fired their coach/general manager and saw their leading scorer bolt to Toronto as a free agent.

Minnesota hockey fans may be enthusiastic in nature, but they're not stupid and their patience isn't everlasting. As much as people may have disliked Norm Green for pulling the North Stars out of town, the fact is that attendance bobbed up and down during that team's tenure. The team had five seasons where it averaged under 10,000 fans per game. Two years before Green skedaddled, the North Stars averaged just 7,838 fans per game.

And that was well before there were the number of diversions there are now—and tickets were a lot cheaper.

Major change coming to college hockey

From his place in hockey heaven, Jeff Sauer is undoubtedly smiling these days. The St. Paulite, who had successful runs

as head coach at Colorado College and the University of Wisconsin, and whose father was the longtime hockey coach at St. Paul Central High School, was an early advocate of college hockey teams playing overtime to decide tie games. It started out as 10 minutes of overtime, but was later shortened to five minutes.

When the National Hockey League went to shootouts to decide games a few years back, most college conferences decided to do likewise.

The NCAA hierarchy spends most of its time on the big-money sports of football and men's basketball, but it did step in earlier this summer and decreed that shootouts will no longer decide regular-season hockey games. In the case of a tie after regulation, there will be just one five-minute, sudden-death overtime session. Playoff games will stay the same, with overtimes until one team nets a winner.

Hockey shootouts are simply marketing tools. While ties can be a frustrating to some fans, the fact is, the sport is not like others. A full 65 minutes is plenty of time to reach a verdict. The NCAA is keeping the overtime session as five-on-five for now, but one can easily imagine that might change down the road to a four-on-four or even a three-on-three format.

Coincidence or not? You decide

The University of Minnesota men's hockey program recently released its 2018-19 schedule. In addition to the usual Big Ten games, there are nonconference games against Minnesota-Duluth, Trinity Western, North Dakota and MSU-Mankato, along with two-game home series against St. Lawrence, Ferris State and Arizona State (a relative newbie to the sport).

However, there are two notable names missing from the schedule: St. Cloud State, which has played the Gophers 100 times since going bigtime in 1990-91 and happens to be the former home of new U of M men's coach Bob Motzko; and Bemidji State, whose Division I status isn't as lengthy.

Schedules are generally made up a year or two in advance. It could well be that the Gophers' Big Ten conference schedule just didn't allow them to schedule games against the Huskies or the Beavers. Or it could be something else.

Either way, the State of Hockey isn't as healthy, or as entertaining, when its Division I schools don't play against each other.

Dave Wright can be contacted at dwright53@msn.com.

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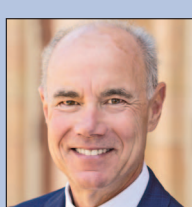
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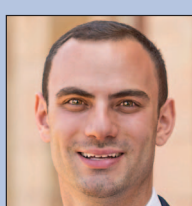
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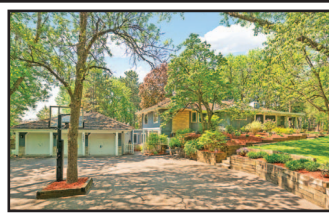
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651-329-1264



COMO TOWNHOME!
3 bedrooms, 2 bath in convenient location. Wall of windows & 2 decks bring the outside in. Open living spaces, SS appliances, fireplace and a 2 car garage. 1341 Spencer Road West.
AnotherHomeSoldByMary.com

MARY KNUDSEN CRS
651-335-6619



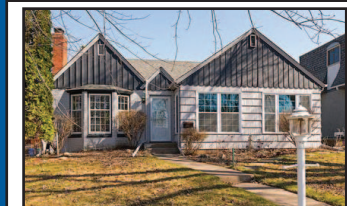
WOODED WONDERLAND!
Exceptional 3-bedroom, 3-bath walk-out in magical Mendota Heights. Over 4,000 finished sq. ft. with main floor family room & owner's suite, 2 fireplaces, sparkling skylights. Deck, 3-car on .80 acre of privacy. 1903 Hunter Lane. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

JOE UEBEL ABR, CNE
651-695-4304 • \$679,900



STEPS TO MARKET SQUARE!
Dynamic 4-bedroom, 2-bath walk-out rambler boasts open floorplan, with living room, formal dining, sun-splashed kitchen. Walk-out family room, inviting porch! Great updates, new roof, 3-car, backyard oasis. 692 Mulberry Lane.
*click on www.teamedelstein.com

JOE UEBEL ABR, CNE
651-695-4304 • \$399,900



1709 BOHLAND AVENUE
Sun filled home on premiere Highland Park street. Only three owners. Grand piano sized living room with fireplace - large formal dining room. First floor family room opens to kitchen.

KAREN KELJIK
612-414-3245/CALL/TEXT



ONE OF A KIND CATHARAL HILL GEM!
Italianate Second Empire style built in 1875 completely updated - has been a single family, legal duplex and a successful bed & breakfast - can function as two separate houses with private entrance. 3 car garage with 5 offstreet parking spots. 96 Virginia Street.

KAREN KELJIK
612-414-3245/CALL/TEXT



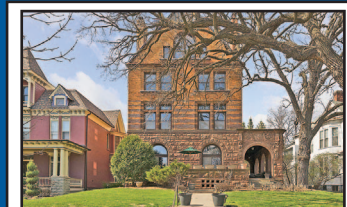
EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTY!!!
295 Salem Church Rd: Spectacular Sunfish Lake home offering 12,447 sq. ft. to be used for your largest entertainment need but designed for comfortable everyday living as well. 5 fireplaces, 9 BA's, and an 8 car heated garage.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$3,999,000



EXPECT TO BE ENVIED!!!
919 Rae Ct: Impeccable 3 bedroom with an updated family sized kitchen, 2 delightful decks and fabulous yard with kidney shaped pool, king sized master bedroom and bath, and large lower level amusement room.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$475,000



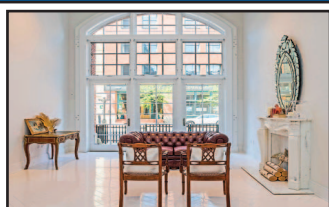
HISTORIC 251 SUMMIT!
Unbelievable opportunity to live in the Summit Ave. Historic District! This condo is part of the Horace P. Rugg Mansion built in 1887 and boasts 4000 sq. ft. with 3 spacious BR's on one level with 3 baths and a separate 2 car garage. A must see!

MIKE & TOM DISTAD
612-275-1343 • \$775,000



IMPERIAL DRIVE CONDO!
Spacious 3 bedroom/2 bath condo on quiet West St. Paul street. Over 1,600 square feet, private balcony with serene nature views, in unit laundry and garage parking. 100 Imperial Drive W, #404, West St. Paul.

CLAIRE BISANZ DISTAD
651-307-7260 • \$170,000



THE BEST OF URBAN LIVING!
Rare opportunity to own one of 3 private walk-out firehouse units with separate street entrance and gated patio. Across from Mears Park in River Parklofts. 16 foot ceilings, lofted bedroom & office. Enjoy a St. Paul Historic landmark! 406 Wacouta Street, Unit 119.

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$449,900



911 CHIPPEWA AVENUE
Wonderful, turn-of-the-century home situated on large corner lot in Mendota Heights. Enjoy the charm this home offers with updated amenities such as maintenance free siding, new windows & central air. Entertain family and friends on the patio this summer!

MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697 • \$289,900



CRAFTSMAN 2 STORY!
1051 St. Clair features 3/BR, 2/BA, office, natural wdwrk, hrdwd flrs, built-in's, wood burning stove, front porch, eat-in kitchen, spacious rooms, patio, fenced-in back yard perfect for summer entertaining. 6blks to Grand Ave.

VIRGINIA SPANIOLA
651-402-7412



966 JAMES AVENUE
This charming bungalow nestled on a quiet street combines historic charm with great location and wonderful floor plan. Features include hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, LL family room and fenced-in yard.

NANCY K MAAS
651-235-8581



OPEN SATURDAY 12-2!
Dutch Colonial with 4br 1 bath 2 car. Kitchen with island, separate dining, and two 3-season porches. Walk to Highland Pool/golf or the river. Easy access to airport and downtown. 1865 Benson Ave.

PATRICK RUBLE
651-230-0903 • \$209,900
BRAD BEMOWSKI
952-368-6761 • \$209,900



VINTAGE CHARM!
Mac-Grove 1.5 Story turns 100 this year! Natural woodwork & HW floors. Original built-in bookcases & buffet. Two BR's on main. 3rd BR used as den. Rough finished upper bonus room is incredible opp for expansion. Same owner 30 years. Darling! 1693 Jefferson.

TJ PIERRET
651-755-6669

