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Zoning board rejects St. Mary's expansion

High demand for assisted living fails to sway board in nursing home's favor

by Jane McClure

It's either back to the drawing board for St. Mary's Home or on to the St. Paul City Council to plead its case for a 101-unit assisted-living facility for seniors.

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) voted on October 12 to reject St. Mary's request for five variances that it sought in order to build two four-story additions to its nursing home at 1925 Norfolk Ave. The decision is final unless it is appealed to the City Council.

Nearly 50 residents turned out for the hearing. Eight spoke against the variances, raising concerns about the size of the expanded facility, increased traffic and parking demands on neighborhood streets, and loss of open space.

"It almost feels like we're being held hostage," said Munster Avenue resident Gary Micci. "There's been

little cooperation with the neighborhood."

Fred Kueppers, an attorney representing some of the neighbors, said the planned expansion is too much for the neighborhood. "This isn't some little apartment building in the middle of the block," he said. "This is a takeover."

After hearing testimony for more than an hour, the BZA voted 4-3 to deny the variances. Gloria Bogen, who voted with Buzz Wilson, Rich Kramer and Joyce Maddox against the variances, agreed that the proposed facility was too large and would alter the character of the neighborhood.

"The amount of property that this project would take up is just huge," Bogen said. She said that St. Mary's could build a five-story building that would be more com-

St. Mary's Home/see page 5



A legend in his own town. Paul Molitor, shown here signing autographs for five adoring young fans, returned two weeks ago to the field where he dreamed of becoming a big-league ballplayer. Twenty-five years later, the former Minnesota Twin has completed what is sure to be a Hall of Fame career, and the ballpark at Cretin-Derham Hall played host to a sandlot game promoting the funding of a new Twins stadium in St. Paul. For more on the stadium referendum, see the voters guide on pages 26-31 inside. Photo by Mike Long.

SPA teacher spearheads effort to wire Third World schools

by Catherine Condon

The campus of York Castle High School in Brown's Town, Jamaica, is nothing like that of St. Paul Academy and Summit School in Highland Park. In Brown's Town, garage-like classrooms of concrete block are clustered behind a ragged main building. Students sit in decades-old desks. A single grassy area serves as the school's athletic fields. Cows and goats roam nearby.

Until two years ago, the school had four outdated computers. That changed when SPA

math instructor George Leiter helped deliver three modern PCs to the 400-member student body. Last winter, he brought in 17 more and set up a computer lab. That day, he said, he witnessed pure joy.

"There were people in tears, hugging us and saying, 'Our kids had no opportunities and now you're going to give them the chance to make something of their lives,'" said Leiter, a Macalester-Groveland resident who has taught at SPA for 22 years.

Leiter plans to return to Jamaica next month and spend much of the school year

setting up more computer classrooms, providing for Internet access and training teachers at five schools as part of the Little World Schoolhouse, a nonprofit philanthropic group that he helped found. He plans to connect each Jamaican school with a Twin Cities "sister school," which will allow students to share science, math, computer and other curricula through e-mail and Web sites.

Leiter first visited Jamaica in the mid-1980s. Eight years ago, he began vacationing each year on the impoverished tropical island with fellow Macalester College alumni Joel

Friedman and Mary Dobish, both of whom are Minneapolis residents. Friedman runs the Internet company PageScape and Dobish runs the training company Desktop Solutions.

"We'd go to this little town that was out of the way," Leiter said. "After a couple of years, we got to know the people there. We were talking to them about what we could do to help. They said, 'Computers in the schools.'"

At first, the three procured one computer

Little World/see page 4

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CDH hopes to curb permit parking's appeal

School officials, neighbors will meet to explore other solutions

by Jane McClure

Neighborhood residents, city officials and Cretin-Derham Hall officials have stepped up their efforts to find a solution to the problems that gave rise last month to the creation of a resident-only permit parking district east of the high school. They are hoping to solve the problem before it spreads to neighborhoods beyond the permit parking district.

Local residents have complained for

years about parking congestion, careless driving, litter and rowdy students in the neighborhood surrounding Cretin-Derham Hall. The high school has only about 50 off-street parking spaces and no bus service for its 1,300 students, who come from throughout the metropolitan area.

The permit parking district approved by the City Council in September includes Juno, Niles and Watson avenues between Hamline Avenue and Syndicate Street and the east side of Hamline be-

tween Juno and Watson. A petition to extend the district to Hartford Avenue between Hamline and Syndicate was to be heard by the City Council on November 3, but that hearing has been postponed until November 17 to give the school and neighbors time to seek another solution.

A town meeting on the parking issue, co-sponsored by the Highland District Council and Cretin-Derham Hall, will

Permit/see page 4

City backs Desnoyer Park's plans to improve river bluff

The St. Paul City Council passed a resolution on October 13 supporting efforts by the Desnoyer Park Improvement Association (DPIA) to seek funds for public improvements along the Mississippi River bluff.

For the past several months, Desnoyer Park residents have been complaining about illegal "cruising" activities and gay sexual encounters along the river. St. Paul Police and Park Rangers have stepped up their patrols of the area and have arrested men for soliciting or having sex. Many neighborhood residents have said they are afraid to walk on trails in the wooded area because of the illegal activities.

The Merriam Park Community Council supports the DPIA's efforts to make the river bluff more open and accessible to the public. Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, the St. Paul Riverfront Corporation, OutFront Minnesota, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, Congressman Bruce Vento, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources also have joined in the efforts to make the area safer.

"The concern is that the river bluff is very secluded," said City Council member Jay Benanav. The seclusion makes it easier for people to engage in illegal activities, he said.

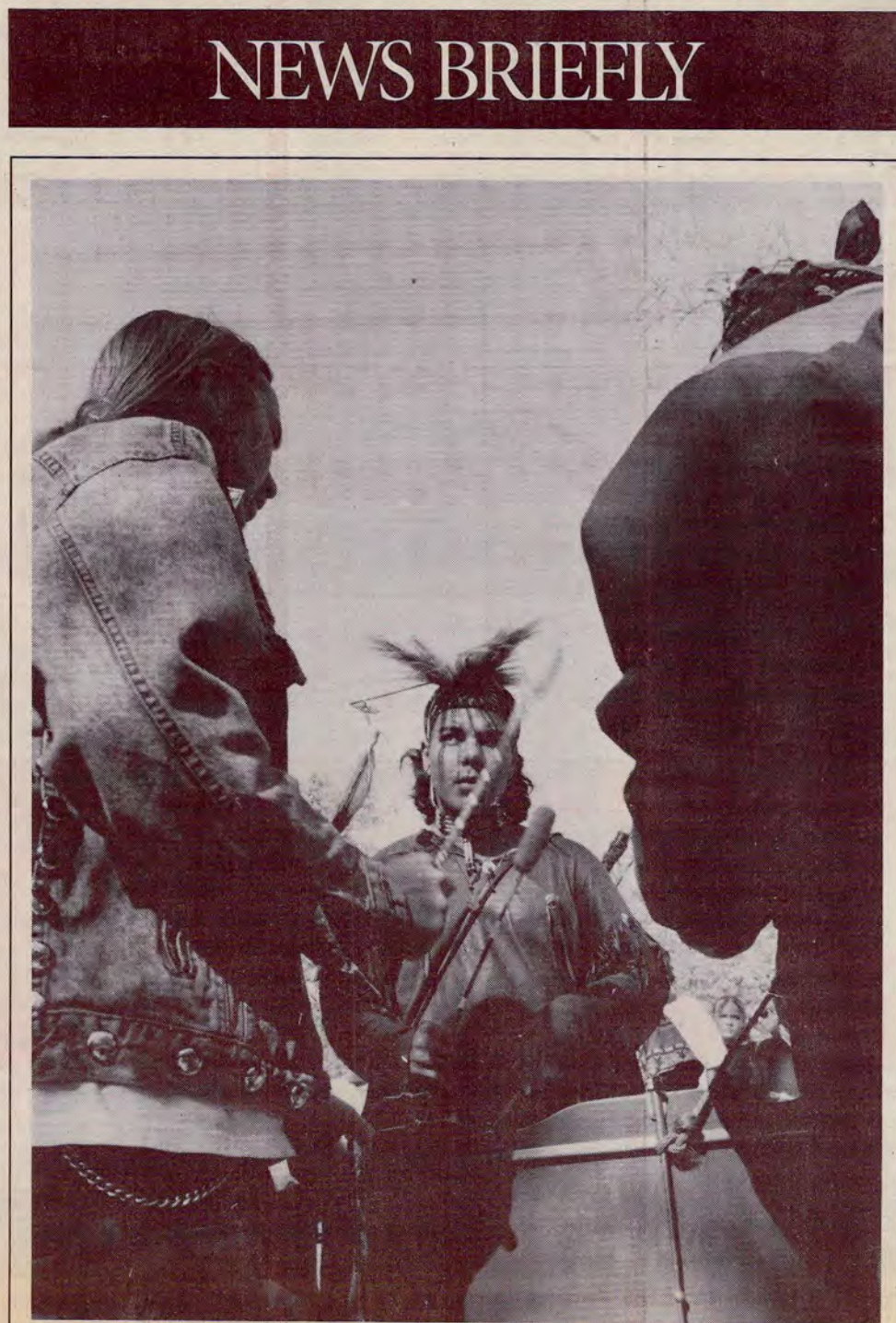
Improvements to the river bluff are expected to include adding trails, removing non-native plants, restoring native species and creating a fishing pier near an abandoned and submerged lock and dam. The improvements are being considered for the river bluff from the Lake Street Bridge north to the city limit.

Snelling Ave. driving school leaves students in the lurch

Students of the Superior Driving School at 155 N. Snelling Ave. are getting a lesson in business law if not the rules of the road.

Three weeks ago they arrived for their regular three-hour class only to find the doors locked and the windows dark. The only visible sign of life was a notice from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety instructing them how to file a claim for tuition reimbursement.

The owner of the school, Martin Austin of Blaine, who also ran a Superior Driving School franchise at Larpenteur Avenue and Dale Street in Roseville, is nowhere to be found. Repeated calls to his office went unanswered, according to Jan Mattson, driver education coordinator for the Department of



A spirited gathering. Indigenous People's Day was celebrated on October 11 in Minnehaha Park as an alternative to the observance of Columbus Day. The festivities included a drum performance and tour of the Highway 55 reroute site. Photo by Terry Faust.

Public Safety.

Austin had operated the Snelling Avenue school for the past three years, according to Mattson. Before opening the school, he posted the required \$10,000 bond and that money will be distributed to students who have paid for instruction they did not receive, Mattson said.

However, the \$10,000 may not cover all that

students have coming, he said. He estimated that each student paid about \$250 for 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction.

"We got a list from the Roseville location that said they had 90-odd kids enrolled," Mattson said, "but the number of students at the Snelling location is anybody's guess. We've received about 40 to 50 complaints so far, but

we'd need a court order to get access to the records inside the school."

Superior students may file a claim with the Department of Public Safety by calling 651-296-3966 or 651-296-9502. The department will help students get situated in another driving school if they like. Mattson also encourages students to pursue other legal means of restitution.

Superior Driving School franchises in West St. Paul and Oakdale have offered to give students credit for the classroom time they have completed and free instruction for whatever time they have not finished. For information, call Superior at 651-731-2407.

Midwest Driving Academy at Randolph and Hamline avenues has made the same offer. For information, call 651-696-9000.

Crocus Hill condo hearing rescheduled for October 25

For the second time in four weeks, a public hearing on a controversial Summit Hill housing project has been postponed at the developer's request.

Mendota Homes is seeking a variance to St. Paul's front-yard setback requirement in order to construct a three-story, 12-unit condominium on a steep parcel of land above Grand Avenue and below 5 Crocus Hill. A 25-foot setback is required. A 10-foot setback is proposed.

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) had scheduled a public hearing on the variance request for September 27 and then for October 12. However, Erin Mathern of Mendota Homes asked for more time in order to resolve a property-rights dispute with two neighboring homeowners. The attorneys for Robert Bisanz of 5 Crocus Hill and James D'Aquila of 6 Crocus Hill have raised several legal and technical arguments against the project.

The public hearing is now set for 3:00 p.m. Monday, October 25, at City Hall.

The Summit Hill Association's Zoning and Land Use Committee has recommended denying the variance in the belief that Mendota Homes could build fewer housing units without a variance. The committee has also raised concerns about the loss of trees and the alteration of the slope.

Last year Mendota Homes proposed constructing townhomes on the site, but the company dropped those plans when it was discovered that utility easements held by two neighbors precluded construction on part of the site.

News briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and Dale Mischke.

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City Council revives its plan to waylay Compete St. Paul

The St. Paul City Council has postponed until at least October 20 a vote on an ordinance limiting Mayor Norm Coleman's power to contract private vendors to provide city services.

The council had planned to vote on the ordinance October 13 after talks between the mayor and public employee unions broke down. The council delayed its vote in order to consider an amendment intended to close a legal loophole.

The City Council first considered the ordinance in August, but tabled the matter to give Coleman and the unions time to discuss the

implementation of the mayor's privatization initiative, known as Compete St. Paul. When those discussions failed to produce an agreement last week, Coleman announced that his administration would begin the process of putting out bids for city services anyway.

The amendment that was considered by the City Council would require all city contracts to go through the process outlined in the ordinance. However, there is disagreement over what the amendment means. The city already contracts out for several services, from catering at Como Park to engineering services for the Department of Public Works. City Council

members said it was not their intention to include the existing private contracts in the ordinance. If the ordinance is amended again on October 20, it would require another week's layover.

The ordinance, which was authored by City Council member Jay Benanav, has the support of the entire council except Ward 3 council member Mike Harris. Harris, who served on the mayor's Compete St. Paul task force, supports the privatization of some city services, but he has taken issue with both the unions and the mayor over how the initiative is to be implemented.

The ordinance would establish a board to oversee the drafting of two-year performance plans for most city departments. The performance plans would effectively delay privatization for at least another two years. If and when any city services were put out for bidding by public employees and private firms, the board would review the bids and make recommendations.

City services and departments that have already been suggested for privatization include tree trimming, parking enforcement, grass cutting, animal control, the city-owned Watergate Marina and the Water Utility.

Little World Schoolhouse

/from page 1

for a school. "Then we started thinking about it," Leiter said. "We decided we'd really make a project out of it and see what we could do to set things up."

With that, the Little World Schoolhouse was born. The first donation of three computers "was sort of the experiment—how does it work getting through customs and all that," Leiter said. It worked without a hitch.

The partners acquired the second batch of computers from John G. Kinnard & Co. FlightMasters of Eagan surprised them by covering the \$1,000 air freight bill.

"We didn't get a bill for two months," Leiter said. "I called up and they said, 'We talked to the boss and he liked the project. He's paying for it.'"

Today, more than 30 computers are in Leiter's basement awaiting flight to Jamaica. They were donated by The Lacek Group of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis law firm of Cousineau, McGuire & Anderson, as well as several individuals. Leiter plans to have even more by the time he leaves.

"I talked to the Minnesota Attorney General's office," he said. "They just replaced a lot of computers. Hopefully, the word will get out. All it takes is one big company that's upgrading and bam! You've got everything you need."

Those who are are interested in making computer or monetary contributions or in learning more about the Little World Schoolhouse can check out the group's Web site at www.worldschoolhouse.org.

Leiter also is planning a fund-raiser for the Little World Schoolhouse. A benefit concert by the Hip Waders, a four-member musical group composed of Leiter and three of his former SPA students, will be held at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, November 6, at Sweeney's Saloon, 96 N. Dale St.

Admission to the concert is free. "We're just going to ask people to contribute," Leiter said. "We'll probably have the other two principals (Friedman and Dobish) from Little World Schoolhouse man a table and answer questions."

Though Leiter will be instructing teachers on technology-related subjects and may even teach a class or two while he is in Jamaica during his year-long sabbatical from SPA, he will be committing most of his time setting up the "sister schools" project.

"You talk to a teacher here and the first thought is, 'Oh, a cultural exchange. We can send poetry from creative writing classes back and forth. We can share all these feelings,'" Leiter said. "That's a great opportunity, but that's not a priority down there. They



St. Paul Academy and Summit School math teacher George Leiter is hip deep in donated computers he plans to take to Jamaica. A benefit concert by his group, the Hip Waders, will be held at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, November 6, at Sweeney's Saloon. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

want their kids to get computer skills, to understand how to use the Internet and to design Web pages because that's where the potential employment is."

Leiter said Jamaican teachers must often resort to taxi-driving and other nonskilled vocations to supplement their meager teaching

salaries. "It's hard to keep anyone in the profession," he said.

Still, at one of the five schools he will be working with, Leiter said, "Teachers have given up the faculty lounge for the prospect of having a computer lab. There's a huge degree of dedication."

Permit parking expansion postponed until after town meeting

/from page 1

be held at 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 15, at Cretin-Derham Hall.

The district council asked its Transportation Committee to explore parking issues with the neighbors and Cretin-Derham Hall following its recommendation last month to

support the permit parking district.

City Council member Mike Harris, who represents the area, conceded that there is no way the city can deny a valid petition for a permit parking district. However, he has urged the school and neighbors to seek an-

other solution.

Cretin-Derham Hall has no room on its campus for additional off-street parking without giving up existing athletic fields. In the past few weeks, school officials have been searching for other off-campus parking lots

and have been exploring ways to ease the demand for student parking. The school has cracked down on student behavior and has sent off-duty police officers and school staff into the neighborhood to patrol before and after school.



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St. Mary's Home expansion /from page 1

patible with the surrounding neighborhood and not need any variances.

Gladys Morton, who with Patrick Donohue and Frank Scherman voted in favor of the variances, argued that the project should go forward because of the need for more senior housing.

Maddox urged representatives of St. Mary's to work with the neighborhood to develop a different proposal and bring it back for review.

The property, which is owned by the Franciscan Health Community, is currently occupied by the 140-bed St. Mary's Home, a house that has been converted to a group home and a small rental house. The rental house, a garage and a shed would be removed to make way for the expanded facility. The Franciscan Health Community also operates a nearby 54-unit apartment building for senior citizens at 1834 Mississippi River Blvd.

St. Mary's was seeking a 15-foot front-yard setback variance from Graham Avenue, a 9-foot side-yard setback variance from Prior Avenue, a 20-foot separation variance between two buildings, a lot coverage variance of 17 percent and a variance to allow 24 more rooms than the city code permits.

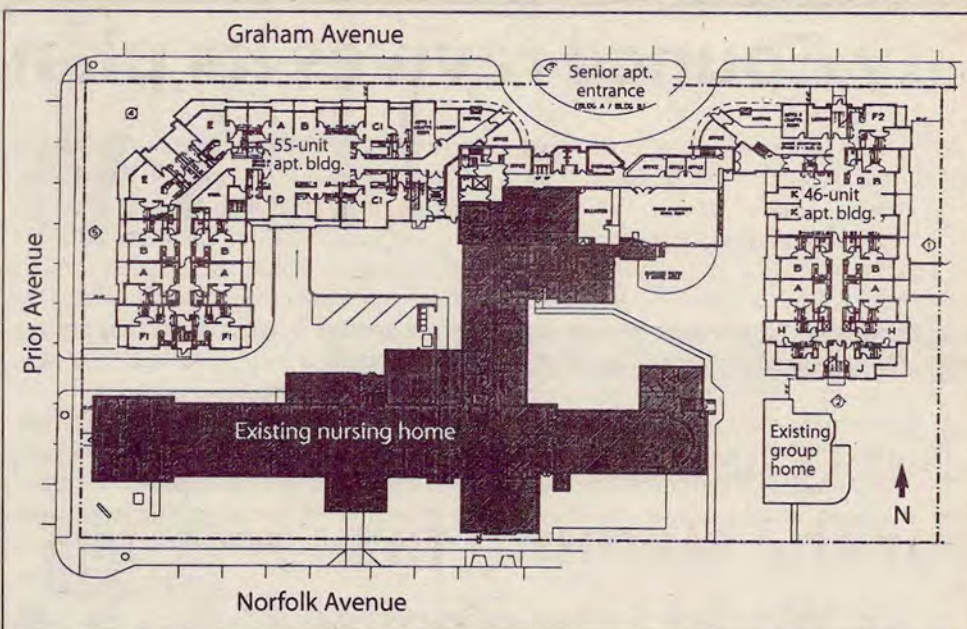
City staff recommended approval of the variances, stating that the on-site expansion would be less intrusive than having St. Mary's expand into the surrounding neighborhood, would ease the demand for senior housing and would provide more off-street parking.

The housing would be designed for people age 62 and older who do not need nursing home care, but would benefit from services that St. Mary's provides, such as health care and food service. Letters of support for the project were received from the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, Seniors Agenda for Independent Living and members of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Aging.

According to Joe Stanislav, chief operating officer of the Franciscan Health Community, there is currently a 150-person waiting list for the organization's Mississippi River Boulevard building.

He also pointed out that if the project was reduced in size too much, it would not be able to cover its cost. "Financially, we can't do less than 100 units," he said.

Micci and other neighbors said they do not deny that there is a great need for housing for senior citizens. "But you also need to consider the concerns of this neighborhood," he said.



The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals shot down St. Mary's request for five variances to build two four-story additions north of its existing nursing home at 1925 Norfolk Ave.

"Bit by bit, there's more and more encroachment. You give a little bit and it just keeps snowballing."

The Highland District Council's combined Community Development and Executive committees had earlier voted 4-2 to recommend denial of the variances. Though no one

in the area opposes senior housing per se, council president Shawn Bartsh said there have been growing complaints about St. Mary's Home encroaching on the neighborhood.

"They're just outgrowing their space—that's the problem," she said.

Gordon

FOR CITY COUNCIL



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VIEWPOINT

MISCH-MASCH

MICHAEL MISCHKE

No reasons to vote for the stadium tax

Would it be a good thing if the Twins remained in Minnesota? If the team were once again capable of providing competitive family entertainment on the field? If to do so, the team's owners opted to abandon that miserable domed mausoleum in downtown Minneapolis and move to a new outdoor ballpark in downtown St. Paul?

Even the most casual baseball fan would answer "yes" to all three questions. However, that's no reason for St. Paul voters to answer "yes" to the ballot question that will ask them to pay a third of the cost to construct a new ballpark for the team's billionaire owners—old or new.

Let's look at public subsidies for private corporations another way. Would it be a good thing if the West Group (formerly West Publishing) could be enticed back to downtown St. Paul? If the legal publisher's 5,400 highly paid employees in Eagan were spending money today on the streets of the Capital City? If the company's former building on Kellogg Boulevard were once again contributing more than \$1 million a year in property taxes to city, county and school district coffers rather than \$0 under the building's present use as Ramsey County Government Center West?

Even the most embittered lawyer-basher would answer "yes" to all three questions. However, that's no reason why St. Paul taxpayers should ever be asked to put up one-third of the cost to lure the West Group back to town.

A friend and former St. Paul City Council member—a man with more integrity in his pinky than most of his former colleagues on the council combined—told me last week that the 1974 decision to deny West a 6-foot height variance to expand its former downtown riverfront headquarters probably had more devastating economic consequences for St. Paul than any decision the City Council has rendered, before or since. (He was on the losing end of the 4-3 vote.) The City Council's decision, orchestrated by then-Mayor Larry Cohen, prompted West, downtown St. Paul's largest private employer at the time, to build a new corporate campus in Dakota County.

The effect of the company's departure on the rest of downtown was immediate and profound. And the decreased downtown tax base it begot contributed greatly to the increased residential property taxes that were soon visited upon the rest of the city.

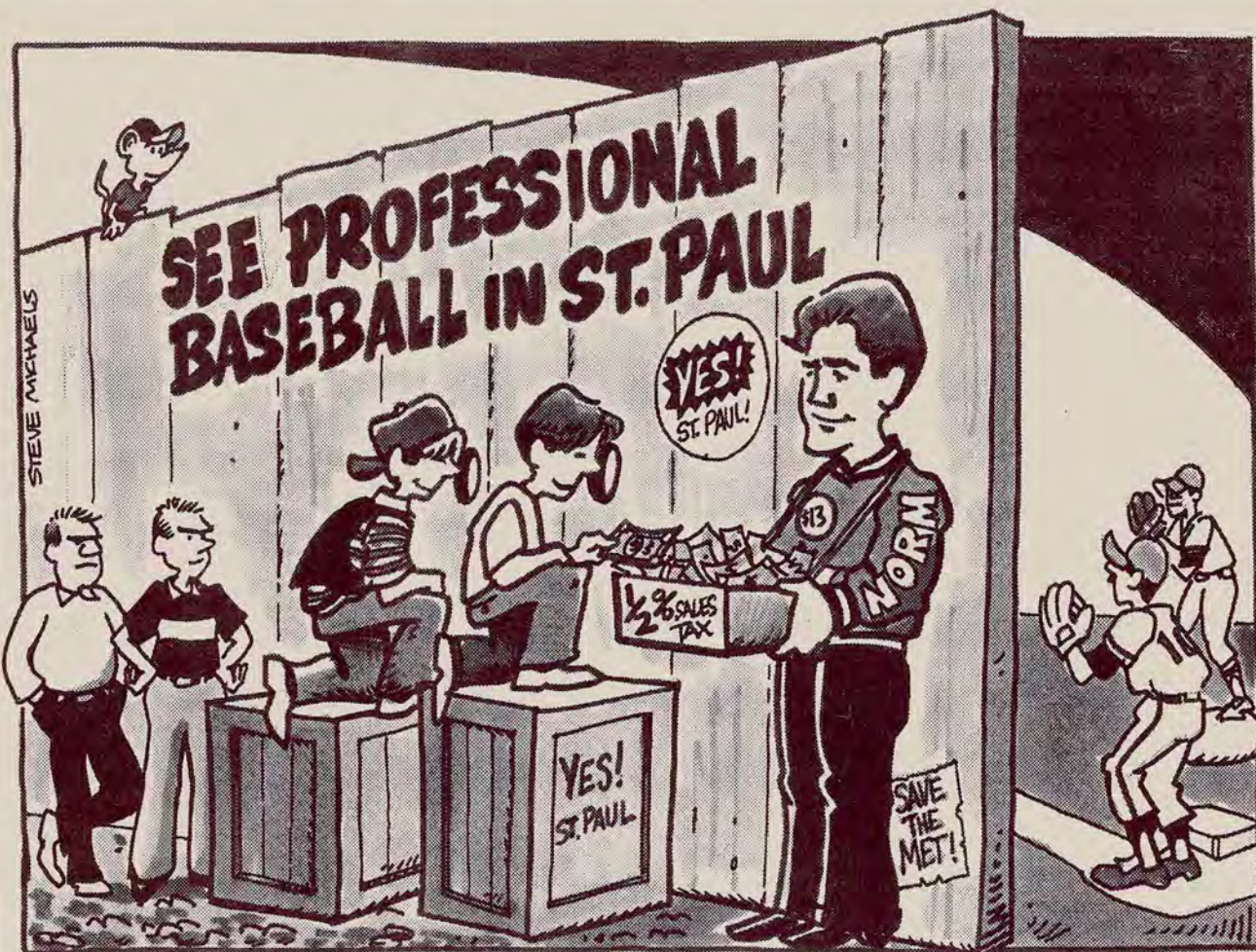
That was *real* economic development lost, not the fictional economic development that pro-stadium boosters imagine would be found from building a new ballpark for the Twins. And in West's case, that development would have occurred without a cent of public subsidy.

Another friend of mine owns a restaurant close enough to downtown St. Paul that you'd assume he is a big ballpark booster. He is not. He also happens to co-own a restaurant three blocks from Camden Yards in Baltimore. His Inner Harbor eatery was there long before the Orioles' ballpark was built and he witnessed firsthand what economic development ensued. He was not impressed.

According to him, gross sales at his restaurant actually dropped after Camden Yards opened and a herd of national sports bar chains moved into and around the new ballpark. Longtime independent small businesses that had been thriving in the Inner Harbor long before the Orioles drew their first fan through the turnstiles at Camden Yards saw no economic benefit whatsoever from the new ballpark, even as their cost of doing business increased dramatically.

Count me among the majority of St. Paul taxpayers who can lay claim to be "experts in the art of pessimism," as the editorial page editors at the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* have called us stadium tax detractors. If the best that the "optimists" at the hometown daily can do to muster support for the stadium tax is to criticize the critics while admitting that the economics of pro sports are "diseased" and that a new stadium "will not generate much new economic growth for the region," I'll join you in wearing the label gladly.

Join me November 2 in voting "no" on the stadium tax.



How would you spend \$110 million?

by Dr. Bruce D. Snyder

The decision is as simple as chewing tobacco. Either we build the Minnesota Twins a new stadium in downtown St. Paul or we don't. Come the referendum on November 2, voters can choose Scenario One or Two below.

Scenario One: For \$330 million, one third of which would come from an additional half-percent sales tax in St. Paul, we build a deluxe ballpark. Then:

1. Sell municipal bonds to pay for the thing.
2. Hold a naming contest (Norm's Field? Coleman's Folly?).
3. Catch the excitement as bars and strip joints flourish downtown. Enjoy their advertisements in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* sports section. Pay for extra police to handle the late-night drunks, fist fights and traffic gridlock.
4. Sit back and watch players' salaries continue to rise through the stratosphere. (Will Sammy Sosa be the first half-billion-dollar slugger?) Act shocked when the Twins still can't cut it because of their "small market."
5. In, say, 10 years, dial in a good old 1980s-style recession. Count the number of failing downtown businesses. (Does anyone besides George Latimer remember the downtown Holiday Inn and the retail mall with Donaldsons?)
6. When the commercial tax base erodes, raise residential

property taxes to keep meeting those municipal bond payments.

7. When the Twins are sold to some guy in Houston, plead with an infielder for a grant to help turn out the lights and lock the doors.

Scenario Two: Don't build the ballpark. Then with the money that we save:

1. Give ESPN and St. Paul Saints tickets to anyone still claiming an abiding love of the game. Cost \$150,000.
2. Give free *Pioneer Press* sweatshirts to the stadium shills who've been writing daily columns in favor of spending \$110 million of our money. Cost \$400.
3. Organize focus groups to figure out why folks are about as attracted to downtown St. Paul as they are to a leper colony. Cost \$2,000 for cookies and pencils.

This still leaves roughly \$110 million burning a hole in our collective political pocket. What to do? Reduce property taxes? Increase funding for schools? Provide subsidized housing and access to health care for the poor and the homeless? Fund jobs programs for the residual unemployed? Buy Norm Coleman and Carl Pohlad a romantic weekend together in Brainerd?

It's hard work to spend that kind of money, but I bet we can do it.

The writer lives in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood.

Integrated transit is answer to congestion

by Peter McLaughlin

Tired of getting stuck in traffic? Concerned about the stress level of the driver coming up behind you? Afraid that a 20-minute drive to downtown Minneapolis will soon take 40 minutes? You have reason to be concerned.

Congestion that affects only 20 percent of the freeway system today will spread to 80 percent of the system in the next 20 years. The Twin Cities metropolitan region is projected to grow by 650,000 people in that same 20 years. That translates into an additional 2.6 million trips per day on a metropolitan arterial freeway system that is not going to grow significantly in the next 20 years.

The answer to the congestion problem is a regional transit system that integrates buses, light-rail transit (LRT) and commuter rail with a well-maintained system of freeways and local streets. Thanks to recent actions by Congressman

Martin Sabo and the U.S. Congress, the Minnesota Legislature and Governor Jesse Ventura, construction of the new system is ready to begin.

The backbone of this new system is the Hiawatha Avenue LRT line. LRT will replace buses on high-volume commuter routes where consistent schedules are critical. High-capacity light-rail vehicles can be operated more efficiently than individual buses. The Hiawatha line will be supplemented by additional bus service, commuter rail service and other LRT lines.

The initial LRT line on Hiawatha will connect most of the region's major activity centers—from downtown Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. By connecting major entertainment and retail centers, the line will make the region more attractive to

McLaughlin/see next page

Stadium debate runs foul with too many unanswered questions

To the editor:

As a resident of St. Paul who has been following the baseball stadium debate for some time, I am curious about several things.

For instance, while other major league teams asking for public financing have approached local residents of urban counties, such as in Milwaukee, why are just St. Paul citizens asked to shoulder this financial burden? St. Paul is not a wealthy city. Doesn't the mayor know this?

Why choose the sales tax, which more negatively impacts people with lower incomes? Why not ask for an employment tax, so some of the baseball players' earnings would go to pay for their playing field? It would also capture those Wisconsin folks who "visit" St. Paul for eight hours a day, but never on weekends.

Could we voters have a choice of either a baseball stadium or funneling the money into housing programs or providing funds for public schools (where our real future is)? It seems our choices are none.

Does it make any difference whether taxpayers provide a subsidy for one millionaire or two, none of whom live and contribute to the St. Paul community? I think a subsidy for baseball team owners is a gift no matter who receives it.

Do people realize that this sales tax would be collected for 30 years? The tax is now 7 percent. How many businesses, primarily small ones, will go out of business during that time? Does anyone care? Does the chamber of commerce care? Does anyone care to estimate how long a baseball team will stay in town?

What are the chances that residents west of the Mississippi River will journey into downtown St. Paul to visit a ballpark?

VILLAGE POST

The mayor's assumption about the income that would be generated by the stadium seems vastly overestimated. Nothing has been said as to what citizens of St. Paul will get in return. What exactly are we getting...except taxed?

Based on my understanding of the Coleman-Twins deal, I am ready to vote "no" for the proposal and I hope other clear-thinking residents do the same.

Terry Kayser
Merriam Park

Vote yes to ban billboards

Dear editor,

I am a lifelong resident of St. Paul and, with my wife, a homeowner in Highland Park since 1967. Would you believe this is our first letter to the editor of any newspaper?

We are writing about an issue on the ballot in St. Paul on November 2. It is an issue not about politics, but about billboards.

In St. Paul, almost every neighborhood is blighted with enormous billboards—on top of buildings, on corner lots—all blocking the beauty of our neighborhoods. Take Highland Village for example. Ford Parkway near its intersection with—Cleveland Avenue has 12 billboards blocking the horizon and polluting the landscape.

One forward-thinking community, Edina, has a comparable neighborhood commercial district to Highland Village—50th and France. What is amazing is that in Edina, west of France Avenue, no billboards exist. But east of France, in Minneapolis, the billboards begin their march eastward.

On November 2, the citizens of St. Paul have a chance to be as forward-thinking as our suburban neighbors and vote YES on the referendum question to ban billboards and clean up our city.

Lee and Jerry Shannon
Highland Park

A sport gone haywire

To the editor:

Fellow St. Paul residents, are you tired of all the rhetoric on both sides regarding the stadium debate and our vote on November 2? This is not about St. Paul. It's about a professional sports system that has gone haywire.

A good analogy is the Jesse phenomenon. Even though he's now doing a good job embarrassing most of us who voted for him, his election was not just about Minnesota. It was about a two-party political system gone haywire. Until we get a viable third party in place to shake up the status quo, nothing will change.

The same is true of the stadium debate in St. Paul. Unless we vote "no" and draw a line in the sand, we will continue to subsidize this goofy system.

Village Post/see page 10

McLaughlin: Light rail provides a safer, saner transportation system

tourists. To keep our economy internationally competitive, we must have a transportation system that works.

As taxpayers, we support highway and transit systems through federal, state and local taxes. We have a wonderful opportunity to have federal funds return to our state to pay for 50 percent of the proposed Hiawatha LRT line.

The Minnesota Legislature approved \$60 million in new funding for the Hiawatha LRT line and the U.S. House of

Representatives allocated \$46 million. Various state, local and Metropolitan Airports Commission funds will pay for the balance.

The rest of the Twin Cities transit system also will receive \$16 million for new Metro Transit buses and facilities. Another \$10 million will pay for buses and transit facilities along the Northstar commuter rail corridor from Minneapolis to St. Cloud, and \$5.4 million will help develop

plans for other transit corridors in the Twin Cities.

We're at a crossroads. To avoid the nightmare of traffic gridlock, new investment is needed. LRT and the entire transit system must be part of that 21st-century investment strategy if we are to continue to prosper.

McLaughlin is the 4th District Hennepin County commissioner and chair of the Metropolitan LRT Joint Powers Board.

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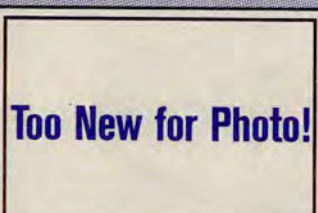
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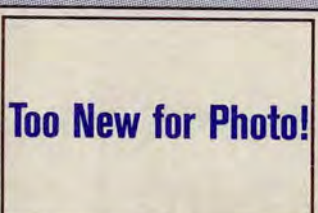
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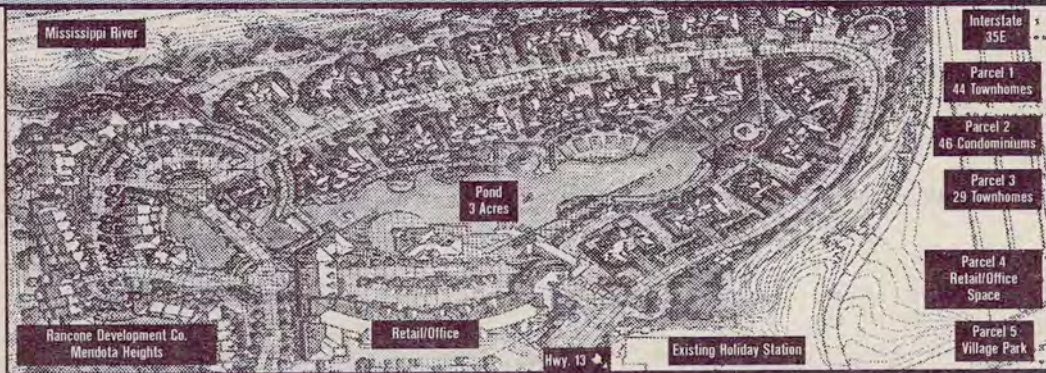


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Village Post/

from page 7

We have an opportunity in Minnesota to again be leaders in the country on a crucial issue. Do we want the Twins to leave town? No. Will life go on if they do? Certainly. I'd be happy with the Saints and perhaps another minor league team or two. Maybe it's what we need.

Ron Pearson
Highland Park

Beauty or blight

To the editor:

The billboard industry often suggests that people actually like billboards and that billboards are not visual blight. Then why did that industry try to keep the issue from St. Paul's voters? Because the billboard industry is afraid to find out that people truly prefer beauty.

In 1987, in Jacksonville, Florida, the citizens voted overwhelmingly in favor of beauty when they passed an amendment to their city charter. Further billboard construction was prohibited and many billboards throughout the city were required to be removed. More than 800 have been removed to date, and dramatic improvements in our scenic beauty have resulted.

Lake, Brevard and Pasco counties recently joined more than 200 Florida communities that prohibit new billboards. Four entire states (Maine, Vermont, Hawaii and Alaska) now prohibit billboards.

What the future holds for the city of St. Paul remains to be seen. Will it be beauty or blight?

William D. Brinton
Jacksonville, Florida

Vote for Gordon in Ward 3

To the editor:

On November 2, Ward 3 voters will have a chance to send a new leader to City Hall. As former elected officials representing the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods, we strongly urge Ward 3 residents to support Mitch Gordon for City Council.

Our conversations with Mitch have convinced us that he is a bright and articulate individual who would be a credit to the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods. He would provide needed leadership on important urban and regional issues facing St. Paul. Mitch was the first candidate to speak out against the proposed stadium tax. He is not only interested in holding the line on taxes, but is actually interested in reducing taxes. He recognizes that taxes are too high and understands that Ward 3 residents have been paying a disproportionate share.

Mitch has clearly demonstrated leadership in his campaign on a variety of issues that are important to residents of Ward 3. He will fight for St. Paul's real priorities and be our fiscal watchdog at City Hall.

Bob Long and Howard Orenstein
Macalester-Groveland

Harris is a sound decision

Dear editor:

Thanks to Chris Smith for the outstanding coverage on the Ward 3 City Council race in the last edition of the *Villager*. Your coverage is a great alternative to the "sound-byte" political coverage that intelligent voters find so unsatisfying.

I think that we have two fine candidates to choose from. However, I am going to cast my vote for Pat Harris. His campaign has gone beyond the unfortunate baseball stadium politics that our city has been subjected to over the past few months.

In the same tradition that makes Highland and Macalester-Groveland voters demand more than sound-byte coverage from their local neighborhood newspaper, I hope that voters demand more than sound-byte campaigning from our local City Council candidates. In that spirit, I hope that we elect Pat Harris on November 2.

Brian Vitek
Macalester-Groveland

Re-elect Filice to School Board

Dear editor:

Citizens of St. Paul, what were you thinking, voting Greg Filice fifth in last month's School Board primary? Yikes!

Greg has been a great member of the School Board. When a good idea surfaces, chances are Greg's prints are all over it. He is smart, friendly, accessible and fair-minded. What a drag it would be to hamper Superintendent Pat Harvey's creative new initiatives by dumping Greg from the board.

I urge everyone to vote early and often for Greg Filice.

Mike Finley
Merriam Park

Elect Carroll to School Board

Editor:

I encourage everyone to join me in supporting Anne Carroll for St. Paul School Board. Her energy and commitment to children throughout St. Paul and her first-hand knowledge of the issues will make our public schools better for all students. On November 2, please vote for Anne Carroll.

Michael Paymar
Macalester-Groveland

Vote for Kjerland in District 197

To the editor:

I encourage School District 197 residents to consider voting for Linda Kjerland. She has served on the School Board with a consistent vision, always making decisions based on what will give children access to the best education. I've appreciated her dedication to the whole district, not just to one faction. She is able to keep the interest of the children first while weighing the use of the valuable but limited resources of the district.

I've heard Kjerland struggle with the hard decisions our

board has had to make. I'm glad we've had someone who is so open and fair, but able to stay on course when others have gotten sidetracked. I've also appreciated her help on an individual level when I've consulted her with concerns about my child's school experience. She is respectful when she talks on a personal level and carries that respectfulness through everything she does.

I'm glad to have had the voice of at least one woman to help balance the perspective of the board. It's Linda's experiences on the board and in her career, in combination with who she is, that have made her a wonderful board member.

Mary McCauley
West St. Paul

Vote for Mogler in District 197

To the editor:

Kent Mogler, a candidate for District 197 School Board, has the character and the financial skills we need to keep the district moving in a positive direction. Kent has served as a leader in community organizations, including 4-H, numerous PTA committees, PTA fund-raisers and Junior Achievement. He has an outstanding background in budget management. He is the director of financial operations at one of the largest companies in the United States and is the elected chairman of the Federal Credit Union board. He has dealt with the tough issues surrounding money management. We are fortunate that Kent is willing to serve the school district.

I served with Kent on District 197's Budget Task Force last year. He had a fresh way of looking at some of the obstacles the district faced. Kent worked hard and took on more than his share of financial analysis to help everyone understand the issues. I greatly appreciated his insistence on maintaining academic excellence throughout the budgeting process. Kent's focus on financial stability while maintaining strong academics is the framework that the district needs.

Finally, I would like Kent elected for my peace of mind. Last school year was exhausting trying to watchdog every School Board decision. With Kent on the board, I will not have to attend every School Board meeting. I know that Kent will represent my best interests and that of our children.

Angela Thornburg
Mendota Heights

Seniors, take note

Dear editor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on legal planning for seniors, an issue important to the elderly and their families ("Spotlight on Seniors," *Villager*, October 6). It was a pleasure talking to your reporter, Leslie Walters. However, a piece of information important to Minnesota residents was not included.

In 1998, Minnesota law was changed to provide a single document for directing future health care decisions, the Health Care Directive. With the Health Care Directive, an individual can give directions and state values or preferences

Village Post/see next page

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Village Post

from previous page
regarding health care (health care instruction), name someone else to make the health care decisions (health care power of attorney) or do both. As of August 1, 1998, Minnesota no longer has a specific Living Will statute. However, living wills or health care powers of attorney that were completed before that date continue to be effective if they were valid when executed or meet the basic requirements of the new law.

Martha N. O'Toole
Macalester-Groveland

Editor's note: Ms. O'Toole, an attorney, is the co-author of two new booklets, Legal Planning for Your Parents and Long-Term Planning for Your Parents.

Gordon is clear choice

To the editor:

I would like to commend Ward 3 City Council candidate Mitch Gordon for having the courage to place the words "No Stadium Tax" on his lawn signs. It's refreshing to have a political candidate voice his position clearly and emphatically. In the September 22 *Villager*, Gordon commented that his campaign did well in the primary election because "we were speaking loud and clear against taxes that are too high, particularly property taxes, against new taxes, particularly the stadium tax, and speaking up for the right priorities for St. Paul."

It's no wonder Gordon did so well. The voters from Macalester-Groveland and Highland Park have been speaking clearly to our elected officials for years: No new city taxes! Finally, we have a candidate that takes our concerns to heart.

I sincerely hope that Ward 3 voters will take advantage of a candidate who has both the guts to take on this newest tax increase and the good sense to reflect the interests of the voters in plain language—no waffling. That's why Mitch Gordon will have my vote on November 2.

Greg McGee
Highland Park

A vote for Harris

To the editor:

I urge all my fellow voters in Ward 3 to vote for Pat Harris for City Council. I know Pat and I know that he is honest, smart, hardworking and committed to our neighborhood. Pat is a St. Paul native who has spent his entire life working to make our city a better place to live. He has earned my support through years of volunteer work for such worthy causes as the Catholic Charities Family Shelter and the Merriam Park Senior Program.

Anyone who knows Pat knows that he will bring the same energy and dedication to the City Council that he has brought to everything else he has done. On Tuesday, November 2, vote for Pat Harris. You won't be sorry that you did.

Mary K. Smith
Highland Park

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New retail shops, parking ramp eyed for Victoria Crossing lot

New owner Exeter to meet with neighbors Nov. 11

by Jane McClure

A proposal to build a parking ramp at Victoria Crossing is rising from the drawing boards once again.

Exeter Realty Company has purchased the parking lot at the southwest corner of Grand and Victoria from Twin Cities developer Kirt Woodhouse's Rockford Square Limited Liability Corporation for \$2.1 million. According to Jim Stolpestad of Exeter, the company has been studying the possibility of constructing a parking ramp and retail building on the site for the past few months.

Exeter and a small group of investors, including Stolpestad, also own Avon Place, Milton Mall, Victoria Crossing South and Victoria Crossing West. Stolpestad had led an effort to buy the Victoria Crossing lot in the early 1990s after the property was repossessed by First Bank (now US Bank), but lost out to Woodhouse.

When a ramp and retail building for the lot were last discussed in 1990, the proposal called for a structure that would complement other nearby buildings on Grand. Stolpestad said that is what Exeter would strive for as well, though he would not elaborate on the details. No site plans or drawings have been developed, Stolpestad said. According to him, no public subsidies would be sought for the project.

Grand Avenue business owners and Summit Hill residents will get a chance to discuss the proposal with Exeter representatives at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 11, at the Linwood Recreation Center. The meeting is being hosted by the Summit Hill Association (SHA). The Grand Avenue Business Association will also be invited to participate.

"We want to hear from the neighborhood," Stolpestad said. "The whole purpose of holding this meeting is to get community input early and design a structure in a way that fits into the neighborhood."

Project surveys and soil testing have already been conducted on the site. Stolpestad said some underground tanks were found. They will be removed and should not pose a problem, he said.

Michael Lander of the Town Planning Collaborative has been asked to make recommendations on the type of building that would complement the neighborhood. Parsons Transportation Group is conducting a study of the existing parking in the area.

After Woodhouse bought the 105-space parking lot in 1994, he began operating it as a pay lot, much to the dismay of Grand Avenue shoppers and business owners. Exeter changed the lot's management in September by dropping Apcoa and bringing in Allright Parking.

Stolpestad said the Victoria Crossing lot



The owner of Victoria Crossing West and South, Exeter Realty is considering developing the parking lot (above) that it has purchased on the southwest corner of Victoria Crossing as a parking ramp with retail shops at street level. Photo by Mike Long.

and other local parking lots cannot handle the parking demand on the eastern end of Grand. He said a ramp would greatly curb the problem of customers circling the neighborhood in their vehicles looking for parking spaces.

Stolpestad said the addition of a ramp and street-level retail shops at Victoria Crossing would enhance the business district. He said the retail shops would likely be a mix of local and national businesses. "We're contacted by businesses wanting to come into the area all of the time," he said.

During discussion of Exeter's proposal on October 14, SHA members recalled past controversies over parking in the Victoria Crossing area. A parking ramp at or near Victoria Crossing has been discussed on several occasions since the 1980s.

Some SHA members questioned why they would hold a public meeting without having any details. Others said a meeting is necessary since word of the proposed project is already spreading through the neighborhood.

The property is zoned for business use and would not need to be rezoned. Stolpestad said he also will not need any variances from the city.

SHA board members said the project is bound to raise issues ranging from its impact on neighbors to the south to the parking rights of local businesses that use the lot.

"This is not a new concept," said SHA board member Peggy Reichert. She asked that all city parking, parking ramp and traffic studies on Victoria Crossing be pulled together and that the SHA seek city assistance with planning issues related to the project.

Judge lifts restraining order on building of two Summit Avenue homes

Construction of two new houses on Summit Avenue may resume this week following the stabilization of a portico on an adjacent home. That was the ruling of Ramsey County District Court Judge John Finley on September 30 in a suit filed by Rocky and Maureen Ellingson of 574 Summit Ave. against developer Kratz Construction.

Kratz is building the houses at 582 Summit Ave., one of the few remaining vacant lots on Summit. The property was sold to Kratz by the Ellingsons earlier this year.

Work on the new houses began last summer, but vibrations and soil removal caused a portico on the west side of the Ellingsons' home to pull away from the house. According

to the Ellingsons, damage to the portico and west wall of their house may run as high as \$400,000. Disagreements over the damage and how it should be mitigated prompted the Ellingsons to sue Kratz and subcontractor Andy Lorens Excavating on September 15.

The Ellingsons sought a temporary restraining order and temporary injunction

against the project, which Finley granted. The restraining order was to be in effect until October 17, allowing sufficient time for pilings to be installed and other measures to be taken to stabilize the portico and prevent further damage.

The issue of monetary damages has not yet been resolved.

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Board OKs variances for house that will face stairway instead of street

The Lawton Steps will soon be home for a St. Paul architect who has designed a dwelling for one of St. Paul's more unusual addresses.

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) voted unanimously on October 12 to grant two variances for Paul Ormseth to build a new house at 70 Lawton St., on the hillside between the Lawton cul-de-sac and Grand Avenue. If all goes as planned, the construction will start next spring.

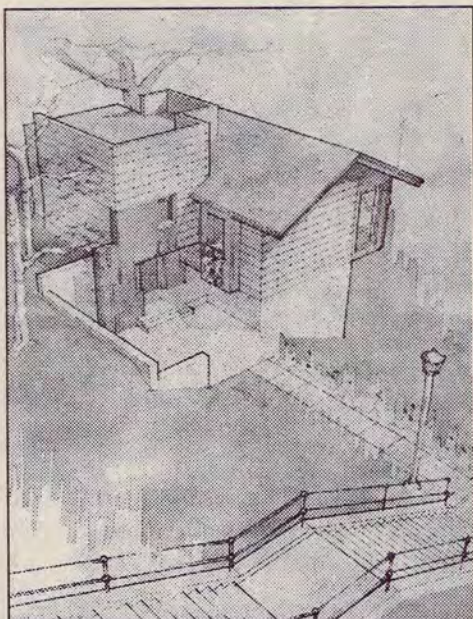
Once finished, Ormseth's home will be the only one in the city with a staircase instead of a street as its address. Outside his front door will be the Lawton Steps, a public stairway that was built more than 100 years ago. The new house will occupy a site where a dwelling was torn down in 1991.

City staff recommended supporting the two variances needed to build the house. One is a 9.5-foot variance from the required 25-foot front-yard setback. The other involves waiving the requirement to provide one off-street parking space for the property.

The stairs provide the only access to the site. Ormseth said he plans to park his car on Lawton or Grand Avenue and walk to his house. Construction materials also will have to be carried in by hand. Excavating equipment will gain access to the site from Grand.

City approval was granted on the condition that Ormseth submit acceptable plans for controlling erosion during and after construction. He is also required to find a way to direct storm water away from the property. He is now working with a civil engineer on the drainage plans.

The two-story house will have about 1,000 square feet of floor space and will be more



A sketch of architect Paul Ormseth's vision for constructing a single-family home along the Lawton Steps in Summit Hill.

modern-looking than other houses in the surrounding neighborhood. Since it is outside the Historic Hill District, it does not have to meet heritage preservation guidelines.

The plans have the support of most neighbors and the Summit Hill Association's Zoning and Land Use Committee. The only opposition was raised by the owner of a Grand Avenue apartment building who raised questions about construction on the slope. However, no one appeared at the BZA hearing or at a neighborhood meeting to speak against the project.

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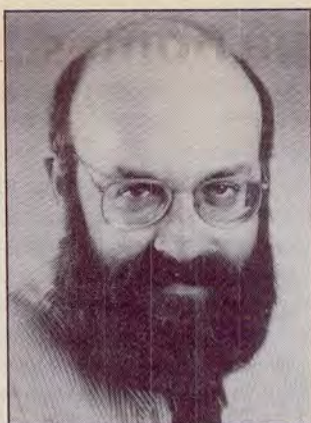
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Andrew Kaufman



Susan Isaacs

JCC lines up renowned authors for its annual celebration of the book

The Jewish Community Center will hold its annual Jewish Book Fair from October 27-November 14. The fair, which is being presented in cooperation with the Hungry Mind Bookstore and several community organizations, will take place at the JCC, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The following speakers will be featured:

- Roger Kahn, author of *A Flame of Pure Fire: Jack Dempsey and the Roaring '20s*, will open the fair at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 27.

- Everett Fox, author of *Give Us a King!—Samuel, Saul and David*, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, October 31.

- Andrew Kaufman, author of *The Five Books of Moses*, will talk about his new book, *Cardozo: Biography of Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo*, at 7:30 p.m. Monday, November 1.

- Former political speech writer Susan Isaacs, who has had seven *New York Times* best sellers, will speak about her new novel, *Red, White and Blue*, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 3.

- Pamela Grau Twena will talk about some of the recipes she has collected from around the globe and included in her cookbook,

The Sephardic Table, at 5:30 p.m. Monday, November 8.

- Movie director Paul Mazursky, whose credits include *Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice*, will speak about Hollywood's legendary figures that are portrayed in his new book, *Show Me the Magic*, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 9.

- Poet and essayist Marjorie Agosin will discuss stories by acclaimed Jewish women writers of Latin America at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 11.

- Galit Hasan-Rokem, professor of folklore at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will speak about the book she has edited, *The Defiant Muse: Hebrew Feminist Poems from Antiquity to the Present*, at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, November 14.

Admission to each program is \$2.00 for JCC members and \$4.00 for all others. A \$50 donation to the JCC's People for the Book Fund will admit two people to all of the events. Books will be for sale throughout the fair.

Tickets for individual programs will be for sale at the JCC's front desk. For information, call 651-698-0751.



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Central or Riverview Corridor? St. Paul and Ramsey County are hoping to agree on a preferred route for light-rail transit before the Minnesota Legislature convenes in 2000.

City takes new look at University Avenue as light-rail-transit route

by Jane McClure

The St. Paul Planning Commission is on a fast track this fall to recommending a route for light-rail transit through the city.

St. Paul and Ramsey County officials are worried that if they cannot agree on a preferred route for light rail before the Minnesota Legislature convenes in February, the state's next major investment in light rail will be in the western suburbs of Minneapolis.

So far, agreement has eluded them. The St. Paul City Council supports the Central Corridor linking the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The Ramsey County Board once supported the Central Corridor, but three years ago shifted its support to the Riverview Corridor between downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The County Board is now supporting a "transit triangle" involving the Riverview and Central corridors plus the Hiawatha Corridor, which would connect downtown Minneapolis to International Airport and the Mall of America.

The Planning Commission hopes to make a recommendation to the City Council by November 5. It will hold a public hearing on light-rail transit at 8:30 a.m. Friday, October 22, in City Hall.

If St. Paul transportation and land-use plans are any indication, the Central Corridor would be the city's preferred route for light-rail transit. That route was studied extensively in the 1980s and early '90s before it was derailed by the inability to secure state and federal funding. Hennepin County and Minneapolis then turned their attention to the Hiawatha Corridor, parts of which are expected to open in 2003.

However, renewed interest in the Central Corridor is building, according to Ellen Waters, executive director of the Midway Area Chamber of Commerce. "We're hearing a lot of enthusiasm and interest," she said, "but we're also hearing questions and trying to get those questions answered."

University Avenue, I-94 and Pierce Butler Route have all been considered as possible alignments for a Central Corridor transit line. I-94 was chosen as the preferred alignment almost a decade ago, but new plans for light-rail transit on University Avenue were reviewed earlier this month by more than four dozen Midway area residents and business people.

Changes in light-rail technology prompted the new look at University Avenue, according to Al Lovejoy of the St. Paul Department of

Planning and Economic Development (PED). Light-rail tracks do not take up as much room as they once did, he said. "Another issue in University Avenue's favor is the need to be as close to the potential ridership as possible," he said.

A 1990 study of the Central Corridor stated that while the University Avenue alignment had the greatest potential long-term economic benefits, it also had drawbacks. The light-rail tracks would have eliminated either most on-street parking or one lane of traffic in each direction. It also may have required the demolition of commercial buildings to make room for park-and-ride lots at major intersections.

"Businesses are still worried about the loss of parking and the possible loss of customers," said Hamline-Midway resident Amy Hummel.

However, drawings of a light-rail line along University Avenue that were unveiled last month show eastbound and westbound tracks taking up only 28 feet down the middle of the street. Four lanes are maintained for motor vehicle traffic and two lanes for parking.

One criticism of the I-94 alignment is the difficulty it would have presented pedestrians, who would have had to navigate steps or an elevator to reach the tracks from freeway overpasses.

Another issue in University Avenue's favor is the potential economic impact, according to Joel Spoonheim of PED. Light rail has raised property values and spurred housing development in the neighborhoods where it has been built, he said.

Ultan Duggan of Mendota Heights, owner of Duggan's Comfort Footwear at 1453 University Ave., said that he and neighboring business people are concerned about losing bus service. According to city staff, bus service along Route 16A would continue after light rail is built, though the trains might replace the Route 50 express bus on University.

Light-rail transit will never carry more than 5 to 10 percent of the region's transit riders, Lovejoy said. According to him, the intent of light rail would be to improve the existing bus system. "We have an underfunded transit system, and we need to look at ways to improve that system," he said.

The Route 16A and Route 50 buses are among the region's most popular, according to Spoonheim. However, there is a limit to the number of buses that can be operated on a street, and University Avenue is almost at capacity during rush hour, he said.

Highland District COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD MEETS OCTOBER 21

The Highland District Council's board of directors will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 21, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The agenda will include a presentation by Fred Perez, Highland's representative on the Metropolitan Council. Area residents who have an issue or concern that they would like the board to address are invited to speak at the meeting as well. For information, call the district council office at 651-695-4005 or e-mail the council at hdc@visi.com.

TREES RECOGNIZE THREE PILLARS

Three trees were planted last week by the Highland District Council on the hill behind the Hillcrest Recreation Center to honor the volunteer work that has been done by three Highland residents over the years—Ken Jefferson, Don Lampland and Chuck Wiley.

Jefferson, a longtime member of the district council's board of directors, has served on the council's Community Development Committee and is the council's representative to the Highland Business Association. Lampland, the former chair of the council's Transportation Committee, continues to take an active role in transportation issues in the area. Wiley has served as the council's treasurer and its representative to the Neighborhood Energy Consortium.

BUCKTHORN IDENTIFIED ON RIVER WALKS

The Mississippi Bluff Restoration Project will conduct two walking tours along the bluff for people interested in identifying buckthorn and seeing firsthand how invasive and noxious this shrub can be for the ecology of the river. The walks will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday and Saturday, October 27 and 30, beginning at the World War I monument on Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard. For more information, call Cindy Schei at 651-645-6766.

RECYCLED REMINDER

The next recycling day in Highland is Monday, October 25. Items should be on the curb by 7:00 a.m. Area residents who

Block leader training offered

The Highland District Council will join forces with the Macalester-Groveland and Summit Hill planning councils on Thursday, November 4, to present a training seminar for new and existing block club leaders.

The crime prevention coordinators from all three planning councils will be distributing their newly created training manual for block club leaders. Local police officers will be present to meet residents and discuss their philosophy of neighborhood policing. Neighborhood Assistance Officer Shirm Grossman will explain home premise surveys and take reservations for this free service. Block club leaders from all three districts also will form a panel to discuss such important issues as how to form a block club, communicating with fellow neighbors, ideas for block club gatherings and resolving difficult issues.

The forum will take place from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Day care and refreshments will be provided. For reservations, call Linda Moeller at 651-695-4005.

would like a new blue recycling bin are invited to stop by the council's office at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For information, call 651-695-4005.

OFFICE SETS LIMITED HOURS OCT. 25-31

The district council office will be open only limited hours during the week of October 25. The voice mail will be checked, however. Area residents are invited to leave a message and someone will get back to them. Normal office hours will resume on November 1.

COMPOST SITE SETS AUTUMN HOURS

Leaves and grass clippings may be dropped off at the Ramsey County compost site on Pleasant Avenue between St. Clair and Jefferson avenues anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The compost site will remain open until November 29, weather permitting.

Only leaves, grass and other soft-bodied plant material will be accepted. It is illegal to rake leaves and grass clippings into the street. Leaves and grass that are left in the street often end up in the Mississippi River and pollute the water. Those that do not make it to the river often clog the storm sewers.



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Pat opposes the stadium tax and will prevent taxes that hurt **CITIZENS**.

Pat will improve **SERVICES** like parks and libraries.

As a finance professional, Pat will control the **BUDGET** and reduce taxes.

Pat will bring **HONESTY** to City Hall.

Pat is an independent voice of **REASON**.

Pat refuses PAC money and will bring common **SENSE** to St. Paul.



A lifelong resident of Ward Three, Pat lives at 1438 St. Clair Ave. Feel free to stop by or call Pat at 690-5052. Check out our website at www.harris-for-council.com

- ✓ Senior Associate, Dain Rauscher
- ✓ MBA, University of Minnesota
- ✓ BA, Marquette University
- ✓ Life-long St. Paul & Ward Three Resident

- ✓ Cretin High School Graduate and Valedictorian
- ✓ Winner - 1998 B. Warren Hart Service Award
- ✓ Former Member, Grand Ave. Business Association

- ✓ Former President, Mac-Grove Community Council
- ✓ Graduate, Chamber of Commerce Leadership St. Paul
- ✓ Former Member, 2nd District Ethics Committee

- ✓ Catholic Charities Board Member
- ✓ Loaves and Fishes Board Member
- ✓ Founder of an annual event raising over \$25,000 for Children's Hospital, the Merriam Park Senior Program, and more.

Vote Pat Harris Tuesday, Nov. 2nd

25 years



Sharon O'Connor Riehle '73
Carondelet Award



Mary Hayes, Ph.D. '54
Hour Glass Award



Kathleen Hogan McKee '74
Hugh Derham Award

**Cretin-Derham Hall, in conjunction with
The Cretin High School Alumni Association and
The Derham Hall Alumnae Association,
is pleased to announce the
1999 award winners.**



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Paul Molitor '74
Bishop Cretin Award

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SCHOOL NOTES

Catholic high schools set 30-year reunion

An all-school reunion for the classes of 1969 from Cretin, Derham Hall, St. Joseph's Academy, Our Lady of Peace, Visitation and St. Thomas Academy will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 27, at the Town and Country Club, 2279 Marshall Ave.

Each of the schools also will be hosting individual 30-year reunions on Friday, November 26. Cretin will meet at 7:00 p.m.

at Ciatti's in Woodbury. Visitation and Derham Hall will meet separately at 7:00 p.m. at the Lexington Restaurant. St. Joseph Academy will meet at 1886 Pinehurst Ave.

For information on the all-school or Derham Hall reunions, call 651-698-5263. For the Cretin and Visitation reunions call 651-681-0175. For the St. Joseph Academy reunion call 651-698-6541.

The largest freshman class in its 114-year history has helped the University of St. Thomas reach a new high in enrollment this fall. Freshman enrollment stands at 1,046, an increase of eight over last year. Total enrollment at UST climbed by 165 to 10,955, and undergraduate enrollment is a record 5,399. UST's graduate schools also set a record with a total of 5,556 students. However, enrollment on the university's St. Paul campus decreased by 769 students from last year and now stands at 7,299. The decrease can be attributed to the School of Education's move this summer from the Christ Child building at Summit and Cleveland avenues to UST's campus in downtown Minneapolis. Enrollment on the Minneapolis campus now stands at 3,121, up 1,044 over last year.

A four-session class on using a global positioning satellite system will be offered on Saturdays beginning October 30 at Central High School, 275 N. Lexington Pkwy. To register, call Central Community Education at 651-293-8708.

Macalester College will name its \$18.5 million campus center now under construction at Snelling and Grand avenues after 1957 graduate Ruth Stricker-Dayton. She and her husband, Bruce Dayton, contributed \$5 million toward the building, which is scheduled to be completed in 2001. The center will house a dining service, lecture hall and facilities for student organizations. Stricker-Dayton is owner and executive director of the Marsh, a fitness center in Minnetonka. She has been a member of the Macalester board of trustees from 1978 to 1984 and from 1995 to the present. She also serves on the executive committee of Touch the Future, the college's ongoing fund-raising campaign.

School District 197 is seeking people who are interested in teaching community education classes to adults this winter. Cooks, craftspeople, computer geeks and those with other skills are asked to call Dave Manthey at 651-405-2482.

District 197 Community Education has openings in several new classes that will

begin the week of October 25. New offerings include "Stained Glass Made Easy," "Guerilla Tactics for Today's Tough Job Market," "Basic, Basic Computers," "Beyond the Basics" and "The Graying of Dakota County." Prices range from \$7.50 to \$47. Call 651-681-2389.

Computer classes will be offered to adults in November at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The schedule includes "Meet the Mouse" from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. or from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, November 1-4 (\$55); "Welcome to the World Wide Web" from noon to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, November 8-10 (\$40); and "Internet Search Skills" from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, November 15-18 (\$55). To register, call 651-698-0751.

Ann Cieslak of Summit Hill has been named executive director of the University of Minnesota board of regents. She was named interim director in September, following the resignation of Andrea Turner, and previously served as a policy and project assistant for the board. Prior to joining the university, she worked as a legislative aide to former St. Paul City Council member Bobbi Megard.

Minnehaha Academy seniors Stephanie Long and Beth Wade have been named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. Eight other academy seniors were named commended students. They include David Brost, Susan Follet, Paul Haagenon, Christine Hill, Sarah Kron, Rachel Reichenbach, David Utter and Ingrid Wass.

Six-week classes in dance will begin in November at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Taught by Risa Cohen of the University of St. Thomas, the classes include movement for children ages 5-8 on Tuesdays beginning November 2; ballet, modern and jazz dance for kids ages 9-13 on Thursdays beginning November 4; and ballet, modern and jazz dance for teen-agers and adults on Wednesdays beginning November 3. No experience is necessary. The fees range from \$42 to \$52. For more information or to register, call 651-698-0751.

SENIOR NOTES

The Merriam Park Senior Program will offer a free blood pressure clinic from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, November 3, at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.

Dakota County seniors who need help with fall chores are invited to call the Dakota Area Resources and Transportation for Seniors at 651-455-1560. Young volunteers are available on Fridays and Saturdays.

St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department offers many programs and activities for residents 55 years of age and older. Rehearse and perform with the Golden Melody Makers senior chorus, compete with the Over the Hill Gang bowling league every Monday morning at Minnehaha Lanes, eat with the Brunch

Club twice each month or take classes in Tai Chi, crafts, cooking or swimnastics. For information, call 651-266-6370 or subscribe to the newsletter "The Pioneer Spirit."

Applications are now being accepted for the St. Paul Winter Carnival Senior Royalty program. Residents of St. Paul and its suburbs who are 55 years of age or older are invited to compete for the honor. All finalists will take part in the pageantry of the Senior Royalty Coronation on Thursday, January 20 in the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. The three men and three women chosen will make at least 50 appearances during the year, taking part in parades and visiting nursing homes, community centers, hospitals and schools.



Jim Leahy of Macalester-Groveland (center above) recently spent a week at the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana, as part of Global Volunteers. He and other volunteers repaired a fence surrounding a future cultural park, worked with children in the local Head Start center, provided companionship for nursing home residents and assisted with cooking and office tasks at the tribal council. It was the first team of volunteers to visit the reservation. Four more trips are scheduled in 2000. For details, call 1-800-487-1074 or visit the Web site at www.globalvolunteers.org.

VOLUNTEERS

The St. Paul Public Schools are seeking volunteers interested in listening to children read and helping them reach their goal of reading 25 books during the school year. Volunteers may set their own schedule. Call Patti Schulza at 651-293-8768.

Volunteers are needed to deliver flowers and plants to patients at Regions Hospital. Flexible afternoon shifts are available. Call Diane Pieper at 651-221-2715.

Longfellow United for Youth and Families is seeking adult volunteers to help students with their reading and homework at four public elementary schools in Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood. The program runs both after school and evenings one day a week at Sullivan, Cooper, Longfellow and Hiawatha schools. No experience is necessary and training will be offered. Last year over 85 students were matched one to one. For information, call 612-721-7811.

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THIS IS ONE GAME ST. PAUL CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE GET OFF THE BENCH NOV. 2 AND VOTE **NO** ON THE STADIUM TAX!

PROBLEM: Big tax subsidies are ruining baseball.

Professional sports team owners know that local and state governments can be blackmailed into building new stadiums. They demand new taxpayer-financed stadiums to "compete" and threaten to move to other cities if they don't get them. But new stadiums mean higher ticket prices. Corporate luxury box owners — not regular fans — get the best seats. Wealthy owners eventually will demand yet another new taxpayer-funded stadium and the subsidy cycle will begin anew.

SOLUTION: Stand up for baseball and vote NO on Nov. 2.

Professional baseball will never get its financial house in order until taxpayers say no more to subsidies! Owners must enact revenue-sharing plans and salary caps so smaller-market teams like the Twins can be competitive without taxpayer subsidies.

PROBLEM: St. Paulites don't need another tax to have pride in their city. St. Paul already is a great city. And while our city can be better, a new stadium will do nothing to improve our schools, buy new playgrounds or fill potholes. It will only add a new tax to make us less competitive with the rest of the metro area.

SOLUTION: Stand up for St. Paul and vote NO on a new tax. There's no pride to be found in subsidizing billionaires and millionaires. Civic pride comes from strong neighborhoods, safe streets, quality schools and jobs that pay a living wage.

PROBLEM: Taxpayer-funded stadiums are bad economics. Stadiums don't create new wealth — they just move spending from one part of town to another. A stadium tax would cost \$8.5 million a year for 30 years and sap St. Paul of funds for other necessities such as schools, playgrounds and housing. And with the exception of millionaire ballplayers, stadiums typically create only low-paying jobs.

SOLUTION: Support smart economic policy and vote NO. Each new low-paying job created by the stadium will cost nearly \$400,000 in tax dollars. That same money spent cleaning up "brownfields" would create higher paying jobs for \$10,000 — \$20,000 apiece.

The choice is yours St. Paul. You can be a part of the problem, or a part of the solution. Do the right thing for your city and VOTE NO on the stadium tax Nov 2!

Cafe Med

Touch of Europe returns to popular Napoleon's spot with the opening of Pierre's Grill and Cafe

by Janet Lunder Hanafin

Those who walk into Pierre's Grill and Cafe will find the new neighborhood eatery has an even more distinct European flavor than the French bakery it replaced.

Owners Julia and Pierre Trandafir spent five months completely remodeling the former Napoleon's Bakery at 1806 St. Clair Ave. The result is an airy, seaside feel with hardwood floors, burgundy tables and a mural of the blue Mediterranean. The owners also set up a European-style sidewalk cafe so customers can dine outside when the weather warrants or stop by for a cup of coffee while out for an evening stroll.

Pierre's serves lunch and dinner from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. seven days a week and breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m. on week-ends. Menu items range from hamburgers and fresh-cut French fries, which Pierre prepares first thing every morning, to a European-style garlic chicken wrap, deli sandwiches, gyros, tortellini, baked pork tenderloin and homemade soups.

"Everything is fresh," Julia said. "He flavors all the food, he doesn't buy any prepackaged flavor bases and he tries to do everything homemade."

Within a few weeks, the Trandafirs plan to offer homemade pizza and eventually add crepes and European-style desserts.

The couple met in 1993 when Julia (nee Sonnen) took a year off from her studies at the University of St. Thomas and traveled to Romania to work in an orphanage. Pierre, a native of Bucharest who had a French grandfather, took Julia and some of the other volunteers sightseeing. Occasionally, he would cook for them using "lemon and dill and lots of garlic," Julia said. "It was out of this world."

The other Americans returned to the U.S. at Christmastime, but Julia stayed on. In early 1994, she and Pierre were involved in a serious car accident. He was unhurt, but she was knocked unconscious and suffered extensive facial injuries.

"At that time, they didn't have any ambulance system in the country," Julia said. "Pierre literally saved my life. He pulled me out, waved a car down, got me in and drove with me to (the hospital) and stayed with me. His mom and his sister came to the hospital and took care of me."

Four days after the accident, she was airlifted to England and then returned to the U.S. A few months later, Pierre came to visit. They were married in 1995.

Pierre had worked as a chef at the four-star Hotel du Nord in Bucharest since he was 16, and he had become familiar with the cuisines of Moscow, Istanbul, Paris and Frankfurt on his travels throughout Europe. After settling in St. Paul, he began a concession business and worked local art fairs and festivals, including Grand Old Day and Highland Fest. He also catered business functions. However, his dream was always to open his own restaurant and a couple of years ago the couple started looking for a location.

Julia, who grew up in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, noticed last spring that Napoleon's had closed suddenly after 19 years of operation. She called the building owner and started the ball rolling. "I couldn't believe the luck we had," she said. "It worked out perfectly."

They picked up some kitchen equipment from Napoleon's auction and then began remodeling the space. Pierre did much of the work himself with the help of his father-in-law and father, who came over from France.

The restaurant is very much a family affair. Pierre is the main chef and gets the food preparation under way early in the morning. Julia does most of the paperwork and comes in when the cafe opens, bringing their year-

old daughter, Angelina, with her. Julia's mother comes in to take over the child-care duties while Julia works the cash register over the lunch rush. Her brother, a student at St. Thomas Academy, works after school and her father comes in in the evening to help with the dinner crowd. Her other brothers and sister frequently drop in to help out as well as to enjoy Pierre's cooking.

"It's brought us all together," Julia said. "We get to spend more time together as a family."

Cherif Khazem, the original owner of Napoleon's, also has been a frequent visitor. "He's given us a lot of advice, even before we opened," Julia said. "He knows this place."

The Trandafirs have applied to the city for a liquor license. "We aren't going to be a bar, but being from Europe, my husband would like to offer people the chance to have a glass of wine or a beer with dinner," Julia said.

Meanwhile, Pierre continues to refine the menu. All items are available for take out, which Julia estimated accounts for about 30 percent of their business.

Business has been brisk during the cafe's first month and the Trandafirs are planning a grand opening celebration next month.

"People seem to leave pleased," Julia said, "and that's what makes us happy."



Running the new Pierre's Grill and Cafe on St. Clair Avenue is definitely a family affair for owners Pierre and Julia Trandafir, shown with their 1-year-old daughter Angelina. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Let's Talk About Quality

After obtaining a degree from the University of Minnesota, Barbara decided to choose a career in cosmetology, and hair design. Upon obtaining a cosmetology license, Barbara has spent hundreds of hours mastering her craft. Barbara has gone above and beyond the normal learning curve to master all facets of creative hair design. She has an advanced knowledge of cutting, coloring, styling, relaxing, and perming hair. Barbara has also done advanced training for other hair stylists, and has been a platform artist at such events as the National Cosmetology Association shows and the BBSJ International Seminar. Barbara says "This is a passion for me, that I truly enjoy." Barbara's exceptional communication skills, and her caring, warm personality really make for a great experience for all her clients. She's a valued member of our team. That's our Barbara.

**New Art
Salon**

Another of our college graduates, Jennifer, has used her BA degree in Speech and Communication from Mankato State University as a springboard for her career. Jennifer found a need for creative expression, and upon receiving certification from cosmetology school has embarked upon a career that allows her to help others. In her six years in this business, Jennifer has mastered the arts of hair cutting, styling, coloring, perming and helping clients look and feel their best. Jennifer's hundreds of hours of classes and experience have really paid off. Her degree in communication gives her a very special ability to bring out the best in her clients. Jennifer has a warm, caring, and congenial personality second to none. We at New Art Salon are fortunate to have her on staff. That's our Jennifer.

Jennifer Hildebrandt

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Sun Country Airlines president Bill LaMacchia Jr. will speak at an Insider's Breakfast presented by the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce on Friday, October 22. The program will run from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the Sheraton Midway Hotel, 400 N. Hamline Ave. The cost is \$20 to nonmembers.

Free import-export counseling will be offered by the Service Corps of Retired Executives on Tuesday, October 26. Appointments are available between 9:00 a.m. and noon in the Minnesota Trade Office on the 10th floor of the World Trade Center, 7th and Cedar streets. For information, call 651-297-4222.

Global Women's Center will hold a grand opening from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 23, at its new facility at 2420 University Ave. The center includes consignment space for clothing, jewelry, shoes, crafts and other gifts made by local refugee women or imported from their home countries. Call 651-646-5854.

John Kingman of Macalister-Groveland has joined the United Way of the St. Paul Area as a loaned executive to help raise funds for its

annual campaign. Kingman is sponsored by US Bank. For information on being a loaned executive, call 651-291-8300.

The St. Paul Yoga Center, 1162 Selby Ave., is celebrating its fifth anniversary with free classes this week. It also will offer a demonstration of yoga postures at 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 22, and a yoga video night with popcorn, root beer and ice cream at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, October 24. For class details or to register, call 651-644-7141.

Cardamom, a Scandinavian gift shop, has opened at 672 Grand Ave. Co-owners Suzanne Thornton and Karen Stuhlfeier offer complimentary coffee and Scandinavian food samples on Saturdays. They also have planned a few special events, including a chocolate seminar and tasting from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, November 12; a book signing with cookbook author Beatrice Ojakangas from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, November 13; and menu ideas and food sampling for the holidays on Saturday, November 20.

Regina Candies, 2073 St. Clair Ave., will be offering free tours of its kitchen as part of its 73rd anniversary

celebration on Saturday, October 23. The tours will begin every 45 minutes between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and will include the history of the three-generation family business. Prize drawings for a gift basket and a Halloween basket will also be held.

Jimmy Theros, owner of the St. Clair Broiler, was recently selected to the Hopsy Hall of Fame by the Minnesota Restaurant Association. Theros has been working in the restaurant business since age 10, when he spent summers at its uncle's Star Coney Island Drive-In on South Robert Street. He drove a popcorn truck during his teens and began working at the Broiler at age 20. He opened Jimmy's Restaurant on Ford Parkway in 1965 and Jimmy's on the Levee two years later. He also owned Lee's Village Inn for 27 years and operated Lee's Highland Kitchen.

Fairview Urgent Care-Highland Park opened this week at the Fairview Highland Park Clinic, 2155 Ford Pkwy. The center offers walk-in urgent care services for children and adults on weekdays from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 10:00 p.m.



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THE HBA TODAY

BY PATRICIA BOYD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HIGHLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

HIGHLAND HALLOWEEN

The Highland Business Association will host Trick or Treat Day in Highland Village from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 30. The movie *It's a Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* will be shown at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Ford UAW Hall, 2191 Ford Pkwy. More than 30 businesses along Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue will be handing out treats. Free glow sticks will be passed out at R.F. Moeller Jeweler, free T-shirts will be given to children in costume at the Highland Grill, trick-or-treat bags and kids' value meals will be available at Blimpie's, pumpkin painting will take place at Rosewood Estate, free face-painting will be offered compliments of Protec Environmental Consultants Inc. and a Halloween storytime will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Half Price Books, and "witches brew" for the kids will be served from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. outside Tiffany's.

The Brio Brass, a 30-piece jazz band, will also perform musical selections from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. by the Village kiosk at Ford and Cleveland. The HBA will be selling pie, ice cream, coffee and cider during that time, and Chicago Beef Company will be selling from their hot dog cart.

For information, call the HBA office at 651-699-9042.

LIGHTING UP THE VILLAGE

Highland Village will be aglow with holiday lights beginning on Friday, November 19, when a special guest will be on hand to throw the switch at dusk. A "Light up Highland" fund-raiser to help defray the cost of the lights will follow at the Highland Ice Arena. Act One Photography will be taking family

holiday photographs. There also will be music, food from area restaurants, face painting, coffee, treats, costumed characters, games and other surprises.

This year, Highland businesses are being offered the chance to sponsor a lit snowflake at the intersection of Ford and Cleveland. The snowflake will have a banner attached to identify the sponsor. Those who are interested in sponsoring a snowflake may call the HBA office at 651-699-9042.

SMOOTH AS ICE

The HBA's first skating party of the season was held last Friday at the Highland Arena and was a tremendous success. Skaters of all ages participated. The party was offered free of charge thanks to the generosity of George Wozniak of Hobbit Travel, which sponsored the event. Watch the *Villager* for information on future Friday night skating parties.

MEMBERSHIP LUNCH

The HBA's next general membership lunch will be held at noon on Thursday, October 28, at Famous Dave's on West 7th Street. A sandwich buffet will be served. Mayor Norm Coleman is expected to make a brief appearance and Larry Hassler, president of Pearson's Candy Co., will be the guest speaker. The cost is \$10.

HIGHLAND HIGH TEA

The next Highland High Tea will take place at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 3, at TeaSource, 752 S. Cleveland Ave. Neighbors can enjoy tea and treats and discuss their concerns with business association members and Highland Village beat cop Paul Lewsader.



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With so much to choose from this Halloween, it's kinda scary

Hang up the spooky door-knockers, stuff the scarecrows and stretch out the fake spider webs. It won't be long before the little monsters come knocking on the door looking for heaps of Halloween handouts.

For those who are looking to scare up a little fun, there are enough haunted houses, ghostly tours and other spooky goings-on locally to give a person the chills.

To help with the monstrous task of deciding where to go and what to do, the *Villager* offers this roundup of events being held in honor of All Hallow's Eve:

Ghosts and Graves Tours are being led at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and at 10:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays now through Halloween. The tours start out from the Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St. The cost is \$18. Call 651-292-1220.

"The Druids Caldron," an interactive look into Ireland's past, present and future through song, dance and more, is being offered at 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays at Kieran's Irish Pub, 330 S. 2nd Ave., Minneapolis. Tickets cost \$8.00. Call 612-339-4499.

Candlelight tours of Fort Snelling will continue from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, October 20-21. Tours will leave every 15 minutes up to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$7.00 for adults, \$6.00 for seniors and \$5.00 for children. Call 612-726-1171.

The Tunnel of Terror has opened for its 18th season in the sandstone labyrinth adjacent to Watergate Marina below Shepard Road in Highland Park. The fun will run the evenings of October 21-24 and 28-31. Admission is \$9.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children. There is a \$1.00 discount for those who bring a food shelf donation. Call 651-222-1708.

Ghost tours of St. Paul's City Hall and the Ramsey County Courthouse will be given on Thursday and Friday, October 21 and 22. The free tours will leave every half hour from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. To register, call 651-266-8023.

Shadows and spirits will stalk the halls of the state Capitol from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. October 22-23 and 28-30. Tours leave every half hour. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children. Call 651-296-2881.

The Hillside of Horrors will be presented by the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation for the sixth year from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. October 22-23 and 29-31 at the Highland Park Pavilion. The cost is \$5.00 or \$3.00 with a food donation. Call 651-266-6400.

The Zoo Boo will be presented from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Friday through Sunday, October 22-24, at Como Zoo. Children who follow the Zoo Boo path will receive treats at decorated stations. Costumes are encouraged. Admission is \$4.00 in advance and \$5.00 at the gate for children; \$1.00 and \$1.50 for adults. Advance tickets are available at Snyder's stores. Call 651-645-1014.

The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will get youngsters into a spirited mood with an appearance by James Howe, author of the *Bunnicula* series, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 23. There also will be a



A gaggle of ghosts, ghouls and goblins await fun-seekers at the sixth annual Hillside of Horrors on October 22-23 and 29-31 at the Highland Park Pavilion. Photo by Mike Long.

Halloween storytime and costume parade at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 30. Admission is free. Call 651-224-8320.

A Halloween concert to benefit the University of St. Thomas Conservatory of Music will be held at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, October 24, in the Brady Educational Center. The audience is invited to come in costume to hear faculty, students and the St. Thomas Children's Chorus perform. Admission is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. A free reception will follow. Call 651-962-5860.

Victorian ghost stories will be told at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, October 25-27, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The stories will be read by costumed actors in the parlor of the brooding mansion. Refreshments and tours will follow. The cost is \$5.00. Due to the length of the program and its content, the event is not recommended for children under 10. Call 651-297-2555.

"Homemade Mysteries," a series of readings by local authors who will relate their tales of Minnesota mystery and murder, will be offered at 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, October 25-November 4, at the St. Paul Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. The lineup includes Steve Thayer reading from *Silent Snow* on October 25, Ellen Hart reading from *Hunting the Witch* on October 28, David Housewright reading from *Dearly Departed* on November 1, and William Kent Krueger reading from *Iron Lake* and *Boundary Waters*

on November 4. Admission is free. Call 651-222-3242.

"Scary Music," a tribute to Alfred Hitchcock, will be performed by the St. Catherine's Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 26, in the O'Shaughnessy. Music will be interspersed with readings from Hitchcock's movies. Admission is free. Canned food donations are requested and wearing Halloween costumes is encouraged. Call 651-690-6690.

A Halloween Extravaganza will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 29-30, at the Dodge Nature Center, 1795 Charlton St. in West St. Paul. Costumed guides will lead visitors along trails where they'll encounter unusual creatures. Tours will set out every 15 minutes from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. on both evenings. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$8.00 for children. Call 651-455-4531.

Liberty State Bank, 1976 N. Snelling Ave., will host its annual Halloween celebration on Friday, October 29. Halloween treats will be passed out and visitors may register to win tickets to the Trail of Terror in Shakopee. Children are encouraged to come in costume. Call 651-646-8681.

Highland Park Elementary School, 1700 Saunders Ave., will scare up some spooky fun with its annual Halloween carnival from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, October 29. Prizes, games, food and fun are on tap. Admission is free. Raffle tickets cost \$1.00 each. Costumes are encouraged.

Gabe's by the Park, 991 N. Lexington Pkwy., will host an Animal House Halloween tent party for the benefit of Minnesota Special Olympics at 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, October 29-30. Headliners will include Otis Day and the Knights on Friday, and the Jayhawks on Saturday. Some \$10,000 in prizes will be awarded for best costumes. Advance tickets cost \$6.00 for Friday and \$7.00 on Saturday. Call 651-646-3066.

Barebones Productions will present its sixth annual Halloween Extravaganza on Saturday and Sunday, October 30-31, at Minnehaha Park. The show, "whY DeKay? (it's a dung deal)," will feature masked dancers, skeleton stilters and songs honoring the dead. A pre-show festival with live music, dance, puppetry and art will begin at 4:00 p.m., followed by the extravaganza at 6:00 p.m. Admission is free. Call 612-724-4979.

A Halloween fund-raiser for the University of St. Thomas' Child Development center will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, October 30, in the Murray-Herrick Campus Center. Games are geared for children 8 and younger, but the whole family is invited. Admission is \$3.00 per child. Nonviolent costumes are welcome. Call 651-962-5040.

Garden of Eden, 867 Grand Ave., will host a Halloween party from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, October 30. Party-goers will receive free incense samples, treats and fortunes. Call 651-293-1300.

An All Hallow's Eve Liturgy, with organ music and liturgical readings suitable for the season, will be offered at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, October 30, at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. Admission is free and open to all. A reception will follow.

There'll be bats in the belfry when the Minnesota History Center presents guest lecturer Stephanie Reynolds at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, October 31. Reynolds will clear up the facts about bats and bring along a few live examples while speaking in the attic space of the center's "Families" exhibit. Admission is free. Call 651-296-6126.

"The Spooky Magic of Brian Richards," a family magic show with a Halloween flavor, will be presented at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 31, at Landmark Center. Admission is free. Call 651-292-3225.

The South Minneapolis Bassoon Quartet will present "Bad Habits," a humorous exploration of the annoying habits of musicians and composers, for its annual Halloween performance at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, October 31, at Augsburg College, South 22nd Avenue and Riverside in Minneapolis. Former member Laine Bryce of Highland Park will rejoin the quartet for the performance. Admission is \$9.00 for adults, \$6.00 for students and seniors. Call 612-925-0620.

Ghost Busters, a Halloween alternative featuring a potpourri of local talent, worship and snacks, will take place at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, October 31, at the Merriam-Lexington Presbyterian Church, 203 N. Howell St. Admission is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children or \$8.00 per family.

Have a Highland Halloween on Oct. 30

Highland Village businesses will open their doors to trick-or-treaters between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 30. The movie *It's a Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* will be shown at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Ford UAW Hall, 2191 Ford Pkwy. A Halloween storytime and face painting will take place between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. at Half Price Books, 2041 Ford

Pkwy. The 30-piece Brio Brass will perform near the kiosk at Ford and Cleveland from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., and Bakers Square pie, ice cream, coffee, Chicago Beef hot dogs and cider will be available for purchase during that time. There also will be a costume contest and more.

For information, call the Highland Business Association at 651-699-9042.



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Merriam Park COUNCIL CAPSULE

PRIDE IN NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING UPDATE

The Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline district councils' Pride in Neighborhood Housing program recently finished awarding \$140,000 in grants to area residents who are making exterior home improvements. Projects such as siding, roof replacement and sidewalks were eligible for grants of up to \$1,500. All the funds have been awarded, so applications are no longer being accepted.

Those who received grants this year need to have all of the work completed by November 30, 2000. Homeowners who received part of the \$99,822 in grants that were awarded in 1998 need to complete their projects by December 31 of this year.

Help in getting project documentation in order is available by calling the Merriam Park Community Council office at 651-645-6887.

Those who are interested in seeing the program continue are asked to call St. Paul City Council member Jay Benanav's office at 651-266-8640. The council soon will be voting on funding for the program, which has been recommended for a \$150,000 grant by the Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization Board. The current proposal is similar to those of the last two years, but focuses on student and rental housing and also takes in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD GARDENING

Desnoyer Park will hold a brainstorming session on gardening ideas at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 21, at 519 Raymond Ave. For information, call Sheri at 651-649-0434.

LIQUOR LICENSE

The Merriam Park Community Council has recommended approval of a wine and beer license for Puerta Azul, a Puerto

Rican restaurant that recently relocated from Minneapolis to Fairview and Selby avenues. The license also was recommended for approval by the council's Neighborhood Issues Committee.

TOLERANCE DIALOGUE

"Beyond Tolerance: A Call to Action," a community dialogue, will be held from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, November 8, at Arlington High School. The keynote speaker will be John Powell of the Institute on Race and Poverty. For information, call 651-659-6031.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Community Issues meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 8, at the Merriam Park Community Center. Those who would like to bring an issue forward are asked to call Nikki LaSorella at 651-645-6887.

The Merriam Park Community Council will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 10, at the Merriam Park Community Center.

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Playing the hand that you're dealt

For tarot reader Corrine Kenner, life's secrets are in the cards



Highland Park resident Corrine Kenner conjures up a clearer picture for those interested in reading the tarot during her weekly Monday evening classes at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. Photo by Mike Long.

by Bob Gilbert

While youngsters are busy trading Pokémon cards on the playground outside, Corrine Kenner can be found inside the Hillcrest Recreation Center with her hands on a deck with a great deal more history.

The Highland Park resident is conducting classes each Monday evening at Hillcrest on tarot cards, variations of which have been used for telling fortunes since the 14th century.

Kenner was first introduced to tarot as a newspaper reporter assigned to cover a story on a psychic for the *Orange County Register*. She worked for the paper following graduation from California State University at Long Beach.

Today, she is building a career around the tarot. She recently created Llewellyn Worldwide Ltd.'s "Tarot Calendar for the Year 2000," wrote *The Edible Tarot* and edits *The Reader*, an electronic tarot magazine. She is a member of the American Tarot Association and International Tarot Society, and has a closet filled with 200 different decks of tarot cards and hundreds of books on the topic.

Kenner does professional tarot readings out of her home, charging \$30 per half hour. However, this is the first time she has offered

classes on the subject. Her "Reading the Tarot" class, which meets at Hillcrest from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. each Monday, is intended for beginning and intermediate-level tarot readers. The cost is \$15 per class or \$45 for four sessions.

Kenner said her students are not hippies or New Agers. Most are professionals who are taking the class as a way to find emotional and spiritual satisfaction.

"People are nervous when they first come to the tarot class because they think they're taking a risk," Kenner said. "They're going to see their lives reflected in all its glory and misery."

"The biggest misconception that I fight against is that the tarot is evil, that it's part of a cult and therefore dangerous," said Kenner, who attends St. Therese Church and has two daughters going to Highland Catholic School. "I see it as a complement to my religious faith. I think it deepens and enhances my spirituality and gives me a better understanding of the principles that I learn in church."

When conducting a reading, Kenner carefully shuffles the deck and lays out 10 cards in a Celtic cross. Each position represents an aspect of a person's life and tells a story. According to her, the trick is to look at a card,

ascertain the meaning of it and figure out how it applies to a person's life. She relies solely on her intuition and the knowledge of what each card symbolizes.

"People think that the cards are imbued with mystical powers of their own," she said. "They're not. They're not sacred relics. They're not imbued with any mystical quality. They're a set of pictures with symbols and images that serve as vehicles for us to focus our thoughts. They're simply doorways to your own imagination."

People coming to Kenner for advice are usually concerned with love, money and health. She said her specialty is career readings, which she uses to help people pinpoint their strengths and weaknesses at work, identify specific steps they can take to find a better job or learn to like the one they have more.

"When I read tarot cards, what I'm actually doing is having a dialogue with another person," she said. "It's not me sitting on my oracular throne and pronouncing judgment. It's working together with the cards."

Sometimes, the cards turn out to be prophetic. Kenner said a businessman came to her for a reading because he was concerned about the economic health of his company. She said he panicked when he drew the card showing a tower being destroyed by a bolt of

lightening, figuring that he was going to lose everything. The following Saturday, a torrential storm rumbled through Highland and lightning hit his building, knocking out his power for five days. His business is doing fine.

Kenner is not doing too shabby herself. She moved to St. Paul following the birth of her oldest daughter and got a job as an editor and designer at Llewellyn, a St. Paul publishing house that promotes New Age literature. Along with designing the tarot calendar for the new millennium, she edited Llewellyn's popular "1999 Astrological Calendar," *Daily Planetary Guide*, *Sun Sign Book* and an anthology of supernatural accounts called *Strange But True*.

Her publication, *The Edible Tarot*, is scheduled to be distributed by U.S. Games this spring. What started out as a joke evolved into a collection of recipe cards that correspond to the tarot card symbols.

"I came to the conclusion a long time ago that it's not my job to convince people that tarot is real," she said, "but to be here for people who are open to the idea of the cards being a valuable tool in their lives."

To learn more, call Kenner at 651-699-8394 or e-mail her at Corrine@TwoOfCups.com. Information also may be found on her Web site at www.TwoOfCups.com.

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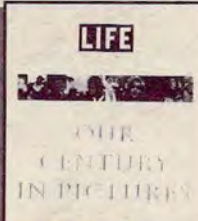
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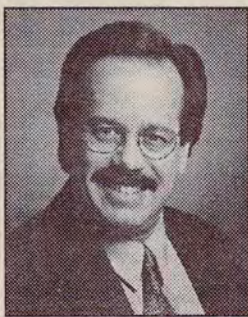


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Outdoor skating on thin ice Parks and Rec's proposal to cut rinks from budget greeted coldly by council

by Jane McClure

Proposed cuts to the St. Paul Department of Recreation's budget for 2000—including the elimination of outdoor ice skating rinks at Mattocks Park, Webster Magnet School, Talmud Torah of St. Paul, Nathan Hale Park, Riverside Park, Ecolab Plaza and Como Lake—drew the ire of St. Paul City Council members Chris Coleman and Mike Harris last week.

During budget discussions, both Coleman and Harris recalled skating at Como as children. "These are the little things that cities do," Harris said. He said he would like to see larger and more meaningful cuts in the city budget, instead of "nickel and diming neighborhoods to death."

City departments have been asked to hold

the line on spending in 2000. Eliminating the skating rinks would save Parks and Rec just under \$20,000. Two recreation director positions are also on the line, and the city is considering closing or contracting out for the operation of Town Square Park downtown.

Parks and Recreation director Vic Wittgenstein said he has recommended cutting staff levels rather than the maintenance budget because parks maintenance has been the target of so many previous budget cuts.

Coleman conceded that the rink at the Ecolab Plaza on Wabasha Street may be ripe for closing. Pedestrians have complained about the rink for years because it blocks part of the sidewalk. "And I've never seen anyone skating there," Coleman said.

"Not intentionally," quipped City Council member Jay Benanav.

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Red Cross sets fall blood drive

The American Red Cross will have bloodmobiles stationed at the following locations during the following times:

- St. Gregory's Catholic Church, 1640 Montreal Ave., from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 25.
- St. Mark's Catholic Church, 1983 Dayton Ave., from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, October 25.
- The Murray-Herrick Campus Center at the University of St. Thomas, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 27, and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, October 28.

• Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave., from 3:15 to 7:45 p.m. Thursday, November 4.

The Red Cross needs all types of blood, but especially type-O blood, and in particular O-negative blood, which people of most any blood type can receive.

Persons who are at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds or more and are considered to be in good health are eligible to donate. Donors may set up an appointment for the blood drive by calling 651-291-4607. For the November 4 drive at Gloria Dei, call Kathy at 651-699-4000.

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**Greg
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**Al
OERTWIG**



**Neal
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VOTE NOV. 2 TO IMPROVE SAINT PAUL SCHOOLS

Prepared and paid for by the St. Paul City DFL, Mary Hannahan, Chair, P.O. Box 65267, St. Paul, MN 55165

RELIGIOUS NOTES



The Most Reverend Harry Flynn, archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, blessed and rededicated Our Lady of Victory Chapel at the College of St. Catherine on October 3 on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. The chapel, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, underwent a \$1.5 million, eight-month restoration project last year that included tuckpointing, replacing the roof and re-creating the crumbling west elevation. Crowning the restoration was the addition of "Our Lady," a sculpture of the Madonna by St. Catherine professor emeritus Peter Lupori.

St. John's University biblical scholar, the Reverend Michael Patella will discuss how Catholics understand sacred scripture and why they value history, context and tradition in its interpretation on Wednesday, October 20. Cosponsored by the Basilica of St. Mary, his lecture will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Room 118 of Plaza C at Minneapolis Community College, Hennepin Avenue South and 15th Street. Admission is \$5.00.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave., will host the following forums: "Ministry in the New Millennium: Urban Church/Neighborhood Church—What's the Difference?" on Sunday, October 24; and "Why Celebrate the Reformation?" on Sunday, October 31. Both forums will start at 9:00 a.m. Call 651-699-6886.

A Solemn Choral Evensong for All Saints and All Souls, featuring John Tavener's "Funeral Ikos," will be held at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, October 24, at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. Admission is free and open to all. A reception will follow.

Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will offer the following activities in the next two weeks: a joint Men's and Women's Torah Break at noon Wednesday, October 27; Erev Shabbat Live at 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 29; Learner's Minyan at

9:10 a.m. Saturday, October 30; and Shabbat Lunch and Learn following services on Saturday, October 30. For more information, call 651-698-8874.

The Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St., Minneapolis, will present a talk by the Reverend William Baer, rector of St. John Vianney Seminary, on "A Catholic Vision of Temperance" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 29. The cost is \$3.00. Complimentary tickets are available by calling 612-729-7321.

Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 S. 38th Ave., Minneapolis, will host a free dinner at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, October 30. The event is being offered as a chance for residents to meet their neighbors. Call 612-729-7556.

Midway House Blend, a contemporary Christian church, will celebrate its first anniversary with a party from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, November 6, at 420 Roy St. Food, fellowship, music and door prizes are planned. Call 651-646-2751.

A luncheon forum on racism with a talk by John Powell of the Institute on Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota will be held at 11:30 a.m. Monday, November 8, at the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, 1671 Summit Ave. Admission is free but registration is requested by calling 651-646-8805, extension 22.

UST celebrates art of the divine in 21st annual festival Nov. 1-17

The University of St. Thomas will host its 21st annual Sacred Arts Festival from November 1 to 17. Highlights of this year's festival include the following:

- An exhibit of French cathedral drawings by St. Olaf art professor Mary Griep, which will run throughout the festival at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity.
- A reading by national award-winning poet Mark Doty, author of the memoir *Heaven's Coast*, which will take place at 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 5, in the Owens Science Hall.

- A recital by renowned New York organist McNeil Robinson, scheduled for 8:15 p.m. Monday, November 8, in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas.

- Six performances of Thornton Wilder's classic comedy *The Skin of Our Teeth*, which will be presented at 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, November 11-13 and 18-20, in Foley Theater. Tickets are \$5.00.

All festival events are free unless otherwise note. For more information, call 651-962-6560.

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VILLAGER Voters Guide

Your resource for information on the general election.

Candidates, questions confront voters November 2

The 1999 *Villager* voters guide covers the municipal general elections that will be held on Tuesday, November 2, in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Mendota Heights.

St. Paul voters will be electing candidates for City Council and School Board as well as deciding on three ballot questions: one regarding funding for a new outdoor baseball stadium, another on banning billboards in the city and a third on the manner in which City Council salaries are set.

A questionnaire of candidates for the St. Paul City Council seats in Wards 2 and 3 and the St. Paul School Board appear on the fol-

lowing three pages. (Ward 4 City Council member Jay Benanav is running unopposed.)

Stories on the ballpark referendum and billboard referendum appear below and on page 30, respectively. A sample ballot spelling out the wording of all three ballot questions in St. Paul can be found on page 29.

In Mendota Heights and the rest of School District 197, voters will be filling four seats on the School Board. A story on the nine candidates running for those seats can be found on page 31.

In Minneapolis, voters also will be filling

four School Board seats as well as voting on a charter amendment regarding reapportionment. Information on the School Board candidates and charter amendment may be found in the sample ballot.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on November 2. To vote in Minnesota, a person must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a Minnesota resident for at least 20 days before the election.

Unregistered citizens may register on election day at their polling place provided they bring along a Minnesota driver's license, a state identification card or a regis-

tered voter from the same precinct to vouch for them. College students may use a student fee statement, ID card or registration card containing their current address in the precinct, or a school photo ID if a certified student housing list or list of students is on file at their polling place.

People who have moved, have changed their names or have not voted in the past four years must re-register.

For information about polling places or other voter services, call 651-266-2171 in Ramsey County, 612-673-2070 in Hennepin County or 651-438-4380 in Dakota County.

St. Paul steps up to the plate

Voters take a swing at Mayor Coleman's pitch to raise the city's sales tax to help pay for a new Twins ballpark

by Chris Smith

If those who turned out at a recent forum on the ballpark ballot question are any indication of how the voting will go on November 2, the Minnesota Twins will not be moving to St. Paul.

Opponents outweighed supporters at least six to one at the October 12 forum, held at Macalester College and sponsored by the Highland, Macalester-Groveland and Summit Hill planning councils. The ballot initiative will ask St. Paul voters if they favor increasing the city's sales tax by another half percent to help pay for the construction of a \$325 million baseball stadium in St. Paul. Under tentative terms of an agreement between St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman and the Minnesota Twins, the city would pay for one-third of the cost, provided the state and team split the remaining two-thirds.

A show of hands, which was called for near the end of the discussion by the panel's moderator, former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer, clearly indicated what the ballot initiative is up against. At least 90 percent of the 60 or so audience members indicated that they had al-

ready made up their minds on the ballot question.

"I don't know if there's a perfect deal for anything," St. Paul Deputy Mayor Susan Kimberly told the crowd, "but I do know that this is a very good deal." She cited an estimated \$75 million to \$100 million annual increase in economic activity that a new ballpark would bring to St. Paul as one reason to vote "yes" on the ballot question. She said the Twins also have agreed in principle to various guarantees that would protect city taxpayers from unexpected liability.

However, University of Minnesota economist Eric Sheppard argued that the proposal was not a good deal for taxpayers. He said luring the Twins from Minneapolis will merely shift economic activity between the two downtowns. According to him, the phenomenon is "essentially one

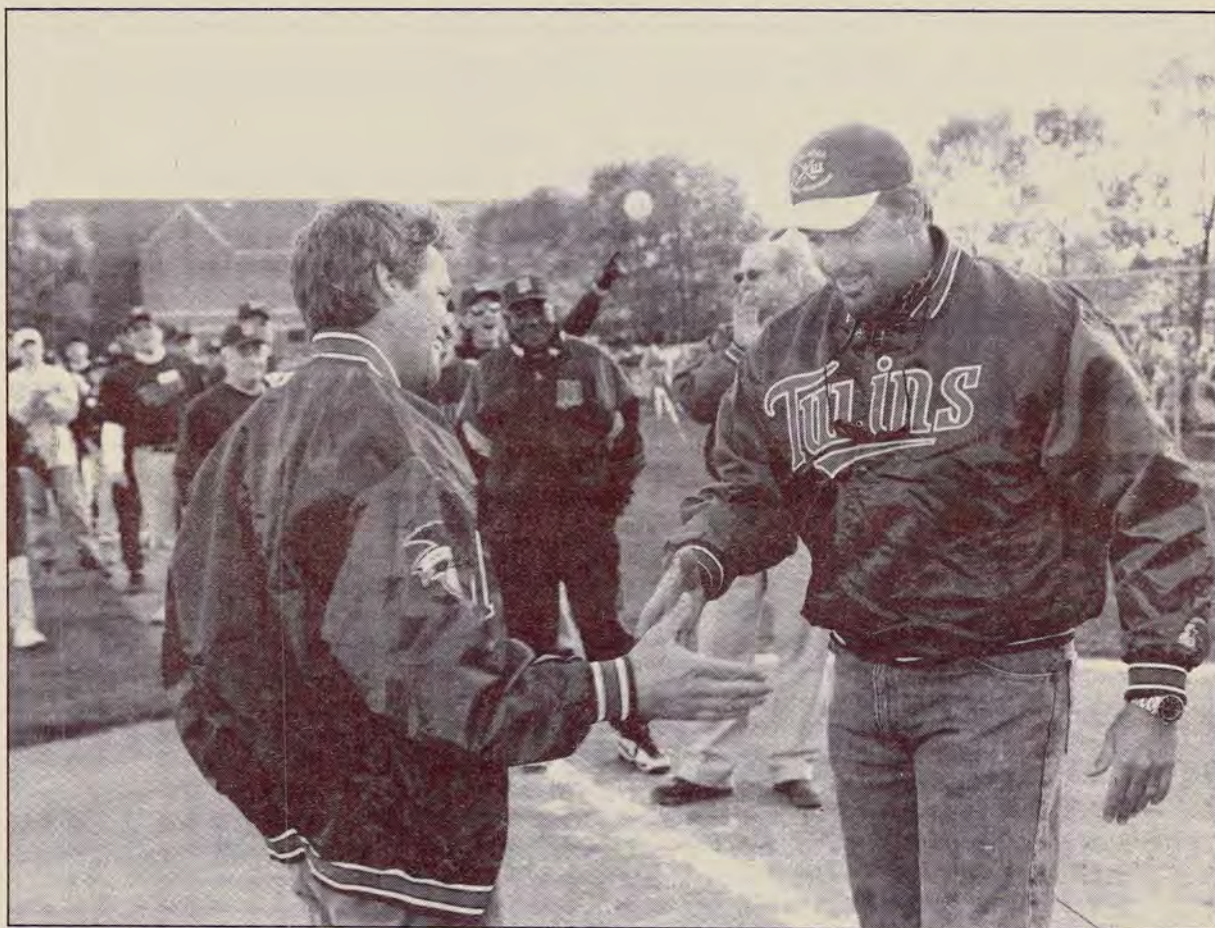
city picking the pockets of another and creating an increased tax liability for citizens."

Ramsey County Commissioner Sue Haigh likened a tax increase to pay for a ballpark to a family buying a boat instead of clothing for the children.

"A sales tax increase should go to improving housing, to transit and to the safety and health of children," she said. "We haven't had the right discussion so far. This debate has been driven by the agenda of professional sports owners."

Billie Young, a former Grand Avenue business owner, said she was charmed by her recent visit to Baltimore's Oriole Park at Camden Yards that was paid for by ballpark proponents. She lauded the economic activity that has sprung up around the new Baltimore ballpark and the fact that it shows a stadium does not have to be "an elephant in the living room."

The forum maintained a controlled tone until Latimer threw the discussion open to the audience. It was then that the crowd's feelings on the matter became apparent, with every question and comment pointedly against the measure.



Mayor Norm Coleman (left) greets former Twins slugger Kent Hrbek, who took part in a ball game two weeks ago at Cretin-Derham Hall to promote the mayor's push for a new ballpark downtown. Photo by Mike Long.

The most vocal stadium opponent on the panel was Tom Goldstein, a baseball writer and publisher who traded barbs with Kimberly. He argued that baseball owners are too arrogant to consider less expensive alternatives to a stadium. According to him, having cities continue to build new ballparks around the country is only postponing the day that major league baseball will be forced to help small-market teams like the Twins be competitive. He also expressed concern about the team following through on its promise to pay for cost overruns and other provisions meant to protect the city.

The forum maintained a controlled tone until Latimer threw the discussion open to the audience. It was then that the crowd's feelings on the matter became apparent, with every question and comment pointedly against the measure. Latimer's attempts to allow proponents more time for closing responses were shouted down.

Audience comments included concerns about how a new ballpark would affect Minneapolis and how it would change the charac-

Stadium referendum/see page 31

Questions

What is the most important issue facing your ward?

Do you favor the privatization of some city services? Why or why not?

What can the city do to increase the supply of housing for all income levels?

What distinguishes you from your opponent in the race?

ST. PAUL CITY COUNCIL—WARD 3



Mitch Gordon

Address: 2012 Highland Pkwy.

Age: 27

Occupation: Attorney

Education: J.D., University of Minnesota Law School; M.A., Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

Party: DFL

Property taxes. It's not enough to promise to hold the line on taxes and spending. Taxes are too high already and every year it costs more to own a home in our ward. We need a City Council member who will work to lower taxes and who will speak out against property taxes that keep rising and against unfair new taxes, like the stadium tax.

Some people are rushing to privatize city services right away without thinking things through. I would go slow to make sure we are doing things right. If we make the mistake of privatizing too quickly, we may wind up with city services that look like our current garbage collection system—a service we privatized some years ago with unfortunate results. I'm not willing to cut corners when our tax dollars are at stake.

Housing isn't just St. Paul's problem—it's a metrowide problem that requires metrowide answers. For too long we've allowed suburban communities to avoid responsibility for creating low-income housing, forcing St. Paul to deal singlehandedly with all of the problems associated with large concentrations of poverty. As a council member, I'll work with the Legislature to ensure that all communities do their fair share to increase the housing supply throughout the metro area.

I've shown that I'm more serious about making our neighborhoods safer, which has earned me the support of the St. Paul police. I'd oppose skyrocketing property taxes as well as unfair new taxes like the stadium tax. I'd go slow on privatization rather than rushing forward without thinking things through. As a council member, I'll strive to be thoughtful and compassionate. I am able to work with a wide variety of people and I am never afraid to speak my mind.



Pat Harris

Address: 1438 St. Clair Ave.

Age: 33

Occupation: Senior Associate, Dain Rauscher

Education: MBA, University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management

Party: Independent

Property taxes and front-line services remain the important issues in Ward 3. Citizens pay the highest taxes in St. Paul while services like libraries and playgrounds face cuts. This is unacceptable. St. Paul needs an experienced leader who can fight the politics of special interests and offer innovations that save money like mergers and managed competition. A stadium tax is not the solution. My political independence and experience offer the common sense our neighbors deserve.

Except for public safety issues, cost-saving innovations like privatization should be explored. Policymakers must weigh proposals individually for their value to taxpayers and proceed to serve citizens at the highest level and in the most efficient manner possible. Politics prevents this from happening. If privatization and managed competition can bring efficiencies for citizens, then labor-union politics should be set aside so that the right and honest thing can be done for the city.

St. Paul is in need of housing supply at all levels. Yet we must not go it alone. We should look to other jurisdictions, nonprofits and private entities to work together to provide housing. As a local leader on housing, I have addressed this issue and I understand the need for change. Currently, dollars are spread thin. St. Paul needs an independent leader who will use dollars wisely and offer innovations that provide real change.

Experienced leadership and political independence. As a lifelong resident of Ward 3, a finance professional and an experienced community leader, I have a long history in our neighborhood. From pedestrian safety to property tax reform, I have worked for our community and gained an understanding of our needs. As an independent and the only candidate not accepting special interest money, I can provide the courage we need to make the tough decisions in City Hall.

ST. PAUL CITY COUNCIL—WARD 2



Chris Coleman
(incumbent)

Address: 686 Chippewa Ave.

Age: 38

Occupation: Attorney

Education: B.A., University of Minnesota; J.D., University of Minnesota Law School

Party: DFL

Housing. We are now in an extremely tight housing market, especially for low-income residents. Businesses need employees in order to grow. Those employees need places to live. If we have no housing, we lose the advantage in attracting new business. We also are losing residents to the suburbs due to a lack of smaller homes for "empty-nesters." A focused effort on projects in the North Quadrant, Upper Landing and old Koch-Mobil site will help address this.

I support the mayor's privatization initiative if certain safeguards are in place and if it can be demonstrated that there will be a cost savings without a diminution of services. As a former public employee and union member, I lived under the threat of losing my job during discussions of a state takeover. I saw what it did to office morale and job performance. I prefer that we provide incentives to our employees to cut costs and improve services rather than threaten their jobs.

Increasing the supply of housing for all income levels has been one of my top priorities. This year I authored a 14-point plan to address this exact issue. One point was to create a housing resource center, a one-stop shop for potential developers to streamline processes and reduce costs. The challenging sites, like Koch-Mobil, will take city participation in some form to prepare for construction. I support ensuring that 20 percent of units built with city funds is low-income housing.

A lifelong St. Paul resident, I was born and raised in Ward 2. I have owned a house on the West Side for six years and have worked in downtown for five years. I know the ward inside and out. I have been active in community activities, from serving as president of the District 7 Planning Council to coaching kids teams. But experience and commitment don't mean much unless you have the courage to fight for what you believe. I have demonstrated the willingness to fight tough fights.



Victor Gomez

Address: 66 E. 9th St.

Age: 28

Occupation: Partner, Mano Employment Services

Education: B.S., Business, Political Science

Party: Republican

We must continue to make our downtown hospitable to business, industry and entertainment, but we cannot forget about the neighborhoods and local merchants, which are the backbone of St. Paul. The key issue facing the city is to make sure that all of our citizens have the opportunity to enjoy and participate in the economic revitalization of the city. Business development is important; however, it is important only to the extent that it benefits all of the citizens of St. Paul.

I favor the idea of Compete St. Paul. I believe that healthy competition will benefit both employees and taxpayers. We need to keep labor, management and city officials at the table during all phases of the negotiations. We must insure quality service to the taxpayers while delivering services at the most efficient price. However, key city functions such as fire and police should not be involved in Compete St. Paul.

The city should continue with its plan for reducing permit fees for the development of 2,500 housing units over the next few years. Additionally, developers should be encouraged both financially and with other less tangible assistance to create more housing in St. Paul. We need to continue to look at public-private partnerships.

Our ward is the most diverse in St. Paul, and I have the experience to best represent the interests of everyone who lives here. As a City Council member, I will put the needs of citizens over partisan bickering and political grandstanding. My door will always be open to constituents regardless of the issue. I will continue to be active in the community and I will answer my phone. I will not terrorize constituents over disagreements regarding city issues or issues of my own making.

Voters may query candidates, debate questions in forums

Local voters may want to take note of the following forums that have been scheduled during the last two weeks leading up to the general election on November 2:

The St. Paul City Council will hold a discussion on the baseball stadium ballot question from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 20, at Arlington High School, 1495 Rice St. The forum will include proponents and opponents of the proposal for a half percent increase in the city's sales tax to help pay for a

new Twins stadium in downtown St. Paul.

The Highland, Summit Hill and Macalester-Groveland community councils will host a public discussion on Wednesday, October 20, regarding the ballot initiative that seeks to ban new billboards in St. Paul. The forum will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the atrium between Rice and Olin halls at Macalester College.

The eight candidates for four open seats on the St. Paul School Board have been invited to discuss

their positions on the future of community education in St. Paul on Wednesday, October 20, in a forum sponsored by the school district's community education advisory councils. The program will run from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the St. Paul Technical College, 235 Marshall Ave.

The School Board candidates will make brief opening statements and then take questions from the audience in a second forum running from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday,

October 28, in the cafeteria of Adams School, 615 S. Chatsworth St.

A third School Board candidates forum, this one focusing on special education, will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 26, in Auditorium A of the administration building at 360 Colborne St.

A Ward 2 forum with City Council candidates Chris Coleman and Victor Gomez will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 23, at the Riverview Library, 1 E.

George St.

A Ward 3 forum with City Council candidates Pat Harris and Mitch Gordon will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 26, in the Fellowship Hall of Immanuel Lutheran Church, located at Snelling and Lincoln avenues. Sponsored by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council and Highland District Council, the program will include presentations by both candidates and a question-and-answer session.

Questions

Should the number of magnet schools be decreased in favor of more neighborhood schools?

What can the school district do to improve student performance?

How can the school district be more fiscally responsible?

What distinguishes you from your opponents in the race? Why should voters elect you?

ST. PAUL SCHOOL BOARD



Anne Carroll

Address: 1357 Highland Pkwy.
Age: 44
Occupation: Communications consultant
Education: M.A., Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
Party Endorsement: DFL

Neighborhood schools can enhance community investment, connect families with schools and children and therefore help improve student achievement. However, they can also result in schools so dense with impoverished children that it becomes extremely difficult to reach acceptable achievement levels. We also have neighborhoods without an elementary school within a reasonable distance—a problem compounded at the secondary school level.

Set world-class standards for students, teachers, families and community. Implement a comprehensive and top-quality curriculum districtwide. Increase family and community involvement. Accurately and routinely measure each child's weaknesses, strengths and progress. Target and tailor resources to address weaknesses, bolster strengths. Evaluate and strengthen teacher and administrator skills. Hold everyone accountable. Celebrate and replicate what is working and fix what is not.

One key to better financial decisions is a more open, collaborative and honest budgeting process. This means substantive discussions among district staff, board members, school staff, families and the public; timely exchange of complete and detailed cost, expenditure and budgeting information, preferably with secured electronic access; and comprehensive school staff and family involvement in the budgeting and decision-making process.

As a volunteer, I've seen parents, teachers and administrators unable to get data, decisions or policies from the district. As a communications consultant and strategic planner, I focus on meaningfully involving communities in decisions. As a board member I will ensure that questions, problems and concerns are heard and acted on; information is shared openly and honestly—before decisions are made; and policies are developed with lots of people throughout the community.



Tom Conlon
(incumbent)

Address: 2183 Berkeley Ave.
Age: 39
Occupation: Human resources consultant
Education: M.A., University of North Carolina; M.Ed., University of Minnesota
Party Endorsement: Republican

We should return to more neighborhood schools. They promote parental involvement, build pride in the local school and the community and redirect transportation costs into the classroom—all of which contribute to higher student achievement. Neighborhood schools should incorporate the best magnet school programs. However, some specialty schools may need to draw from a larger area to have the number of students necessary for an educationally and financially sound program.

Create more neighborhood schools. Align a consistent curriculum with district achievement goals and regular testing. Integrate our best past practices with the latest technologies. Implement strong character education for total student development. We also must tackle society's ills—violence, break-up of families, necessity for both parents to work—to restore the true student-teacher-parent partnership. School uniforms and optional JROTC programs also add to the learning environment.

Don't approve budgets or contracts that defer the pain, that cut into reserve funds or that we can't afford without raising the tax levy (which should be a last resort). The June 1999 budget brought layoffs of classroom aides and other staff, resulting in higher class sizes. We should do an independent performance audit to see if some support functions can compete with the market in terms of cost, efficiency and educational objectives.

I've been a voice of independence on a board dominated by one party. I've worked for common-sense, community-based solutions and haven't been afraid to advocate unpopular positions when in the best interest of kids and taxpayers. I've taken no cash or endorsements from public employee unions whose contracts we approve, thus have no conflict of interest. I've also taken constituent work very seriously, returning my phone calls and helping parents and staff resolve issues of concern to them.



Greg Filice
(incumbent)

Address: 15 Crocus Place
Age: 52
Occupation: Physician, professor
Education: M.D., Cornell University Medical College
Party Endorsement: DFL

The state desegregation rule change affords us the opportunity to rethink our school assignment and choice systems. Strong schools and strong neighborhoods go hand in hand. All neighborhoods should have strong schools with neighborhood preference. I would like to strengthen the connections between neighborhoods and their schools and also preserve three strengths of the existing magnet system: consumer choice, competition between schools and incentives to have well-integrated schools.

Implement a world-class, standards-based curriculum. Focus staff development to enable our diverse students to meet standards. Set high expectations for all students regardless of income, race or English proficiency. Provide greater district and board accountability, better and faster reporting of student achievement, continuous improvement for all schools, more support for under-performing schools, more incentives for better performance and more parental and community involvement.

The top priority for fiscal improvement is in resource distribution to schools. We need a clear, understandable and equitable system based on student needs. The budget should align district efforts and resources on higher achievement for all students in all schools. We are working on such a system, which is scheduled for implementation in the fall of 2000. I would continue our partnership with a local accounting firm to examine and seek greater efficiencies in district operations.

I approach this work as a physician-educator. I've advocated for excellent St. Paul schools for 14 years—as a parent-activist, a school and districtwide advisory committee chair and recently as School Board chair and vice-chair. I'm working with our new superintendent for higher expectations and achievement. I'm committed to excellence and accountability. I respond to all inquiries, listen carefully to all viewpoints and then work proactively to create the best decisions and policies.



Kelly Heimerl

Address: 858 Tatum St.
Age: 29
Occupation: Manager of quality and regulatory systems for Dahlberg Inc.
Education: B.A., St. Olaf College
Party Endorsement: Republican

While it is important to maintain some magnet schools as an option, renewing neighborhood schools would strengthen neighborhoods. Children could attend school near where they live and play with the kids they attend school with. Parents would get to know their children's friends and other parents. Neighborhood schools mean less time spent on the bus for many children, and they would help increase the involvement of parents, businesses and the community in the local school.

Our district needs to take a no-excuses approach to educating our students. Less than half of our students are able to pass the standardized reading and math exams. Our district should study and implement curriculums from schools like Harvest Preparatory, a public charter school in Minneapolis with a diverse student body that is excelling. We should also mandate summer school for students who are not performing at their grade level and end social promotion.

The district must define a set of key objectives and prioritize them. The discretionary dollars in the school district budget need to align with the school district's objectives. Of course, these objectives should always tie back to the classroom and to how the board will focus dollars and resources to ensure the success of students. Ultimately, the board needs to accept responsibility for their decisions and to be able to provide justification for their choices.

I work in the private sector, where people are held accountable and are judged by their performance. As the manager of quality of regulatory systems, I evaluate systems, identify opportunities for continuous improvement, implement solutions and monitor changes for effectiveness. I have excellent problem-solving skills that would be beneficial in reforming our schools. I pledge that if I am ineffective in office and do not work to improve student achievement I will not run for re-election.



Carol Hugley

Address: 1180 Norbert Lane
Age: 46
Occupation: Teaching assistant
Education: A.A., Inver Hill Community College
Party Endorsement: Republican

There are obvious advantages to neighborhood schools, like parent-student access, easing transportation costs. Parents like the choices afforded them by the St. Paul Public Schools and base their decisions on many reasons other than race. The schools do a good job welcoming children of all races, needs and abilities. Our focus should be on fairly distributing resources among school programs so that all schools can be excellent schools.

The accountability plan under Superintendent Patricia Harvey's leadership promises resources and support necessary for improving all schools. We need to focus on staff development, recruiting and preparing teachers, including bilingual staff, quality instructional programs and everyone being accountable—parents, students, teachers, etc. We need increased parental involvement and effective communication, respect and good relationships between schools and families.

The school district's budget needs to be focused on student achievement. We need to spend money on sound programs and get rid of programs that don't work. We need to use common sense and fairness. Decisions must be education-driven.

My children are successful in the St. Paul public schools. Our family has overcome obstacles, taking advantage of all that the schools offer. I'll bring to the School Board a balanced perspective and common sense as a volunteer at Homecroft and Humboldt schools, Homecroft Recreation Center and the Highland-MacGroveland Family Center and as a Homecroft Site Council member and teaching assistant. Abraham Lincoln said, "He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help," and that's me.

Questions

Should the number of magnet schools be decreased in favor of more neighborhood schools?

What can the school district do to improve student performance?

How can the school district be more fiscally responsible?

What distinguishes you from your opponents in the race? Why should voters elect you?

ST. PAUL SCHOOL BOARD



Al Oertwig
(incumbent)

Address: 509 Fred St.

Age: 54

Occupation: Building owner, manager

Education: M.A., Public Administration, Mankato State University

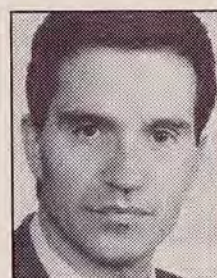
Party Endorsements: DFL

Magnet schools were established to meet a state mandate, but in the process provided an excellent system of school choice. Unlike Minneapolis, St. Paul retained attendance areas and preference zones and as a result kept its transportation costs down. Some magnet school choices are still in high demand: Expo, Capitol Hill and Spanish Immersion, for example. Our priority should be to provide a good school for every child close to home, but also retain schools of choice where choice programs can be justified.

The school system is now reorganized to focus on student achievement. Student progress will be measured. Best practices will be used. Administrators are now, for the first time, responsible for specific schools as area superintendents. Schools will have more control over budgets and responsibility for results. Rewards for success and consequences for failure will be put in place. Voters can assist the reform effort by electing board members who understand the huge changes that have been started.

The classroom is where the action is—where learning takes place. The classroom must be the top priority for all budget decisions. All other functions must be evaluated in terms of their impact on the classroom. Staffing needs to be based on the needs of students in the classroom. The central administration has been reorganized to focus on student achievement. Rewards for success and consequences for failure must be built into each labor agreement.

As the senior member of the School Board (first elected in 1983), I selected my third superintendent this year. My experience helped me know that we could do better than the 1998 candidate pool, and we did with Pat Harvey. I have been elected chair of the Association of Metropolitan School Districts, the St. Paul-Ramsey County Children's Initiative and the Metro Educational Cooperative Service Unit. I serve as St. Paul's representative to the Council of Urban Boards of Education.



Alex Pavlov

Address: 1582 Wilson Ave.

Age: 41

Occupation: Owner, Hair Logic salon

Education: St. Paul Technical College, various community colleges

Party Endorsement: Republican

We should continue to keep a few magnet schools open for certain subjects. Instead of spending \$2.6 million of taxpayers' money on lawsuits against the state and \$40 million on busing, we should apply that money to our local neighborhood schools. By applying the money to our local schools, we could provide the same quality of education as the magnet schools are providing.

Education is first, last and always about kids—not about politics and bureaucracy. Rather than trying to always bring the kids into the adult world, let us go into their world and find out what makes them tick. We need to start listening to kids. We need to start caring for them. We need to show them that they do matter. Once this is accomplished, I assure you that they will change themselves and they will want to try harder.

For starters, stop spending taxpayers' money on \$2.6 million lawsuits. Cut back considerably on busing. Re-use textbooks rather than purchasing new textbooks every year. Eliminate contraceptives and social services within the school.

I am prepared to sign a contract with the people stating that if I do not deliver what I promise, I will not run for a second term. Being a salon owner, I have the flexibility to spend at least 15 hours a week working directly with the schools and students, learning about their concerns and issues. I will fight to return the schools to being learning centers and not medical and social service facilities. I will fight to improve the safety and conditions of our schools and will hold the schools accountable for student performance.



Neal Thao
(incumbent)

Address: 154 E. Wyoming St.

Age: 43

Occupation: Assistant professor of social work, Metro State University

Education: MSW, University of Minnesota

Party Endorsement: DFL

No, the current system is working and meeting the needs of constituents. Having choices is best for our constituents. Secondly, with a Hmong background, I appreciate my kids' opportunity to learn other cultures and to postpone early marriage in order to have a solid education to prepare for life.

The current strategic plan and restructuring of the administrative team will improve student performance. Additionally, St. Paul Reads, site-based management system and the additional funding for English language learners and special education will help to improve student test scores. On top of that, small class size is the real key to student achievement, and I will fight to keep a reasonable class size. I also support the best practice for teaching and the comprehensive evaluation of staff performance.

As a School Board member, I work hard to make sure that the school district is fiscally responsible, such as citizens' participation in the budget recommendations and the site-based shared decisions for their schools' needs.

I have had many years' experience in direct services to children, children with special needs, families and families with a language and culture other than English and Anglo. I have been an effective leader and a role model for many immigrants, and I am an optimistic person to make St. Paul a vibrant city and a prestigious school district.

Sample ballot lists the candidates, questions

The following candidates and questions will appear on the November 2 general election ballots of voters who live in the Villager area. The candidates' names are followed by their party endorsement, if any. An asterisk (*) denotes the incumbent.

Voters are to cast their ballots for one person in each race, unless otherwise noted. Failure to vote on a ballot or charter question counts the same as voting "no."

ST. PAUL BALLOTS

Ward 2 City Council—*Chris Coleman (DFL), Victor Gomez (R).

Ward 3 City Council—Mitch Gordon (DFL), Pat Harris.

Ward 4 City Council—*Jay Benanav (DFL).

St. Paul School Board—(Vote for four) Anne Carroll (DFL), *Tom Conlon (R), *Greg Filice (DFL), Kelly Heimerl (R), Carol Hugley (R), *Al Oertwig (DFL), Alex Pavlov (R), *Neal Thao (DFL).

Ballot Question 1 (Ballpark initiative ordinance):

"Shall the voters approve an ordinance authorizing a half-cent sales tax to provide for the local share of a ballpark in St. Paul only if the following three conditions are met:

1. The state of Minnesota and a major league baseball club contribute at least 2/3 of the costs of construction of a ballpark,
2. The state Legislature authorizes the ordinance, and
3. The city's portion will never exceed the amount raised by a half-cent sales tax and the half-cent sales tax will end when the city's share is paid?"

Ballot Question 2 (Billboard initiative ordinance):

"Shall the voters approve an ordinance:

1. to prohibit new billboards within the city of St. Paul,
2. to discontinue existing billboards

using city powers relating to nuisances,

3. to limit the enlargement or alteration of existing billboards as nonconforming uses, and
4. to require the removal of existing billboards after five years to the extent permitted by law?"

Ballot Question 3 (Council salary charter amendment):

In 1991, St. Paul voters passed a charter amendment setting City Council salaries at \$30,000 per year. Shall the 1991 amendment be removed from the charter and allow City Council members to set their own salaries?

MENDOTA HEIGHTS BALLOTS

District 197 School Board—(Vote for four) *Steven Anderson, Lani Bennett, Rod Haenke, Tom Henry, *Linda Kjerland, Raymond Mickelsen, Kent Mogler, Thomas Smith, George Werl.

MINNEAPOLIS BALLOTS

Minneapolis School Board—(Vote for four) Shirley Carlson (R), *Judy Farmer (DFL), Albert Gallmon (DFL), Audrey D. Johnson (DFL), Renee Lavoie (R), Robert F. Scott (R), Catherine Shreves (DFL), Lisa Staplin (R).

Charter Question—"Shall the Minneapolis City Charter provisions relating to redrawing ward boundaries be amended to: change the name of the Reapportionment Commission to the Redistricting Commission; and change the process of selection to provide that no political party will constitute a majority of the commission by providing for membership by all major political parties under certain conditions, allowing the Charter Commission, at its discretion, to choose up to two (2) self-nominees who may not be affiliated with any political party, and increasing the membership as necessary to implement the changes?"

To ban or not to ban

Judge's decision clears the way for November 2 referendum on whether to prohibit billboards across the city of St. Paul

by Jane McClure

An attempt by the billboard industry to remove the billboard question slated for the November 2 general election ballot in St. Paul was dismissed last week by U.S. District Court Judge David Doty.

"We knew that the case for the ballot question was solid and that the city would prevail," said John Mannillo, chair of the Scenic St. Paul Campaign, which is pushing for the removal of billboards in the city.

If the ballot question passes, many billboards in St. Paul could be declared public nuisances and removed, and no new billboards could be erected. Billboards governed by state or federal laws, such as billboards along interstate highways, would not be affected.

In the wake of the October 12 court decision, Eller Media president Lee Ann Muller indicated that a coalition of billboard companies plans to spend about \$500,000 to try and sway city voters to defeat the ballot question. Mannillo said his group has raised only a few thousand dollars for its own campaign.

The billboard companies have not ruled out future legal challenges, regardless of the election's outcome. They believe the effort to ban billboards violates state zoning laws and their constitutional rights, including free speech and equal protection under the law.

Doty rejected those claims and indicated that the plaintiffs had not shown how they would be harmed by the November 2 vote. He further noted that barring the ballot question would harm the Scenic St. Paul Campaign, which gathered more than 7,000 signatures to get the question before the voters. Absentee ballots that include the billboard question are already being sent in.

The judge did not rule on the question of whether a billboard ban would violate federal and state laws.

The lawsuit was filed last month by Eller Media, which owns most of the billboards in St. Paul, and Delite Outdoor Advertising and the Outdoor Advertising Association of Minnesota. They were joined in the suit by Mr. C's Bar on Robert Street and 2075 Ford Parkway Limited Liability Corporation, which owns the building on the northwest corner of Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue.

Mr. C's receives \$1,200 a month for leasing space to Eller for a billboard on its building.

2075 Ford Parkway's 10-year lease with Eller calls for payments of \$20,004 a year. The corporation claims it would not be able to cover its debt service and operating expenses for the property without that billboard income.

Eller, which owns more than 490 billboards in St. Paul, claims that more than half of them would be affected if the ballot question is approved. "The consequences to Eller Media if it were required to remove its signs in the city of St. Paul would be substantial," Eller's court documents assert.

The battle over the ballot question was not the only legal victory for anti-billboard activists on October 12. That same day, Scenic Minnesota won a separate case in Ramsey County District Court involving billboards on top of the Highland Shopping Center and at the corner of Grand and Fairview avenues that were damaged in a 1998 windstorm. The city of St. Paul and Eller Media were co-defendants in the case.

The legal fight began days after the May 30

storm, which also damaged billboards on West 7th Street. Scenic Minnesota alleged that Eller Media made extensive repairs on the billboards without obtaining proper city permits. The Highland Village and Grand Avenue billboards are located in special sign districts that call for billboards that sustain damage of more than 50 percent of their value to be taken down permanently.

However, the city zoning administrator ruled that the billboards could be repaired without permits if only the sign panels were replaced. The court action was filed after the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council rejected Scenic Minnesota's appeal of the decision.

District Court Judge Michael Monahan decided in Scenic Minnesota's favor because the City Council did not make written findings explaining the basis for its decision and simply adopted the Planning Commission's recommendation.

"This is particularly disturbing given the nature of City Council deliberations as evidenced in the transcript of the public hearing," Monahan stated in the court order. "At one point, one City Council member went so far as to suggest that the council had no idea what the issues were."

Monahan said the zoning administrator's interpretation of the city code was "dubious at best."



St. Paul voters are being asked whether they would like to see billboards like the one above the Sweatshop at Snelling and Selby avenues (above) banned across the city. Photo by Mike Long.

The billboard companies have not ruled out future legal challenges, regardless of the election's outcome. They believe the effort to ban billboards violates state zoning laws and their constitutional rights, including free speech and equal protection under the law.

City approves new sign restrictions in two neighborhoods

by Jane McClure

The St. Paul City Council on October 13 unanimously approved the special sign districts requested by the Merriam Park Community Council and the Hamline-Midway Coalition.

The special sign districts prohibit new billboards and place new restrictions on other advertising signs throughout the Merriam Park and Hamline-Midway neighborhoods. Together with the St. Anthony Park special sign district approved last spring, the October 13 vote effectively shuts the door on any new billboards in the northwestern segment of St. Paul.

Nonconforming signs in those neighborhoods may remain in place provided they are not extensively altered or reconstructed. The new restrictions do not apply to bus shelter signs or to signs on the so-called courtesy benches along streets.

Requests for additional special sign districts in the Snelling-Hamline and West Side neighborhoods were reviewed by the City Council earlier this month. These requests have been referred to the St. Paul Planning Commission for its recommendation.

Merriam Park and Hamline-Midway residents had feared that their neighborhoods would become home to more billboards under a plan proposed several months ago by a citywide task force. That plan encouraged the placement of new billboards in industrially zoned areas.

"We want to make our neighborhood more pedestrian-friendly and attractive to small businesses and residents, and billboards detract from that," said Roger Meyer, president of the Merriam Park Community Council.

"We're already heavily impacted by billboards," said Patrick Sheehy of the Hamline-Midway Coalition.

Merriam Park and Hamline-Midway residents argued that billboards detract from the appearance of avenues like Snelling and University and take attention away from the signs of the businesses below them.

The St. Paul Planning Commission sought to delay action on the sign district requests until after November 2, when St. Paul voters will be asked whether to ban billboards across the city.

"It is untimely to act on neighborhood-by-neighborhood billboard regulations when new citywide regulations go to a referendum in one month," Planning Commission chair Gladys Morton stated in a letter to the City Council.

The Planning Commission and city licensing staff also raised concerns about having sign regulations that vary from neighborhood to neighborhood.

"There's a moratorium on new billboards in St. Paul right now," said Chris McCarver of

Eller Media, which owns the overwhelming majority of billboards in St. Paul. "All of the special sign districts that are being proposed may be moot because of the ballot issue."

If the citywide billboard ban does not pass on November 2, the Planning Commission will resume the study of billboard regulations that it began more than a year ago, Morton said.

However, Ward 4 City Council member Jay Benanav said the billboard ballot question, the billboard study and the moratorium should not have any effect on special sign district requests.

Scott Heiderich of Merriam Park agreed. "We'd like the protection now," he said.

According to Sheehy, the neighborhoods are entitled to protection under the current special sign district ordinance. Besides, he added, "we fully anticipate a lawsuit by the billboard companies if the ballot question is OK'd."

District 197 voters to choose four of nine for School Board

by Bill Wagner

It was one misfortune after another for District 197 during the last school year. An audit revealed a nearly \$3 million budget shortfall, which necessitated cutting more than 30 teaching positions. School Board members talked about closing an elementary school. Enrollment projections proved to be overly optimistic. There were repeated acts of vandalism at Somerset Heights Elementary School. School Board members decided not to renew the contract of Superintendent Robert Monson.

Though the district is by no means free of its problems, many feel the tide has turned. Former Sibley High School principal John Longtin was hired as the new superintendent. He has been tabbed as a man of vision who can bring people together to achieve goals. Howard Carlson was brought on board as assistant superintendent in charge of finances. He has been given high marks for developing a plan to balance the budget. There is talk that enrollment is on the rise, despite the fact that much of the district's neighborhoods are almost fully developed. And plans to close an elementary school have been put aside, at least for the time being.

It is in this arena that nine candidates are competing in the November 2 election for four spots on the District 197 School Board. The list includes incumbents Linda Kjerland and Steven Anderson of West St. Paul (board members Gary Hagstrom and Tom Weisbecker of Mendota Heights are not seeking re-election) plus newcomers Kent Mogler and Thomas Smith of Mendota Heights; George Werl of Sunfish Lake; Rod Haenke of Eagan; and Ray Mickelsen, Lani Bennett and

Tom Henry of West St. Paul.

Following is a brief look at all nine board hopefuls:

Anderson, 34, has lived in the district for 7 years and has two children attending school there. He is employed as a contributing editor for a publishing house. He built a reputation as a board member who closely watched expenditures during his first term. He was highly critical of the architectural firm he felt was not working in a cost-effective fashion on the district's new middle schools. Anderson said he is seeking another term because he feels that the district's finances will soon be in good order. "I'm running again because we have a system in place now," he said. "The district united and stood behind the board on our budget."

Bennett, 49, has lived in the district for 12 years and has three children in school there. She is employed as a psychologist in private practice. She has served as president of the Garlough School PTA and helped with the district's transition into two middle schools a few years back. She said she places a priority on the reduction of class sizes and the retention of good teachers. "We also need to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse school district population," she said.

Henry, 37, has lived in the district for 3 years and has two children in school there. He is employed in financial development for a company that helps nonprofit organizations with fund-raising and planning. He has served on the district's finance committee and the curriculum alignment committee for both middle schools. He has also done volunteer work for the Minneapolis School District. Henry said the school district needs to be held accountable and develop a good rela-

tionship with the state Legislature.

Kjerland, 48, has lived in the district for 10 years and has one child in school there. She is employed as an administrator for the Children's Initiative, a St. Paul nonprofit group. She said it is important to improve student test scores and upgrade the curriculum, especially reading. Kjerland was an advocate for two bond referendums in the district in 1995, and worked in the elementary school program review six years ago. During her term she has helped with after-school recreational programs that discourage youngsters from dropping out of school. "I'm running because I'm excited about the potential (in the district) for the next few years," she said.

Mickelsen, who declined to reveal his age, has lived in the district for 40 years. He has a son and daughter who attended St. Croix Lutheran, and has four grandchildren who graduated from Sibley. He is a previously unsuccessful candidate for the School Board. He has served in the state Legislature and has been a justice of the peace in St. Paul. He also has been involved in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and has been a proponent of a community center that would have early childhood and senior citizen programs. Mickelsen said he would like to see West St. Paul and Mendota Heights become partners to build such a center. He believes school district employees deserve higher wages. "There's a lot of turnover," he said.

Mogler, 40, has lived in the district for 5 years and has three of his four children in school there. He is employed as a director of financial operations for General Mills. He has worked on the Somerset School PTA, the district's budget task force and School Board's financial advisory committee. He would like to

see the district promote from within wherever possible and thinks that his background in finance would help the district reduce inefficient spending. "But it does no good to save money and put it in the bank," he said. "I'd invest it in another teacher."

Smith, 59, who has two grown children who were already out of school when he moved into the school district 11 years ago, has run unsuccessfully for the board in the past. He is a licensed substitute teacher in the St. Paul Public Schools and also teaches at the University of Minnesota in the College of Education and Human Development. Smith calls himself a fiscal conservative and bemoaned the district's recent budget cuts as the result of undisciplined spending. "We need some vision and we need to restore a tradition of pride," he said.

Werl, 50, has lived in the district for 7 years and had one of his three children graduate from Sibley. (One attended private school and another is not yet in school). He owns a broadcast engineering company. Werl said the district needs to raise student test scores and place more emphasis on basic education. "What I'd like to bring is a little more focus on that," he said. "I'm a fiscal conservative."

Haenke, a former school principal who now runs Learning Outfitters, a company that offers Internet-based educational opportunities, did not respond to repeated phone calls.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on November 2. The district polling locations include Precinct 1—Heritage Middle School, Precinct 2—Garlough, Precinct 3—Somerset, Precinct 4—Mendota and Precinct 5—Pilot Knob. For other voting information, call the school district office at 651-681-2396.

Stadium referendum/

from page 26

ter of St. Paul's Lowertown neighborhood. They suggested that businesses benefiting from the ballpark should have to shoulder the tax increase or that a tax on ticket sales should be used to pay for construction.

But Kimberly said there simply is not enough money from those sources to build the kind of stadium the Twins envision. On the other hand, she said, a half percent sales tax increase would cost the average person in St. Paul as little as \$13 a year for the 15 to 16 years it would take to pay off the city's share of a

new ballpark.

Rather than the Metrodome, which has generated virtually no surrounding development, Kimberly cited the Target Center and the thriving entertainment district that surrounds it as a better model for what St. Paul would create. "This isn't going to save the republic," she said, "but if it's done well, it'll create activity."

Haigh said she is sure St. Paul could do a better job with a ballpark than Minneapolis did with the Metrodome, but she argued that the Target Center analogy was not apt

because the ballpark would not be usable year-round. "What you'll have in the winter will be like what Minneapolis had during the (basketball) strike," she said.

Kimberly said that if the ballot initiative is defeated on November 2, the city will let the matter drop. "You have a very unusual opportunity here to vote on an economic development project," she said. "You didn't get to vote on the World Trade Center, you didn't get to vote on Galtier Plaza. I urge you to vote however you think is right."



Three former Minnesota Twins ballplayers were in St. Paul two weeks ago to promote the building of a new Twins ballpark. At left, Paul Molitor (center) shows Kent Hrbek where he hit home runs during his days at Cretin High School. At right, Tony Oliva acknowledges the cheers of the crowd. Photos by Mike Long.



Banned In St. Paul?



A Little Extreme Don't You Think?

We're a country, state, and city of regulations.
Not outright bans. But on the November 2nd ballot there's an
initiative to ban billboards in St. Paul.

A ban would be a severe blow to local St. Paul
businesses and charities. A ban would take away the
more than \$1 million given each year to non-profit
organizations like Suicide Awareness\Voices of Education,
Red Cross, St. Paul Jaycees, St. Paul Junior League,
and the St. Paul Police and Fire Departments.

Support the businesses and charities of St. Paul and
Vote NO to ban billboards.

Vote NO On The Billboard Ban

THE KIOSK

Thursday/October 21

ST. ADALBERT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, 265 Charles Ave., will hold its 51st annual homecoming from 5:00 to 7:30 this evening in the parish hall. There will be a pork roast and sauerkraut dinner, raffles, a country store and pull tabs. The cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12.

Friday/October 22

A WOMEN'S HEALTH and Wellness Expo will take place from noon to 8:00 p.m. today and from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. tomorrow at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The event will feature more than 250 resources, speakers and workshops focusing on issues affecting women. Admission is \$8.00 and includes all seminars and workshops. Children under 16 are admitted free with an adult. For information, call 612-924-0643 or visit their Web site at www.HealthExpos.com.

Saturday/October 23

THE GREEN PARTY of Minnesota will hold its semi-annual membership meeting from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Phillip Regal, a biology professor at the University of Minnesota will discuss the potential health, environmental and economic dangers of genetically engineered food followed by a discussion of upcoming Green Party candidates. For information, call 612-871-4585.

A FALL FESTIVAL will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today (lunch will be served beginning at 11:00 a.m.) at St. Peder's Lutheran Church, 4600 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis. There will be gift items, home baked goods, white elephant items, a kids' Korner, and new this year will be the Sweet Shoppe.

FREE CLASSES on the ancient healing art of qigong will be taught by John Du Cane today at the Cleveland Avenue Methodist Church, 225 S. Cleveland Ave. Sessions will include one for addiction from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; one for stress from 11:00 a.m. to noon; one for aging from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.; and one for medical problems from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For information, call 651-645-0517.

Sunday/October 24

A FAMILY FESTIVAL to coincide with the new exhibit "Tales of the Territory: Minnesota 1849-1858" will take place from noon to 5:00 p.m. today at the Minnesota



A thorn in their side. Felicia Abler of Macalester-Groveland pulls out handfuls of buckthorn from the banks of the Mississippi along West River Parkway and East 36th Street in Minneapolis. She and her students from St. Paul Academy and Summit School's Earthworks program were among the volunteers who spent October 16 working to eradicate the noxious weed. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has plans to restore the area as an oak savanna. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., where the exhibit is on view. There will be music, dancing, demonstrations and children's activities. Admission is free. For information, call 651-296-6126.

MANO A MANO Medical Resources, a nonprofit organization made up of an all-volunteer staff that helps stock hospitals and clinics that serve impoverished patients in Bolivia, will celebrate its fifth birthday with a reception and brief program from 2:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at Macalester-Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave.

A CZECHOSLOVAKIAN DINNER will be served today at the C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan St. Seatings will take place at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$9.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 6-12. For reservations, call Ann at 612-377-7798.

Monday/October 25

VICTORY TOASTMASTERS will meet at 6:00 this evening and every Monday at Bethesda Hospital, 559 Capitol Blvd. Admission is free. For information, call Cynthia at 651-291-0489.

Tuesday/October 26

A HARVEST DINNER will be held this evening at Fairmount Avenue United

Methodist Church, 1523 Fairmount Ave. Seatings are available for either 5:00 or 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 5-11 and free for children under 5. Reservations must be made by October 24 by calling 651-699-7334.

Wednesday/October 27

THE MERRIAM PARK LIBRARY will be closed today in order to train staff on the use of a new computer system. The system is expected to be operational by mid-November.

Thursday/October 28

"FROM FRONTIER TO FUTURE: 150 Years of Ramsey County History," a lecture series sponsored by the Ramsey County Historical Society, will continue with a program on education from 7:30 to 9:00 this evening at The Ford Motor Company, 966 S. Mississippi River Blvd. Tours of the company's new training facility will be given at 6:30 p.m. For information, call 651-222-0701.

A SEMINAR on "How to Live as Well on Less Money" will be offered from 6:30 to 8:00 this evening at Sanford Community School, 3524 S. 42nd Ave., Minneapolis. The cost is \$10. Call 612-627-7192.

Saturday/October 30

A BAZAAR AND CRAFT SALE will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. A large variety of items such as baked goods, ceramics, art work, crafts and a silent auction will be available. For information, call 651-696-2870.

Sunday/October 31

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon in the south parking lot at Sibley High School for a walk around the neighborhood. For information, call Chuck at 651-644-7502.

Wednesday/November 3

THE GUILD OF CATHOLIC WOMEN will sponsor a talk on the state's Profile of Learning program at 10:30 this morning at the guild's office at 1025 Dodd Road, West St. Paul. Katherine Kersten, an attorney and director of the Center of American Experiment will be the guest speaker. She also serves as vice president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy in Washington D.C. A social hour will take place prior to the program at 9:30 a.m. Admission is \$5.00. For reservations, call 651-450-2217.

Welcome to 1611 Scheffer
in Highland Park — \$199,900.



Stone and Stucco Exterior
Lovely Wood Floors
Fireplace with Built-In
Cherrywood Cabinets
Very Open Finished Basement
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Back Yard

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AL OERTWIG
brought one of the nation's
best school leaders, PAT
HARVEY, to St. Paul.

**KEEP
AL OERTWIG**
on the school board
to get the job done.

Prepared and paid for by the Oertwig Volunteer
Committee, Gloria Bogen, Treasurer,
509 Fred St., St. Paul, MN 55101

VOTE
NOV. 2

COUPON
20% Off Dry Cleaning
(Includes Drapes) and/or **\$1.49 Men's Shirts**
Beautifully Laundered & Pressed on Hangers
REMEMBER: Our coupon has no maximum discount
unlike our competitors.
Coupon must be presented with incoming order. Coupon expires Dec. 4, 1999.

MIDWAY
Cleaners & Shirt Launderers
1802 St. Clair 651-699-2445 224 No. Cleveland 651-644-4983
Midway Cleaners — a part of SEW WHAT!

Macalester-Groveland COUNCIL CAPSULE

ST. THOMAS EXPANSION

Representatives of the University of St. Thomas will hold a series of meetings this fall with the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee to discuss the possible future expansion of the university's campus. Area residents are invited to attend the meetings, the first of which will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 21, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

The St. Thomas campus boundaries were formally established in 1990 to include the campus north of Summit Avenue, the former St. Paul Seminary campus south of Summit, university-owned property on the south side of Summit between Cleveland and Cretin avenues, and university-owned property on the north side of Grand Avenue between Cleveland and Finn Street.

Like other colleges and universities that are located in residential neighborhoods in St. Paul, St. Thomas' campus boundaries are delineated by a special condition use permit that was granted to St. Thomas by the city in 1990. At the time, it was assumed that St. Thomas would eventually seek to expand its boundaries to include the north side of Grand Avenue between Finn and Cretin avenues. That is what the university would like to discuss with neighbors now. St. Thomas owns most of the property in the two blocks between Summit, Grand, Cleveland and Cretin avenues and is contemplating developing the blocks as a link between the north and south campuses.

For more information, call Kathie Tarnowski at the community council's office at 651-695-4000.

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ELDERS

The Macalester-Groveland Job Connection is seeking vol-

unteers interested in helping area seniors during Fall Volunteer Day on Saturday, October 23. Volunteers are needed to perform outdoor tasks such as yard and gutter cleaning, window washing and minor repairs. The hours are flexible, and parent-child teams are encouraged to participate. For more information, call Laura Gutmann at the community council office at 651-695-4000.

JOB CONNECTION

The Macalester-Groveland Job Connection matches area youths who want jobs with seniors in the Macalester-Groveland and Highland Park neighborhoods who have household chores to be done. Workers are particularly needed in the Highland area. The hours are flexible and the average pay is \$7.00 per hour. For information, call Laura Gutmann at 651-695-4000.

PUMPKINS RECYCLED

St. Paul residents are invited to recycle their pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns through the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's annual "Great Pumpkin Drop." The event will be held the first Saturday after Halloween (November 6) in the parking lot of Immanuel Lutheran Church, located at Snelling and Lincoln avenues. Pumpkins dropped off at the site will become feed for buffaloes at a metro area farm. Last year eight to 10 tons were collected and fed to animals.

Pumpkins that are thrown in the trash are taken to the Resource Recovery Facility in Newport where they are turned into fuel with the rest of the trash. However, moist pumpkins do not burn well, and taking them out of the waste stream makes the fuel-recovery process more efficient.

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS OFFERED

Macalester-Groveland residents may borrow up to \$10,000 at the prime rate for home improvements through the community council's Middle Income Fix-Up Program. The unsecured loans have a five-year repayment term.

Residents who are at or below 80 percent of the median income for the metropolitan region may also qualify for the

Moderate Income Fix-Up Fund. The maximum income is \$25,950 for a family of two and \$36,900 for a family of six. Similar to the Middle Income program, the Moderate Income program offers loans of between \$1,000 and \$10,000. However, 20 percent of the loan amount does not have to be repaid. The loans are secured at 1/2 percent below prime and are repayable over five years. For more information, call Patrick Shannon at the community council office at 651-695-4000.

JOHN MCCUTCHEON PERFORMS

Tickets for two November 21 concerts featuring folk singer John McCutcheon are now available at the Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., and the Hungry Mind Bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave. A children's concert will be held at 3:00 p.m. and a family concert at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Brady Educational Center on the south campus of the University of St. Thomas. The performances are a benefit for KidsPark, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's drop-in child care center.

McCutcheon, who hails from North Carolina, attended St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, where he learned to play the banjo. He has gone on to master a small chamber of stringed instruments, has 16 albums to his name and has been nominated for four Grammy Awards. Joining him on stage will be his sister, Patty McCutcheon, an American Sign Language interpreter.

Advance tickets cost \$5.00 for the afternoon concert and \$12 for the evening concert. They also may be ordered by calling Darla Eilen at 651-645-4800 or the community council office at 651-695-4000.

STUMPS REMOVED FOR CHEAP

Macalester-Groveland homeowners may have their boulevard stumps removed for \$25 through a group contract between the community council and Midwest Tree Technology. Midwest Tree will also grind stumps outside the Macalester-Groveland area for \$30. To sign up for this discounted service, send a check made payable to the MGCC to 320 S. Griggs St., St. Paul, MN 55105.



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ON THE TOWN

Laying it on the line

In *Mystic Chords*, retired educator doesn't pull punches in his look at a time when the state and nation suffered their bloodiest inner conflicts

by Dave Page

On July 3, 1863, about the same time the 1st Minnesota Regiment was preparing to repel Pickett's charge at a little town in Pennsylvania called Gettysburg, Nathan and Chauncey Lamson shot a man who was picking berries with his son 10 miles north of Hutchinson, Minnesota. A group of citizens from the town later arrived at the scene to discover the body of Little Crow, the Mdewakanton Dakotan who had led his people in the 1862 uprising that cost the lives of more than 500 Minnesota settlers and an unknown number of American Indians.

The connection in time between the two events was one of the sparks that ignited Highland Park resident William Ridley to write and publish his first novel, a piece of historical fiction entitled *Mystic Chords*.

Ridley, a former headmaster at St. Thomas Academy, was initially inspired while in Washington, D.C., in the mid-1980s after being appointed by Secretary of Education T.H. Bell to chair the National Task Force on Educational Technology. During a sightseeing trip to nearby Gettysburg, he stood at the monument on Cemetery Ridge

where 262 members of the 1st Minnesota charged into history on the second day of the battle. Only 47 made it back to their lines.

"I imagined those kids rushing down that hill," Ridley said, "and I was chagrined that I didn't know much about things that happened right here (in Minnesota). So I started to read everything I could about those times."

Ridley discovered that while the 1st Minnesota was serving with distinction in the Civil War, a bloody confrontation between the Dakota Indians and white settlers scarred a wide swath of the Minnesota River Valley.

With his wife, Lucille, Ridley drove to New Ulm, got help from the librarians there, visited Fort Ridgely and made notes about the geography of the land. The result of his studies was a 200,000-word, hand-written manuscript that he completed in two months. The former English teacher took another three years to edit the material with the help of his wife, their children and friends.

In the book, Ridley tells the fictional story

of a family of Irish immigrants who came to Minnesota to build a home for themselves, only to be torn apart by the catastrophes that unfolded in the early 1860s.

"An important event in the story is the ascent of the 200-foot stern-wheeler Fannie Harris up the Minnesota River in the spring of 1861," Ridley said. "It

suffered a lot of damage in the narrow river on its way to pick up the Sherman battery of light artillery at Fort Ridgely, but it brought the Civil War home to Minnesotans. It also may have given the Dakotas a false sense of advantage when they saw the cannons placed on board."

Ridley does not pull any punches in the novel. The raping and pillaging that occurred along the Minnesota are reflected in similar scenes along the Potomac. Yet despite all the violence, some readers have suggested that Ridley might have made his characters too "Minnesota Nice."

"I tried hard to be fair to both sides in each conflict," Ridley said. He even had a half-Irish, half-Dakota Indian minister read the

manuscript to get his feedback.

"The times were harsh," Ridley said. "I wanted to be as truthful as possible. I wasn't trying to say anything about the nature of war. What I hoped to do was reveal the universal concept of displaced people trying to find their rightful place."

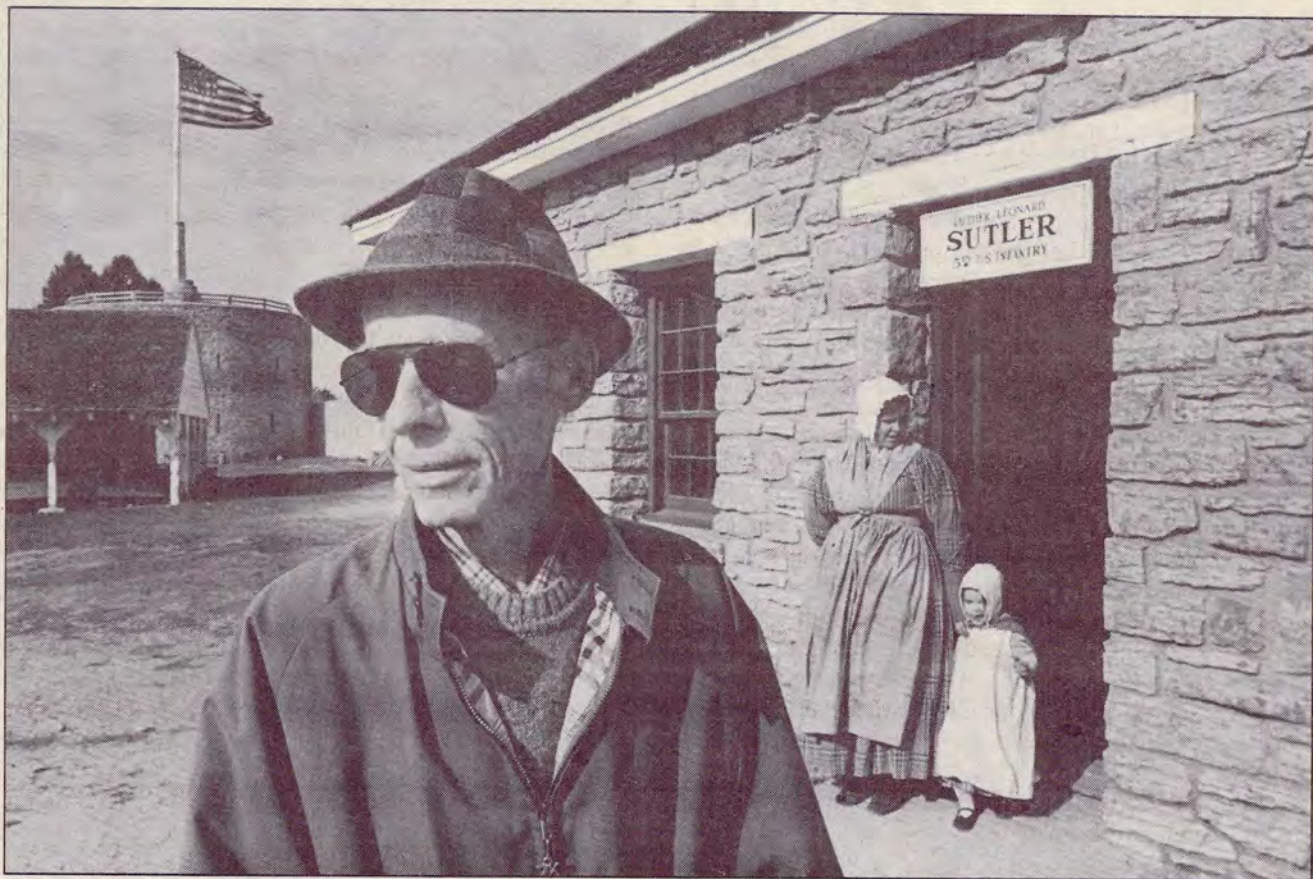
Once the tome was typed, Ridley began to learn about the publishing business. Former Grand Avenue bookstore owner Dan Odegard initially agreed to serve as his agent, but a new job kept him from marketing the manuscript. He convinced Ridley to cut some 60,000 words, including the scene recounting Little Crow's death, and gave him a dust-jacket blurb that compares Ridley to Stephen Crane, James Fenimore Cooper and Shelby Foote.

Despite the high praise, Ridley still could not attract a publisher after 2½ years.

"Odegard suggested that publishers might have been reluctant to accept the manuscript because it didn't fit into any one genre," Ridley said. "He thought it had too much history to be historical fiction."

To let readers know just how much of the story is based on fact, Ridley borrowed from James Michener and included a list in the

Ridley/see page 38



William Ridley, author of the new novel *Mystic Chords*, soaks up the historical atmosphere at Fort Snelling. Behind him in character as a laundress is Jean Moline with her 3-year-old daughter Miranda. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Mystic Chords

William J. Ridley



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Music



The Schubert Club will present its "Courtroom Concert Series" beginning at 12:05 p.m. each Thursday in Courtroom 317 at Landmark Center. The series will kick off with Ruth Bruell, Donald Livingston and Ariana Kim on October 21; and the Dolce Wind Quintet on October 28. The series will run through April 27. Guests are welcome to bring a bag lunch. Admission is free. For information, call 651-292-3267.

The Music in the Park Series will continue with Le Trio Gershwin from Paris at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 24, at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. Tickets are \$15 at the door, or \$13 in advance by calling 651-645-5699.

The Upper Midwest Flute Association will present Tadeu Coelho in a recital from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, October 24, at Unity Unitarian Church, 732 Holly Ave. He will also participate in a pedagogy panel from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and teach a master class from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. that same day. Admission is \$10. For information, call 612-494-4977.

The Minnesota Youth Symphonies will perform at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 24, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 S. Field Ave. Admission is free. For information, call 651-699-5811.

The Minnesota Orchestra will present Pete Fountain performing traditional Dixie music at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 24, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$19.75 to \$34.75, call 612-371-5656.

A concert of guitar music from Russia will be performed by

classical guitarist Oleg Timofeyev at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 24, at St. Paul's on the Hill Episcopal Church, 1524 Summit Ave. The cost is \$10, or \$5.00 for students and seniors. Call 651-698-0371.

The St. Paul Early Music Series will present Virgin Ground performing a concert of medieval, Renaissance and baroque music at 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 29, at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. For tickets, priced at \$10, or \$8.00 for students and seniors, call 651-523-2459.

Organist Marie-Louise Langlais, professor of organ and improvisation at the Paris Superior Conservatory, will perform at 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 29, at the Church of St. Louis, King of France, 506 Cedar St. For information, call 651-224-8847.

The Singer's Voice, an autobiographical music series hosted by Dan Chouinard, will continue with The Rose Ensemble at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, October 31, at the Dakota Bar & Grill in Bandana Square. For information, call 651-642-1442.

Books



The Cathedral Hill Book Club, a new reading group for those who enjoy sharing ideas and opinions on classical and contemporary literature, will meet from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. every Saturday at Nina's Coffee Cafe, at the corner of Western and Selby. Upcoming books will include *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur S. Golden and *The Professor and the Madman* by Simon Winchester. For comments and questions, e-mail htiller@yahoo.com.

ON THE TOWN briefly



The Belle of Amherst, a theater performance reading about the life and poetry of Emily Dickinson, will be presented by the College of St. Catherine and University of St. Thomas joint theater department at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, October 20-23, in Frey Theater. Cast members, from left, are Tricia Swiderski, Betsy Wintheiser and Alison Leuthard. For tickets, priced at \$5.00, call 651-690-6700.

The Hungry Mind Bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave., will host the following readings at 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted): Sena Jeter Naslund will read from her novel *Ahab's Wife* or *The Star-Gazer* on Wednesday, October 20; Ellen Cooney will read from her new novel *The Old Ballerina* on Wednesday, October 27; author Kent Haruf and Knopf editor Gary Fisketjon will discuss Haruf's new novel *Plainsong*, discuss the author-editor relationship and the publishing process at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 28; James Galvin will read from his novel *Fencing the Sky* on Fri-

day, October 29; and Rion Klawinski will discuss his book *Chasing the Heretics* at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, October 30. Call 651-699-0587.

Isabel Allende will read from her novel *Daughter of Fortune* at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 26, at Humboldt High School, 30 E. Baker St. Admission is free. Call 651-699-0587.

"A Reading: Committing to Peace" will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 27, at Walker Church, 3104 16th Ave. South, Minneapolis. Participat-

ing authors will include Carol Bly, David Mura, Susu Jeffrey, Roy McBride, Martha Roth, Mildred Miller, Polly Mann, Carol Masters, Jeannie Piekos and Michael Dennis Browne. There will also be appearances by Poetry for the People and Barebones Productions. The cost is \$10. Call 651-698-2810.

Family



Planet Ordway will present MOMIX in Orbit, a company of

dancer-illusionists in a program of astonishing inventiveness, playful humor and sheer athleticism, at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 26, at the Ordway Music Theatre. A World Party will begin at 5:30 p.m. For tickets, priced from \$8.00 to \$21, call 651-224-4222.

Toddler storytimes for children ages 2-3 will be held at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. The four-week session will begin on Friday, October 29 and continue through November 19. To register, call 651-642-0385.

History Hijinx, a drop-in program for children and families, will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The lineup will include the following: learn all about bats and make your own bat luminary on October 31. Admission is free. Call 651-296-6126.

"Mozart's Magic Fantasy," a special one-hour production for children, will be performed by the Children's Group along with the Minnesota Orchestra at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 31, at Orchestra Hall. Tickets range from \$11 to \$21.50 for children and \$17 to \$29.50 for adults. Call 612-371-5656.

Dance



The Twin City Ballroom, 265 W. 7th St., will present dances every Friday and Sunday throughout October. Dancing, including the waltz, foxtrot, tango, hustle, Latin and swing, will take place from 10:00 to 11:30 p.m. on Fridays and from 9:00 to 10:30 p.m. on Sundays. Dance lessons will be given one

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Marlin Rothe, Iert, Shel Goldstein and Gregory Giles star in the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's production of *Mizlansky/Zilinsky, or Schmucks*, running through October 31 at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The play tells the story of Davis Mizlansky, a fast-talking Hollywood has-been and the gaggle of strange bedfellows he gathers in one last, ill-fated fling at wealth. For tickets, priced at \$12 and \$15, call 651-690-5879.

hour prior to the dances. Admission is \$5.00. Call 651-292-8463.

The Dancers Studio, 99 N. Snelling Ave., will present dances every Friday throughout October. Dancing, including swing, ballroom and Latin, will take place from 9:00 to 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$10. There will also be a "Fall Spectacular" dance from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Saturday, October 23. Vic Volare and his Fabulous Lounge Orchestra will provide the music. The cost is \$25, or \$20 for members. Call 651-641-0777.

"Swing Night in the Caves" will take place from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. every Thursday at the Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St. The line-up will include the following: Beasley's Big Band on October 21; and Swing Beat on October 28. Free dance lessons will be given at 6:15 p.m. Admission is \$7.00. Call 651-224-1191.

The TGIS Singles Social Club will hold a smoke-free singles dance at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday,

October 30, at the Thunderbird Hotel, 2201 E. 76th St., Bloomington. Dancer will provide the music for the dance. Admission is \$10, or \$8.00 before 9:00 p.m. Call 651-644-3443.

Theater

The Tomorrow Project, a mixed media collage of mutating images, industrial soundscape, text and performance, has opened at the Red Eye, 15 W. 14th St., Minneapolis. Performances will continue through October 30. For tickets, priced from \$10 to \$15, call 612-870-0309.

Park Square Theatre has opened *Gershwin The Klezmer*, featuring the Minnesota Klezmer Band performing Gershwin's songs to explore the rich cultural heritage while reminding the audience that the best American music shatters barriers of race, class and religion, in the Historic Hamm

Building, 20 West Seventh Place. Performances will continue through November 14. For tickets, priced at \$20 and \$24, call 651-291-7005.

Theatre Live! will open *Cabaret* on Wednesday, October 20, at the Historic State Theatre. Performances will continue until November 13. For tickets, call 612-373-5665.

Theatre in the Round Players will open *Rozencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Tom Stoppard's landmark story of *Hamlet* from the viewpoint of two of its minor characters, the college chums of the Prince of Denmark, on Friday, October 22, in its performance space at 245 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will continue through November 14. For tickets, priced at \$15, call 612-333-3010.

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Etc.



"Women of Substance," a series celebrating women's artistry and contributions to public life, will take place at the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. The series will continue with Trinity Irish Dance at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, October 21, and Friday, October 22; and vocalists Zap Mama at

7:30 p.m. Sunday, October 24; and Doris Kearns Goodwin, a noted presidential historian and author, will present a lecture on "Walking Our Daughters into the 21st Century" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 27. For tickets, call 651-690-6700.

Exhibits



"Intimate Fibers," a diverse exhibit of four local textile artists, will open Friday, October 22, at the Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave. A reception will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, November 19. The exhibit will run until the next day. Call 651-644-9200.

"Places: New Work," an exhibit of landscape paintings by Tom Maakestad will open with a reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, October 23, at Groveland Gallery, 25 Groveland Terrace, Minneapolis. Also

"Phatasma Natura," an exhibit of paintings by Paul Benson, will open at the same time in The Annex at the Groveland Gallery. The exhibits will remain on view until November 27. Call 612-377-7800.

"Tales of the Territory: Minnesota 1849-1858," an exhibit featuring six sections, each detailing the stories of people who were newcomers to Minnesota Territory as well as those who already knew this place as home, will open Sunday, October 24, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The exhibit will include a mixture of artifacts, live theater, multimedia presentations and costumed History Players. For information, call 651-296-6126.

"Vice," an open exhibition on the Seven Deadly Sins, will open with a reception from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 29, at the College of Visual Arts, 173 Western Ave. The exhibit will run until November 20. Call 651-290-9379.

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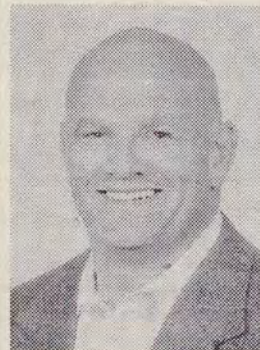
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Ridley /from page 35

front of the book that explains which events and characters are historical. However, he still could not interest a publisher.

"Bill is 70 now," Lucille said, "and we didn't feel we could wait 10 years to find someone to publish the book."

The Riddleys decided to publish the book themselves and settled on North Star Press of St. Cloud to print it.

Even before it had been bound, Bookmen Inc. signed a contract to distribute the 323-page novel, which can be found at Tobak News & Statements Gifts on Ford Parkway, the Hungry Mind on Grand Avenue and several of the Twin Cities Barnes & Nobles.

Ridley recently completed a second book, which he calls "a loose sequel" to *Mystic Chords*, and is planning a third which continues the story of a minor character in the original. It will revolve around the settling of the Red River Valley and will include such notable historical figures as James J. Hill.

So far, Ridley has done just one reading—at St. Thomas Academy. However, he hopes to do more as word of the book spreads. As the ultimate sacrifice, the former high school football coach said he would be willing to give up watching the Vikings on a Sunday afternoon if that's what it takes. But that's only because they have been playing so poorly.

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SPORTS

CODY'S CORNER

TOM CODY



For love of the game and \$15 a year

Long-time readers of mine will attest that little political commentary has infected this column over the past two decades. It's entirely in keeping with the fact that my voting record is spotty at best, dating back to my disillusionment with George McGovern back in 1972, and my rusted-out 1986 Blazer is recognized all over as the only vehicle bearing a "Save Tiger Stadium" bumper sticker.

I'm not one for yard signs, caucuses or causes, but it's time that I came out strongly in favor of the St. Paul stadium referendum. Political rhetoric aside, the issue is quite simple: Are you willing to pay a few dollars a year in order to watch outdoor baseball downtown? Increasing the sales tax by a half percent will amount to about \$15 per person per year in St. Paul. I spend that much at J.R. Mac's every time I get a cheeseburger and a couple of beers after a ballgame. To me, the bottom line has nothing to do with billionaire owners or millionaire players. I want the warm sun on my shoulders in the outfield bleachers. I want to sit with my sons at sunset and watch batting practice. I'm voting "yes" on November 2.

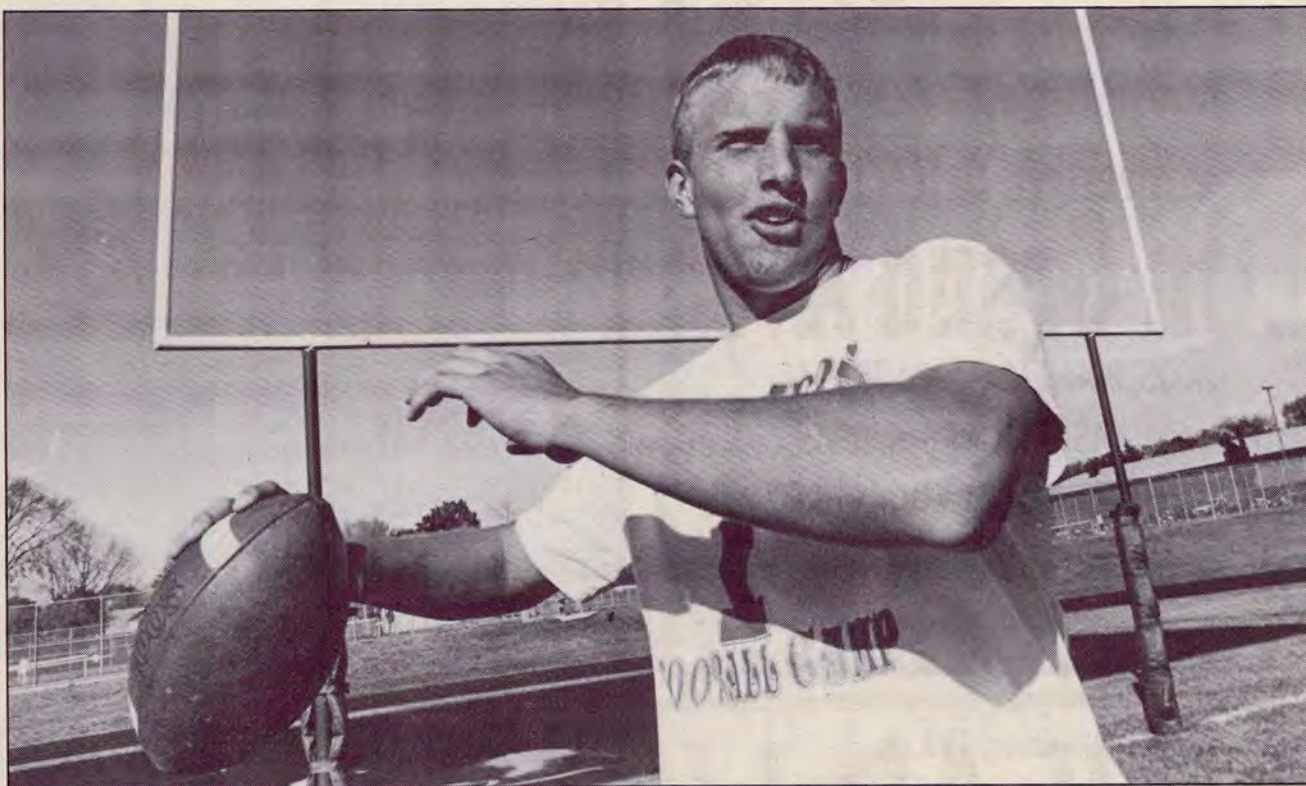
I know the ballot initiative is a long shot to pass. I realize that if they build the stadium simple economics will probably dictate outrageous ticket prices. So maybe I'd only go to five games a year at the downtown stadium, whereas I probably saw 30 a season out at the Met.

The stadium plan we have before us is not perfect, but it's the best hope we have if we want to see major league baseball outdoors in Minnesota.

HERE'S WHAT I THINK

The opinions just keep piling up in my "in" box. Here they

Cody's Corner/see page 41



St. Paul Academy senior T.J. Prunty's strong passing arm and outstanding control on the mound has won him an invitation to play both football and baseball at the University of Miami, Florida. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

A throwback to the three-sport athletes of old SPA's Prunty sets his sights on Miami

by Tom Cody

It was hot, humid and raining at the University of Miami when T.J. Prunty made his official campus visit last month. But the weather didn't bother the St. Paul Academy senior quarterback, who made a verbal commitment to the Hurricanes' football program two weeks ago.

"The weather down there will be good for my arm; it'll be easy to get

loose," Prunty said. "That'll help me as a pitcher too. Miami was the only school that would consider me as a two-sport college athlete. That was a huge factor in my decision."

Prunty, 18, has been sensational in three sports at SPA ever since his freshman year. (He also plays basketball.) He has attracted national attention for his passing statistics in football and his gaudy strikeout totals in baseball.

"He is simply one of those great ath-

letes," said SPA football coach Brian Sandifer, "a guy who's very versatile. He's big (6-foot-3, 205 pounds), he's got a lean frame, but he's strong. He can throw the ball on a rope 70 to 75 yards. He can run with the ball and he reads defenses well. He does all the little things that you can't teach a player to do."

Prunty's baseball coach, Mike Brown,

Prunty/see page 42

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Raiders repeat as city champs in soccer

But the boys need an upset or two to reclaim Section 5AA title

by Bill Wagner

Cretin-Derham Hall had one of its most successful boys soccer seasons ever last year. The Raiders netted a state tournament berth, only to be knocked out in the first round by Apple Valley, the eventual champion.

This year, the Raiders have a new coach and a new mission—to return to state and dish out a little payback. Despite losing some of last year's top players to graduation, coach Mike Huber figures the Raiders have a talented enough pool of players to do just that.

"When I took this job, I believed the school had hard-working kids," said Huber, who took over the reins from 14-year coach Dan Rosen. "I believed the kids had the necessary work ethic and they're proving me right."

Huber, a successful club team coach at the University of Minnesota, said he believes the Raiders can get back to state this season despite the presence of sectional powerhouses St. Paul Academy and Edina. Those schools finished the regular season rated 4th and 2nd in the metro area, respectively.

Rosen agrees with Huber's assessment. "They lost some strong seniors at sweeper, stopper and two midfield spots, but they still have enough skilled players and you know they're going to work hard," Rosen said.

The Raiders successfully defended their St. Paul City Conference crown this fall with an 11-1-1 record (13-3-1 overall). They finished the regular season with a 2-2 tie against Highland on October 11. Their only conference defeat was a 4-1 loss to Harding the week before, when four CDH starters were out of the lineup, including leading scorers Joe Schmidt and Joe Wertz. Still, Huber did not buy into that excuse.

"I told our guys that I knew they were frustrated and that the way they'd played was obviously disappointing," Huber said. "But I told them that we could go two games up on Central if we beat them the next day. I told our guys to take out their frustrations on (the opposition)."

CDH got back on track with a 3-1 victory over the second-place Minutemen the next day and went on to defeat



Raiders senior Joe Schmidt is leading the team with two dozen goals and nearly as many assists from his forward position. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Johnson 5-1 later that week.

Huber said the Raiders are solid at forward and defense. If they can improve in the midfield, he believes they can go a long way in the postseason.

"We're a good team," he said. "Sometimes, we get a little over-aggressive and don't play defense. Our touches can sometimes be a little brutal and we'll turn the ball over. We can overcome it, though, with hard work."

The Raiders are certainly capable of scoring goals. Last week, Schmidt was tied for the lead in scoring in the metro area with 23 goals and 19 assists, while Wertz was ranked in the top 10 with 12 goals and 12 assists. Both pass the ball liberally.

"Schmidt is quick and strong," Huber said of the team's scoring star. "He controls the ball well and has a good shot. Wertz is very quick and has a good foot. And both players make smart decisions with the ball."

The Raiders also have plenty of talent in their defensive end. Sophomore goalie Chad Clausen is quick and can

turn games around with big saves. His goalkeeping rating of 85.2 is among the better ones in the metro area. Senior defenders Mike Fastner, Nate Krick and Rafael Harrington have been consistent all season. Huber said he likes the fact that the defensive trio adds some offensive power.

"They've scored more than our midfielders have," he said.

Senior Mark Schletty has been a dependable performer at stopper and is especially gifted at shadowing the other team's top scoring threat. Junior stopper Connor McKim has been a nice surprise. Huber said McKim's play will net him more time on the field as the season winds down.

Although the Raiders have not been able to match last year's No. 5 ranking, Huber said there is plenty of reason to feel optimistic as the section playoffs finish up this week. CDH has been seeded No. 3 in Section 5AA, behind Edina and SPA, who they were scheduled to play October 19. The state tournament gets under way on October 28.

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Cody's Corner: Vikes have a hill to climb /from page 39

come, ready or not:

I told you six weeks ago that the Vikings would have four losses this year, but I didn't think it would happen so quickly. I still think this team will somehow find a way to qualify for the playoffs. If it does, it'll be the best 8-8 or 9-7 wild card team in NFL history. After crushing defeats at the hands of the Bears and Lions, the bottom line is alarmingly simple: the Vikings have quite a few of their toughest tests remaining on the schedule. This is going to be very steep, uphill climb to say the least.

There's been hidden value in these low-scoring Vikings games. Even in the losses. Many have been down-to-the-wire affairs. Last year, almost all the games were decided midway through the third period, which hurt the team in the playoffs. These hard-fought games are going to pay dividends in January. Of course, they won't help much if the team has been long-since eliminated.

After encountering problems with its pass rush, the Vikings signed defensive end Chris Doleman, who last played here when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. Then they brought back run-stopping nose tackle Jerry Ball, another player familiar with eight-track tape decks. Obviously, there are still gaping holes to fill on the defensive line. You think Carl Eller and Alan Page might have their Sundays free?

When is the NFL going to wake up and smell the coffee? Did you see the Alabama-Florida or Minnesota-Wisconsin overtime games? They had amazing finishes and interesting strategies. Getting the ball at the 25-yard line is the perfect format for deciding tie games. The overtime coin-toss to decide possession in the NFL is archaic and embarrassing.

If Martians landed here and flipped on the TV, the first thing they'd ask would be, "Why is 'Full House' still in syndication?" The second thing that they'd ask is, "How can an NCAA school have its own television contract?" Notre Dame, which got off to its customary 3-3 start, still stars in its own mini-series every Saturday afternoon on NBC. It's amazing that this once-storied program has been able to sustain its mystique in this era of NCAA parity. It's unfathomable that a team with no honest national title aspirations can command such special media treatment.

Governor Body-Slam has pinned the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for its refusal to turn down sports-section ads for adult entertainment. If he thinks that qualifies the daily newspaper for the label *Pioneer Porn*, how does he reconcile an interview with *Playboy*?

If we're fortunate, we might get just one more of those gorgeous Indian summer weekends before the dismal days of November arrive. If we do, here's a quick check list to refer to: go to a garage sale, take in an MIAC football game, go for a walk, look at the leaves on Mississippi River Boulevard, fix your screen door, go to the Farmer's Market, throw the football around. And while you're at it, you might want to find those jumper cables. It won't be long now.

With the World Series set to begin this Saturday, some post-season observations are in order. The Mets' win over the Astros in the National League Division series had huge implications in the grand scheme of things: It put an official end to baseball in the Houston Astrodome. There are worse domed structures (i.e., the one at 5th & Chicago in Minneapolis), but this was the one that started it all. I'll miss the Astrodome like I miss "The Partridge Family."

Pedro Martinez's 1999 season has to be ranked among the most outstanding starting pitching performances in the history of the sport. His numbers were certainly noteworthy: a 23-4 record, 2.07 ERA, 313 strikeouts and only 37 walks. But beyond those numbers, consider the explosive offensive era that Martinez pitched in. Anybody with a pulse and a 5.50 ERA had a starting job in the majors this season. Bob Gibson's 1968 season has long been considered the pitching milestone in Major League Baseball, but his 1.12 ERA came in a year where the league average was a miniscule 2.99.

HIGH SCHOOL SEASONS WIND DOWN

Here's a look at the top football statistics as the local teams head into the final week of regular season play:

Rushing—Joe Vannelli of Cretin-Derham Hall (524 yards, 10 TDs), Kim Sarin of CDH (605, 14 TDs), Adam Arnold of Minnehaha Academy (9 TDs), Vern Simmons of St. Thomas Academy (615, 10 TDs), Heighlos Riser of Highland Park (346), Sundi Griffin of St. Paul Academy (504), Keith Jackson of Minnehaha (851) and Brandon Pinderhughes of Central (456, 9 TDs).

Receiving—Jay Eyunni of SPA (568 yards), Casey O'Connell of Central (472), Rasheem Sharpe of Central (8 TDs), Anthony Blumer of STA (425), Mike Skold of SPA (285), Robin Jackson of Highland (346), Mike Dahlstrom of STA (258), Walter Bowser of CDH (285, 7 TDs) and Frank Bass of Roosevelt (577, 9 TDs).

After encountering problems with its pass rush, the Vikings signed Chris Doleman, who last played here when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. Then they brought back run-stopping nose tackle Jerry Ball. Obviously, there are still gaping holes to fill on the defensive line. You think Carl Eller and Alan Page might have their Sundays free?

Passing—T.J. Prunty of SPA (1,340 yards, 7 TDs), Nate Hunkins of Central (897, 8 TDs), Joe Mauer of CDH (777, 13 TDs), R.J. Welsh of STA (856, 7 TDs) and Kevin Mason of Highland (738, 8 TDs).

Kicking—Rob Reiling of CDH (31/32 extra points) and Dan Stern of Highland (20/23).

Best local scorers in girls soccer during the regular season were Shannon Schneeman of CDH (34 goals, 15 assists), Britanee Pelikan of CDH (14-19), Mary Dienhart of CDH (15-2), Kitty Montgomery of Central (14-3), Annie Mills of Central (7-7) and Megan Strom of Central (7-8). Minnehaha's Katy Boynton's save percentage of 92.4 and teammate Libby Kiedrowski's 87.9 continue to lead area girl goaltenders. Ellen Hartman of Central is close behind at 87.7.

The top boys soccer scorers included Joe Schmidt of CDH (23 goals, 19 assists), Joe Wertz of CDH (12-12), Kemmons Feldman of Minnehaha (20-4), Sam Assaw of Highland (9-6), Casey Schuette of Central (16-3), Peter Stenson of SPA (8-5), Jerry Jang of Minnehaha (2-10) and Rob Cody of SPA (6-8).

The area's top four goalies are Peder Hatling of Central (91.8 save percentage), Kerry Haigh of Minnehaha (88.0), Jamie Burns of SPA (89.1) and Chad Clausen of CDH (85.2).

Section 3AA volleyball gets under way next week with Central and Cretin-Derham Hall seeded among the top six teams. Eagan is the prohibitive favorite in Section 3AA. To pull off the upset, the local teams would need monster performances from their premier strikers: Central's Jenny Jacobs and CDH's Katie Plummer.

The Minnehaha Academy-Blake girls swimming team won eight of its first nine dual meets this season, earning it the No. 6 ranking in the Class A state polls. Coach Chris Rosenberg's top three swimmers are all sophomores from Minnehaha: Nora Ames (100- and 200-yard freestyle events), Caroline Nystrom (200 and 500 free) and Rachel Wagonsten (200 and 500 free).

"All three have a good chance to go to state," said Rosenberg. "Benilde-St. Margaret's (currently ranked third) will be our big rival in sections."

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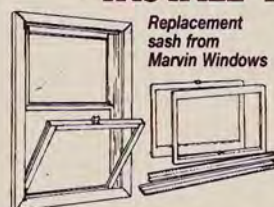
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Ford Bridge in Mpls.

Prunty sets his sights on Miami/ from page 39

agreed. "I think he'll be a successful pitcher at this high a level," Brown said. "His velocity on the fastball is there, and he has added a couple of different curve balls to his mix. The best thing he's got going is his great control on the mound. T.J. is not a rah-rah guy. If he says he's going to get it done, it gets done. You can always count on his best game."

Basketball may be Prunty's third-best sport, but he has been good enough at it to make all-conference at forward in each of the past three seasons. "He's got a great sense for the game," said SPA basketball coach Don Fluker. "He's a great rebounder, and he's strong to the hoop. He's got that chiseled body that's perfect for basketball. It's his worst sport, but if he worked at the game all year he'd be an all-stater."

"I was always the quarterback at recess in grade school," Prunty said. "I could always throw the ball pretty well. But I was a running back on youth football teams until my sophomore year at SPA. I like playing quarterback. I like being in control."

"I've been a pitcher ever since I can remember," Prunty said. "I grew up throwing to my brother in the back yard. I played hockey every winter starting in 1st grade, then switched to basketball later."

Playing at a small school like SPA, Prunty's talents as a quarterback did not attract much notice among big college programs before last summer when he was named MVP at the Robert Brooks Camp in Green Bay, Wisconsin. "There were a lot of college scouts there,"

Prunty said. "There were about 100 quarterbacks at the camp throwing to some great receivers. The last day of camp they call High School Olympic Day, with a bunch of one-on-one passing drills. I hit everything I threw that day. It gave me great exposure to a lot of great schools."

Nebraska, Michigan State, Purdue, Washington State and Minnesota were all in the running before Prunty chose Miami. "Another big plus for Miami is the quality of their receivers," Prunty said. "They had three red-shirt freshmen running wide-out in practice, and they could all fly. They run 4.3 (seconds in the 40-yard dash) and they seem to catch everything. They were all all-state in Florida, but won't even play this year. That caught my attention."

"Miami is on the rise," Sandifer predicted. "That's going to be a top-five program again soon. It's a great academic school for T.J., and the baseball team is a national contender as well. It's a great fit for him. We run the (San Francisco) '49ers West Coast offense here at SPA, so the Miami transition won't be as difficult for him."

"T.J.'s got an A-1 personality," Sandifer said. "He's not arrogant or boisterous. But he might have to change that a bit to make it at Miami. He'll have to be more vocal. There are a lot of fingers pointed at the quarterback in that system, and he'll have to get used to that pressure."

Prunty knows he has plenty of work ahead of him. "It's a far bigger commitment," he said of Division I college

sports. "Film, practice, more film, weight room. Trying to study, trying to get some sleep. It's going to be difficult, but I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Despite Prunty's passing totals (over 1,400 yards), SPA won only two of its first six games this fall. "We only have 25 kids on the team, so when we get injuries, we're really in trouble," Sandifer said. "And we got some injuries. We lost three linemen right away, then (senior linebacker and tight end Sam) Polk. We're getting healthier now, right before the playoffs. We could still surprise some people."

SPA went on to beat Minnehaha Academy 35-34 last week to push its record to 3-4. It will wrap up its regular season on October 20 with a game at Hinckley, and will probably open the playoffs against St. Agnes on October 26.

"We had St. Agnes down 6-0 at half-time," said Prunty of a game earlier this fall, "then lost by a touchdown late. But that was without Polk. He's a big difference for our passing game—for our whole offense and defense."

Prunty's other targets this fall have included senior wide-out Jay Eyunni, who leads the state in receptions and receiving yards, and junior halfback Sundi Griffin, who averages 6.2 yards per carry.

"Griffin is getting attention from a lot of Division I schools right now," Sandifer said. "When we have Prunty, Griffin, Polk and Eyunni in there on offense, we have a chance against anybody."

SPORTS SHORTS

The Pro Edge Learn to Skate Program has started its fall session at the Highland Ice Arena. The program provides lessons in figure skating, hockey and speed skating for children and adults. Openings are still available. For information, call Diane Ness at 651-695-3768.

The Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St., will be accepting registration in November for the winter session of its popular Recreation for Small People. The program, which is geared to youngsters ages 3-5, is held on weekday mornings and afternoons. Ongoing programs at the center include Tai

Chi on Monday mornings, adult ceramics on Monday evenings, tumbling for children ages 3-8 on Tuesday evenings and aerobics on Wednesday and Friday mornings. The center's racquetball courts are available from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. For information or to reserve a court time, call 651-695-3711.

The Club Oryx traveling soccer teams have openings for boys under 10, 11, 12 and 13 years of age and girls under 12 years of age. Training for most of the teams will begin in November. For information, call Jay Desai at 612-825-4753.

The Highland Park gymnastics team will be raking and bagging leaves on Friday, October 22, as a fund-raiser. To sign up, call 612-535-5248.

Professional Directory

A guide to the services of area health, legal & financial professionals

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STUDENT FURNITURE SALE
Beds, \$59; futons, \$199; 25" TVs, \$99; lamps, \$10; bedspreads, \$12; chairs, \$19; carpet 12 x 17, \$49; desks, \$39; art work, \$15; new sofa and loveseat sets from \$399; many other items new & used. Hotel Furniture Liquidators, 1800 University Ave., 651-645-9929; 2109 Nicollet Ave., 612-879-5050; 927 Payne Ave., 651-771-9981; Warehouse, 1120 N. Concord, 651-552-9530. **gv**

TEEN BUNKBEDS, twin bed top, full futon below, \$125/BO; cherry dining table, oval, two leaves, six chairs, hutch, \$500/BO; 651-699-6168. **gv**

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FUTON, LIKE NEW, light wood frame, green mattress, \$200; 651-224-7689. **gv**

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SOFA, white, \$100; glass coffee, end, and dining tables, \$75; 651-690-4539. **v**

TRUNDLE BED, like new, with mattresses and sheets, \$200; 651-698-9208. **v**

For Sale

GLASS FIREPLACE DOOR, outside 39.5w x 30h, inside 33.5w, andirons, grate; \$25; 651-698-2930. **v**

SOFA/LOVESEAT, coffee table, 2 end tables, 2 lamps, floral pattern, excellent condition, \$650/BO; 651-917-0323. **v**

CEDAR PLAY GYM with slide, pole, climbing rope, sandbox; \$100/best offer; 651-917-3671. **v**

Garage/Moving/Misc.

ANTIQUARY COLLECTOR STARTS to clean out: desk, chairs, silk robes, linens, misc. "treasures". Oct. 22-23, 8-1; 840 Syndicate. **v**

HUGE MOVING SALE. Great stuff. Great prices. Don't miss this one! Sat., Oct. 23, 8-4; 528 Brimhall. **v**

SALE. Solid oak entertainment center fits 27" TV, couch and much more; 1284 Hartford, Oct. 21, 9-3. **v**

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BETHANY CRAFT SALE. 1890 Randolph; Sat., Oct. 30, 9-1. **v**

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Next Issue: November 3 Deadline: October 27

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For more information, call 651-699-1462.

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Educational attainment of Villager readers*

Less than 9th grade	1,762	2.7%
9th - 12th grade (no diploma)	3,373	5.1%
High school graduate	12,198	18.6%
Some college, no degree	16,605	25.3%
Associate degree	3,987	6.1%
Bachelor's degree	17,493	26.7%
Graduate or professional degree	10,175	15.5%
Total	65,593	100%

*Individuals who receive the Villager age 18 and over. Source: 1990 U.S. Census

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Walgreens

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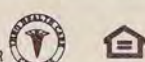
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CHOOSE YOUR INSTRUMENT! Piano, Laura Fleming; Bass, Michael Carvale; Drums, Marc Bohn. Lessons now being taught in the Mac-Groveland area. 651-698-2521. gv

FLUTE LESSONS, Sargent Avenue location. All levels. Conservatory trained. Susan Stevenson, 651-695-0250. gv

FLUTE, Oboe, Saxophone, Bassoon lessons. All levels/ages; 15 years' experience; MM degree. Shannon, 651-227-6731; toll free 1-877-389-7655. gv

ACCENT MUSIC ACADEMY. Piano, voice, woodwind, brass. Experienced, licensed teachers. Member National and Minn. Teacher's Association. Sharon, Peggy, 651-695-0791. gv

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL of Music. Piano, voice, strings, woodwinds, brass, guitar, organ, percussion, harp; theory, composition; Suzuki and preschool; 651-690-4364. v

PIANO. Ph.D. Music Indiana University. Lawrence Wilson, 651-699-0812. v

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PIANO, SAX, all instruments. Your home. All styles. Kids-adults. 612-869-0808; www.easypiano.com; v

PIANO LESSONS, experienced teacher, all ages and levels. Carondelet Center, Georgine Nugent, C.S.J.; 651-224-8179. v

FLUTE LESSONS. MM, The Boston Conservatory. Experienced teacher. 612-724-6496. v

BASS PLAYER needed for PT R & B variety band; no pros; 651-690-0301. v

Piano Tuning/Repair
GAVIN PIANO. Tuning and Repair; School of Piano Technology; 651-644-3111. gv

PIANO TUNING & REPAIR. Robert Clough, Associate Member Piano Technicians Guild. Robtclough@aol.com; 612-722-7586. gv

Instruction

MATH TUTOR: MN cert. K-12 math, 15 years' experience teaching algebra, geometry. Summit Ave. area. 651-224-6981. gv

MATH TUTOR. Algebra, Geometry, Trig, Probability, Statistics, ACT/SAT preparation. 651-698-2879. v

Help Wanted
COSMETOLOGIST OR HAIR STYLIST, booth rental; Grand Avenue area, 651-228-1348. gv

WORK FROM HOME!! \$25-\$75/hour; PT/FT needed; customer service; great attitude a must; call for interview; 651-659-6318. gv

COSMETOLOGY MANAGERS and Registered Barbers. Cheap chair rental opportunities with incentives. Ample supply storage, off-street parking. Work days/hours you want. Cute, busy Mac-Groveland salon. Julia, 651-698-1345; 651-665-0245 eves/wkends. gv

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL cleaning help wanted; full & part time; 612-518-3371; 651-698-7149. gv

BEAUTICIANS and ESTHETICIANS. Immediate opening, part or full time; call 651-222-2525. gv

SEEKING SELF-MOTIVATED person with office skills, filing, phone, computer, misc. required. Must have car; 612-780-7932. gv

MASSAGE THERAPIST, part and full time; call 651-222-2525. gv

WANTED: ASSISTANT manager and FT bartenders for busy, full-service coffee-house. Pleasant environment, opportunities for advancement, competitive wages and benefits offered. Independently owned. Send resume to 1375 VanBuren, St. Paul, MN, 55104 or call 651-659-9734. gv

BEAUTICIANS, CHAIR rentals. Must see. Great space. Ample parking. 651-222-2525. gv

PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER for small business in Midway area. Must know Quickbooks. ABF Display Co., 651-648-0598. gv

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT staff needed part time for our Ford Pkwy. and Grand Ave. offices. Qualifications should include multi-line phone use, light computer skills and general office duties. Hours are 9-4 every other weekend and weeknights 4:30-7:30. Please call Roxann at Re/Mac Crossroads, 651-698-8006. gv

ATTENTION: OWN a computer? Put it to work! \$25-\$75 hour, PT/FT, 1-800-400-8512; www.work-from-home.net/wow. gv

SITTER SERVICE needs adults, days, evenings & vacations; \$350/week and up. Car necessary. 651-429-2963. v

WORK FROM HOME. Direct mail marketing. Excellent pay. Call 612-985-3291 or visit the web at www.work-from-home.com/psalms11. v

THE FOLLOWING contemporary worship positions are open: lead guitarist, keyboard. 3 to 4 Sundays per month. Contact Pastor Mark Hendrickson, Salem Lutheran Church, West St. Paul, 651-457-6661. v

ENJOY COOKING? Meal prep in woman's home, PT, short hours; 651-690-9954. v

CUSTOMER SERVICE, FT, M-F, 8-3:30. Friendly, organized person to work counter and assembly area; \$8.50/hour. Hiawatha Cleaners across from Minnehaha Park; 612-724-3603, Bob. v

CUSTOMER SERVICE, PT, M-F, 3-6:30 p.m. Great after school job, \$8/hour; across from Minnehaha Park, Hiawatha Cleaners, 612-724-3603, Bob. v

STYLIST, NAIL TECH with following, FT, PT; very high comm. or chair rental; work your own hours, great location; immediate opening; 651-698-0430. v

COUNTER HELP. FLEXIBLE HOURS. Paid sick days and holidays. Health insurance available. Daytime, Mon.-Fri. Flex your hours around your needs. For example: drop your kids at school. Come work at our counter. Be home in time to pick up the kids. All ages welcome. Two full-time positions available from approx. 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To start \$7.50/hour. See Jeff Tracy at 2015 Ford Parkway or call 651-690-2388. v

PART-TIME TEACHER in preschool, 2:30-6 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; experience necessary; call Janis, 651-644-5030. v

HIV CAREGIVER. Clare Housing, a non-profit serving people with AIDS, seeks caregivers to provide resident care, meals and housekeeping services in an adult foster care setting; all shifts, part time/on call. Experience/interest in health care, human services and/or HIV/AIDS. Start \$8.75/hour. Training provided. Please call Clare Housing at 651-222-6409 for application materials. v

SNOW REMOVAL, HOUSEKEEPING; \$9-10/hr., PT work serving elderly in S/SE Mpls. Rivercreek HandyWorks, 612-721-8687, ext. 329. v

SECRETARY. Part time, 1-5 p.m., M-F. Must like people, variety, details, organizing. Word process (Microsoft Word), phones, greet patients, will train for billing. Pleasant environment and staff. Family Psychological Services. 651-688-2335. v

Help Wanted

ASSISTANT TEACHERS & Child Care Aide. Quality child care center in MacGroveland area. Full- and part-time positions available. A Child's View, 651-690-0590.

PROJECT ASSISTANT for Adult Craft Workshop. Looking for creative individual with excellent people skills. Responsibilities include helping design and implement quality craft projects for Senior Adults, T/TH. six hours/week. Call Barbie Levine, St. Paul JCC, 651-698-0751.

BEAUTICIAN CHAIR for rent, Highland Park, \$110 a week; 651-699-8433.

For additional job openings, turn to the Employment Opportunities ad section. For advertising information, call 651-699-1462.

Child Care

Parents are urged to exercise caution in arranging child care. Be sure to investigate references. To obtain a list of licensed day care providers in the area, call 651-641-0332.

EXPERIENCED NANNY/Babysitter looking for occasional in-home weekend babysitting; 651-602-9602.

SITTER SERVICE has nannies for all occasions; days, evenings, vacations; FT/PT; 651-429-2963.

LICENSED DAY CARE, any age, full/part-time, nonsmoking, 35E & W. 7th area; 651-224-2072.

MUD PIE KIDS: All openings, reasonable rates, 7 a.m.-5 p.m., food program, field trips, crafts, preschool education; positive nurturing; 11 years' experience; 651-699-9049.

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CHILD CARE opening Dec. 6 for 2 year old and up. High-reach learning program, child dream yard, TLC, much more; 30+ years; a place to grow up in; full time only. Rosalie's Kids, 651-699-1565.

EXPERIENCED DAY CARE available in my Crocus Hill home for teacher's children or part time; Kathy, 651-227-9478.

SEEKS TO DO day care in my home; Diane, 651-645-5219.

Home Health Care Svc.

CAREGIVER HELP in your home; honest, experienced, references, car; 612-588-4647.

For Rent Residential

All real estate or rental advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Equal housing opportunity.

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For Rent Residential

SLEEPING ROOM for rent, nonsmoking female; no pets; 651-646-5973; 1794 Laurel Ave., \$150/month.

FURNISHED ROOM, own bath, in upscale hi-rise on the river. Exercise room, summer pool. Kitchen privileges, free laundry in unit, cleaning service, linens provided, all utilities included. Must be employed day-time. Older college student accepted. Cat welcome. References. \$325/month. Available Oct. 30; 651-696-9173.

ONE BEDROOM, W. 7th-Irvine Park, historic building, very large (10 ft. ceilings), private courtyard, quiet, free private laundry, hardwood floors, excellent location, \$525.00, Nov. 1; 612-319-4850.

BASEMENT EFFICIENCY, fully furnished for 2, \$600; for 1, \$500; utilities included. 651-436-1030; 651-695-8097. Immed. occupancy, 2176 St. Clair.

For Rent Commercial

APPROX. 2,000 SQ. FT. 4-office suite with large central work area, break-room and reception area. Prof. building, 280/University. Individual offices or entire suite. Short-term or month-to-month. Parking. Contact 651-649-1105, ext. 11.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY in W. 7th St. historical Pilney Building. Second floor under renovation and waiting to create an individualized 800 sf office/studio space with 10 windows; 651-224-3565.

Roommates Wanted

TWO GRADUATE students/seniors to share furnished four-bedroom home near Macalester College, quiet house, quiet neighborhood, serious students only, nice yard, close to good shopping and restaurants, Express Bus/biking distance U of M; nonsmoker, no pets; \$330+; 651-698-1546; 612-474-4389.

ROOMMATE WANTED to share Merriam Park duplex with two professional women. \$250+. Available immediately; 651-647-5069.

Garage/Storage

SELF-STORAGE, 10' x 25', secure, \$95/month; 514 Prior Ave. No.; 612-943-9053.

AUTO STORAGE: Controlled card access, enclosed parking in the St. Paul/Midway area. Heated and unheated, 6-months minimum. Contact Terri Ann, 651-641-0166.

WEST 7TH/RANDOLPH, garage, \$50/month (6 months); Nov. 1; 651-224-6612, call 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

GARAGE SPACE for year-round storage, Near St. Catherine's. Price negotiable. 651-690-9632.

GARAGE STORAGE for small boat or car, 16XX Ashland; 651-644-7637.

DOUBLE GARAGE, available immediately, \$150 a month; 2169 Eleanor; 651-690-8418.

Wanted to Rent

PROFESSIONAL SINGLE woman, 33, seeks house, condo, duplex or apartment to share in Summit Hill or Ramsey Hill neighborhoods; 651-772-8996.

MATURE ADULT male professional with two cats seeks two-bedroom home or duplex plus garage; nonsmoker. Dan in the morning, 651-698-7437.

CARPENTER REMODELER to share house, can work on property, excellent references; Curt, 651-917-0561.

Restaurants

BREAKFAST IS NOW HERE! Trotter's Cafe and Bakery, 232 N. Cleveland (near Marshall); 651-645-8950.

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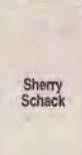
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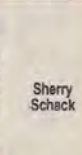
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