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VILLAGER

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Brother, sun and melting snow. The snowpack may have been thin and patchy, but it served the purpose for cross country skier Gerard Pihaly, a retired Christian Brother from Cretin-Derham Hall, who picked his way carefully across the sun-splashed Highland Park golf course last Friday. Photo by Mike Long.

Go-slow approach urged for 35E bridge

State deadline pushes up site selection for new river span

by Jane McClure

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) wants to select a site for a new I-35E bridge over the Mississippi River before year's end. However, St. Paul city officials and the members of affected neighborhood groups feel the state is moving way too fast.

"There's a real need for community involvement in this project," said Ward 3 City Council member Mike Harris. He and representa-

tives from St. Paul Public Works, Ramsey County Public Works and Ramsey County Regional Rail met with neighborhood groups on November 19 to discuss the state's plans to replace the 37-year-old bridge, which connects the Highland Park and West 7th neighborhoods with Mendota Heights. Representatives of the Highland Area Community Council (HACC), the West 7th-Fort Road Federation and Friends of the Parks and Trails also were present, as were representatives for Con-

gressman Bruce Vento and state Representative Michael Paymar.

Preliminary plans are to build a new four- to six-lane bridge just upstream from the existing structure. Piers that support the existing bridge would remain in place to accommodate additional lanes of traffic in the future. Ultimately, MnDOT envisions a bridge that would accommodate eight traffic lanes and two bicycle lanes. The estimated cost of the bridge pro-

I-35E bridge/see page 4

Airport spillover threatens Shepard-Davern

by Jane McClure

Shepard-Davern neighborhood residents and business people met on November 18 with staff members of the Metropolitan Airports Commission in an attempt to steer MAC elsewhere in its search for land to relocate airport rent-a-car facilities.

MAC will begin work in March on expanding the parking ramp near the main terminal at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. That will require the demolition of the parking area where 1,300 rental vehicles are currently stored by six rental car agencies.

Some of the vehicles can be

moved temporarily to a site east of the airport post office, a 17-acre parcel that is already being used for vehicle storage and service. However, the six car rental agencies need to find additional parking space that they can use at least until September 1999 when a 3,000-space lot is expected to open in the new parking ramp.

That same month work will begin on the expansion of the airport's Green Concourse and plane de-icing area, forcing the rental car companies out of their service and parking facilities east of the post office.

All of which worries residents of the Shepard-Davern neighbor-

hood. The area is already home to the Alamo, Hertz and National rental car agencies and a Park N Jet airport parking facility. Residents had hoped a land-use plan now being drafted for the neighborhood would bring new housing and different kinds of businesses to the area. Hertz's recent purchase of the MSP Park Air Express property at Shepard and Davern—coming on the heels of Alamo's move to the area in 1996 and the opening of the Park N Jet lot—served to dampen those dreams.

Still, the neighbors would like to avoid having Hertz, Alamo, Na-

Shepard-Davern/see page 2

Peace activists adopt not only the politics, but the prisoner

by Bob Gilbert

Goodrich Avenue residents Nick and Mary Eoloff made headlines around the world last month when they adopted as their son a 43-year-old Israeli by the name of Mordechai Vanunu, now in his 11th year at Israel's Ashkelon Prison.

Vanunu, whom the Eoloffs have never met, used to work as a technician at an underground nuclear weapons facility in Dimona, Israel. He got into trouble with Israeli authorities when he submitted photographs of the nuclear bomb works to the *Sunday Times* of London. The newspaper published the pho-

tos along with an article in 1986.

Vanunu was tricked by the Israeli intelligence into traveling from London to Rome, where he was kidnapped, taken back to Israel, branded a traitor, convicted of espionage and sentenced to 18 years of solitary confinement.

Vanunu's imprisonment has drawn protests from around the world. Joseph Rotblat, in his acceptance speech for the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize, called

for Vanunu's release. So has Amnesty International and the Jewish Peace Fellowship.

The Eoloffs, who have six other children, are not Jewish, but belong to Pax Christi, a Catholic peace organization. They first wrote to Vanunu in 1995 and have corresponded regularly with him since.

During that time they have lobbied government officials in both Washington and Tel Aviv for Vanunu's release. They have met with

U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota and have sought the help of U.S. Senator Russell Feingold of Wisconsin.

Nick Eoloff, who before his retirement edited law books for West Publishing, filed the adoption papers and decree himself. Though it's a long shot, Eoloff thinks the ploy may work in winning Vanunu's freedom.

The Eoloffs' adoption petition was approved by Ramsey County District Judge John Connolly using a legal precedent in which a Minnesota man adopted his mother as his child because her estranged husband

Eoloffs/see page 2

Vanunu was kidnapped, taken back to Israel, branded a traitor, convicted of espionage and sentenced to 18 years of solitary confinement.

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Israeli prisoner adopted

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had excluded her from his trust.

Vanunu has renounced his Israeli citizenship and has given the Eloffs written permission to act on his behalf concerning any issues related to his legal status. The Eloffs had Vanunu's written permission for the adoption. The two other requirements for an adult adoption—the adult's presence and a birth certificate—were waived by Judge Connolly.

The adoption decree may get its first test in January when the Eloffs are planning to meet their newly adopted son in prison.

"We wrote a letter to the American ambassador in Tel Aviv and asked him to find out whether the Israeli courts will honor the adoption and allow us our parental visitation rights," Nick Eloff said. "In the past 11 years only Vanunu's two brothers and his lawyer have been able to see him."

The information Vanunu divulged to the *London Times* led experts to determine that Israel had the sixth-largest nuclear arsenal in the world with more than 200 atomic bombs. Among many Jews, Vanunu is considered a traitor who jeopardized his country's security. The Eloffs disagree. They believe his actions were not an act of betrayal but of courage.

"He was a whistleblower who took pictures and gave them to the newspaper," said Mary Eloff. "He did it out of conscience. He was not trying to undermine Israel's security and he didn't ask for money. He just wanted to reveal what was going on because the deployment and use of nuclear weapons are wrong."

Another strategy that Nick Eloff had considered for winning Vanunu's release was swapping the Israeli prisoner for Jonathan

Pollard, an American official convicted in the United States of spying for Israel. After his conviction, Pollard was made an Israeli citizen by an act of the Israeli Parliament.

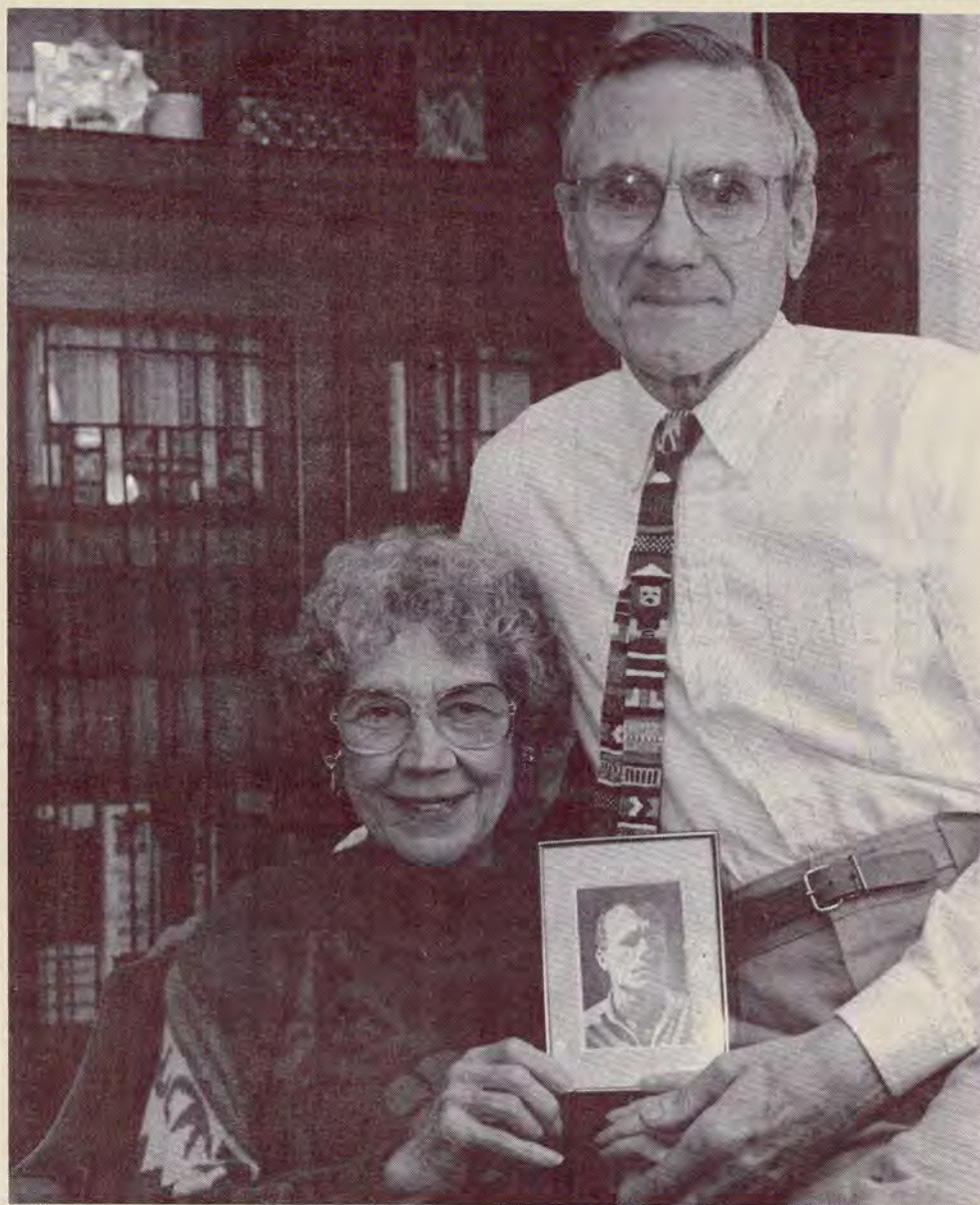
Nick wrote a letter to President Clinton suggesting the Pollard-Vanunu exchange. However, Vanunu told Eloff that he was offended by the suggestion, so Eloff dropped it. "I wouldn't do anything to offend him," Nick said.

There is concern that Vanunu may be suffering psychologically from his confinement in the 6-by-9-foot cell. His letters from jail are now signed with the pseudonym John Crossman and they are often devoted to conspiracy theories involving the United States, Israel, Great Britain and Russia. At a recent court hearing, Vanunu was muzzled so he couldn't talk. After 11 years, Israeli authorities are still afraid that Vanunu may reveal some state secret, Nick Eloff said.

"This issue is much broader than just Israeli policy," said Mary Eloff. "It deals with all of humanity. Nuclear weapons are immoral. I'm very saddened that many Catholics believe in the just-war theory and in violence as a solution to the world's problems. Those of us in the Catholic Church who believe in conflict resolution have to work all that much harder. We can't keep up this perpetual hatred of one another."

"Mordechai Vanunu is not a traitor," she said. "He had to know that there'd be repercussions for speaking out. Yet he had the courage to do it anyway. He's my hero."

Area residents interested in writing Vanunu may send their letters to him at Ashkelon Prison, P.O. Box 17, Ashkelon 78100 Israel.



Nick and Mary Eloff pose with a painting of their newly adopted son, Israeli political prisoner Mordechai Vanunu, 43. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

Neighbors resent becoming the airport's 'backyard parking lot'

/from page 1

tional, Dollar, Budget and Avis as permanent neighbors.

"We've become the backyard parking lot for the airport," said neighborhood resident Cy Kastner. "On an average day, we've got 3,000 cars over here. This is a residential neighborhood and we've got a lot of upset people, let me tell you."

"This neighborhood just wants to survive," said Highland Area Community Council (HACC) president Shawn Bartsh.

Alamo and National recently submitted plans for expanding at Shepard-Davern to the city of St. Paul, but withdrew them after HACC asked for a number of landscaping,

traffic control and lighting improvements.

Denny Probst of MAC said he understands the neighborhood's opposition to vehicle parking and maintenance facilities. He noted that Shepard-Davern is just one of several areas being considered for new rent-a-car maintenance facilities, some as far away as Eden Prairie. "These other communities around the airport have concerns similar to yours," Probst told the Shepard-Davern gathering.

The problem, according to Nigel Finney of MAC, is that there is little unoccupied space at the 3,100-acre airport. The rental car companies that are operating there will be caught in

the space crunch when the terminal and parking facilities are expanded and the new north-south runway is built.

"We're trying to create as many parking spaces as we can as quickly as we can," Probst said.

The other challenge is trying to meet the needs of six competing rental companies. "Dealing with six auto rental companies—it's like herding cats," Probst said.

MAC would like to find an off-site location for a rental car service facility by September 1998. Its members have discussed purchasing the former Met Center property from the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission

and swapping that parcel with the Mall of America for another parcel near the mall. MAC already has an agreement with the sports commission to temporarily use about 20 acres at the Met Center site for rental car parking.

MAC will need to create a "clear zone" at the south end of the new north-south runway before it is completed in 2003. That means purchasing private property near I-494 and 24th Street and tearing down several buildings, including three hotels.

According to Probst, MAC has not ruled out using some of the clear zone for rental car parking and service facilities.

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Task force has big plans for new transit corridor through Highland

by Jane McClure

If a proposed Riverview Transit Corridor is built through the Highland neighborhood, area commuters will one day be able to hop an express bus or light-rail transit vehicle to downtown St. Paul. They also would be able to link up with a similar corridor planned for Hiawatha Avenue in Minneapolis to get to downtown Minneapolis, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America.

A task force met on November 24 at the Jewish Community Center of St. Paul to study alternative locations for the Riverview route. The group, which will gather again in February to winnow a list of routes for further review, is made up of representatives of the Highland Area Community Council, Highland Business Association, West 7th/Fort Road Federation, West End Business and Professional Association, city of St. Paul and Ramsey County departments and the Neighborhood Energy Consortium, among others.

The study is on a fast track for completion. Ramsey County is seeking \$3 million from the 1998 Minnesota Legislature to pay for a \$15 million Riverview Corridor study and engineering work. Recently approved federal funds will cover the other \$12 million.

Riverview routes currently on the drawing board include Shepard Road, I-35E, West 7th Street and the right-of-way for the Canadian Pacific railroad tracks. In Highland Park, it is possible that private property in the area between Homer Street and Otto Avenue would have to be acquired and razed to make room for the transitway.

However, the greatest potential impact on Highland Park involves spanning the Mississippi River. One idea that has been bandied about includes tunneling through the bluff below Mississippi River Boulevard from the existing railroad right-of-way near Cleveland Avenue. A transit station could be built near Cleveland.

"It would be easy for us to tunnel into the bluff and save Mississippi River Boulevard homes," said consulting engineer Geir Seger of Stgar-Roscoe Fausch (SRF).

Two river crossings are being studied, both of which would link up to the Hiawatha Corridor near the General Services Administration (GSA) Building at Fort Snelling. The Highway 5 Bridge was looked at, Seger said, but the bridge and the tunnel would have to

be expanded for a transitway.

Representatives of the Highland Area Community Council and Highland Business Association at the November 24 meeting questioned the need for a new bridge over the Mississippi in light of the planned reconstruction of the Ford Bridge. However, Charlene Zimmer of SRF said that extending the transitway into Highland Village and across the Ford Bridge to connect with the Hiawatha Corridor would take passengers too far out of the way. "It would add a significant amount of time to the rider's trip," she said.

The transitway could follow the railroad right-of-way through Highland or it could curve along Mississippi River Boulevard, cross West 7th Street and continue along Shepard Road. If the latter route is followed, it has been suggested that Mississippi River Boulevard and Cleveland Avenue be turned into one-way streets going in opposite directions. Seger said that crossing West 7th Street could require that an overpass be built for the transitway.

The total cost to develop the Riverview Corridor has not yet been estimated, but the section between Homer Street and the GSA Building alone has been estimated to cost \$35 million to \$50 million. The Hiawatha Corridor between downtown Minneapolis and the Mall of America has a \$400 million price tag.

The Riverview Corridor was identified as Ramsey County's top transit priority earlier this year. Hennepin County identified the Hiawatha Corridor as its top transit priority. The Metropolitan Light Rail Transit Joint Powers Board supports both priorities.

For more than a decade, a light-rail route between the two downtowns using I-94 or University Avenue was the counties' top priority. However, changes in local travel patterns, the decision to leave the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport at its current location and the potential for development in the Hiawatha and Riverview corridors prompted a change in thinking, according to Kathy Despiegelaere of the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority.

Some of the initiatives currently under way in the Riverview Corridor include a zoning study of the Shepard-Davern area, streetscape and safety improvements on West 7th Street, the development of the Crosby Lake Business Park, the proposed River Bluff Village housing project and the construction of the new Science Museum of Minnesota.

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1-35E bridge/ from page 1

ject is \$24 million.

Those who attended the November 19 meeting hoped to gather with MnDOT officials again in December to discuss the bridge plans and arrange a public hearing. No dates have been set for either meeting.

The fact that MnDOT wants to choose a site for the bridge before the end of the month is a source of concern for some people. "It doesn't give us a lot of time," said Gayle Summers, community organizer for HACC. She noted that many community councils do not meet in December or January.

However, the state has deadlines to meet. According to MnDOT officials, the bridge has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. Design work is now under way and construction is scheduled for 2001-2004.

The deteriorated condition of the bridge, coupled with the growth in Dakota County and the increasing number of motorists who travel on I-35E to get to work, is propelling the project's time line. The bridge now carries about 72,000 vehicles a day. It is projected to carry 115,000 vehicles a day by 2015 and 131,000 by 2024.

Leon Pearson of St. Paul Public Works said it is important for those who will be affected by the bridge to have early involvement in the planning process while MnDOT is still not wedded to a new bridge design.

Paul Kirkwold of Ramsey

County Public Works urged neighborhoods not to "draw a line in the sand" until MnDOT has more information.

Several of those at the meeting expressed concern for how bridge construction would affect Crosby Farm Park in the river valley below the existing bridge. "There aren't a lot of places in an urban area like Crosby," Harris said.

Concerns also were raised at the meeting about the project's effect on Lilydale Regional Park on the south side of the river. St. Paul provides services to Lilydale through an agreement with Dakota County and the Metropolitan Council.

According to John Wirka of the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation, one advantage

of a new bridge is that it would offer a chance to create a bicycle and pedestrian link between Crosby and Lilydale parks. "That's something that's been discussed for many years," he said.

Kathy Despiegelaere of the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority said the new bridge also could provide an opportunity to build dedicated bus lanes or make other improvements for public transit.

Though he said he understands the problems communities face when a bridge has to be shut down, Pearson said more discussion is needed on why the state wants to build a new bridge instead of just rebuilding the existing overpass.

The bridge now carries about 72,000 vehicles a day. It is projected to carry 115,000 vehicles a day by 2015 and 131,000 by 2024.

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Zoning board OKs plans for Merriam Park duplex

Despite protests from neighboring property owners, the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals voted on November 17 to approve the plans for the construction of a duplex on a vacant Merriam Park lot. The request by John Tittle to construct a duplex and detached garage on the northeast corner of Selby Avenue and Pierce Street had earlier won the support of the Merriam Park Community Council. Access to the garage will be from Selby Avenue since there is no alley.

The lot, which has been vacant for more than 30 years, is zoned for multi-family housing, so no zoning change was needed. However, two variances were required because of the lot's size. Lots in St. Paul now must be at least 50 feet wide and have at least 6,000 square feet to be developed for housing. Tittle's lot is 40 feet wide and 4,800 square feet in size. Two additional side-yard setback variances also were approved.

Two neighboring property owners spoke in opposition to the variances, arguing that the planned duplex and garage are too large for the lot. Richard Wimmer, who owns a four-plex just west of the lot, questioned whether there would be enough room between the two buildings for him to put up a ladder to do second-story maintenance.

Neighbors have the option of appealing the decision to the St. Paul City Council. As this issue of the *Villager* went to press, no appeal had been filed.

Commission grants permit for Plastics Inc. site work

The St. Paul Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit for Plastics Inc.'s new site near Shepard Road and James Avenue on November 21. The permit allows the St. Paul Port Authority to use fill to elevate the property by 12 to 14 feet. Approximately 450,000 cubic yards of fill is needed so that Plastics Inc.'s new building can be built above the flood plain.

The new Plastics Inc. site lies within the Mississippi River corridor, which has specific zoning guidelines that dictate how a property can be developed, including the use of fill.

The Port Authority is developing the 25.5-acre site. When construction is complete, the new building will replace the company's current Chestnut Street and Eagan plants. More than 350 workers will be employed at the combined facility.

The Chestnut Street plant will be demolished to make way for a plaza and traffic lane for the new Science Museum of Minnesota.

NEWS BRIEFLY



Under winter's gun. Last Saturday's mild temps made for dense fog, but it also gave Patrick Carter, 9, and his mother Colleen a chance to clear their Eleanor Avenue yard of some late-falling leaves before the heavy snow hits. Photo by Mike Long.

Plastics Inc. needs to move out of its downtown facility and into the new building by next fall.

Plat approval delayed for Ramsey Hill townhouses

The St. Paul City Council has laid over plat approval for the new townhomes at 356-376 Ramsey St. until questions about property access and ownership can be worked out.

The developer, Maui Pacific Inc., hoped to have the plats approved before the end of the year so the 11 townhomes could be sold and assessed separately for property taxes, according to attorney Larry Berg, who represents the developer. Otherwise, Maui Pacific will be getting the property tax bill for one large residence.

"The access and ownership issues are not likely to be settled easily," Berg said.

The townhomes were built earlier this year on the steep slope between Ramsey Street and Grand Avenue. Construction was delayed after a July 1 downpour caused a cave-in of the street pavement in front of the townhomes and washed soil and debris into adjacent Grand Avenue properties.

Maui Pacific is now claiming that it owns adjacent property that has long been used for parking by neighboring Grand Avenue residents. The company is offering to sell them

the property for \$7,500.

The neighbors contend they own the property in question. They also claim that Maui Pacific improperly built a retaining wall and a driveway on property owned by the neighbors. At least three lawsuits have already been filed and more may follow.

Grand Avenue resident Julian Zweber described the dispute as a "complicated mess" in a letter sent to City Council members. Zweber and his neighbors want the issues resolved before the plats are approved and the townhomes sold.

Crosstown Used Auto Parts may expand to Marshall Ave.

Crosstown Used Auto Parts will be allowed to expand its operation to include used vehicle sales and repair if the Snelling-Hamline business meets several conditions set down by the St. Paul City Council on November 25. The 13 conditions were in response to complaints by Snelling-Hamline residents about the appearance and operation of the auto salvage business at 218 N. Pascal St.

Crosstown owner Clyde Payne wants to develop a used car lot at 1440 Marshall Ave., just north of his present business. The site, which has been vacant for almost a decade, was previously occupied by a SuperAmerica station.

The conditions limit Payne's new operation

to auto repair and reconditioning services and no more than 10 used cars displayed for sale at one time. The conditions also forbid Payne from salvaging vehicle parts and motors and storing auto parts and tires at the new site. At his auto salvage yard, Payne will be required to make facade and fence improvements and refrain from using the city right-of-way for vehicle work and storage. He must also refrain from stacking junked vehicles more than three high.

Nominations being sought for Twin Cities home tour

Houses of all types and sizes are now being sought as nominees for the 11th annual Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour on the weekend of May 2-3, 1998.

Organized by the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the tour seeks to build neighborhood awareness, encourage home improvements and promote urban living.

House nominations are due by February 13 and the houses that are ultimately selected will be announced in early March. To nominate a home, call 266-6562.

St. Paul feathers a new 7-acre nest for snowbirds

St. Paul has its new seven-acre state fairgrounds impound lot up and running and ready to serve as temporary storage for the automobiles of those who for one reason or another fail to follow the city's snow emergency parking restrictions.

During last year's seven snow emergencies, the city tagged nearly 25,000 cars with \$40 snow emergency tickets and towed nearly 1,900 vehicles to the impound lot. In addition to the snow emergency ticket, a trip to the impound lot will cost motorists \$50 for the tow, a \$20 administrative fee, plus 7 percent sales tax. An additional \$12 will be added for every day a vehicle is left in the lot. (A new day starts at midnight.)

The impound lot, which is located at 1660 Como Ave., is open 24 hours a day. To reclaim a vehicle there, motorists must have current license tabs. They also need to bring along proof of auto insurance, proof of vehicle ownership, a valid driver's license and adequate money in the form of cash, a cashier's check or travelers checks (personal checks or credit cards are not accepted). The \$40 snow emergency parking ticket is paid separately.

For more information, call the impound lot at 603-6895.

News briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and Dale Mischke.

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VIEWPOINT

MISCH-MASCH

MICHAEL MISCHKE

Light-rail's reincarnation

It's back!" You're forgiven if, like me, that was your first reaction to the page 3 news story in this issue of the *Villager*. The article tells of Ramsey and Hennepin counties' newly reincarnated effort to bring light-rail transit to the Twin Cities and, specifically, to the so-called Riverview Corridor along a still unidentified route through Highland Park. I had thought the notion of light-rail transit, following who knows how many millions of dollars spent studying it to death, had succumbed much as the ill-fated Downtown People Mover of the Latimer era.

In its earlier guise, light-rail was hailed as the 21st-century solution to rush-hour traffic jams between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Well, things have apparently changed since the opening of the Mall of America and the decision to leave Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport where it is. Now the preferred routes of county officials on both sides of the Mississippi River would connect the two downtowns along separate Hiawatha Avenue and Riverview routes to the airport and the megamall.

Ever since I got wind of the Riverview route a few months back, I've been wondering how transit engineers would propose to span the Mississippi River between Highland Park and the airport. The narrow Highway 5 bridge and even narrower tunnel on its west end promise to be formidable engineering challenges. The Ford Bridge, though it's due for reconstruction in the next few years, presents problems of its own on both sides of that span. One solution that's sure to be controversial would have the transit route following the Canadian Pacific railway and going under the homes that lie between the Mississippi River bluffs and the end of the railroad spur at Cleveland Avenue. A new bridge would carry transit vehicles over the river and on to the airport.

I recognize that we're still in the early stages of planning, but I'm already leery of a process that's apparently on a fast track, if only to try to capture federal dollars that may become available during the next session of Congress.

Mass transit may be well and good, but we haven't yet proven that we can even operate a decent bus system, and the amount of taxpayer money that's at stake in light-rail transit makes the cost of building a new ballpark for the Minnesota Twins seem like a comparative pittance.

If we're going to do it, we'd better do it right the first time.

'Tis the season for solicitations

It's beginning to look a lot like the holidays if the number of requests for year-end financial contributions that have begun cluttering my mailbox approximates the number of requests that have begun cluttering yours. Yes, 'tis the season for charitable giving and the volume of mail solicitations it generates can be enough to confound even the most magnanimous of souls.

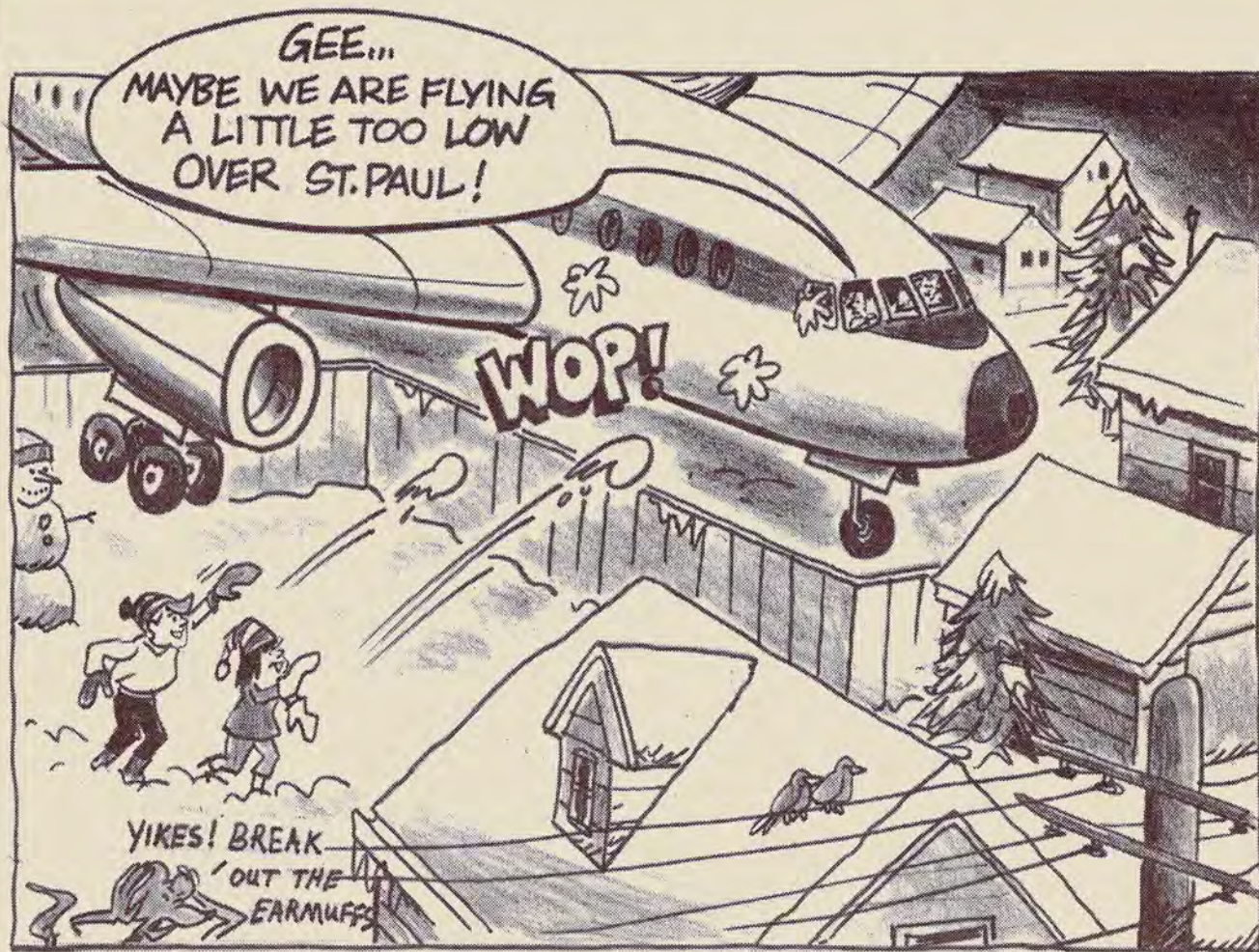
According to Angela Bies, the executive director of the Charities Review Council of Minnesota, there are more than 3,800 charities that can legally solicit donations in Minnesota. The CRC, a nonprofit organization based in downtown St. Paul, acts as a resource for consumers who want to make informed decisions about which of those organizations, if any, they choose to support.

The CRC has created standards and regularly applies them to encourage accountability among charities. One of the benchmarks it uses to assess their performance is this: At least 70 percent of the organization's total expenses must go toward accomplishing its mission and no more than 30 percent to administration and fundraising.

The CRC has also published the following brochures:

- "The Giving Guide," a partial list of the most asked-about charities and whether or not they meet the CRC's standards;
- "Making Sense of Cancer Solicitations," a publication that describes the cancer organizations that solicit in Minnesota;
- "Top 12 Questions and Answers About Charities," which provides practical answers to typical questions about charitable solicitations.

To obtain these publications or inquire about a specific charity, the CRC invites your call to 224-7030. By the way, all CRC services are rendered free of charge.



The errors of freeway-happy engineers

To the editor:

Congratulations to John Van Hecke, president of the Snelling-Hamline Community Council, for raising the red flag at the Minnesota Department of Transportation's proposed expansion of I-35E to eight lanes south of the Mississippi River into Dakota County (October 23 *Villager*). MnDOT forecasts 90,000 vehicles a day dumping into St. Paul by 2015. But it's typical of MnDOT to identify a single, yet costly (\$20 million), solution to the traffic problems to come on I-35E.

Imagine widening I-35E to eight lanes for miles into Dakota County. Imagine all those vehicles dumping onto Lexington Parkway, Hamline Avenue and Snelling Avenue each morning and evening. I-35E is now bumper-to-bumper at rush hour south of West 7th Street. Even a connection to Ayd Mill Road to meet I-94 would provide only limited relief to arterial streets in St. Paul.

Is there another solution? One is to have collection points for express buses in Dakota County. These buses could take workers to main employment locations and connect with other buses in the city. Would the collection points require acquiring real estate or buying out businesses? Not if the park-and-ride lots were built right over the freeway. In fact, these park-and-ride points could become little retail outlets, selling groceries, gas, newspapers and coffee.

MnDOT engineers are freeway-happy in their approach to traffic problems. Let's get some new engineers with new and more creative solutions. And the sooner the better.

Kenneth W. Jefferson
Highland Park

Another better idea from Ford

To the editor:

The staff of the Children's Home Crisis Nursery of Ramsey County feels immense gratitude for the volunteer fund-raisers at Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant in Highland Park. They toured our facility and then enthusiastically canvassed workers for donations. The funds could not come at a better time.

The crisis nursery serves families in times of stress by providing free, safe, short-term care for children, from newborn through age 12. A crisis may be a sudden illness, unemployment, housing problems, family violence—whatever the parent defines as an emergency situation unsuitable for children.

VILLAGE POST

In addition, we want to thank the Ford workers for their efforts to recruit new volunteer shelter home parents. It is work that takes special people willing to obtain suitable training and to open their homes and hearts to these children.

The crisis nursery provides clothing for the children for the length of their stay. Our stores of warm clothing, especially for children age 5 and up, are running low. We will purchase winter pajamas, sweatpants, sweatshirts and some outerwear, but volunteer shelter parents sometime decide that the children need to keep the garments, so Ford's donation is sorely needed.

We are grateful to be able to offer these kids new clothes that make them feel special during a pretty tough time. People in crisis are closer to us than we realize.

Those who are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at the Children's Home Crisis Nursery are invited to call Jean at 291-5505.

Children's Home Crisis Nursery Staff
St. Paul

More precious than victory

Dear editor:

As a recently retired candidate for the St. Paul City Council, I wish to thank all of you who voted in the November 4 election. As Adlai Stevenson once said after losing two presidential contests, "There are things more precious than political victory; there is the right to political contest."

Although I didn't win, I enjoyed every minute of the campaign. I certainly relished door knocking and meeting all my neighbors, whether we discussed street repairs and snowplowing or derided property taxes and urban sprawl.

I congratulate City Council member Mike Harris for his victory and wish him well in his new term. Thanks again for participating in this important election process.

Randy Schubring
Macalester-Groveland

In professional sports, you've got to win it before they'll come

by Dick Gordon

I was there that Saturday afternoon in November 1924 when Memorial Stadium was dedicated and the University of Minnesota football team upset Red Grange and Illinois. The win and the opening of Memorial Stadium made it a glorious day in the history of Minnesota sports.

Of course, Memorial is long gone now, just like a lot of other stadiums and arenas that were built over the years, only to be razed when they were deemed to be economically obsolete. So it gives me pause to opine on whether the public should be asked to help pay for a modern baseball palace for the Minnesota Twins. I'm still not quite sure what "modern" means. Are we talking Baltimore's Camden Yards or Toronto's Skydome with its retractable roof?

I confess to having straddled the fence on this issue. On the one hand, I don't see why the average Joe should subsidize a billionaire's hobby. On the other hand, I'm certain that if

Twins owner Carl Pohlad doesn't get what he wants, he'll have no qualms about exercising the escape clause in his contract so he can pull stakes after the 1998 season and go on to greener pastures.

I was here when the Twin Cities had no major professional sports teams and I don't want to go back there.

If the Twins—the heart and soul of Minnesota professional sports—leave, the Vikings might eventually be forced to do likewise. I was here when the Twin Cities had no major professional sports teams and I don't want to go back there.

There's one point on which I'm not so ambivalent. Plush new stadiums do not guarantee that spectators will fill them.

Fielding a winning team is the only way to do that.

No one has ever claimed that the Metrodome is ideal for the national pastime, but the Twins still drew more than 3 million fans there in 1988, the year after they won their first World Series. The Twins were consistently over the 2 million annual attendance mark until fans soured on the sub-.500 showings that have been the team's hallmark since 1992.

Minnesota will not support a loser, no matter how gilded the cage in which they play.

The North Stars were playing to sellout crowds at Met Center when they were Stanley Cup contenders, but interest waned during the off-years. When Norm Coleman's dream to bring an NHL team and new hockey arena to downtown St. Paul materializes in 2000, it'll be interesting to see how many people will pay an average of more than \$40 a ticket to watch a struggling expansion club.

The irony is that Met Center, Minnesota's only professional sports arena to be financed entirely by the private resources of its first owners, went the way of the wrecking ball just like

Village Post: Child-support bureaucracy is only as good as its computers/

from previous page

To the editor:

In October Laura Kadwell, guru of Minnesota's child-support enforcement system for all 87 counties, shut down for a week the computers that generate the child-support checks sent to custodial parents so that a statewide changeover to yet another computer system could be made. During the last computer changeover 10 years ago, child-support checks were delayed from a few weeks to several months, so it is no surprise that custodial parents are experiencing delays in receiving their child-support payments now.

Noncustodial parents who receive a phone call from their ex-spouses who are whining because they haven't received their child-support money should not be intimidated. Nor should they make a direct child-support payment, as the bureaucracy will not give them credit for it. Instead, they should explain to their ex-spouses that since their child-support payments are handled by the bureaucracy, complaints about any payment delays should be directed to the bureaucrats who created this unnecessary system.

The child-support computer debacle exemplifies the fact that government involvement in people's personal lives is unnecessary interference, especially in view of the fact that child-support payments are tax-exempt income that custodial parents may spend at their discretion. There is no guarantee that the children will benefit from the support payments. This system is not intended to benefit the children.

Sue Shetka
Macalester-Groveland

Editor's note: The writer is a children's rights advocate for the nonprofit lobbying group R-Kids of Minnesota.

Conspicuous by his absence

To the editor:

It is discouraging to see that St. Paul City Council member Mike Harris of Ward 3 is already ignoring election-year suggestions that he be more visible in the community.

Two days after the November 4 election, more than 70 Highland area residents gathered at the Hillcrest Recreation Center to discuss the increase in airport noise over our neighborhood. Once again, Mr. Harris was conspicuous in his absence.

While Harris says he ignored the criticism of his opponent during the election, ignoring the concerns of his constituency on pivotal issues such as this is an entirely different matter.

Angie Kline
Highland Park

The *Villager* always welcomes letters to the editors. To be considered for publication, however, letters must be signed and include a telephone number for verification. Send yours to the *Villager* at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116..

A FASCINATING ARRAY...

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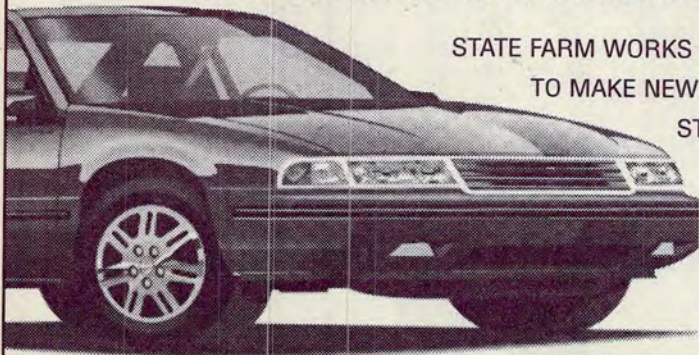
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Area homeowners can expect a sizable drop in property taxes

by Jane McClure

Property tax decreases by two out of three governing bodies in St. Paul should make this year's "truth-in-taxation" meeting the most amicable since the public hearings were instituted four years ago. Officials from the city of St. Paul, Ramsey County and St. Paul Public Schools will present their proposed property tax levies at the joint hearing, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 9, at Arlington High School, 1495 Rice St.

Changes in how public schooling is paid for in Minnesota has resulted in a 12.3 percent reduction in the St. Paul school district's levy for 1998. The St. Paul City Council has approved a maximum levy for next year that is .5 percent less than what was levied in 1997. The Ramsey County Board has proposed a

maximum levy for 1998 that is 3.6 percent higher than this year's.

All St. Paul neighborhoods in the Villager's area will see an increase in the average market value of their homes this year, but a decrease in their estimated property tax. Those neighborhoods, their average market value increases and estimated average property tax decreases are listed below:

- Summit-Marshall area—a market value increase of 8.8 percent and a property tax decrease of 3.8 percent.
- Summit Hill/Linwood—a market value increase of 7 percent and a property tax decrease of 7.1 percent.
- West 7th area—a market value increase of 3.6 percent and a property tax decrease of 7.6 percent.
- Merriam Park/Snelling-Hamline—a

market value increase of 6.7 percent and a property tax decrease of 6.3 percent.

- West Merriam Park/Macalester-Groveland—a market value increase of 5 percent and a property tax decrease of 10.3 percent.
- Macalester-Groveland—a market value increase of 5 percent and a property tax decrease of 9.5 percent.
- Highland/Edgumbe—a market value increase of 7.3 percent and a property tax decrease of 6.4 percent.
- Highland/Homcroft—a market value increase of 5.7 percent and a property tax decrease of 6.7 percent.
- Mississippi River Boulevard—a market value increase of 4.9 percent and a property tax decrease of 8.1 percent.
- Summit Avenue—a market value increase of 2.8 percent and a property tax de-

crease of 10.2 percent.

The school district levy rose sharply in the 1990s, but this year school districts across the state are benefitting from the 1997 Minnesota Legislature's decision to pay for schools with more state aid. In September, the St. Paul School Board unanimously approved a maximum levy of \$109.6 million for 1998—down from this year's levy of \$125 million. The school district's total budget for 1998 is \$291.6 million, with state and federal aid making up the rest of the budget.

The city and county also approved their maximum levies in September. St. Paul's maximum levy for 1998 is \$63.8 million to support a \$381.8 million budget. Ramsey County is levying \$159.6 million to support a \$409 million budget.

Planning Commission OKs permit for Summit Hill townhouses

by Jane McClure

The St. Paul Planning Commission voted on November 21 in favor of issuing a special condition use permit for a Summit Hill townhouse development. However, the long-running debate over the Lexington Commons project may still have to be settled by the St. Paul City Council.

Neighbors have indicated they will appeal the Planning Commission's decision, though no appeals had been filed as this issue of the Villager went to press.

The Planning Commission's approval did not come without dissent. Commissioner Cathy Nordin said she supported the project,

but questioned why townhouse residents would not be allowed to have alley access to their garages. Banning access to the alley is one of several conditions that were placed on the project by the commission's Zoning Committee, which recommended approval of the project on November 13.

Nordin called the restriction "inconsistent" and said the Planning Commission should take a stronger stand on the issue. "I think the neighbors are wrong, and I think the city should guide them to the right answer," she said.

Commissioner Mark Vaught said the alley access ban was a compromise. "We went around and around about the issue of block-

ing the alley," he said.

John Mathern and Erin Mathern of Mendota Homes intend to build 10 townhomes on a vacant 3.3-acre tract beside Ayd Mill Road, southwest of the corner of Lexington Parkway and St. Clair Avenue. Nine of the townhomes would center around a circular cul-de-sac, and the 10th would face Lexington. The plans call for a mix of one- and two-story units.

The Summit Hill Association's Zoning and Land Use Committee recommended denying the permit. Neighbors were concerned about traffic and street access. They also objected to the design of the townhomes and their incompatibility with older, single-family houses

in the neighborhood. Some neighbors suspect that the land is the site of a former dump and that the soil is unstable. As a result, they worry that the developer will have to abandon the project after getting started.

After meeting with the SHA committee, the Matherns agreed to scale the project back from 15 to 10 townhomes and to alter the layout and vehicle access. Conditions attached to the permit approved by the Planning Commission require that landscaping be incorporated to buffer the townhomes from nearby houses, that no vehicular access be permitted from the garages to the alley, and that no left-hand turns be allowed from the development onto northbound Lexington Parkway.

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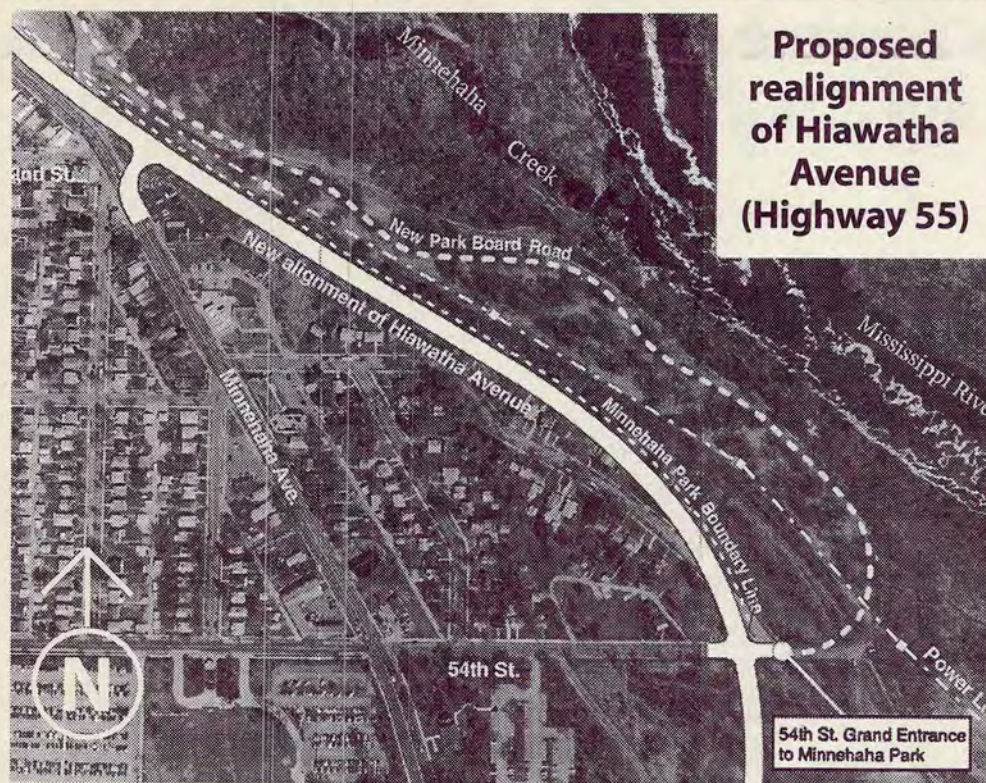
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**Proposed
realignment
of Hiawatha
Avenue
(Highway 55)**

A map distributed by Minneapolis City Council member Dennis Schulstad of Ward 12 shows the planned realignment of Hiawatha Avenue in white. Opponents of the plan have criticized the map for not showing the true width of the roadway.

Neighbors see no exit from dispute that is dividing South Minneapolis

by Iric Nathanson

Neighbors who are divided over a proposal to reroute Hiawatha Avenue in South Minneapolis clashed at a three-hour meeting held on November 18 at Roosevelt High School.

The meeting was called by retiring Minneapolis City Council member Dennis Schulstad to clear up what he called "significant confusion and misinformation" about the planned reconstruction of Hiawatha (Highway 55) from 46th Street to Crosstown Highway 62.

"Certain opponents, many of whom live miles away, have repeatedly said the road will remove hundreds of mature oak trees and destroy Minnehaha Park," Schulstad wrote in a letter to his Ward 12 constituents. "This is simply not true! If that were the case, I would be leading the opposition to stop the project."

The Stop the Reroute Coalition, in a letter of its own circulated before the meeting, argued that "the new Highway 55 does not serve our neighborhood. Access to the highway will be blocked by a huge sound barrier and property values may plummet. Roaring traffic will bring pollution and noise, and trucks hauling hazardous waste will be rerouted along residential streets since they will not be allowed in the proposed tunnel."

The coalition distributed a map that showed the realigned highway would destroy a 200-year-old oak grove south of Minnehaha Park.

A second coalition, comprising the Citizens for a Better Environment, the Park and River Alliance, the Sierra Club and the South Hiawatha Business Alliance, claims that several maps of the highway plan, including one circulated by Schulstad in a March 1997 letter to his constituents, are misleading because "they don't show the road to proper scale."

Hiawatha Avenue as planned south of Minnehaha Parkway would be about 50 percent wider than the existing right-of-way. It would include four lanes of traffic, a center median, bike lanes on the east side of the roadway and bus lanes or (light-rail lines) and noise walls to the west.

Under the plan, Hiawatha would leave its present alignment just south of 46th Street. The roadway would angle southeast toward Minnehaha Park and pass beneath Min-

nehaha Parkway and a land bridge connecting Minnehaha Park to the lagoon area west of Hiawatha. From there the road would swing southeast along the western edge of Minnehaha Park to 54th Street, where it would bend straight south to Highway 62. Like the highway north of 46th Street, the speed limit would be 35 mph.

Schulstad said the meeting was not intended to discuss the pending lawsuit that was filed a year ago by a coalition of groups to block construction of Highway 55. "We're here to provide information and give people on all sides of the issue a chance to be heard," he said.

The lawsuit is expected to be heard next year. If it fails, the reconstruction of Hiawatha would begin in the spring of 1999.

Among supporters of the realignment attending the meeting were state and local transportation officials, Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton and members of the citizens advisory committee that developed the plan. They argued that a rerouted Hiawatha would improve Minnehaha Park by

connecting it to the underused lagoon area west of Hiawatha. It also would be safer than the current roadway, they said. "I fear for my life each time I drive down that stretch," one supporter said.

Minneapolis Park Board commissioner Dean Zimmerman opposes the reconstruction plan because of the effect it would have on Minnehaha Park. However, Park Board commissioner Ed Solomon maintains that a majority of residents in his District 5, which includes the project area, support the plan. "If they didn't, I wouldn't have been elected by a 69 percent majority," he said.

Opponents of the plan argued that it would harm Minnehaha Park by destroying natural habitats in and around the park and by bringing increased traffic, noise and pollution into surrounding neighborhoods. Several people urged state and local highway officials to rebuild Hiawatha along the existing route.

According to Schulstad, rebuilding the road along the current route would require the demolition of additional homes and businesses south of 52nd Street, would add \$15 to \$20 million to the cost of the project and would delay completion by at least five years—to 2007 or 2008.

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Avenue as
planned would
be about 50
percent wider
than the existing
right-of-way.**

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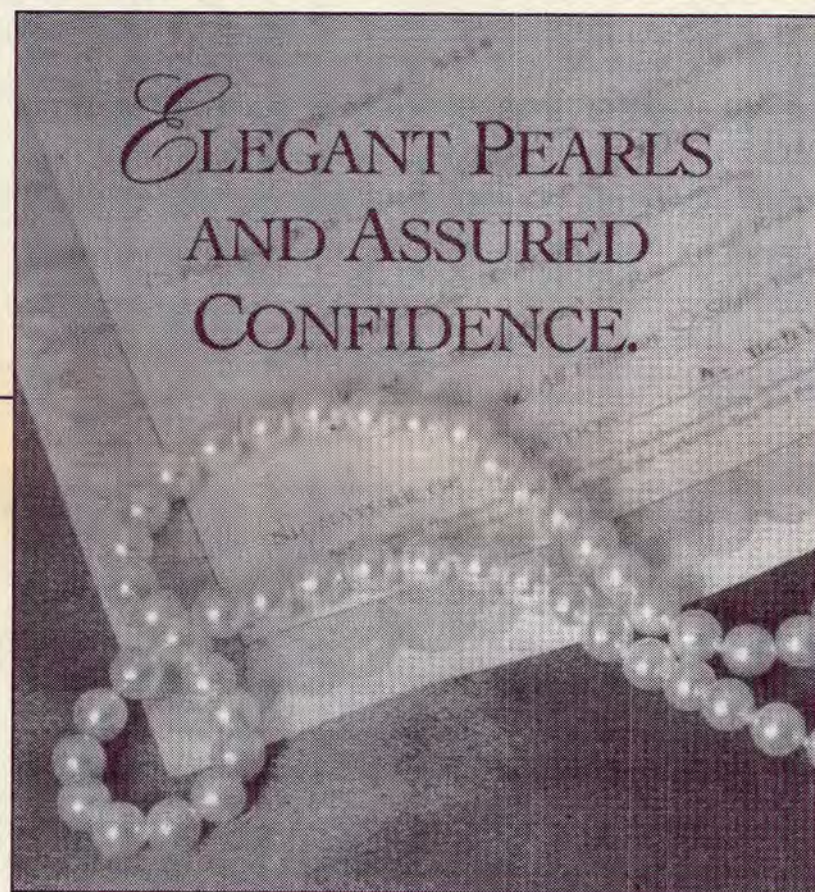


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Coleman expected to veto proposal requiring inspections of all rentals

by Jane McClure

The St. Paul City Council came up one vote shy on November 19 in approving a veto-proof policy that would require regular inspections of rented single-family homes and non-homesteaded duplexes in the city.

Mayoral aide Peter Hames said Mayor Norm Coleman plans to "reluctantly" veto the ordinance, though no action had been taken as of last week. The council approved the policy on a 4-2-1 vote. It requires five votes to override a veto.

Hames said the administration wants more time to work on the policy. A previous request by the mayor's office to lay the matter over for three months was rejected by the council, since three of the ordinance's supporters—council members Bobbi Megard, Dave Thune and Gladys Morton—are stepping down at year's end.

Megard, who co-authored the ordinance with council member Dan Bostrom, said that she is disappointed with the threatened veto. She said failure to pass the ordinance will only mean the deterioration and subsequent loss of more rental housing in the city. According to her, the city already has 600 vacant lots where housing once stood.

"For one class of property we have an inspection program that works beautifully," said Megard, referring to the fact that St. Paul already requires regular inspections of all residential buildings with three or more units. "For another class of property we have no standards whatsoever. I would be sad to see the mayor veto a program designed to turn around substandard properties in this city."

Under the ordinance approved by the council, all one- and two-unit rental properties in St. Paul that are not owner-occupied would be inspected every four years. Buildings also would be inspected if problems were reported to the city. The program would be phased in over eight years on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis beginning next March. Rental units in the Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods would be among the first to be inspected.

The affected property owners would be re-

quired to pay a \$25 provisional fee to have a certificate of occupancy in place when the program starts. As dwellings were inspected, a regular fee would be charged and a standard permit would be issued. Landlords would pay \$80 for the initial inspection of a single-family rental home and \$90 for a duplex. Subsequent inspections would cost half as much.

Hames said the mayor "supports the goal of insuring quality housing in St. Paul," but has concerns about the cost of the program and how it should be staffed. The ordinance would affect 5,476 single-family homes and 3,575 duplexes in the city, and would cost about \$60,000 to implement on a limited basis next year. The cost would rise as the program was expanded citywide. "The mayor will not support an unfunded mandate," Hames said.

Council member Mike Harris, who voted against the ordinance with Jerry Blakey, argued that the program would create unreasonable costs for property owners, many of whom are keeping their rental properties in good shape. Blakey said the program could result in the displacement of renters and the loss of affordable housing. Council member Joe Collins, who owns rental property in the city, abstained from the vote to avoid a conflict of interest.

The policy was supported by the Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland community councils, as well as by the University of St. Thomas, which has concerns about substandard off-campus properties rented by students. The policy was opposed by the St. Paul Association of Responsible Landlords, which contends that the ordinance would unfairly burden small landlords with the added cost of meeting building codes. Some groups, such as the St. Paul Tenants Union, supported the program in concept, but are concerned about how it is implemented.

Blakey and Harris introduced an alternative proposal on November 26 that called for inspections only after four substantiated complaints had been made against a landlord in a 12-month period. Megard criticized that plan, arguing that it would not address the overall problem of preserving the city's rental housing stock.

Council cites Highland landlord audit in proposing new fair-housing force

by Jane McClure

Concerns about discrimination in housing and the difficulties expected due to federal welfare reform have prompted the St. Paul City Council to propose increasing from \$30,000 to \$65,000 the city's annual expenditures on legal services for housing-related matters. The City Council is expected to approve the increase this week as it hammers out final details of the 1998 budget.

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS) would provide the additional legal assistance for people who are discriminated against in seeking rental housing. SMRLS has provided the city with legal services in housing-related matters for 20 years.

In proposing the expenditure, City Council members cited a recent Minnesota Fair Housing Center (MFHC) audit that found evidence of rental housing discrimination in Highland Park. Two trained testers posing as prospective tenants with similar incomes and backgrounds answered the same advertisements for rental property in Highland. One tester was Caucasian and the other African-American. According to the MFHC report, the testers visited 26 rental properties. At 13 of them the African-American tester was treated less favorably.

The report was prepared with the support of Ramsey Action Programs. According to the MFHC, the Highland Park neighborhood was selected for the study based on several factors, including neighborhood amenities, available public services, recreational opportunities, proximity to employment in St. Paul and Minneapolis, transportation systems, low crime rate, and supply of decent housing.

City Council member Mike Harris, whose Ward 3 includes Highland Park, said he has received complaints of housing discrimination in the past. One issue in particular that concerns Harris is the large non-refundable fees that are being charged for processing tenant applications. "One person who called my office was charged a \$150 application fee," he said.

As a result of the audit, the MFHC is asking the city to allocate federal Community Development Block Grants funds to promote fair housing; to support additional testing to determine the nature and extent of housing discrimination in St. Paul; to enforce the federal Fair Housing Act, state Human Rights Act and city's Human Rights Ordinance; and to require property owners and rental agents to receive a minimum of two hours of training in fair housing.

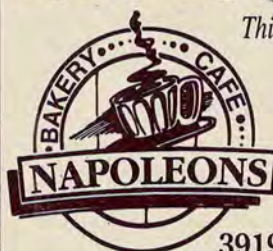
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Unphased by the flood

Last spring's high water has had little long-term effect on the local wildlife

by Molly McBeath

Despite last spring's record high water that overflowed the banks of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, closed down area parks and businesses and threatened many Twin Cities homes, the flood of 1997 does not appear to have had any long-term effects on the ecology of the river.

In fact, though the flood of 1997 will long be remembered for its disastrous effects northwest of the Twin Cities, flooding in the summer of 1993 actually had a greater impact on plant and animal life in the Twin Cities, according to Mark Cleveland, resource manager at Fort Snelling State Park.

That can be attributed to timing, Cleveland said. This year's flood occurred in early spring, before nesting began but after hibernation was over. And because the flood occurred at the beginning of the growing season, the food supply for foraging animals was not significantly affected. With the usual foraging areas under water, most animals just moved on, with no significant effects to their young. "Changes to the vegetation have been minimal," Cleveland said. "The (natural) system seems to do pretty well despite being surrounded by 2½ million people."

Three local parks—Hidden Falls, Crosby Farm and Fort Snelling—were closed for ex-

tensive periods last spring and summer so crews could clean up debris and repair damage from the flood. Repairs at Fort Snelling included a quarter-mile of the main road from the Snelling Lake beach to the park office as well as the water control and fish barrier facilities at the lake. Work on the new visitor's center, begun last year on the flats below Fort Snelling, was not affected by the flood. The center is expected to open on schedule later this month.

Unlike Fort Snelling, the parks east of the Mississippi River were hit with much more sand and silt by this year's flood than 1993's. Bulldozers and graders had to move an estimated 300,000 to 500,000 cubic yards of sand from Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm parks this summer, according to Ed Olsen, natural resources manager for the city of St. Paul's Division of Parks and Recreation. "We figure we trucked out 100,000 to 150,000 cubic yards of sand," Olsen said. The rest of the sand was dumped beside dunes that already existed along the river, creating formations up to a half mile long and 20 to 30 feet thick.

Snapping turtles seemed to have benefited most from the increase in beachfront. "The areas near the riverbank always were sand," Olsen said. "Now it's just deeper sand (and) the snapping turtles went crazy. There were eggs everywhere."



When the flood waters receded last April, sand several feet deep blanketed much of Hidden Falls Park, leaving doughnut-type holes around the trees. Photo by Mike Long.

Another species, the Blanding's turtle, was not as lucky. Blanding's turtles prefer to inhabit still backwaters, making the channel of Crosby Lake a perfect site. The receding flood waters filled that channel with sediment, and not as many Blanding's turtles have been observed this year, Olsen said. It is unclear whether some of the turtles moved on to a new location outside of the park.

With a thin layer of snow now blanketing

the parks and ice beginning to form on the backwaters, neither Cleveland nor Olsen is forecasting any long-term effects from this year's flood. They both encouraged people to check out the remaining short-term changes.

"This is the nicest time of the year to visit the park," Cleveland said. "There are fewer people, the wildlife is moving around in a more natural pattern, it's not as muddy as in the spring, and there are no mosquitoes."

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Dog-eat-dog world for pet stores

Neighborhood shops learn new tricks to survive recent arrival of nationally known 'superstores' in the Cities

by Kirsten Hornseth

In the past 18 months, two warehouse stores have entered the local pet and pet supply market, dramatically altering the retail landscape for small neighborhood pet stores. During that time three independent neighborhood stores — Finny Critters on St. Clair Avenue, Gray Milling on Snelling Avenue and Petland on Ford Parkway—have closed. Several others have changed hands.

Retail giants Petco in Highland Village and PetsMart in Midway Marketplace boast a wide variety of pets and pet supplies at prices the smaller stores can't match due to large-volume discounting.

"We noticed a (drop in sales) when Pet Food Warehouse first came into St. Paul four or five years ago," said Marcy Aldrich, who owned the former Finny Critters with her husband John. According to Aldrich, some customers would purchase fish and related supplies at the warehouse store and then come to Finny Critters when they had questions or problems. "They'd come in and get all the info and never spend a dime," she said.

When PetsMart opened in Midway, Finny Critters' suffered a second hit. "We couldn't take the crunch," Aldrich said. "We had to cut our personnel because of the decline in sales."

The store went from seven employees when the Aldriches bought the business 12 years earlier to zero in its final months. When Finny Critters' closed last year, it ended a 26-year run for the business.

But if the smaller pet stores can't match the warehouse stores for prices, some have found they can compete in service. That's how several local stores have found their niche in the re-constituted marketplace.

"You can't beat the warehouse stores at price, so we find areas to specialize in," said Christopher Smith, who with his wife, Cari, owns Pet Connection in the Highland Shopping Center. Between the two of them, the Smiths, who have no employees, have 16 years of experience working with pets. That level of expertise sets them apart from the larger stores where employees often receive little training. The Highland Petco, for example, with its 140,000 square feet, requires only 16 hours of training before employees hit the sales floor, according to store manager Paul Garcia.

Gloria Anton, manager of Twin Cities Rep-

tiles at 2363 University Ave., agreed that an experienced staff gives small pet stores the edge over big stores. "The stores that survive are generally the specialty stores," she said. Though her store carries a full line of pet supplies, it specializes in reptiles, birds and fish.

"Generally what happens is that people will go to warehouse stores, but when an animal doesn't do well, they end up coming to us."

Gloria Anton

"They're a customer from then on."

Another pet store that has created a niche for itself in its 20 years of operation is Highland Tropical Pets, 720 S. Cleveland Ave. The shop sells dog and cat food and other supplies for small pets, but it concentrates on saltwater and freshwater organisms and supplies. Longtime owner Nancy Hartung is in the process of selling the store and was unavail-

able for comment, but according to store manager Lisa Trembley, the new owners will be increasing the emphasis on marine animals and adding such services as aquarium maintenance and installation.

Tom Hutchinson, the new owner of the venerable Midway Pet Center, finds himself facing daily competition from the PetsMart warehouse store down the street, and his second pet store in Robbinsdale contends with four nearby warehouse stores. Initially, Hutchinson said, the competition hurt his business "big time."

"It still hurts now, but not as bad," he said.

According to Hutchinson, the trick to surviving is not trying to match the warehouse stores' prices, which are sometimes below his cost.

Hutchinson's Midway store lost about 30 percent of its customer base when PetsMart opened, but has since reclaimed half of it. "In Robbinsdale my sales are up, and Midway is coming back," he said.

Smith said that his Pet Connection also no longer suffers from having a warehouse pet store just a few blocks away. He guessed that is partly due to the loyalty of his customers.

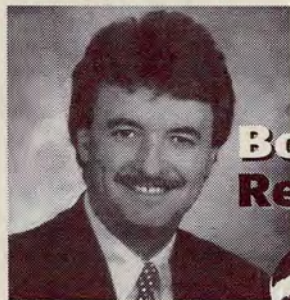
"It seems to me that the Highland area is very partial," Smith said. "They like to support small businesses."



Pet Connection owner Christopher Smith advises his customers on the demands of dog ownership while Jackie and Marlys Wilson of South Minneapolis try a Boston terrier puppy on for size. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

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Merriam Park seeks an agreement on the trimming of trees along I-94

by Michele Moore

The Merriam Park Community Council has had its troubles beautifying the freeway that three decades ago rolled like a bulldozer through the heart of the neighborhood.

Several years ago, a crew from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) mowed down a flower garden of that the community council had planted on the bank alongside eastbound I-94. Last month, trees and shrubs that had grown up along the fence on that same side of I-94 were trimmed back so severely they may have to be cut to the ground or removed completely.

The Amur maple and ash trees had been tended for the past 11 years by the nearby Creative Lighting company with the permission of MnDOT. However, this fall, Creative Lighting contracted with a tree service to trim the trees that were growing northwest of the store at 1728 Concordia Ave. The tree service cut them down to a height of 5 feet, or about level with the top of the cyclone fence running along I-94.

Michael Minsberg, president of Creative Lighting, said he had the trees trimmed so that passing motorists could better see his store and the mural he had painted on its facade last summer.

"If you can see us, you can find us," Minsberg said of his store. "If you can't, you might not come back and try to find us."

"But we want to be a good neighbor to everyone in the community," Minsberg said. "If I'd known this was going to be a problem, I'd have gone to the community council about it."

Bonnie Lawrence wishes he would have. Lawrence, who chairs the Merriam Park council's Environment Committee, called the trimming "butchery." She said the community council is seeking a meeting with

MnDOT and Minsberg to agree on the future upkeep of the trees and shrubs along the freeway.

According to MnDOT forester Paul Walvatne, the trees probably would grow back, "but they were trimmed to the point where they should be taken out," he said.

Walvatne said that businesses whose advertising or storefronts are obscured by vegetation along highways may ask MnDOT to have the plants trimmed or removed. As in the case with Creative Lighting, MnDOT often turns that duty over to the businesses themselves as a cost-saving measure.

However, Lawrence does not believe Creative Lighting's permit gives the company the right to continue cutting the vegetation without consulting MnDOT or the neighborhood.

Minsberg said his tree specialist assured him that trimming the trees to their new height would not harm them. According to Lawrence, that may be true about the Amur maple trees, which can be pruned into a bush, but not so with the older ash trees.

According to a local forestry expert, who asked not to be identified, ash trees need to maintain a canopy to survive. If the branches are cut back to where there is no canopy, the trees often die, he said, and if they do survive, they will attempt to leaf out immediately in the spring, sending out secondary shoots, or "suckers," that give the shortened tree a hairy appearance. Under such stress, the ashes' branches may forever be stunted, the forestry expert said. According to him, if the branches do grow, they may be weakened by rot and fall off.

Lawrence hopes to hear from MnDOT regarding the mediation request in early December.

"We just want to get trees and shrubs back into that area," Walvatne said.

League of Women Voters to present panel discussion on STAR program

The League of Women Voters of St. Paul will present a panel discussion on the history, purpose, accomplishments and problems of the city of St. Paul's Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program on Saturday, December 6. The program will run from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at St. Luke's School, located at Summit Avenue and Oxford Street.

Following a light brunch, a panel of six neighborhood and city officials and department staff members will discuss STAR, the city's four-year-old program for financing Civic Center renovations, neighborhood redevelopment, and cultural attractions. STAR derives its funds from the extra half percent

sales tax that is levied on most purchases in St. Paul.

Those who have been invited to serve on the panel include Steve Wellington, current chair of the STAR board; Greg Finzell of the Rondo Community Land Trust; Mike Anderson of the East Side Neighborhood Development Corporation; Joan Trulsen of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development; Ward 1 City Council member Jerry Blakey; and Kathleen Sundberg, business representative on the STAR board.

The public is invited to attend. A donation of \$3.00 is requested for the brunch. For information, call 222-1215.

Coloring Contest winners announced

A total of 807 boys and girls ages 12 and younger participated in the annual Thanksgiving coloring contest sponsored by the Villager and area businesses.

The youngsters colored their favorite zoo animals that they found in the November 5 Villager and dropped off their finished masterpieces at the participating businesses. One winning artist from each location was selected to win 10 tickets for admission to the Minnesota Zoo and five tickets to see a 3-D version of the Nutcracker at the zoo's new IMAX Theatre.

The contest winners and the businesses where they submitted their entries are as follows:

Nick Thomas, 5, 2007 James Ave., Lib-

erty State Bank; Noah Kaiser, 7, 1901 South Lane, Mendota Heights, Fairview Highland Park Pharmacy; Brian MacGregor, 3, 2109 Palace Ave., Subway on Grand; Sammie Jo Zack, 10, 14522 Old Field Road, Macalester-Groveland Family Physicians; Wyatt Dietsch, 10, 772 Sargent Ave., Garden of Eva; Maxwell Stromme, 6, 2052 Summit Ave., Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union; Katelyn Jane McGin, 10, 1795 Juliet Ave., Grand Avenue Ace Hardware; Maria Balogh, 8, 521 Warwick St., Al's Farm Toys in the Mall of America; Barbara Koenig, 8, 1840 Roblyn Ave., Hegerle Trustworthy Hardware; and Olivia Hoaglund, 4, 1529 Hague Ave., Bur-net Realty, Lorange and Sandy Wills.

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Doris Simonett of Macalester-Groveland was honored in November by Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Sandy Keith for her contribution to the field of consumer education as host of "Law in Action," a program that has been shown for the past eight years over Metro Cable Television Channel 6. Simonett, co-host Judge John Kanninen and their crew were honored during the taping of the weekly show's final program. Simonett is the mother of the late Ann Simonett, former chief judge of the state Court of Appeals, and the wife of former state Supreme Court Justice John Simonett.

A life-size bronze bust of St. Paul native son and author F. Scott Fitzgerald by Merriam Park sculptor **Michael Price** is being raffled off by Public Art Saint Paul. The drawing will be held as part of the Capital City New Year celebration at 10:00 p.m. on December 31.

Price created the Fitzgerald statue that has graced Rice Park in downtown St. Paul for the past year. He cast the bust as part of that project, but the piece, while perfect in every way, had a neck that was a bit too long to fit the body. Price donated the bust to Public Art St. Paul and created another for the statue. Tickets for the raffle are \$50 each. For information, call 290-0921.

David Ellenbecker, an amateur nature photographer and Macalester-Groveland resident, has had one of his photos selected for use in the "1998 Minnesota Weatherguide Engagement Calendar" published by the Freshwater Foundation in cooperation with the

WCCO Weather Center. His photo of "Bleeding Hearts in Bloom" was chosen for the last week of May in the 120-page calendar.

Mark Langseth of Summit Hill is one of 38 individuals selected by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, for its Kellogg National Leadership Program. As executive director of the Minnesota Campus Compact, Langseth oversees a coalition of 44 Minnesota college and university presidents committed to expanding their institutions' role in community service. The three-year leadership development program is intended to increase participants' skills and insights outside their chosen disciplines.

Dorothy Geis, a Merriam Park resident and registered nurse, recently received the American Cancer Society's Thomas P. Cook Division Volunteer Award.

Rosalie Kluegel of Highland Park has been named a 1997 Professional Family Child Care Provider of the Year by the Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association. She was selected from 1,365 licensed family child care providers in Ramsey County.

Judie Cooper of Highland Park, vice president of the board of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, and **Greg Wandersee**, executive director of the Merriam Park Community Center, were elected recently to three-year terms on the board of the Volunteer Center of St. Paul. **Jane Clements** of Macalester-Groveland, a partner at Rubin & Clements Organizational Development, was re-elected to a second one-year term as board president.

VOLUNTEERS

The Salvation Army is seeking volunteers to ring bells at kettle sites across the metro area from now to December 24. The kettle sites need to be staffed between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Individuals and groups are encouraged to volunteer. For information, call 569-0574.

The St. Paul Winter Carnival needs recruits for the King's Guard, which protects King Boreas, the Queen of the Snows and the rest of the Royal Family against Vulcanus Rex and his Krewe. Applicants must be at least 21 years old and available full time throughout the festival's final 10 days. For information, call Tim Valento at 483-9820.

The American Red Cross is seeking volunteers to assist at blood drives and permanent collection sites in the St. Paul area. Volunteers set their own hours and receive training to perform their jobs. Tasks include greeting and registering volunteer blood donors, and serving refreshments. Shifts begin at 7:00 a.m. and run as late as 8:30 p.m. For details, call Steve Shimer at 291-6725.

Tutors in English as a second language and citizenship are being sought by the Minnesota Literacy Council to work with local immigrants. Training is provided. For details, call 1-800-222-1990.

Students from Macalester, St. Thomas, St. Catherine and other local colleges are being sought to work with youngsters through the

Frog town area's Leap Forward for Children program. Students are needed two hours or more a week to lead group activities and tutor children after school. For information, call Tim Gusk at 642-2071.

Ramsey Action Programs is seeking people who are interested in volunteering at food distribution sites, at Head Start, with senior programs and as mentors. For information, call 645-6445.

The Study Buddies Program is seeking adults interested in helping elementary and secondary students in the Highland and Macalester-Groveland area. No specific education or training is needed, and hours are flexible. College students, senior citizens, bilingual adults, artists and musicians are especially welcome. For information, call Judy Cavanaugh at the Jewish Community Center at 698-0751.

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts is seeking adults interested in volunteering at its information desk. Volunteers provide information over the phone and in person regarding exhibits, programs and events. They are required to work a minimum of one four-hour shift each month upon completing volunteer training. For information, call 870-3133.

Camp Fire Boys and Girls is seeking adult volunteers to lead meetings for groups of young people in grades K-12. Training is provided. For details, call 647-4407.

Retired educator lends hand in China

Frank Vivaldelli of Highland Park recently returned from China where he spent three weeks teaching conversational English at the Xi'an Translators Training College.

Vivaldelli, 81, was a member of a team of eight volunteers who participated in the international adventure through Global Volunteers. He returned home with new perspectives on China and the United States—insights rarely gleaned through the window of a tour bus.

"It was a wonderful experience. There were so many highlights. The students and staff were extraordinary," said Vivaldelli, a retired Central High School special education teacher who still enjoys putting in a day's work. He is now employed as a demographics assistant for Merrill One Corp.

Vivaldelli said he was struck by the rustic conditions at the college, especially the lack of plumbing. Yet, he said, the overriding, intense commitment of the students to learning made such inconveniences seem



Frank Vivaldelli works with students in Xi'an, China.

unimportant. "They seem happy with their situation," he said.

Vivaldelli chuckled when recalling being grilled by students on such subjects as American dating rituals, U.S.-style Chinese foods and other aspects of Western life. Outside the classroom, he and the other volunteers visited the Banpo Neolithic Village, Buddhist temples, museums and other cultural sites.

Each year, Global Volunteers coordinates more than 150 teams of volunteers who work on development projects in 16 countries around the globe. In China, volunteers are assigned to language development or business classes. They work under the direction of local teachers.

Volunteers pay their own costs for participating in the program. For information, call 482-1074.

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Parishes commit resources to care for people facing crisis pregnancies

by Catherine Condon

Single women, married couples and families with special needs during and after a pregnancy now only have to look as far as a local Catholic parish for help.

About 20,000 volunteers from 190 of the 223 Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis have pledged their commitment to a new program called A Community Caring for Life (ACCL). The program was created in response to Archbishop Harry Flynn's pastoral letter of a year ago that urged parishes to use whatever resources they have to provide for the health, safety and well-being of people involved in crisis pregnancies, regardless of their religious affiliations.

ACCL has already aided hundreds of families across the Twin Cities, according to Jan Krocheski, director of the archdiocesan Respect Life Office, which provides emergency financial assistance, housing and counseling to pregnant women.

"The number of people involved varies from parish to parish," Krocheski said. "Some are just starting out and some were up and running within a month. One parish has already interacted with 70 families."

Volunteers are available to help with a variety of tasks, including day care, transportation to and from doctor appointments, housecleaning, financial assistance and just lending a friendly ear.

The Highland Catholic Community, which is composed of the churches of St. Gregory, St. Leo and St. Therese, has designed an ACCL program that offers prayer, outreach services and direction to those in need.

"(The program) was specifically designed to help people who want to bring the child to term," said Larry Butler, who with his wife, Fran, facilitates the project for the Highland area. "Those who make that choice many times are in difficult circumstances and don't have a support system to help them. A Community Caring for Life is basically there to provide the resources they might need to help them through this period and the period after the child is born."

About 350 members of the 1,600-family Highland Catholic Community volunteer in some way for ACCL, according to Larry. "They're like friends or companions, a should-

der to lean on while in a difficult situation," he said.

Volunteers help by babysitting, providing rides and donating food, clothing, bedding and other items. The Highland Catholic Community also distributes vouchers for families in need that can be exchanged for cribs at Wal-Mart and Kmart.

The Highland church community has received a handful of inquiries since the program began operating earlier this year. "We're just getting known, so we haven't had a lot of calls," said Fran, who has distributed brochures about ACCL and has hung posters in area high schools, colleges, clinics and other businesses. With the program now fully in place, she predicts more requests for help will soon be on their way.

"They're... a shoulder to lean on while in a difficult situation."

Through ACCL, those in need find help from a myriad of resources. One young woman—single, pregnant and uncertain of her future—moved into a Highland Catholic Community member's home through the Share A Life program that operates in Nativity parish. "She decided that she was going to place her baby up for adoption," Larry said. "As a result of being part of our program, she met someone who was looking for a child to adopt."

The program also helped the woman secure employment. "We help them find a job or get an apartment or do anything to keep them together," Larry said.

ACCL also receives referrals. A local agency had a client who moved to the Twin Cities from a warmer climate. Neither the woman nor her two children—a toddler and a 2-week-old infant—had warm clothes. The Highland ACCL met the family's needs with crib vouchers and clothing.

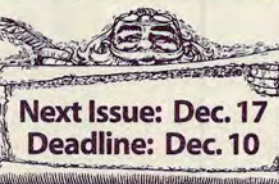
In committing themselves to ACCL, the Butlers said they have benefitted, too. "We've met a lot of wonderful people who've helped us," said Fran of the community's ACCL volunteers, who range in age from 20 to 70.

Larry agreed. "It seems strange to say it, because we've lived here for 35 years and we know an awful lot of people in the community," he said. "But we've gotten to know a lot of new people. Those who are involved in ACCL have been very generous with their time."

Information on what other local parishes are doing as part of ACCL is available by calling Jan Krocheski at 291-4515.

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RELIGIOUS NOTES

The Minnesota Satsang Society will present "Angels, Masters & Inner Guides" at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 9, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. For information, call 771-1165.

Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., is offering the following activities in the next two weeks: a meeting of the Women's Rosh Chodesh group at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 4, at Caffe Con Amore, 917 Grand Ave.; a Learner's Minyan at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 6; and a Shabbat Lunch and Learn study group following services on Saturday, December 13 (\$5.00). For information or to register, call 698-8874.

Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave., will host the following Hanukkah events: a community celebration for children and their parents at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 6; latke making at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 7; a free family concert featuring singer Mark Bloom on Sunday, December 14 (call for time); and a Hanukkah family service at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 26. The temple also has

decorations, cards, candles, treats and other items for sale in its Hanukkah market, running until December 26. For details, call 698-3881.

The Reverend Mitch Pacwa will present a talk on "St. Therese of Lisieux Teaches from the Scriptures" at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, December 6, at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St., Minneapolis. Admission is \$3.00. For details, call 729-7321.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave., will hold its annual service of lessons and carols at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7. The choral vespers service follows a model developed in the European cathedral churches during the Middle Ages. Carols sung by the choirs will be interspersed with scriptural readings. For details, call 699-1378.

Kristin Anderson, a professor at Augsburg College, will present a slide show and lecture on Christmas as represented in classical art at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 4, at St. James Episcopal Church, 3225 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Minneapolis. For information, call the church office at 724-3425.

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'Unusual solutions to unrecognized needs'

Restoration Hardware's first Twin Cities store brings nuts, bolts and a whole lot more to the old Knowlan's site on Grand Avenue

by Leslie Walters

The minute you peek through the windows of the double doors of Restoration Hardware, you know you are in for more than a hammer and nails.

The classic wood columns, simple raised casework, muted green walls and natural wood floors make it hard to believe that this is the old Knowlan's Supermarket. A look through the floor-to-ceiling display windows reveals the hardware up front. But beyond the entryway is 10,000 square feet of floor space done up like a Victorian mansion.

Thematic rooms with high ceilings and distinctive lighting offer separate niches for wonderful, whimsical merchandise. The furnishings are fabulous—a rich brown leather couch in the entryway, plush overstuffed chairs in the living room, and pinnacle pine four-posters and oak mission-style beds in the bedrooms. A porcelain clawfoot tub dominates the bathroom and a running fountain highlights the garden area. A spectacular fireplace, holiday decorations and a welcoming staff add to the warmth.

Then there is the intriguing miscellany of

fixtures, lighting, tools, furniture, artwork and books. A glass jar full of tape measures sits in one corner and a velvet door snake in another. A silver champagne bucket full of dust cloths works well with the nearby bouquet of ostrich-feather dusters.

One link in a national chain of 40 specialty home furnishings stores, Restoration Hardware opened on November 6 at 791 Grand Ave. Summit Hill was deemed the ideal setting for Restoration Hardware's first Twin Cities store, according to Nancy Gaile, Midwest district manager.

"We love street stores," Gaile said. "And there's an old-fashioned, leisurely ambiance here, a real connection with the neighborhood that you just can't get with a mall store."

The Grand Avenue store employs 20 part-time and full-time workers, most of whom also live in the neighborhood.

"Judging by the noses pressed up against the glass before the grand opening, this is exactly what Grand Avenue needs," Gaile said. "Everybody knows this is the old Knowlan's, and that made our renovation particularly intriguing. There's a strong community identity with the space."



Manager Jeff Bengston shows off the uniquely furnished interior of Restoration Hardware's new Grand Avenue store. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

Restoration Hardware was founded in 1980 in Eureka, California, a town known for its collection of Victorian architecture. Stephen Gordon, the firm's founder and president, had purchased a neglected Queen Anne and set out to restore it as a bed and breakfast, but found it difficult to obtain period hardware, lighting fixtures and other furnishings. Gordon's nationwide search dug up some obscure sources for such products. Believing that many others must be facing the same problem, he built up an inventory and began selling the items from the B & B. In 1981, he opened his first full-fledged store in Old Town Eureka and plunged full time into retailing.

Like most hardware stores, Restoration carries lunch boxes and dust pans. But Restoration may be the only hardware store to stock Canadian Miner's Lunch Boxes or the Ultimate Aluminum Dust Pan. While other stores sell tape measures, Restoration has German four-function tape measures. They are displayed next to the Tim Allen RRR Signature Hammers, the German "multi" levels, the Revolving Screwdrivers and the J. Kerouac Moving Blankets.

Discovery is a big part of the Restoration Hardware shopping experience, according to Gaile. "When you walk through our doors, chances are you don't know that you're going to need a 'Bite the Man' dog toy, a 66-foot tape measure or a velvet door snake," she said.

At Restoration, people come to "expect the unexpected," Gaile said. She may have been referring to the French gold lamps, the garden statuary, the Birdseye maple sleigh bed and matching highboy, the beaver boot scrapes or the sock monkeys. Then again, she may have meant the dragonfly door knocker, the Gorilla Glue, the Tibet Almond Stick scratch repellent, the Liar's Suspenders, the English Owl Calls or the Still River Copper Mailboxes.

"We provide some unusual solutions to age-old and sometimes unrecognized needs," Gaile said. Product designs range from the rustic to the contemporary and include the Craftsman, Victorian and early 20th century periods.

"We play a lot on tradition and emotion," Gaile said. "We find people like that. What we've got here is nothing new, but the average consumer can't find it all under one roof."

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mickey's Nook, a neighborhood bar and restaurant that has been located at the corner of Hamline and Randolph avenues since the end of Prohibition, reopened last week after having been closed for remodeling since February. Highland Park resident Todd Berglund, who purchased the business from Mickey Brausen in August 1995, explained that the restaurant's makeover took a lot longer than he had expected. The \$100,000 remodeling project included the installation of new windows and a new roof as well as other improvements that were done to bring the restaurant up to city code.

Play It Again Sports has moved from 1669 Grand Ave. to a space twice as large at 53 S. Cleveland Ave. The local Play It Again Sports franchise is owned by Dan and Trish Buelow, now residents of Monterrey, California, where Dan recently was hired as an insurance company executive. The Macalester-Groveland store is managed by Jason Murray, a native of the Summit Hill neighborhood. According to Murray, the additional space has allowed Play It Again to expand its inventory of new and used sporting goods, especially its in-line skates, snowboards and cross country skis. The store also has added a service center for cross country skiing equipment.

Generations, 801 Sibley Memorial Hwy., will offer classes in creating holiday settings on Monday, December 8, and on making holiday baskets on Monday, December 15. Fees range from \$10 to \$25. For information, call 552-1498.

Bruce Lilly of South Minneapolis has taken over as director of the Minnesota Museum of American Art. He had served as interim director since May. Lilly, 45, a former Summit Hill resident, is president of the board of St. Paul Academy and Summit School. He also serves on the board of directors of Minnesota Public Radio and of the Richard Coyle Lilly Family Foundation. Before joining the Minnesota Museum of American Art, Lilly spent 15 years in the banking business.



Dr. Tilok Ghose

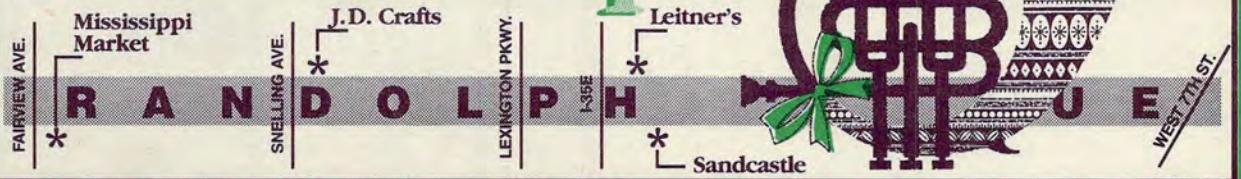
Aspen Medical Group, 2004 Ford Pkwy., has nearly doubled its staff with the recent addition of five new doctors. They include Dr. Tilok Ghose, who specializes in orthopedic surgery; Dr. Susan M. Fagre, who has opened a pediatric department at the clinic; Drs. Theresa Starkey and Jack Petrie, who specialize in internal medicine; and Dr. Omer Sanan, a general surgeon.

Mitsch Total Hardware has opened in the building formerly occupied by Cliff's Hardware at 408 S. Snelling Ave. Jim and Jeff Mitsch purchased the business from Scott Sarff, who bought the store a few years ago from longtime owner Cliff Gustafson. Jim Mitsch has a background in electrical work and Jeff Mitsch has worked in concrete, sheet metal and roofing construction. The brothers plan to expand the store's lawn and garden department as well as rental service.

C'est Fou Showroom has opened at 1128 Grand Ave. C'est Fou (French for "It's crazy") is owned by Paris-trained fashion designer Susan Metzger, a Macalester-Groveland resident. Metzger operated the C'est Fou boutique at the corner of Grand Avenue and Avon Street in the 1980s before going into the wholesale end of the business. C'est Fou Showroom sells fashions and accessories with a European flair. It also offers altering and carries items by local artisans, including hats, jewelry and gifts.

Kelly Rowe of Highland Park has opened his own law firm, Kelly Rowe and Associates, with offices at 386 N. Wabasha St. in St. Paul and at 401 S. 2nd Ave. in Minneapolis. He is a graduate of Creighton University School of Law.

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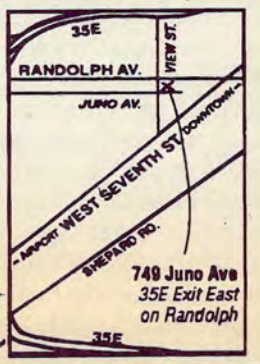
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100 years young

Benedict fondly recalls the St. Paul of old while reminiscing on a century of living

by Catherine Condon

During World War I, Ruth Benedict worked as a switchboard operator for the St. Paul Gaslight Company. She doesn't recall her wages, but they weren't more than a few dollars a week. "We were glad to be getting any money at all," she said.

Times were tough. The government was issuing vouchers for pounds of butter and pieces of meat. "And the war got worse and worse and worse," Benedict said. She remembers going door-to-door in her Midway neighborhood requesting old sheets for the bandages that she and her co-workers made after hours in the basement of their employer's building.

Life, it seems, has rewarded Benedict with longevity. The Grand Avenue resident turned 100 on November 21.

Born in Kansas City in 1897, Benedict and her family lived in Chicago, Toledo and Montreal before settling in St. Paul in 1917. "My dad wouldn't move anymore," she said. "He just refused to go anywhere else."

Benedict's father, an engineer with American Can Company, was transferred frequently by his employer as the need arose. "My dad was sort of a troubleshooter," she said. "If something had to be taken care of, and nobody else could do it, he was transferred."

"Do you remember those Log Cabin maple syrup cans? They were in the shape of a little house and had a little chimney. Nobody here could figure out how to close that chimney. He was brought here to figure it out."

Benedict's job with St. Paul Gaslight, which NSP acquired in 1926, was her first of several office stints. Before she retired in 1965 as a bookkeeper for Mercury Motor Freight Lines, she worked at the Minnesota Byproduct Coke Company in Midway and at the Catechetical Guild publishing house in downtown St. Paul.

She never married. "They ran too fast and I couldn't catch up with them," she said.

Hildegard Schwankl, 87, has lived with Benedict since 1945 when she moved into the Midway duplex that Benedict bought in 1933. The two met at the Catechetical Guild, where Schwankl worked in public relations. The women have lived together on Grand Avenue since 1983.

After retirement, Benedict kept busy cooking and baking. She also has traveled extensively. She still attends weekly Bible classes at St. Luke's Catholic Church, where she is a member, and also belongs to the Daughters of Isabella, a charitable organization that meets monthly at Assumption Church.

Benedict has fond memories of riding in horse-drawn carriages as a child. "But in those days we did more walking," she said.

Benedict has fond memories of riding in horse-drawn carriages as a child. She also recalls riding the streetcars that crisscrossed the Twin Cities until 1953.



Centenarian Ruth Benedict, left, shares a laugh with long-time roommate Hildegard Schwankl. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

She also recalls riding the streetcars that crisscrossed the Twin Cities until 1953. "I wish we had the streetcars back," she said.

Like the modes of transportation, the attitudes of young adults are different today, according to Benedict. "They don't pay attention to life," she said. "I don't know why, but so many of them are so irresponsible. We were taught that when (parents) said 'No,' it meant 'No.' I feel sorry for them. Maybe it isn't the children's fault. Maybe it's the way they were brought up."

Benedict stopped driving in 1981 when she was deemed to be legally blind. But besides a problem keeping her balance, which requires the use of a walker, she has no other health problems and remains remarkably astute. "Her memory is much sharper than mine," Schwankl said.

Benedict credits nothing in particular for having lived long enough to reach the century mark. Longevity doesn't run in the family;

her brothers are all dead and her parents each died at 56. She laughed when asked if diet might have played a role, admitting a fondness for beer, wine and Totino's Party Pizza.

And birthday cake. About 100 friends and family members, including two nieces and a nephew, gathered from as far away as the two coasts to celebrate Benedict's 100th birthday last month at the Southview Country Club.

One of the highlights of the party was the performance of "Can this Gal be 100?" a song written just for her and sung to the tune of "My Darling Clementine." The verses made reference to Benedict lying about her age to get a job at St. Paul Gaslight and to politicians running scared with "ole Ruthie" draining the Social Security trust fund.

But more touching may have been a banner at the party honoring the centenarian. "May the good Lord take a liking to you," it read, "but not too soon."

"My sisters and I go south for the winter, and we worry about Mom alone in her house. It's really time for her to move."

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John Bartholomew shivered inside his winter coat as he stood in the open garage, waiting for his son Matthew to arrive. Matt had promised to be here by 10:00, and it was already half past. Forty years old and Matt still didn't have an ounce of responsibility in him.

A dusting of new-fallen snow covered the front yard and frosted the trio of evergreens at the corner of the two-story colonial that had been the Bartholomew home for 41 years. The snow wasn't enough to hinder the day's task of setting up the crèche, but maybe it had been enough to slow Matt's drive into the city.

John Bartholomew's re-creation of the first Christmas was renowned throughout the city for its simplicity and beauty. Created over the span of nearly 40 years, it consisted of more than four dozen figures and covered the entire front yard. The crèche included the Christ child, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds who came in search of the baby, the Three Wise Men who came to worship him, an assortment of animals and, of course, the angels. All of the figures had been hand-made by John Bartholomew, and all of them were so realistic that people who stood on the sidewalk behind the split-rail fence swore they could see the figures move. The life in the figures was just an illusion, John knew, caused by the wind and the placement of the lights and the people's own belief.

Every year, one of the newspapers or television stations did a feature on John and his crèche. John would demonstrate how he fashioned the life-sized figures out of plaster of Paris and wire, how he painted the faces and hands, how he dressed the figures in robes he had designed and sewn himself after careful research, how he used old hides and fake furs scrounged from junk shops to create the animals.

Each year after such a story ran, traffic past the Bartholomew house would be bumper to bumper, night after night. People would get out of their cars and pour out of tour buses to stand on the sidewalk so they could be closer to the figures. Complete strangers would talk to one another in hushed tones as they admired the figures. Some people snapped pictures with pocket cameras. Others set up tripods for expensive cameras. Still others videotaped the scene.

Setting up the crèche year in and year out was a lot of work, but it was worth it when John threw the master light switch for the first time. When he walked among the figures, John felt as though he were one of them, standing in the light of God. He felt saved, as the biblical prophets had promised.

The feeling of salvation was something John Bartholomew could never explain to anyone, not that he'd ever really tried. By everyone's account, John wasn't one to express his feelings. Beth Ann had understood that, but not the kids. After Beth Ann died, his oldest daughter Carol, in a fit of frustration, accused him of being a charter member of the Silent Majority. Her frustration turned to anger when he joked that he paid his dues every year.

There was something else about the crèche that John never told anyone, not even Beth Ann. It had all come about by accident. The Christmas after John and Beth Ann were married, he built the wooden stable and created the figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Beth Ann was carrying Matthew at the time, and the two had joked about the obvious parallel. The sight of the mother, father and child positioned in the middle of the front yard, bathed in white light, expressed the joy John felt about his own new family. It was a joy he never put into words.

A year later, John was working on an angel, which he planned to suspend over the roof of the stable, when his mother suddenly died. In his private mourning, the angel came to represent his mother. When it was at last in place above the stable, the crushing grief he could not talk about melted away.

The Last Christmas

A short story
by Roger Barr



Those figures set the pattern. Each time a new member came into the family, John Bartholomew created a new human or animal figure. And each time a member of the family was lost, he added an angel. Through the years the yard had filled with figures representing eight children, an assortment of sons- and daughters-in-law (some now of the ex- variety), 20 grandchildren, even a great-grandchild. A multitude of the heavenly host had joined his mother's angel, including Beth Ann's, which rose highest of all.

And now it was about to end. This would be the last Christmas for John's crèche. The doctor's diagnosis only confirmed what John's body had already told him: six months, a year at the most. Nothing to do but go on about his business until he couldn't. He would put up his crèche a final time and once again embrace that moment of salvation when the lights were turned on. Then he'd be ready.

John paced about the yard. Of all the times for Matt to be late. There was a whole day's work ahead. Well, there was no use waiting. John walked to the backyard and unlocked the door of the Christmas shed. Inside, he pulled the chain for the bare light bulb that swung overhead. The crèche figures, each wrapped in an old sheet or blanket, were stacked neatly all the way to the roof. It was his tradition to carry out the Christ child first.

While John labored, Matt drove the final few miles toward his childhood home with growing dread. He wasn't ready to do this. The news, which his father had delivered in that matter-of-fact tone that annoyed him so, had felt like acid pumping through his heart. There were so many things that he wanted—no, needed—to say and so little time to say them.

For as long as Matt could remember, the two of them had seemed as distant as the earth from the moon. Why that was so, he had never figured out. Whenever Matt thought about it, he invariably laid the responsibility like a wreath at his father's feet. His father had never really done anything wrong, but he had never really done

anything right. He was always there when they were kids, but at the same time he wasn't there. Silent John, they called him behind his back.

As a teenager, Matt had made a career of trying to provoke Silent John into saying something, into taking notice. But Silent John was seldom provoked. Conversations that never occurred had stacked up between them like cords of firewood.

As he drove, Matt wiped his eyes. Now the old buzzard was dying and he probably wouldn't even talk about that. Instead, he'd fuss over his beloved crèche, just like he always did.

For years Matt had found a way to avoid helping his father put up the crèche. Growing up, he had envied the figures for the love and devotion that his father gave them—inanimate figures that could not love him back. Once, when Matt was 12, he stole a robe off one of the shepherds, slipped it on and stood among the figures. That succeeded in provoking Silent John all right. Without a word, his father grabbed him, stripped off the robe and returned it to the shepherd's shoulders.

After that, Matt's envy of the figures hardened into a kind of hatred. Only a plea from Carol had brought him home this time. It's going to be the last year and I can't help that day, his sister had said on the phone. He can't do it alone. Please, Matt.

So he had agreed to come home and help, if for no other reason than the opportunity to look his father right in the eye and demand "Why? Why didn't you—? Why couldn't we—?" There seemed to be no words for Matt's pain.

He turned the corner onto Pinehurst Avenue. At the end of the block he saw the trio of evergreens standing out against the snow. At least it was the last year. He'd vote to get rid of the Christmas stuff after his father was gone.

Matt pulled into the driveway and stopped. His father was nowhere to be seen. A half dozen figures already stood in the yard. Matt hurried to the backyard where he met one of the angels floating toward him, his father's legs below it.

His father looked terrible and Matt felt his resolve shrivel.

"I know, I know. I'm late. I got a late start."

"Did I say anything?"

"You didn't have to."

They worked in silence. One by one, they unwrapped the figures and carried them to the front yard. With each trip, Matt could see his father's strength draining. He kept waiting for him to volunteer something about his health. When he didn't, Matt finally asked.

"I've felt better," his father said. "And I've felt worse."

They were down to the larger animals—the camels and the cows and the donkey—which required both of them to carry. As they were carrying one of the camels out of the shed, John suddenly lost his grip and crumpled to the ground.

"Pop, you all right?"

On his knees, his father said, "I'm just tired. I usually run out of gas about this time."

Matt slipped his hands under his father's arms and hoisted him to his feet.

"I thought I could still do this," the old man wheezed. "I guess maybe I was wrong."

"Why don't you go in, Pop. I'll finish up."

"I'll be all right in a little bit. Besides, you've probably forgotten where everything goes."

"I'll use the map. You can watch from the living room window. If I need anything I'll come in and ask."

John took his father by the elbow. "Come on, Pop," he said in a parental voice.

John started to protest, then gave in. Matt led him inside and settled him on the couch. Within minutes, John was snoring.

Outside, Matt breathed easier. At least he could do this his own way now. He unrolled the map on the hood of his car and weighted the four corners with toys he retrieved from the floor behind the front seat.

On the map of the front yard, John had drawn circles to mark the positions of the figures. Within each circle was the name of the figure and a date. The map showed exactly where the floodlights were to be staked, and exactly where the extension cords were to be strung. To each light and each cord, a tag was tied that bore a number matching its counterpart on the map. Matt marveled at the order. If only his father had lavished this much attention on the family. A good word here and there. A pat on the head now and then.

Matt looked up from the map. The Christ child was in its place, and the rest of the figures that his father had carried out all stood in their places. The figures that Matt had brought out were set down haphazardly all over the yard.

What it was that made him suddenly look down at the map in recognition he would later describe as one of God's small miracles. In a matter of moments, everything tumbled into place.

First he noticed that some of the dates inside the circles corresponded to the dates that his brothers and sisters were born. Then he saw the circle with a date matching the year he had married the first time. And the second. There were the dates his own children were born, the dates his brothers and sisters had married, the dates his nephews and nieces were born.

Then he noticed the date of his mother's death. He sought out the corresponding figure. An angel. He checked out the other angels. Their dates matched, as best he could recall, the dates that his grandparents, aunts and uncles had died.

Matt sat down on the cold front steps of the house. He shivered, even though he was sweating inside his clothes. They were all here, the whole family, the living and the dead, all tended carefully with love and devotion. He wiped his eyes.

The questions chugged around his mind

The Last Christmas/see next page

Trost leaves Summit Hill leadership in Biales' capable hands

by Peggie Autin Schommer

The Summit Hill Association (SHA) marked the end of an era last week when Chris Trost closed out a decade as executive director. Macalester-Groveland resident Ellen Biales, formerly executive assistant for the Neighborhood Energy Consortium, has succeeded Trost.

"I want to build on the foundation that Chris helped build at SHA," Biales said. "I plan to maintain the great things that have been done here and look for ways that citizen participation can be increased."

Trost said it was a difficult decision to step down. "But after 10 years it was time for a change," she said. Trost has no immediate plans other than to stay involved in issues affecting Summit Hill, where she lives.

"We feel very fortunate to have had Chris for the past 10 years," said SHA president Mary Rothchild. "But it's also very exciting to be starting with a fresh face. Ellen's energy and enthusiasm will be a great asset to our organization. We're excited to have found someone of her caliber."

Biales, 27, described her new post as "a good opportunity. I had worked with the SHA in my job with the Neighborhood Energy Consortium (NEC) and I knew it

was one of the stronger neighborhood organizations."

"(Biales) has a nicely blended background," Rothchild said. "She held leadership positions in college, had worked as a research assistant in the Legislature, and is on the board of directors of the nonprofit Listening House. She also has a good deal of familiarity with district councils and the role of citizen government in St. Paul."

Biales earned an undergraduate degree in English at the College of St. Catherine and a master's degree in public administration at Hamline University.

"St. Paul is a special place," Biales said. "The extremely active citizen participation makes it almost unique among cities of its size, and that adds to the strength of the community and the quality of life here."

"The SHA provides some really spectacular services to the neighborhood," Biales said, "and that's due in part to Chris Trost's leadership. I'm awed by her vast knowledge and experience, and I have a lot of work to do to catch up to her."

Looking back on her years with the SHA, Trost said there are several accomplishments she is proud of, including the establishment of a quarterly newsletter, "The Summit," and the tremendous increase in citizen participation. "We have more



Outgoing Summit Hill Association executive director Chris Trost (left) explains some of the finer points of the job to her successor, Ellen Biales. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

committees, more people active in those committees and more things those committees are accomplishing," she said.

Among the issues that Biales can expect to deal with in the coming years are traffic calming measures, crime prevention, and maintaining communication between area businesses and residents, Trost said.

"We've established a good relationship between GABA and SHA,"

Trost said. "We have one board member from each organization on the other organization's board, which really helps in communication."

Also on Biales' plate is the annual SHA House Tour. "It's a huge event," Trost said. "Originally it was designed to encourage people to move into the neighborhood, but now it's primarily a fund-raiser. SHA receives about a third of its revenue

from the city, and we have an annual fund-raising solicitation in the neighborhood, but SHA's largest fund-raiser is the house tour."

"Ellen has excellent experience working with volunteers and organizing big events," Rothchild said. "She handled the NEC's bike tour and we think she'll do an outstanding job with the house tour, too."

Rothchild would like to see broader representation on SHA's board of directors, particularly by apartment dwellers. "There's an impression that the SHA is run by wealthy homeowners," she said. "We want to get all types of area residents involved."

Rothchild also believes the SHA should become more actively involved in programs for seniors and youths. "We should be encouraging support of the area's schools," she said, "specifically Linwood A+ School."

As Trost moves on, she said she will miss the regular contact with SHA board and committee members. "I'm grateful for the SHA's active and dedicated board members and others in the neighborhood who have been so willing to give back to their community," she said.

"But I feel good about leaving because Ellen is very capable, and I believe she will work together well with other staff people, the board of directors and the community."

'The Last Christmas' /from previous page

like a toy train on a track. What did it mean? Why didn't his father ever tell anyone? What would Silent John say when he confronted him about it?

With a resolve that gave him surprising strength, Matt returned to work. He wrestled the last of the camels, the cows and the donkey to the front yard. He carried out the wooden slats of the stable and assembled them. He brought out the floodlights and the extension cords. Through the afternoon hours he worked, staking the figures to the ground, setting up the floodlights, unrolling the extension cords. It was easy to follow his father's detailed notes. The old man should've had a career writing directions for assembling children's toys.

At one point, Matt sensed someone on the sidewalk. He turned around to see an elderly couple standing at the fence. Between them a small white poodle danced on a leash.

"I've been waiting to see if it was going to be set up this year," the woman said. "I always

say hello to the man who lives here. I was afraid he'd died."

"He's in the house resting up," Matt said.

"We love the manger scene," the woman said. "It wouldn't seem like Christmas if it weren't here."

Matt finished in the dark. When he was at last ready to throw the master switch, he went inside the house. He found his father still sound asleep on the couch.

"Pop?" He shook John's shoulder gently.

"Pop? I'm finished."

John woke up slowly. "You're finished already?"

"It's late, Pop. You've been asleep for hours. You want to come out and turn on the lights?"

John pulled on his overcoat and the two of them walked through the kitchen toward the door that opened into the garage. The old man moved slowly.

In the garage, John surprised Matt by insisting that he throw the switch.

"You go ahead," he said. "You did the work."

Matt pulled the switch. White light flooded the yard. The wind seemed to animate the figures, rustling the robes of the shepherds and turning the hair on the animals. The host of angels seemed to be singing as their wings trembled in the breeze.

John Bartholomew slowly walked among the figures. As Matt watched from the garage door, the light seemed to collect around his father, and the burden seemed to lift from his shoulders. Matt walked out and stood beside him. He felt a lightness in his own body. His father turned to him and smiled.

"You did a good job," John said. He rested a hand on Matt's shoulder. "Don't worry. I'll be all right. And so will you. I know you'll take good care of everybody. But them—" John gestured toward the figures in the yard. "I don't know what'll become of them."

Matt cleared his throat. It was now or never. He opened his mouth to speak, then

abruptly closed it. When it came to things like this, he realized, he was no better than his father.

Matt thought hard and quickly. The decision was an easy one.

"You know, Pop, I was thinking maybe I'd add something myself next year," he said. "Maybe an angel. If you could show me about the plaster sometime."

John Bartholomew was startled. "That would be nice," he said. "Yes, I'd like that very much."

The wind rustled the robes of the shepherds and turned the hair of the animals. And the light of God shone all around them.

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Roger Barr, a Merriam Park writer, works with Save Our Schools, a St. Paul-based lobbying group on educational issues. He is a periodic contributor to the Villager.

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SCHOOL NOTES

Lynn Burbank, a Dayton Avenue resident, has been appointed director of Weekend College, Continuing Education and Summer Session at the College of St. Catherine. She has been employed at the college for seven years and previously held positions as assistant director of Weekend College and associate director of admission.

Capitol Hill Magnet School, 560 Concordia Ave., is now accepting applications for the 1998-99 school year for students in grades 1-6. A test is administered to students who apply to determine eligibility for the gifted and talented magnet program. The application deadline is December 5. For details, call 293-5918.

Composer William Banfield has joined the faculty of the University of St. Thomas where he holds the endowed chair in humanities and fine arts. Banfield, 36, previously taught at Indiana University, where he was on the faculty of the Afro-American Studies Department, a resident composer of the Afro-American Arts Institute and director of Soul Revue and the Black Popular Arts Ensemble. He and his wife, Krystal, live in Highland Park.

J.J. Hill Elementary School, 998 Selby Ave., celebrated the fifth anniversary of its designation as an international peace site on November 7 by conducting a schoolwide rededication ceremony. Community service awards were presented to six former students and three adults for promoting peace and justice. The six students—Elisabeth Charboneau, Kate Noble, Anni Simmons, Kasia Paprockie, Kristina Boraas and Rebecca Lutter—persuaded the St. Paul Public Schools to stop purchasing



Students from Linwood A+, Randolph Heights, Longfellow, Webster and Highland Park Elementary schools recently received an anti-smoking message with a dramatic twist. Allina Health System and the National Theatre for Children teamed up to present "2 Smart 2 Smoke" at the St. Paul schools as well as at Longfellow and Howe elementaries in South Minneapolis. The program attempts to educate young children on the effects of tobacco and features plays designed for grades K-3 and 4-6. Pictured from the K-3 production of *The Three Little Pigs Await the Big Bad Wolf* are actors Dana Munson, left, Roy Power and Chris Becker.

soccer balls made in countries that use child labor. The adult honorees were Bruce McMahon, who coordinated the construction of the new playground on the south side of the school; author Margaret Hasse, who helped get a Minnesota Arts in Education grant for the school; and Patsy Metcalf Noble, who led the construction of the community peace garden on the site of the old playground. The school recently

received a \$10,000 grant to add sculptures to the peace garden.

"The Interface of Science and Religion" will be discussed by Dr. David Clark of the Bethel Seminary Theology Department on Tuesday, December 9. The free program begins at 3:00 p.m. in Room B-212 at Henry Sibley High School, 1897 Delaware Ave., Mendota Heights. The public is invited to arrive at 2:45 p.m. to meet Dr. Clark.

The College of St. Catherine has named Patty Lynch as executive director of the O'Shaughnessy. Lynch has 17 years of experience in the performing arts. She was the founder and artistic director of the nationally recognized Brass Tacks Theatre and has worked around the country as an arts consultant. She spent one year as interim director of the O'Shaughnessy before being named to the permanent position.

The University of St. Thomas received the National Achievement Award for Entrepreneurship Education this fall for operating the country's best FastTrac training program for the second straight year. The program teaches prospective entrepreneurs how to start a business and helps existing business owners expand their operations. St. Thomas is completing its third year with the FastTrac program. More than 850 Minnesota entrepreneurs have participated in the program to date.

Sara Hunt, a 1995 graduate of Central High School and junior at Lawrence University, is studying in Florence, Italy, through a program of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. Her course work emphasizes language instruction and Renaissance art, and is supplemented by visits to Florence's museums and art galleries, field trips to Italian cities and discussions with local scholars.

Talmud Torah of St. Paul, 768 S. Hamline Ave., will hold a day school open house from 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, December 10. For information, call 698-8807.

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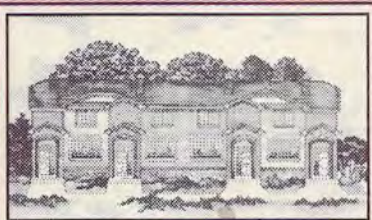
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St. Nick will lend a lap for children to sit upon during Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 13, as part of the Highland Business Association's annual salute to the season. Pictured trying to escape from Santa's lap during last year's event is Bryan Downing, while his sister Anna makes the most of her visit with the jolly old elf. Photos by Mike Long.

Village businesses prepare for holly jolly Holiday in Highland

Retailers and restaurateurs from throughout the Highland area will be wrapped up in the holiday spirit once again when the Highland Business Association presents its annual Holiday in Highland on Saturday, December 13.

The holiday promotion will begin with the HBA's venerable Breakfast with Santa in the auditorium of the Hillcrest Recreation Center. The complimentary continental breakfast is open to all, and Santa will be on hand to listen to the youngsters' holiday wishes.

During breakfast, children can pick up a passport to the North Pole and then journey to participating ports of call. After getting their passports stamped at businesses throughout Highland Village, they can take them to RE/MAX Crossroads to receive a prize.

Families also are welcome to stroll over to the Highland Theatre for a free 9:30 a.m. showing of the family movie *Fairy Tale: A True Story*.

Horse-drawn hayrides will carry holiday shoppers throughout the Village. Cookie decorating will be done over the lunch hour at Blimpies Highland, the tree will be trimmed at RE/MAX Crossroads and holiday music will be presented at Barnes & Noble Highland.

In addition to the complimentary food and refreshments that many businesses will be serving, these are the highlights of Highland's salute to the holiday shopping season as compiled by the Highland Business Association:

Breakfast with Santa. A complimentary continental breakfast will be served and Santa will be available to listen to children's holiday wishes and to pose for pictures from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Parents are welcome to bring along their cameras for photos of the

kids on Santa's lap.

Passport to the North Pole. Children who pick up a passport at Breakfast with Santa can then visit a series of ports of call—otherwise known as participating businesses—in Highland Village between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Youngsters who reach the North Pole (RE/MAX Crossroads in the Highland-Bank building at 2100 Ford Pkwy.) will be rewarded with a prize for their efforts.

Highland Theatre, 760 S. Cleveland Ave. Families are invited to wing it over to the theater to see *Fairy Tale: A True Story* presented on the big screen beginning at 9:30 a.m. Admission is free, compliments of the Highland Theatre and the HBA.

Tree trimming. Everyone's invited to come help decorate the Christmas tree at RE/MAX Crossroads between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. RE/MAX will supply the ornaments.

Cookie decorating. Buy a children's meal for 99 cents at Blimpies Highland, 1817 Randolph Ave., between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00

p.m. and receive a free cookie to decorate any way you like.

Horse-drawn hayrides. Rest your legs after a day of shopping by hitching a ride on a horse-drawn hay wagon between 10:00 a.m. and noon. The rides begin and end in the parking lot outside of HighlandBank, 2100 Ford Pkwy.

Holiday concert. The Highland Park Senior High School choir will fill the air with the sounds of the season from noon to 3:00 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. Students will be wrapping gifts purchased that afternoon, with all donations going to benefit the school.

For more information on Holiday in Highland events, call the Highland Business Association at 699-9042.



Tim Murphy had his hands full holding one daughter while photographing another during last year's Breakfast with Santa.

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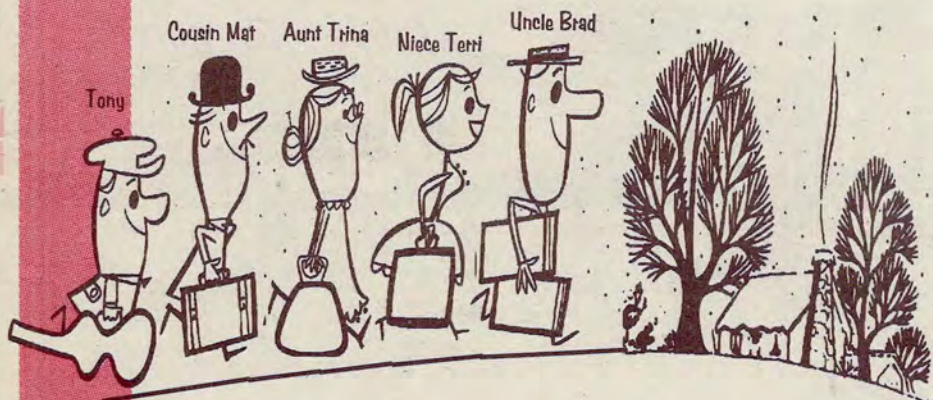
- Family coming for the holidays?
- Welcome yes...But for how long?

\$59⁰⁰

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The Sheraton Midway and its central location, close to the Airport, your home and the Mall of America, has many spare rooms

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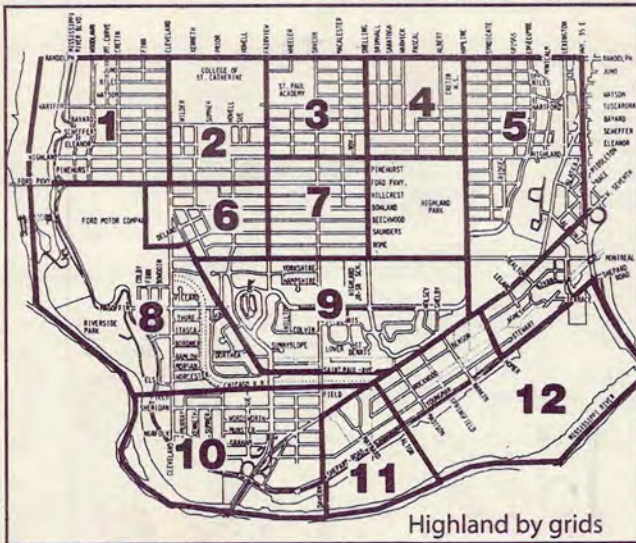
Highland Area Community COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Highland Area Community Council will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 4, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The agenda will include a presentation by engineers from Ramsey and Hennepin counties who will give an overview of plans for the reconstruction of the Ford Parkway Bridge. Ann Hunt, the executive director of the Neighborhood Energy Consortium, also will provide an update on the activities of her agency.

GATEWAY PROJECT

The latest information on a plan to improve the streetscape of West 7th Street through Highland Park will be presented at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 9, in the Village View Room at



the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The so-called Gateway Project recently received a grant of \$250,000 through the city of St. Paul's Sales Tax Revitalization program.

That money will be used for new lantern-style lighting, informational signs and boulevard improvements in the project area, currently defined as West 7th from the southwestern city limits to the I-35E Parkway. For information, call 298-5138.

SHEPARD-DAVERN TASK FORCE

The Shepard-Davern Small Area Plan Task Force will next convene at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 16, in the lower level of the Church of St. Therese, 1928 Norfolk Ave. The public is invited to hear the latest news on plans for the redevelopment of the neighborhood near the intersection of Shepard Road and Davern Street.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

St. Paul residents now may drop off their household hazardous waste year-round on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Ramsey County Recycling Center, 775 Rice St.

RECYCLED REMINDER

The next day for recycling pickup in Highland is on Monday, December 8. Items should be on the curb by 7:00 a.m.

HOLIDAYS IN HIGHLAND

◆ SPECIAL FAMILY FUN DAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13! ◆

HALF PRICE BOOKS RECORDS MAGAZINES

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WE'VE GOT GREAT GIFT IDEAS AT TREMENDOUS SAVINGS

Gift Certificates Available

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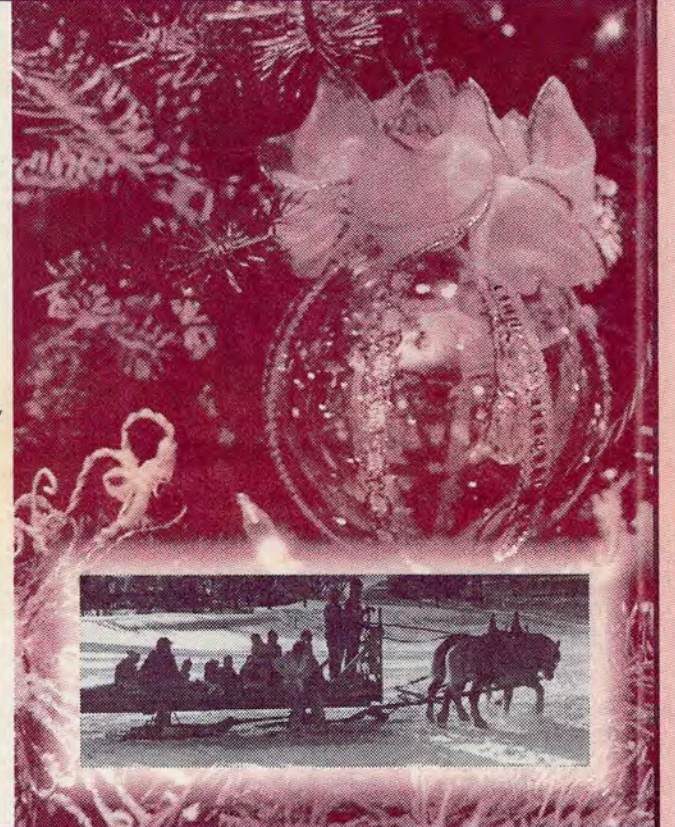
Hey, Kids - Win a Prize

with your **"Passport to the North Pole"**

Saturday, December 13

Start with **Breakfast with Santa**

(See next page)



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Come experience All we have to offer at City Looks. Prices start at:

Haircuts	\$21.00	Shampoo Set	\$14.00
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HOLIDAYS IN HIGHLAND

♦ FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING, HIGHLAND HAS IT ALL! ♦



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Instruments in harmony
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Celebrate the season with a full day of fun for the whole family

**HEY KIDS –
WIN A PRIZE****

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13,
IN HIGHLAND VILLAGE**



Breakfast with Santa

8:30 to 10:00 a.m. at the Hillcrest Recreation Center
The jolly old elf will make his time-honored return to Highland Village, this time in the auditorium of the rec center. Parents and grandparents are invited to bring their cameras for a photo of their little ones on Santa's lap. All are invited to partake of a complimentary continental breakfast.



Passport to the North Pole

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Pick up your passport to the North Pole at Breakfast with Santa. Your journey will take you through many interesting ports (businesses) in Highland Village. Once you reach the North Pole (also known as RE/MAX Crossroads in the Highland Bank building, 2100 Ford Parkway), you will receive a prize for your efforts.



Free family film

The Highland Theatre will present a free special showing of "Fairy Tale: A True Story" at 9:30 a.m.



Horse-drawn hay rides

Hop aboard for free horse-drawn hay rides beginning and ending in the parking lot of the HighlandBank Building. The rides will be offered continually throughout the Village from 10:00 a.m. to noon.



Tree Trimming

10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Come help us decorate the Christmas tree at RE/MAX Crossroads, 2100 Ford Parkway. We'll supply the ornaments.



Cookie Decorating

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Blimpies Highland, 1817 Randolph Avenue, is the headquarters for cookie decorating. Buy a children's meal for just 99 cents and receive a free cookie to decorate any way you like.



Music at Barnes & Noble

Noon p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Highland Park Senior Choir



Presented for your enjoyment by the Highland Business Association and RE/MAX Crossroads Realty

HOLIDAYS IN HIGHLAND

◆ SPECIAL FAMILY FUN DAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13! ◆

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FREE Refreshments Sat., Dec. 13

Highland
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Good now thru Jan. 6, 1998. Limit one per customer.
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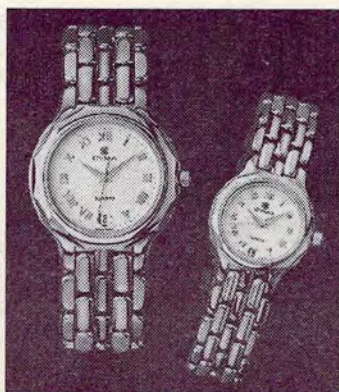
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The Cyma Signature Sports Watch is all
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Hidden clasp. Sapphire crystal. Quartz
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'Tis the Season... for exhaustion!

Don't let the hustle and bustle
of the holidays wear you down.

Stop by **Fairview Highland Park
Pharmacy** and stock up on products to help
you take care of yourself during the hectic holiday season.

Holiday in Highland
Saturday, Dec. 13
Fairview Highland Park Pharmacy
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Bring this coupon in
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*Offer good through Dec. 13, 1997 on specified items. Limit one coupon per customer.



Everything from soup to chestnuts await holiday shoppers during the Grand Meander on Saturday, December 6. At left, Anthony Phung goes nose to nose with Rudolph. Above, shoppers rest their legs by hopping aboard a horse-drawn hay wagon. And at right, Adam McNerney gives St. Nick's sleigh bells a shake. Photos by Mike Long.



Winter wonder Grand

Avenue will be decked out in its holiday finest for 25th annual Meander

Grand Avenue businesses will once again herald the holiday shopping season when they host the 25th annual Grand Meander on Saturday, December 6.

In keeping with tradition, a multitude of business-sponsored activities will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Highlights include a free pancake breakfast with Santa at Tavern on Grand, complimentary soup tasting at 16 restaurants, a juried art fair at Ramsey Junior High School, strolling carolers, free horse-drawn hayrides, roasted chestnuts, free food and refreshments, holiday characters and live demonstrations. Shops along the avenue will be decked out in their holiday best as they compete for the annual holiday decorating competition.

New this year is a drive to collect new and slightly used blankets, towels, sheets and other household goods for families who are in transition from a crisis situation. Donations for "Fresh Start for Families" will be collected throughout the day.

The Grand Avenue Business Association has compiled the following list of activities for this year's Grand Meander:

ALL ALONG THE AVENUE

- **Hayrides and trolley rides.** Grand Avenue will step back to holidays of yore with horse-drawn hayrides from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The hay wagon will travel from Dale to Fairview, stopping to pick up and discharge passengers all along the route. Those who prefer a faster mode of travel can board a trolley that will be traversing the avenue during those same hours.

- **Strolling carolers.** The air will be filled with the strains of holiday music as students from Macalester College and Linwood A+ Elementary School join other groups of carolers spread good cheer along the avenue.

- **Soup Tasting.** Sixteen restaurants and delis invite shoppers to stop in and warm up with free samples of soup from noon to 3:00 p.m. The participating businesses are La Cucaracha, Tavern on Grand, Acropol Inn, Wild Onion, Bruegger's Bagels, Billy's on Grand, Café Latté, the Lotus, Cooks of Crocus Hill, Sidney's, D'Amico & Sons, Kowalski's Market, Curry Leaf Deli, Green Mill, Grandview Grille and Whole Foods Market.

The "Grandest Soup of All" will be determined that day by celebrity judges Sue Zelickson of WCCO Radio's "Food For Thought"; Donna Tabbert Long, who writes "Dining Digest" for Minnesota Monthly; and Michelle Leise, editor of TC Taste magazine.

- **Holiday food and refreshments.** There will be countless opportunities to sample complimentary holiday refreshments on the avenue.

- **Parking.** In addition to parking on Grand, in private parking lots and on surrounding streets, free parking will be available in the House of Hope Church lot at Summit Avenue and Grotto Street.

INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSES

(Businesses are listed from east to west.)

Tavern on Grand, 656 Grand. Families can start the day with a free Pancake Breakfast with Santa from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. Parents are invited to bring their cameras while St. Nick hears the wishes of their little ones. Each child will receive a free gift bag of items donated by

Grand Avenue businesses.

Penzeys Ltd., 674 Grand. 'Tis the season for hot mulled cider and homemade cookies.

Grand Spectacle, 769 Grand. Chestnuts will be roasting on an open fire from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wild Onion, 788 Grand. It's a certainty that no one will be crying when the Onion toasts the Grand Meander with complimentary Tom and Jerries from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Futon Gallery, 799 Grand. Flop down for free hot cider and a canvas tote bag from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Bruegger's Bagels, 800 Grand. Kids will be decorating bagels and Bruegger's mascot will be handing out goodies from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Shutterbug on Grand, 841 Grand. Smile and say "sign me up" for a chance to win \$20 in color processing from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Billy's on Grand, 857 Grand. The annual

Grand Meander/see next page



Holiday Open House

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Complimentary:

- Hot Apple Cider & Cookies
- Sprig of Holly
- Balloons & Candy Canes for Kids
- Drawing for Door Prizes — including a giant poinsettia

See our collection of unique gifts from around the world

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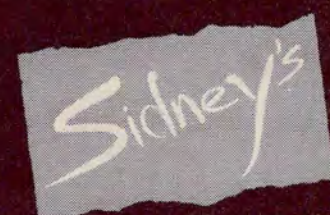
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Free Apple Pie Pizza™

(Looks like you've been good this year.)



Stop in and enjoy dessert on us!
Our award-winning entrées are all made to order from the freshest ingredients.
There's something for everyone.

917 GRAND AVENUE, ST. PAUL • 227-5000

Free dessert with entrée. Offer expires December 31.

Grand Meander

/from previous page

outdoor Pig Roast on the Patio will be served up from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All kids who stop by will get free hot dogs.

Victoria Crossing West, 867 Grand. Those who make a purchase at Garden of Eden will be able to try their luck at the duck pond to win a prize. The Lotus will demonstrate the making of its award-winning cream cheese puffs and give out free samples from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sorella Sorella will serve complimentary cookies and cider.

Cooks of Crocus Hill, 879 Grand. Shoppers can sample roasted chestnuts and meet co-authors Beth Dooley and Lucia Watson, who will be signing copies of their book *Savoring the Seasons*.

Red Balloon, 891 Grand. Listen to an Irish Night Before Christmas at 10:30 a.m. as told in Irish brogue by Sarah Kirwin Blazek. At 12:30 p.m. world-renowned illustrator Karlun Holman will lead a sing-along of the *Christmas Song of the North*.

Milton Mall, 917 Grand. Blue & White Gallery will serve complimentary refreshments and Park Dental will give away balloons and toothbrushes as part of its annual open house.

Summit Fly Fishing, 940 Grand. Meanderers can learn the fine art of tying flies while they enjoy free cider and cookies.

Stogies on Grand, 961 Grand. The cigar shop and smoking lounge will fire up hot cider, cookies and live music from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

MJM Hair on Grand, 968 Grand. Free hot cider and cookies will be served from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Grand Jeté, 975 Grand. Free hot cider for all and candy canes for the kids are on tap from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Traditions, 1039 Grand. Grand's purveyor of classic furniture and accessories will hold its annual holiday open house and present holiday table decorating demonstrations.

Great Harvest Bread Co., 1049 Grand. Complimentary hot beverages will be served and great gift ideas will be offered.

Caribou Coffee, 1055 and 757 Grand. Both locations will be offering free coffee with the purchase of a bakery item all day long.

Chico's, 1068 Grand. Stop in for a therapeutic shopping break from massage therapist Linda Kunkel from noon to 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$1.00 a minute. Proceeds will go to



Visions of sugarplums were undoubtedly dancing in the head of Amanda Giese as she worked on a large lollipop during a previous Meander. Photo by Mike Long.

Chico's Wishes for Women Foundation.

Creative Kidstuff, 1074 Grand. Meet Arthur the Aardvark from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wuollet Bakery, 1080 Grand. Follow your nose to where the scents of the season don't get more mouth-watering. Those who stop by may sample Wuollet's holiday specialties.

Images Under Glass, 1085 Grand. Hot cider and cookies will be served and discounts will be given for those who make a donation to the food shelf.

Baskets on Occasion, 1114 Grand. Stop in to sample gourmet food and apple cider while registering to win a holiday gift basket between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Irish On Grand, 1124 Grand. A bagpiping Santa will perform from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and traditional Irish tea and biscuits will be served.

Mella Day Spa, 1204 Grand. Warm up with a chair massage and a cup of complimentary hot chocolate. Massages for \$1.00 a minute will be given from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and hot chocolate will be served from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Anything & Everything, 1208 Grand. A Christmas caroling party will be held from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the front porch. The

Meandering/see next page

Holiday Sewing
Quality Natural-Fiber Fabrics
Knowledgeable Service
Reasonable Prices
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- Featuring Floral Artistry
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**25% Off
Any Purchase**

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December 5th, 6th & 7th

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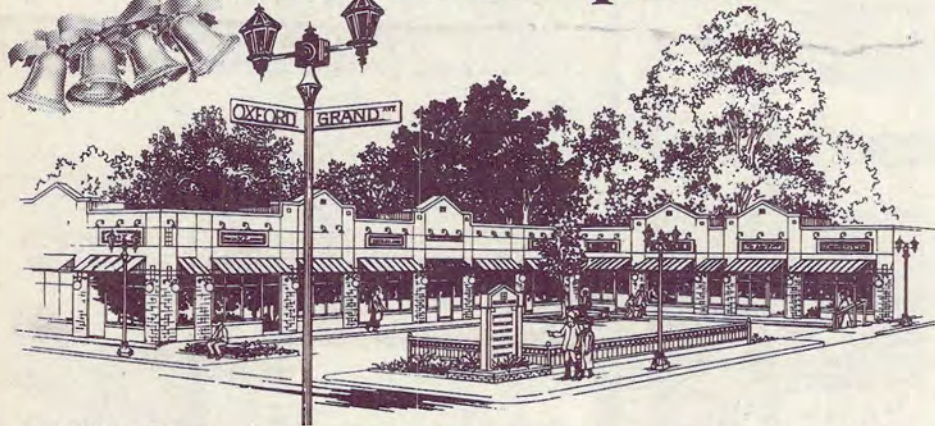
Unique Gifts for Cigar Lovers!

Choose from:

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Celebrate Grand Meander at Oxford Square



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- Caribou Coffee
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Fine Retail Shopping At Grand Ave. and Oxford St.

Vision of Sugar Plums,



Cardamom breads,
Rum balls and dainties
Danced in their heads.

Crisp German cookies
With anise and allspice,
Finnish prune tarts
And fruit cakes to entice.

Gingerbread houses,
And plum pudding, too.
A taste of Wuollet's,
Season greetings to you!

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Fri. Dec. 5 10AM ~ Noon
Designer Katie Murphy of Carrots
Demonstrates Holiday Decorating
Ideas for the Home

Sat. Dec. 6 Noon ~ 3PM
Katie Murphy Returns with
Great Tabletop Ideas for the Holidays

Join Us for Treats
and Inspiration!

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3 foot Party Subs start at the Year-round DISCOUNTED price of \$29.99.
Add \$10 for EACH Add'l foot. Your Party Sub or Platter comes Stuffed
with Your Choice of Any Cold Meat, Cheese, Onions, Lettuce, Tomatoes,
Pickles, Green Peppers, & Olives plus FREE Side Condiments.

Happy Holidays from your
friends at **GRAND AVENUE**



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SPECIAL LIMITED TIME OFFER!
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FREE 1 dozen freshly baked cookies

With Minimum Purchase of a 3 foot Party Sub or 9-12 person Party Platter for
just \$29.99. Good Only at SUBWAY 1820 Grand Avenue, St. Paul 690-3380.

Meandering on Grand Avenue

/from previous page

singing will be led by vocal
artists Diane Lillehei and
Bruce Johnson. Complimen-
tary hot cider and Christmas
cookies will be served.

Charlemagne Fine Jewelry,
1262 Grand. A designer jew-
elry and gem show will be
held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00
p.m.

**Sixth Chamber Used
Books**, 1332 Grand. Chil-
dren's stories will be read on
the hour between noon and
5:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., Laurel
Avenue resident Richard
"Fred" Arey, author of *Twin
Cities Winter Recreation*, will
present a slide show on how
to have fun during the inter-
minable Minnesota winter.

Treadle Yard Goods, 1338
Grand Ave. Complimentary
cookies will be served
throughout the day.

Hungry Mind, 1648 Grand.
A children's story hour will
be held at the bookstore be-
ginning at 11:00 a.m., featur-
ing writer Jenean Kim.

Hmong Handwork, 1658
Grand. Republic of Tea sam-
ples and cookies will be
served from 10 a.m. to 5:00
p.m.



Chestnuts will be roasting and cider will be flowing during
the Grand Meander on December 6. Photo by Mike Long.

Coat of Many Colors, 1666
Grand. Guitarist, oboists
and vocalists will perform
from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

**Grand Avenue Ace Hard-
ware**, 1676 Grand. Carolers,
free apple cider, cookies and
a drawing for a Weber grill

are on tap throughout the
day.

Wet Paint, 1684 Grand.
Origami artists will demon-
strate the ancient Japanese
art of making paper orna-
ments from 11:00 a.m. to
2:00 p.m.

**Ramsey Junior High
School**, 1700 Summit. Art at
Ramsey, a holiday arts and
crafts fair, will be held from
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Works
by 50 artists will be featured
at the juried fair, proceeds
from which will benefit the
school. Admission is free.

A. Johnson & Sons Florist,
1738 Grand. Free cookies
and refreshments will be
served at the annual open
house from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00
p.m. Sprigs of holly will be
given to all and door prizes
will be awarded.

Subway, 1820 Grand. Bal-
loons and Christmas cookies
will be given away from 9:00
a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For more information,
about the Grand Meander
call the Grand Avenue Busi-
ness Association office at
699-0029 or visit its website
at www.GrandAve.com.

'Fresh Start for Families' drive blankets Grand

This holiday season, Grand Avenue
businesses are teaming up with KSTP-
TV, Valvoline, Sears, Papa John's Pizza
and the Minnesota Vikings to help
Goodwill/Easter Seals raise donations
of new and gently used household
goods for more than 1,000 Minnesota
families.

Called Fresh Start for Families the
collection drive was born out of the
same spirit as Toys for Tots, but with an
emphasis on meeting basic needs.
Families who will benefit from the pro-
ject are in transition from crisis situa-
tions and are making a fresh start in

living independently.

The campaign will run from
Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve. Dona-
tions may be dropped off anytime dur-
ing that period, including during the
Grand Meander, at the following
Grand Avenue locations: Baskets on
Occasion, Bruegger's Bagels, Cafe Latte,
Mella Day Spa, Futon Gallery, Grand
Avenue Ace Hardware, Grandview
Grille (free breakfast with a donation
on weekdays), Great Harvest Bread Co.
(free cookie with donation), Kowalski's
Grand Market, Linwood Community
Center, Mexico on Grand, MJM Hair

on Grand, Shutterbug on Grand (free
5x7 photo with donation), Subway on
Grand, White Way Cleaners and Whole
Foods Market. Donations also will be
collected during breakfast with Santa at
Tavern on Grand on the morning of
the Meander.

At the end of the collection period,
donated items will be distributed to ap-
proximately 20 participating Min-
nesota charities, which will then
distribute the goods to families in need.

For more information about Fresh
Start for Families, call Goodwill/Easter
Seals at 646-2591, extension 178.

Grand Meander Free Cookies & Hot Cider

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Goldsmith Bill Plattes specializes in custom jewelry incorporating precious and semi-precious stones. He is one of 50 artists who will be featured in the juried art fair taking place at Ramsey Junior High on December 6 during the Grand Meander. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

Man with a Midas touch

Art at Ramsey showcases goldsmith's flair for design

by Jan Shaw-Flamm

Bill Plattes is definitely a hands-on kind of guy. The Merriam Park resident plays the violin, loves to work in the garden and lives at what he likes to call "Birds Central," where he feeds his feathered friends year-round and in winter provides them with a heated birdbath.

But it's his vocation, not his avocations, that draws the most attention to what his hands can accomplish. Plattes has spent the past 26 years designing and creating men's and women's jewelry.

His most widely recognized pieces are probably his gold rings with Australian opal inlays. However, he also works with a variety of other metals, in-

cluding silver and platinum, and dabbles in various gemstones, such as diamonds, sapphires, rubies, tsavorites, tanzanites, lapis lazuli and jade. He has even used petrified wood and dinosaur bone in his designs.

"In this business, there are always new things to do," he said. "For example, there are new combinations of metals all the time. Right now, I'm doing something in platinum cobalt, which is slightly magnetic."

Connoisseurs of jewelry design will be able to view Plattes' work as part of the third annual Art at Ramsey during the Grand Meander. Works by Plattes and 49 other artists will be featured in the arts and crafts show, which will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 6, at Ramsey Junior

High, 1700 Summit Ave. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the school, which is only a hop, skip and a jump from Plattes' home studio and where his 8th-grade daughter is enrolled.

Plattes said he enjoys showing his jewelry at Art at Ramsey because he sees many friends and neighbors at the juried holiday fair. However, art fair-goers make up only a small portion of his clients these days.

"My business is principally direct sales, mostly from referrals," Plattes said. "I do a lot of long distance work with out-of-state clients. I'm on a first-name basis with all the guys on the day shift at the post office."

Locally, Bockstruck Jewelers sells

Goldsmith/see next page

Starry nights



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Goldsmith Bill Plattes / from previous page

Plattes' jewelry as do Greffin Jewelers in Calhoun Square and the Walker Art Center, which has carried his work for more than 20 years.

Plattes taught himself the painstaking skills of goldsmithing. "I was always interested in making things," he said. "I was part of a co-op called Hands, which was located in an old butcher shop at 38th and Bryant Avenue in Minneapolis. I was doing woodworking and making jewelry from non-precious materials until someone gave me some turquoise. Then I began buying other precious stones. The rest is history, or perhaps more accurately, art. Start to finish, I do it all."

Plattes does the lapidary, or stone cutting, work as well as the goldsmithing, which gives him control over the entire jewelry-making process. "It's not inexpensive to work with opal," he said. "Every piece you slice off might represent \$25 or \$50. Sometimes I look at a piece for a year before I use it."

The cost of Plattes' rings varies widely depending on the stones. A modest ring might be \$150, but another could cost thousands. He has made rings from agates that people found on North Shore vacations and from stones they've bought back from trips around the world.



Plattes works in his home studio on one of his signature gold rings. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

Like many artists, Plattes has a collection of special pieces that he will not sell. One that he wears is a gold ring inlaid with an elegant cut of black jade.

Plattes often makes a contoured ring for greater comfort, because he said most fingers are not really round but slightly squared. To assure a secure fit, Plattes does precise handwork under magnification, using dia-

mond files and dental-quality tungsten carbide bits.

"I do a lot of wedding rings," he said, "but I'll also size and polish rings or do repairs for people because I have a knack for figuring out answers—better ways to do things."

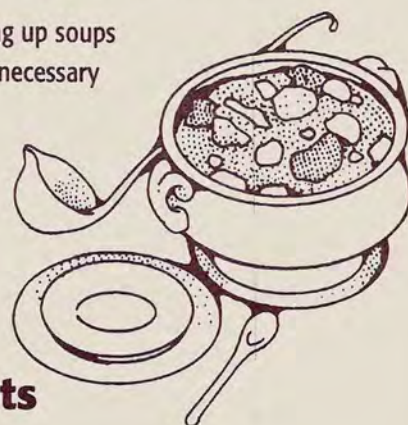
It's well worth the effort, for as Plattes says, "An exceptional piece of jewelry stands the test of time."

Warm Up with a **FREE** Soup Tasting at the **Grand Meander!**

Noon to 3 pm on Saturday, December 6

Sixteen of Grand Avenue's best chefs are cooking up soups for you to try, free of charge, with no purchase necessary during the Grand Meander.

There will be Chicken and White Bean Chili, Vegetable with Black Bean Mushroom, Italian Wedding Soup, Chicken Corn Chowder, Greek Lemon Soup — and more. Bring along your hungriest friends and family!



Soup Tasting Participants

(LISTED EAST TO WEST):

La Cucaracha	36 Dale Street	Sidney's Pizza Cafe	917 Grand Ave.
Tavern on Grand	656 Grand Ave.	D'Amico & Sons	975 Grand Ave.
Acropol Inn	748 Grand Ave.	Kowalski's	
Wild Onion	788 Grand Ave.	Grand Market	1261 Grand Ave.
Bruegger's Bagels	800 Grand Ave.	Curry Leaf Deli	1278 Grand Ave.
Cafe Latte	850 Grand Ave.	Green Mill	1342 Grand Ave.
Billy's On Grand	857 Grand Ave.	Grandview Grille	1818 Grand Ave.
Lotus Restaurant	867 Grand Ave.	Whole Foods Market	30 So. Fairview
Cooks of Crocus Hill	879 Grand Ave.		

Grand Meander is produced by the **Grand Avenue Business Association**. Call **699-0029** for more information, or go to **www.GrandAve.com** on the Internet.

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THE KIOSK

Wednesday/December 3

THE SIMPLE LIVING GROUP will meet at 7:00 this evening at Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 S. 38th Ave., Minneapolis. Fred Olsen from the Co-Housing Network will be the guest speaker. For information, call 729-7556.

THE MINNESOTA AIR GUARD Museum will present "B-29s in the Pacific Theater" at 7:00 this evening at Historic Fort Snelling. The speaker will be Arthur Pejsa, the youngest B-29 pilot to fly missions over Asia and Japan. For information, call 713-2523.

Thursday/December 4

A HOLIDAY BAZAAR will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. today and tomorrow and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday at Landmark Center. The bazaar will include more than 60 exhibits of hand-crafted items, such as jewelry, wreaths and dried flowers, woven and wearable art, wood carving, rosemaling, teddy bears and more. Admission is \$1.00 and free for children under 12. For information, call 292-3225.

Friday/December 5

TOURS of the Alexander Ramsey House decorated for a holiday party will be given from 6:30 to 8:00 this evening and from 6:00 to 8:00 tomorrow evening and every Friday and Saturday through December 20. The 45-minute tours will leave every 15 minutes. The cost is \$5.00. For reservations, call 296-8760.

"CUPPA OATCHASA," a holiday coffee-house and entertainment night, will be held at 7:00 this evening at Bethel Christian Fellowship, 1466 Portland Ave. There will be live entertainment including drama, poetry readings and music. Coffee, soup, breads and pastries will be available for purchase. Admission is free. For information, call 645-1534.

Saturday/December 6

HOLIDAY TOURS will be given from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. today and from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. tomorrow and next weekend at the James J. Hill House. Costumed characters will portray members of the Hill household. Groups will leave every 30 minutes. The cost is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children ages 6-15. For reservations, call 297-2555.



Dressed up for the holidays. Sheran Neumann of the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association ties bows to the evergreens planted in urns on the Summit Avenue bridge over Ayd Mill Road. The association purchased the plantings with proceeds from its garden tour. Photo by Mike Long.

A SPEECH on "Healing Racism in America" will be given by Nathan Rutstein, an acclaimed writer and advocate of human rights issues, at 2:00 this afternoon in the Weyerhaeuser Chapel at Macalester College. Admission is free. For information, call 696-6203.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS will hold its 10th annual powwow today and tomorrow in the Coughlan Field House. About 5,000 American Indians from a dozen Midwestern states, both coasts and Canada will vie for cash prizes in dance and drumming competitions. Sessions will take place from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. and from 7:00

to 11:00 p.m. today and from noon to 6:00 p.m. tomorrow. American Indian art and craft items will be for sale at about 30 different booths in the field house. Traditional foods will be available next door in the dining room of Murray-Herrick Campus Center. For information, call 962-5957.

Tuesday/December 9

A NEW MOTHERS AND BABIES group will meet from 9:30 to 10:30 this morning at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The topic of the meeting will be bedtime issues. Admission is free. To

register, call the center at 698-0751.

Wednesday/December 10

"GAMBLING: WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?" a free public interest program, will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Kelly Reynolds of the Gambling Problems Resource Center will present an overview which defines low risk gambling, describes signs and symptoms of high risk gambling and identifies community resources which are available to assess or treat a gambling problem. For information or to register, call 698-0751.

"LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE," a talk and slide presentation by Carrol Henderson, author of *Landscaping for Wildlife* and *Wild About Birds*, will be offered from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Copies of his new book *A Traveler's Guide to Minnesota Wildlife* will be for sale.

Thursday/December 11

A WORLD WAR II ROUNDTABLE discussion will be held at 7:00 this evening at Historic Fort Snelling. Four former crew members of the USS Ward will recount their participation in the first shots fired by the U.S. military during the Pearl Harbor attack. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. For information, call 726-1171.

Saturday/December 13

A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST with Santa will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the student union at Concordia University. Santa will arrive by helicopter at 10:30 a.m. at Dunning Field with treats and a book for every child. After breakfast there will be free horse-drawn sleigh rides at Dunning Field.

A BAKE AND CRAFT SALE will be held before and after Masses today and tomorrow in Rowan Hall at St. Helena's Church, 43rd St. and 32nd Ave. S., Minneapolis.

PICTURES WITH SANTA will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today and tomorrow at the Minnesota Air Guard Museum, located on the northeast corner of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport. Children can pose with Santa in a real F-4D Phantom jet fighter decorated for Christmas. The cost is \$5.00. For information, call 713-2523.

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Macalester-Groveland COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD TAKES DECEMBER OFF

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will not hold a board of directors meeting in December. The board will next meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETS DEC. 8

The community council's Transportation Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. Monday, December 8, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

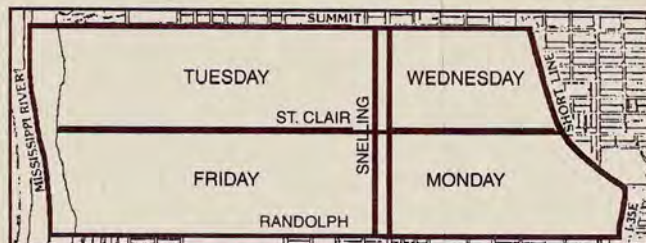
The committee will make a recommendation on a request by residents west of Cretin Avenue to divide the University of St. Thomas permit parking district into at least two districts. According to these residents, a large number of St. Thomas students who live east of the campus and have a parking permit are parking their cars on the residential streets west of the campus. Dividing the district at Cretin Avenue would make this illegal.

The Transportation Committee will develop recommendations for the community council regarding the proposed city-wide Transportation Plan. The St. Paul City Council is scheduled to consider the plan later this month.

The meeting also will include information on a Minnesota Department of Transportation proposal to create additional traffic lanes on the I-35E bridge over the Mississippi River and the implications that proposal might have on north-south traffic through Macalester-Groveland.

JOB CONNECTION IS HIRING YOUTHS

The community council's Job Connection is seeking area youths and college students who are interested in making money helping senior citizens in the neighborhood with jobs like snow shoveling, housecleaning and minor repairs. Hours are flexible. Workers are paid a minimum of \$5.15 an hour with the wage depending on the difficulty of the job and the age of the worker. For information, call Kate Schultz at the community council office at 698-7973.



Macalester-Groveland recycling days

RESIDENTS CAN WIN A PRIZE BY RECYCLING

The community council has kicked off a new recycling incentive program in conjunction with America Recycles Day. Residents can win a \$10 gift certificate to a local restaurant just by recycling through the council's program.

Recycling is picked up weekly in Macalester-Groveland. The area is divided into four recycling zones (see map), with each zone being serviced on a different day. As an incentive, one household in each of the four areas will be picked at random each week for one year. If recyclable materials are set out at that address that week, that household wins.

The incentive program is sponsored by Eagle Environmental and the community council. Winning recyclers will be notified by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council.

Recyclable items that are collected through the Macalester-Groveland program include newspapers, flattened corrugated cardboard in pieces no larger than 3-by-3 feet, boxboard, all mail except for product samples, glass bottles and jars as long as the metal rings and lids are removed, tin and aluminum cans with the labels removed, aluminum foil and trays, miscellaneous metal (no motors) that is no longer than 3 feet, car batteries, and used motor oil and antifreeze if it is in a non-breakable container with a tight-fitting lid that is no larger than 1 gallon.

Recyclables should be placed beside the alley so that they are easily visible to the recycling truck drivers. Items should be separated according to type and placed in paper bags.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTED SATURDAYS

Ramsey County now operates a year-round household hazardous waste drop-off site at 775 Rice St., approximately three-fourths of a mile north of University Avenue. Area residents may drop off hazardous materials such as paint, paint thinner, auto fluids, pesticides and fluorescent bulbs every Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The service is free, although a picture I.D. and proof of residence in Ramsey County is required. For information, call 633-EASY.

Congratulations to the 100 winners of Liberty State Bank's 1997 Annual "Turkey Days" drawings

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Lavera Daisy	Teresa Estes Miller
Mary Danielson	Lila Mitchell
Colleen Diederich	Wayne Newman
Diane Dunnegan	Ruth Peilen
William Eckley	Terry Pennig
Lindsey Elder	Neil Petersen
Audrey Erickson	Merlin Ristow
Karen Fasching	Bob Salzer
Clarence Fischbach	Louis Sass
Chester Gordon	Bob Schleicher
Frances Hebert	Mike Schoenberg
Esther Holtz	Duane Smith
Margaret Holden	M. Sockel
Allen Juneau	Kenneth Stein
Betty Kippels	Henry Swanson
Marilyn Kline	Thomas Turbes
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Charlie Lehnen	Pearle Wiechmann
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Larry Mangan	

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BOEHM SCHWINN CYCLE CENTER	Frank Stanton
Joe Collova	Gladys Thoren
Kevin Glasky	OH SEW SPECIAL
CADENZA MUSIC CENTER	Lori O'Neal
E. Nietz	Rick Redalen
Trish-Hurd Paczkowski	PARK LIQUOR
CAHOOTS COFFEE BAR	Rachel Anderson
Terry Ford	Mark Simons
Eric Setrow	THE PHOTOGRAPHERS GUILD
FAMILY TREE	Bridget Arms
Keith Carlson	Chris Archer
Amber Taylor	PIZZA CENTRAL
FREWAY AUTO BODY	Marci Fotsch
Susan Marcotte	Ole Thompson
Cindy Mitsch	SCHULEN-GRAY AUTO ELECTRIC
GARDEN OF EVA FLOWERS	Roy Babcock
Terri Ausen	Gretchen Reese
Betty Trost	SKON CHIROPRACTIC
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ON THE TOWN

Welcomed into the fold

History Theatre opens its arms to the stories of homeless children like Larry Struck, who got one-way tickets on the Orphan Train

by Dave Page

I don't deserve all this attention," Larry Struck said as he walked down the hallway of his Highland Park apartment building. "I don't have time for all you reporters."

It was mid-morning when Struck squeezed in time between other visitors, a luncheon appointment and his regular workout at the Jewish Community Center to talk about his connection with the Great American History Theatre's premiere of *The Orphan Train*. Struck had been featured on a television newscast the night before and he was feeling a little put off by all the attention.

Struck was thrust into the media spotlight because he was one of the 150,000 to 300,000 homeless children who were shipped by rail from New York City to the Midwest between 1854 and 1930. Once here, the children were put up for adoption.

Larry was born on November 28, 1912, in New York City. His mother died soon afterward. Larry and his two siblings ended up under the care of the Children's Aid Society. Founded in 1853 by the Reverend Charles Loring Brace, the society provided shelter for the 10,000 to 30,000 homeless children who were living on the streets of New York at the time.

Not all the children were actually orphans. "My sister remembered our father coming to visit in the orphanage," Larry said. "I was too young."

A year after Larry was born, his 5-year-old sister, Margaret, and 3-year-old brother, George, were taken from the orphanage and placed aboard an Orphan Train. Larry was left behind.

Brothers and sisters often ended up several states apart as the Orphan Trains journeyed

west. At each stop, the orphans were lifted onto the station platform for inspection. Couples seeking children checked their mouths for rotten teeth, their heads for lice and their arms for strong muscles. The phrase "put up for adoption" grew out of those inspections.

When the train on which Larry's brother and sister rode steamed into Northwood, Iowa, on July 23, 1913, Margaret was adopted by the Strucks, who had no children of their own. George was taken in by the Pitmans.

Margaret made such a fuss about her infant brother back East that the Strucks sent for Larry. Thus, he also ended up riding the rails to Northwood.

Soon afterward, the Strucks moved to a

farm in Freeborn County in southern Minnesota with their two adopted children. Larry did not know at the time that he had a brother back in Iowa. In fact, he did not learn he was adopted until he was 9 or 10.

"Back then, children would tease orphans," Larry said, "so being adopted was not spoken about as openly." Larry and Margaret eventually got back in touch with George and the three siblings became very close.

A few years after graduating from high school in Albert Lea, Larry moved to St. Paul, where he met his wife, Anne, shortly before World War II. They were married for 38 years before Anne died.

Their son, Larry Jr., attended school in

New York. In 1969, during a visit by his mother and father, the three tried to track down information about Larry's past. "By that time the trail was cold and we couldn't find anything," Larry Jr. said.

The History Theatre did not have nearly as much trouble finding former Orphan Train riders, according to public relations manager Julie Michener. "People started calling us when they learned we were going to present the play," she said.

Larry and three other Orphan Train riders attended the November 22 opening of *The Orphan Train* as guests of the theater.

"The play was outstanding! Wonderful!" Larry said. "I made it a point to let the actors know how good they were. They could easily perform on Broadway."

Margaret and George ended up living near one another in Beverly Hills, and Larry made frequent trips there with his family. George, who was the lead singer in Xavier Cugat's Latin dance band, died in 1986. The Northwood newspaper that lauded his accomplishments in the music and film industries still sits on Larry's coffee table. Margaret passed away a couple of years ago.

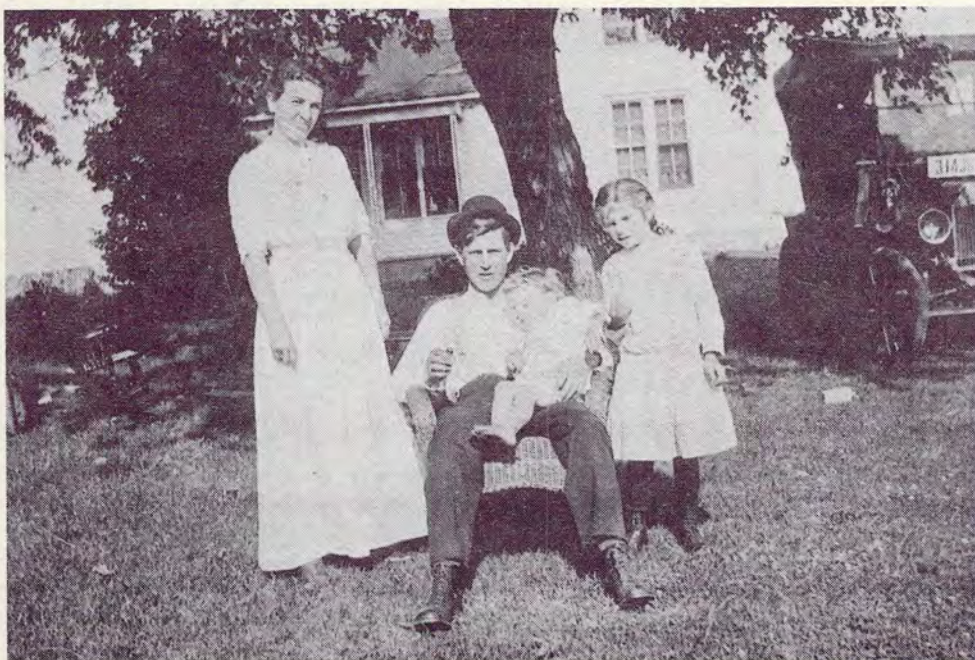
Not all orphans were as fortunate as Larry and his siblings. Their stories are told in *The Orphan Train*, which runs Tuesdays through Sundays until December 28 at the Great American History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Tickets are priced from \$15 to \$19 and are available by calling 292-4323.

The play was written by Patty Lynch, who said she loved "the Americanness of the story—the whole notion of, 'OK, we've got a problem, we're going to fix it. We'll send these kids west. This'll work. They'll get good homes.'"

For Marge, George and Larry, at least, it did work. "We had great parents," Larry said.



Highland Park resident Larry Struck, 85, is one of the 150,000 to 300,000 homeless children who were shipped by rail from the slums of New York City to the Midwest between 1854 and 1930. Photo by Mike Long.



Larry and his sister, Margaret, are pictured at home in Northwood, Iowa, circa 1914 with their newly adoptive parents Linda and Bill Struck.

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Music

"Melodious Lunches," a noon-time concert series, will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Terrace Cafe in the St. Paul Student Center at the U of M. The line-up will include the following: Anita Ruth and Joan Griffith on December 3; and Glen Helgeson on December 4.

The African Music Ensemble and Instrumental Jazz Ensemble will present a free concert at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 3, in the Brady Educational Center Auditorium at St. Thomas.

The Dubliner Pub, 2162 University Ave., will hold the following concerts from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays: Todd Men-ton on December 4-6; and The Tim Malloys on December 11-13. Also The Tim Malloys will perform every Tuesday, Trial Ro Crua every Wednesday and The Gallivanter every Sunday. There is no cover charge. For information, call 646-5551.

Pianist George Winston will perform his "Winter Show" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 4, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced at \$17.50, \$21.50 and \$24.50, call 371-5656.

The Schubert Club will present pianist Murray Perahia as a part of its International Artist Series at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, December 4, at the Ordway Music Theatre. For tickets, priced from \$14 to \$33, call 224-4222.

Dave Moore will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 4, at the Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave. The cost is \$7.00 in advance and \$8.00 at the door. For tickets, call 645-2647.

"In the Circle of Sound," a concert by the Macalester Concert Choir, will be performed at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, December 4-5, in Cochran Lounge of the Macalester Stu-

dent Union. Admission is free. For information, call 696-6520.

A concert by Brazilian brothers Sergio and Odair Assad on classical guitar will be performed at 10:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 5, and at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 6, at the Ordway Music Theatre. For tickets, priced from \$13.50 to \$47.50, call 291-1144.

Moore By Four will perform holiday favorites at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 5-6, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$14 to \$23.50, call 371-5656.

"A Christmas Rose," a candle-light concert by the College of St. Catherine Women's Choir, Orchestra and Our Lady of Victory Chapel handbell choir, will be performed at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 6, in Our Lady of Victory Chapel at the College of St. Catherine. Admission is free. For details, call 690-6690.

Kantorei will perform "Celebrating the Mystery: Music of Christmas," at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 6, at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 13, at St. Olaf Catholic Church in Minneapolis. Admission is \$9.00 or \$6.00 for students for the December 6 concert and \$8.00 or \$5.00 for students for the December 13 concert.

"Savior of the Nations, Come," a Christmas concert, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Saturday December 6, and at 3:00 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 7, in the Herbert P. Buetow Music Center Auditorium at Concordia University. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. For reservations, call 641-8755.

"An American Christmas," featuring shape note singing, shaker hymns and traditional carols, will be performed by The Boston Camerata at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 6, at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St. For tickets, priced

ON THE TOWN briefly



Continental Ballet Company will perform the *Nutcracker* at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 6, at the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 13, in the Scallen Fine Arts Center at Visitation High School in Mendota Heights. Pictured is Mindy Ericson as Clara. For ticket information, call 989-5151.

from \$10 to \$20, call 292-3268.

"Echoes of Christmas," a traditional holiday performance by the Dale Warland Singers, will be given at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7, at Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church, 1900 Wellesley Ave. For tickets, priced at \$15, \$20 and \$25, call 339-9707.

"The Colors of Christmas," a holiday concert featuring Peabo Bryson, James Ingram, Sheena Easton and Patti Austin, will be performed at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7, and at 8:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, December 8-10, at the Ordway Music Theatre. For tickets, priced from \$25 to \$45, call 224-4222.

"His Love...Reaching," a Christmas Vocal Cantata, will

be performed by the joint choirs and the children and youth of Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church and Hazel Park Congregational Church at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7, in the sanctuary of Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 217 Mackubin St.

The Plymouth Music Series will present "Welcome Christmas!" at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 13, and at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 14, at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis. For tickets, priced at \$22, or \$11 for students and children, call 624-2345.

The Minnesota Orchestra and Minnesota Chorale will perform Handel's *Messiah* at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 10,

at the Basilica of St. Mary, at 8:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday, December 11-12, and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 14, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$15 to \$32, call 371-5656.

A concert by the Central High School bands and orchestra, with special guest the Halama Wind Octet, will be given at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 11, at Central Senior High School, 275 N. Lexington Pkwy. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. For information, call 293-8700.

Jeanne Cotter will perform a holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 12, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. A champagne reception and tours of the house will follow. For tickets, priced at \$25, call 1-888-698-7362.

The Minnesota Orchestra will perform Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony" at 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 13, and at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 14, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$15 to \$42.75, call 371-5656.

Richard Paske, a Laurel Avenue pianist and composer, will perform from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, December 13, at the Loring Bar, 1624 Harmon Place, Minneapolis. Paske will improvise on compositions by some of the great composers of our time. For details, call 332-1617.

The Sounds of Blackness will perform holiday favorites at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 13, at the Orpheum Theatre. For tickets, priced from \$18.50 to \$26.50, call 989-5151.

The Apollo Male Chorus will showcase the South St. Paul Male Chorus during their annual holiday performances at 8:00 p.m. Saturday and at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, December 13-14, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota. For tickets, priced from \$12 to \$18, call 933-6322.

"Yulestride," a concert of holiday favorites by pianist Butch Thompson and guitarist Tim Sparks, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, December 14, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall at the University of Minnesota. For tickets, priced from \$19.50 to \$24.50, call 371-5656.

Organist James Biery will perform on the Skinner organs at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, December 14, at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Mass will follow at 5:00 p.m. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. For information, call 228-1766.

Sacred harp open singing will take place from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 14, at Merriam-Lexington Presbyterian Church, 203 N. Howell St. Those who attend will be able to participate in singing early American, four-part, spiritual folk music. Admission is free. For information, call 642-9118.

Pianist Bill Carrothers will perform with saxophonist and flutist Anton Denner at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 14, at The Golden Rule House, 985 Summit Ave. Admission is \$7.00.

The St. Paul Police Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 16, at Landmark Center, downtown St. Paul. For information, call 292-3225.

Books

The Hungry Mind Bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave., will host the following readings at 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted): Carl Klaus will read from his new book *Weathering Winter: A Gardener's Daybook* on Thursday, December 4; Michael Dennis Browne, Linda Back McKay, Sharon Chmielarz and Mary Moore Easter will read from the 1998 *Minnesota Poetry Calendar* at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 10. Admission is free. For details, call 699-0587.



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SASE: The Write Place will feature Tessa Bridal, Mary McCluske and Jenna Picard reading from their works in the About Town Reading Series at 7:00 p.m. Friday, December 5, in The Hub in the Hamline Student Center, 1536 Hewitt Ave.

Bill Holm will read from his new book *Faces of Christmas Past* at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, December 6, in Weyerhaeuser Chapel at Macalester College. Admission is free, but tickets are required. For tickets, call 699-0587.

Margaret Perron, Mary Kathryn Love and Julieanne Carver will discuss and sign copies of their book *The Grace Trilogy* at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 9, at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. Admission is free. For information, call 690-9443.

Family



"The Amazing Castle" exhibit has opened at the Minnesota Children's Museum, 10 W. 7th St. Children can wind their way through the castle and experiment with light and illusion and find their way through a maze to the tower to awake the sleeping giant. The exhibit will remain open until February. For information, call 225-6000.

Wing Faerie Theatre has opened *Archibald & the Dragon*, an original musical for children and families, in the Red Eye Theatre, 15 W. 14th St., Minneapolis. Performances will continue at 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through December 21. For tickets, priced at \$6.00, call 870-0309.

SteppingStone Theatre for Youth Development will open *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* on Wednesday, December 3, in the F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. Performances will continue through December 21. For tickets, priced at \$6.00, call 225-9265.

"Couch Potato Rock," a toe-tapping trip down television's memory lane, will be performed by the Jewish Community Center's 5th-6th Grade Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 4, and Saturday, December 6, and at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The performance features favorite TV theme songs as well as original commercials created by the children. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12 and seniors. For information, call 698-0751.

The Youth Performance Company will open *A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail* on Friday, December 5, in the Howard Conn Fine Arts Center, 1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will continue through December 21. For tickets, priced at \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children, call 623-9080.

Wild Yam Cabaret to perform at Linwood on December 6

The Wild Yam Cabaret, a 3-year-old performance company founded by Summit Hill resident Eve Blackwell, will present an evening of eclectic entertainment from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 6, at the Linwood Community Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.

The cabaret will be hosted by Blackwell, who takes on the personae of Marilyn Monroe and of Miss Violet Larsen, whom she refers to as the "wardrobe consultant for the men who run things."

Along with Blackwell's characters, the audience will be entertained by Lynn Marie Cross reciting the poem "Princess Di at Cub Foods," singer and guitarist Cesar Cruz presenting songs from Guatemala, Mohammed Dukuly performing non-traditional tap dancing, Flamenco dancing by Chris Kozachok and storytelling by fellow Wild Yam creator Carla Vogel.

Tickets are \$5.00 in advance or \$6.00 at the door. For information, call 293-9072.

The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will offer the following story time activities at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays: Sarah Kirwan Blazek will read from her book *An Irish Night Before Christmas* on Saturday, December 6; and Mike Reed will read from Margie Palatini's book *Elf Help*, which he illustrated, and also will demonstrate his drawing on Saturday, December 13. Admission is free. For information, call 224-8320.

"Guitars and Dance," a special concert for families featuring the Assad Brothers Guitar Duo, will be performed at 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. Saturday, December 6, at the Ordway Music Theatre. For tickets, priced at \$15 for adults and \$9.00 for children, call 291-1144.

A sing-along reading of Marsha Bonicatto's book *Christmas Song of the North* will be held at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, December 6, at the Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave. Also world renowned illustrator Karlyni Holman will be on hand to talk about her watercolors of the Lake Superior region. For information, call 224-8320.

"Manoomin Stories: A Wild Ricing Puppet Show" will be performed at 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, December 6-7, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is free. For details, call 296-6126.

"Sundays at Landmark," a family-oriented event series, will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays at Landmark Center. Bel Canto Voices, featuring three of its metro-wide girls choirs, ranging in ages from 7-13, will perform a holiday concert at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7, (free); and The Minnesota Boychoir will perform at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, December 14, (\$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children and seniors). Admission is free. For information, call 292-3225.

The St. Paul Civic Symphony will present "Music for Animals Doing Odd Things," a concert in collaboration with the staff of ArtStart to emphasize the use of imagination, at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7, in the

Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Pre-concert activities under the direction of ArtStart will be held one hour prior to the performances. The cost is \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. For reservations, call 696-6189.

History Hijinx programs for children ages 3-11 will be offered from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The line-up includes the following: children can create logos, posters and advertising slogans for products ranging from outdoor equipment to underwear on December 7; and families can create an Ojibwe asabiin or dreamcatcher on December 14. Admission is free. For information, call 296-6126.

Janie Jasin, writer and professional motivational speaker, will present her book *The Littlest Christmas Tree, A Tale of Growing and Becoming* at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7, at the Red Balloon Bookshop. For information, call 224-8320.

Young Dance will present "Young Choreographer's Evening" at 7:00 p.m. Friday, December 12, in the St. Paul Student Center Theater at the University of Minnesota. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children, students and seniors. For information, call 827-0650.

Dance



"Fertile Ground," a performance featuring works by Macalester faculty and guest choreographers Matthew Janczewski and Jane Hawley, will be performed by the Macalester Dance Ensemble at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 5-6, and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7, in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Theatre at Macalester College. For tickets, priced at \$7.00, or \$5.00 for seniors and free for Macalester faculty and staff, call 696-6359.

The Minnesota Orchestra will perform Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$7.00 to \$25.50, call 371-5656.

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A traveling exhibit of "Unpacking On The Prairie: Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest" will open December 16 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The 26-panel exhibit will be on display until December 28 before beginning a five-year tour of the U.S.

The TGIS Singles Social Club will hold a smoke-free dance at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 13, in the Main Ballroom of the Ramada Inn, 1870 Old Hudson Rd. Second Generation will provide the music. Admission is \$8.00 with a \$1.00 discount for those arriving before 9:00 p.m. For information, call 644-3443.

Film



"Cinema with Passion" continues with weekend showings at the Riverview Theatre, 3800 S. 42nd Ave., Minneapolis, with the following films: *Enter the Fat Dragon* at midnight Saturday, December 6; *The Legend of the Wolf* at midnight Friday, December 5, at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 6, and at midnight Saturday, December 13; and *Black Mask* at midnight Friday, December 12, and at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 13. Admission is \$5.00. For information, call 349-2549.

Exhibits



"Manhattan Streets," recent paintings by Matthew Madsen, has opened at Bread & Chocolate, 867 Grand Ave. The exhibit can be viewed between 6:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. everyday.

An exhibit of mixed media by seven employees of the Frameworks store at 2022A Ford Pkwy. will remain on view at the store through January 4. The exhibit features ceramics and oil pastel by Pam Fechter, acrylic and oil by Heidi Henderson, collage and acrylic by Trisha Burr, oil pastel by Mike Fraser, acrylic by Jim Laitinen, pinhole photography by Lynn McMahon and photography by Mike Rigney.

"A Showcase of Holiday Gifts," featuring a broad range of two-dimensional and three-dimensional works created and handcrafted by more than 50 American artists, has opened and will remain open until December 27 at Art Resources Gallery, at 9th and Jackson streets. For information, call 222-4431.

A faculty exhibit has opened

in the Herbert P. Buetow Music Center Gallery at Concordia University. The exhibit will remain on view until December 19. Admission is free. For information, call 641-8278.

An exhibit of new paintings by Rod Massey and Mike Lynch will open with a reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, December 6, at Groveland Gallery, 25 Groveland Terrace, Minneapolis. The exhibits will remain on view until January 7. For information, call 377-7800.

An exhibit of drawings by Thomas Cowette, paintings by Michael Hilmo and Andrea Wito and photography by John Murray will open with a reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, December 6, at Beauxmange Fine Art, 684 S. Smith Ave. The exhibit will remain on display until December 20.

Theater



The Penumbra Theatre Company has opened *Black Nativity* at the Fitzgerald Theatre, downtown St. Paul. Performances will continue through December 28. For tickets, priced from \$6.00 to \$25, call 989-5151.

Hamline University Theatre will perform two one-act plays at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, December 4-6, in Drew Hall at Hamline University. The first play is Romulus Linney's *Akhmatova* and the second play is Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaikin's *Tongues*. For tickets, priced at \$5.00, or \$4.00 for students, call 523-2905.

The theater department of Como Park High School, 740 W. Rose Ave., will perform *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 5-6 and 12-13, in the auditorium. On December 6 there will be a special dinner theater performance beginning at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and seniors. For tickets, call 293-8800.

Teatro del Pueblo will open *La Posada*, the comical love story of Anita and Aurelio, an elderly couple living in West St. Paul, on Saturday, December 6, in Ord-

way's McKnight Theater. Performances will be given at 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays and at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays through December 21. For tickets, priced at \$15, or \$7.50 for students, children and seniors, call 224-4222.

Tales From the Charred Underbelly of the Yule Log, written and performed by Kevin Kling, will open Thursday, December 11, at the Jungle Theater, 709 W. Lake St., Minneapolis. Prior to the performance, will be a reading of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Bain Boehlke. Performances will be given at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, at 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays until January 4. For ticket information, call 822-7063.

The Highland Park Thespian Society will present the comedy *Honeymoon at Graveside Manor* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, December 11-12, at Highland Park Senior High School, 1015 S. Snelling Ave. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.50 for students. For information, call 293-8940.

Daybreak, an original rock musical by Concordia seniors Bill Sather and Stan Thompson, will be performed at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, December 11-13, in the E.M. Pearson Theatre at Concordia University. The musical, based loosely on the biblical story of the prodigal son, explores how a family deals with the death of its husband and father. Discussions will follow each performance. Admission is free. For information, call 641-8755.

Etc.



A Renaissance Madrigal Feast will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 12-13, in St. Joseph Hall at the College of St. Catherine. The College of St. Catherine Madrigal Singers will lead the guests in an evening of singing, dancing and joking. An Elizabethan meal of roast pork will be served. The cost is \$30, or \$25 per person when registering a table of eight. For reservations, call 690-6700.

SPORTS

CODY'S CORNER

TOM CODY



Revolving door hits baseball's backside again

Major League Baseball coaches now know how I feel when one of my high school players graduates. Actually, I have it a little better as a prep coach. Four years on the same team is a rarity these days in the majors, where ballplayers seem to come and go faster than McDonald's patrons.

Take the Florida Marlins. Owner Wayne Huizenga did a major league housecleaning just weeks after his team's World Series victory. Moises Alou, Jeff Saunders, Devon White and Robb Nen were all abruptly dispatched from the Sunshine State. At last report Kevin Brown and Al Leiter had their bags packed as well.

Huizenga says he lost \$30 million this year while winning a world championship. He's selling the club after failing in an attempt to procure a new ballpark. "We had 30 rain delays last year," Huizenga said in his appeal for a new retractable-roofed stadium. "Fans won't put up with that. Nobody likes to drink in an empty bar."

Now wait just a minute, Wayne. I LIKE rain delays. And I REALLY like drinking in empty bars. Either beats an evening standing in line in one of your Blockbuster Video stores.

Major League Baseball is beginning to resemble Fantasy Baseball. Fans are being asked to remain loyal to patchwork teams while the players are shuttled about like mercenaries. If Huizenga's situation doesn't alert baseball's hierarchy to the economic disaster ahead, nothing will.

SAD STATE OF SPORTS

The Arizona Diamondbacks and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays must have outstanding talent scouts. Neither of the new Major League Baseball franchises selected a Twins pitcher in the recent expansion draft. The Twins lost only the eminently replaceable Damian Miller and Brett Brede—one a backup catcher, the other a spray hitter with no defensive position.

The Twins, now representing the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Charlotte, have some serious off-season work to do if they don't want their lame-duck lineup to merely limp through next season. The team has no power to speak of. Marty Cordova's return from injury offers only slight hope for improvement in the home run department. Paul Molitor seems intent on a change of address. Terry Steinbach, who signed a long-term contract with the Twins hoping to finish his career in front of family and friends, may end up arranging regular New Ulm to North Carolina bus

Cody's Corner/see page 42

Prep basketball preview

Hoop hopes run high among local boys teams

by Tom Cody

From the look of things, there'll be plenty of victories to go around once again for boys basketball programs in this area this year. Last year, five of the eight squads in the Villager area had 15 wins or more. This year, their prospects look even better.

"Central's got to be the choice in the St. Paul City Conference," said Highland Park coach Charles Portis. "They've got a ton of talent."

"No doubt about it, Highland Park's got it all," said Central coach Steve Lasley. "Size, speed, depth, talent. They're the number one favorite."

Cretin-Derham Hall also should field a competitive club in the St. Paul Conference. Minneapolis Roosevelt may have lost five starters to graduation from last year's state tournament team, but coach Frank Hentges will be trotting out another strong squad for the Teds. St. Thomas Academy's towering lineup makes it an instant contender in the St. Paul Suburban, and Minnehaha Academy and St. Paul Academy return talented troops.

Two new rules have been added in high school basketball this year. The first replaces one of the four 60-second timeouts with two 20-second breaks. The other restricts players from moving during free throws until the ball hits the rim. Local coaches favor the first change, and are divided on the second.

"I don't like it," said Minnehaha's Ben Erickson of the new free throw rule. "It's still going to be rough in the paint, no matter when the players can move. Now there'll be no block-outs, just a free-for-all after the ball. It eliminates technique."

STA coach Mike Sjoberg likes the rule, figuring it will benefit larger players. "Most free throw rebounds come off softly, so the big guys on the inside will get them," he said.

Here's a look at how local coaches size up their chances for success this season:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City Conference
1996-97 record: 15-7

Coach: Steve Lasley

Key players: Adam Hunkins, se-

Boys/see page 39



St. Thomas Academy's 6-foot-5 senior guard David Raih takes one to the hole. Photo by Mike Long.

Girls teams will court success with returning talent

by Bill Wagner

Experience will separate the women from the girls in local high school basketball this year. Teams that have it are looking forward to a good season from the start. Those that don't are pinning their hopes on a late-season run.

Henry Sibley made such a run last year when the Warriors carried a sub-

.500 record through a string of victories in the Section 3AAA playoffs and all the way to the state tournament. They were eliminated by Fridley in the quarterfinals.

With four returning starters, the Warriors are hoping to pick up where they left off this year. Visitation and Minnehaha Academy, with four and three returning starters, respectively, also

hope to use experience to their advantage. Central, Minneapolis Roosevelt and St. Paul Academy have some experience, but Highland Park is looking to rebuild. Cretin-Derham Hall, with two returning starters, will play a younger team than last year, but is still expected to repeat as St. Paul City Conference

Girls/see next page

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Central teammates mix it up during girls basketball practice. Photo by Mike Long.

Girls hoops preview/

from previous page

champions.

This will be the second season for the four-class playoff format in high school basketball. As with last year, Central and Cretin-Derham Hall will compete against the large schools in Class AAAA; Highland Park, Henry Sibley and Roosevelt will play in Class AAA; and Minnehaha, SPA and Visitation will play in AA.

Here is how the coaches at the eight high schools in the Villager area size up their prospects for the coming season:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City Conference
Coach: Carol Sellars
1996-97 record: 19-4

Key players: Tessa Tritabaugh, junior center; Amber Jenkins, senior guard; Jana Miller, junior guard; Chaka Adams, senior guard; Wazira Withers, point guard.

Team strengths and weaknesses: The Minutemaids have good offensive balance, with Tritabaugh serving as the pivot for a plethora of quick guards. Defense should be a strong point, but rebounding and the inside game are suspect.

Outlook for 1996-97: Central should challenge Cretin-Derham Hall for the top spot, though the Minutemaids are more likely to finish a strong second. "Hopefully, we'll give (the Raiders) a little bit of a run," Sellars said.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: St. Paul City Conference
Coach: Tom Cody
1996-97 record: 19-6, conference champs

Key players: Kate Townley, sophomore point guard; Natalie Roedler, senior guard; Meghan Felicelli, senior guard; Jackie Bye, junior forward; Chrissy Melander, junior center.

Team strengths and weaknesses: "We're small but quick," Cody said. "We'll be able to press well and we have athletes, but we might be thin on the bench and I don't know about our defense."

Outlook for 1996-97: The Raiders are a talented team and should be fun to watch.

Townley may be the best player in the conference and Bye, a transfer from St. Agnes, will have an impact. The Raiders are favored to win the conference.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: St. Paul Suburban Conference
Coach: Doug Linton
1996-97 record: 12-14, section champs

Key players: Kirsten Johnson, senior forward; Lindsay Holmes, senior point guard; Laura Ashley, junior forward; Mary Svendsen, senior center; Kara Blesener, junior forward; Eva Steffansditter, senior center.

Team strengths and weaknesses: The Warriors return four starters and the inside game is improved. Consistency may be a problem, however.

Outlook for 1996-97: With last year's strong finish and an experienced lineup, Linton said, "We're excited. We think we'll have a good year."

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City Conference
Coach: Lynn Nelson
1996-97 record: 12-8

Key players: Niambi Shakir, junior center; Shaunte Johnson, junior center; Jill Reinhardt, junior guard; Devon Radosevich, junior guard; Laura Haugen, sophomore guard; Joanne Garlich, senior center.

Team strengths and weaknesses: The Scots have a taller lineup than in recent years and may have a stronger post game, but they're inexperienced and don't have much depth.

Outlook for 1996-97: With only two seniors, this will probably be a rebuilding year for the Scots. Still, Nelson says his squad could make a run late in the year.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference
Coach: Lance Johnson
1996-97 record: 19-4

Key players: Emilie Troup, senior guard; Cara

Girls/see next page

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Boys prep basketball preview /from page 37

nior center; John Dungy, junior forward; Paul Schultz, junior forward.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Central has good depth, size and speed. Hunkins and Schultz are both legitimate double-digit scorers. "We should be able to rebound," Lasley said, "but we have only two starters back off last year's team, so we lack a little experience."

Outlook for 1997-98: Lasley likes Highland, but Central will be in the thick of the City Conference fight. "Minneapolis North is still the team to beat in the section (2AAAA)," Lasley said. "They lost five starters, but they could lose 10 and they'd still be the team to beat."

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: St. Paul City Conference
1996-97 record: 9-11
Coach: Bill McKee

Key players: Jabari Barner, senior center; Nick Birk, senior guard; Dean Greenwood, senior forward; Jack Hanahan, senior forward.

Team strengths/weaknesses: "We have some decent athletes," McKee said. "We'll do all right defensively." The Raiders' size and speed are concerns, and outside shooting could be a third. But the cupboard is not bare at CDH by any means. There are some talented youngsters in the program ready to help out.

Outlook for 1997-98: "Highland and Central are both very talented teams," McKee said. "North will be tough to beat in our section, but you've also got to get by Eagan, Minneapolis South and Central to get there."

HENRY SIBLEY

League: St. Paul Suburban Conference
1996-97 record: 2-21
Coach: Bob Guinn

Key players: Jim Koenigsberger, senior center; Andy Koppi, senior forward; Joe Jarpe, senior guard.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sibley's returning players logged plenty of min-

utes last year. "We'll be better defensively," Guinn said. "And we'll be strong inside with Koenigsberger and Koppi. We got killed inside last year." Sibley's perimeter shooters won't scare any opponents, so the Warriors will have to get most of their points in the paint.

Outlook for 1997-98: The Suburban Conference will be too tough for Sibley this winter. Look for Guinn's guys to improve as the season progresses.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City Conference
1996-97 record: 20-5
Coach: Charles Portis

Key players: Lewis Freeman, senior guard; Jeremy Adams, sophomore forward; Mark Wingo, junior forward; Terrence Stokes, junior guard.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Portis will have good depth and solid inside scoring. "We don't have the outside

Boys/see next page

Girls prep basketball preview /from previous page

Jones, junior guard/forward; Mamie Crayton, senior point guard; Stephanie Scott, junior center; Morgen Anderson, junior guard; Amanda Johnson, 8th-grade forward/center.

Team strengths and weaknesses: 'Haha returns its top three players from last year. The team is quick and strong offensively. However, the team's rebounding skills are iffy.

Outlook for 1996-97: The Red Hawks are shooting for a conference title after losing to Blake three times last year. "We have very high expectations," Johnson said.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City Conference
Coach: Carita Green (first year)
1996-97 record: 9-13

Key players: Niki Mays, senior point guard; Katrina Reese, junior guard; Davita Scott, senior guard; Donna Addison, senior forward.

Team strengths and weaknesses: The Teddies are quick and have strong

senior leadership, but their lack of height will hurt.

Outlook for 1996-97: "We're hoping to do better than last year," Green said, "maybe second or third place. We'll be competitive."

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Valley Conference
Coach: Jarvis Keys
1996-97 record: 17-9

Key players: Kirsten Klavan, senior center; Mara Schanfield, senior guard; Duretti Fufa, senior point guard; Oju Obi, sophomore guard.

Team strengths and weaknesses: The Spartans have some experience at center and guard, but they start two first-year players and have a young bench as well.

Outlook for 1996-97: SPA looks like a better team all around this year, especially with the recent addition of Klavan, who came out late because of swimming. Rebounding and scoring should be no problem. "We'll get better as the season goes along," said Keys.

VISITATION

League: Tri-Valley Conference
Coach: Paul Bernabei (first year)
1996-97 record: 17-8, conference champs

Key players: Maureen Smith, junior center; Katie Bernabei, senior forward/point guard; Nicole LeDuc, senior center; Alice LaFave, senior forward; Katie Hanson, sophomore forward/center; Elisa Ryan, junior forward; Kelly Fitzgerald, sophomore center; Shannon Fitzgerald, sophomore center; Miquela Hernandez, sophomore forward.

Team strengths and weaknesses: With four starters back, the Blazers are experienced. They have good balance, but will need to find a point guard.

Outlook for 1996-97: Visitation has won the conference title four years running and it looks like the team to beat once again in the Tri-Valley. "I think we have a chance to get to state," coach Bernabei said.

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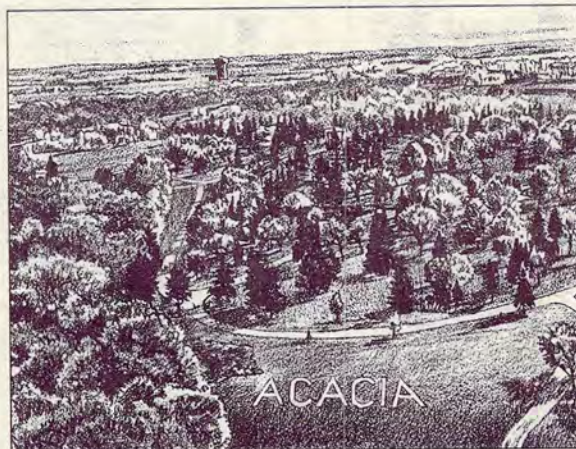
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Boys basketball preview / from previous page

shooters this year," he said, "but we should have better rebounding. Freeman always seems to make big plays for us." Stokes' development at point guard will be one key to Highland's fortunes.

Outlook for 1997-98: "It'll be a tough City Conference race with Central, Highland and Cretin," Portis said. "There won't be a runaway winner. Humboldt also has a big center who's going to make them a sleeper." Portis sees Highland in a three-way battle for the section title with STA and Simley (last year's Class AAA state champ).

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

1996-97 record: 19-6

Coach: Ben Erickson

Key players: Peter Kiedrowski, senior guard; Peter Hamburge, junior guard; John Brenne-man, junior center; Ryan Chamberlain, junior guard.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Red Hawks have two great players in Kiedrowski and Brenne-man. "Peter is our leader," Erickson said, "and John has become the man for us inside." Minnehaha is experienced, but still young. The team is big and physical, and loaded with shooters. But half-court defense might be a concern for Erickson.

Outlook for 1997-98: Three of the metro area's top 10 teams in Class AA are playing in the Tri-Metro: Minnehaha, De La Salle and St. Agnes. "We've all beaten each other a few times," Erickson said. "It should be quite a battle." Holy Angels will join the fray once section playoffs begin.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City Conference

1996-97 record: 19-8, state Class AAA third-place winners

Coach: Frank Hentges

Key players: DaNei Willsun, senior forward; Thadeus Fly, junior guard; Marcus Williams, senior forward; David Bryant, junior guard; J.R. Burnit, senior guard.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Nine of Roosevelt's top 10 players graduated from last year's state tournament team. "We'll be all right," Hentges said. "Willsun and Fly will score. We'll play good man-to-man defense. We have more shooters than usual, and we're quick." The team's biggest problem is inexperience.

Outlook for 1997-98: Washburn's size and experience gives that school the nod in the conference and section. "Henry will be good and North is still North," Hentges said. Look for Roosevelt to do its customary giant-killer act a couple of times this winter.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Valley Conference

1996-97 record: 10-13

Coach: Don Flucker

Key players: Zack Neren, senior guard; T.J. Prunty, sophomore forward; Matt Wernz, senior guard; Curt Apfelbacher, junior center.

Team strengths/weaknesses:

Neren is a pure shooter who hit for 19 points a game last year. The Spartans have an extremely deep bench, solid size, strong shooting and speed. "I'd be disappointed if we didn't have a super season," Flucker said. "Our juniors are pretty inexperienced, so the seniors will have to lead us."

Outlook for 1997-98:

Mayer Lutheran is the defending Tri-Valley champion, and Flucker sees the Spartans challenging them for the title this year. "I also like St. Agnes in our section," he said, "along with De La Salle and Minnehaha."

ST. THOMAS ACADEMY

League: St. Paul Suburban Conference

1996-97 record: 18-6

Coach: Mike Sjoberg

Key players: Joe Keller, senior center; Rob Worthington, senior forward; Kevin Fitzgerald, junior guard; Ben Pearson, senior forward; David Raih, senior guard.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sjoberg has five starters 6-foot-5 or taller, but will not be able to play his big line-up for extended periods. "We can't match up with other team's quick players," he said, "but they'll have trouble matching up with our size." Keller's NBA-sized body (6-foot-9, 270 pounds) makes him indomitable in the paint. Worthington and Fitzgerald also are college-caliber players. The Cadets have size, shooting ability and depth, and will score plenty of points. Defending the perimeter will be the key.

Outlook for 1997-98:

"It's a tough league," Sjoberg said. "There's Tartan, Hastings, Simley and us, and I haven't even mentioned Park or Woodbury." Simley and Highland will be major roadblocks for the Cadets in the section.

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SPORTS SHORTS

The Groveland Sonics Bantam boys cross country team took first place at last month's US Track and Field state meet held on a 3-kilometer course in Apple Valley. The team, coached by Bill Hume and Matt Ogle of Macalester-Groveland, included Spencer Nedved, 10, who finished fourth overall with a time of 13:30.7; John Jorgenson, 8, in 8th place at 14:17.3; Charles Cosimini, 10, in 10th place at 14:32.0; and Eric Winsor, 9, in 21st place at 15:31.8. Also competing at the meet were the Sonics' Alexandra Pichert, 10, Colleen Lehman, 9, and Lisa Singh, 10, who finished sixth-eighth, respectively, among 23 competitors in the Bantam Girls 3K; and Kirsten Hagen, 11, and Maria Seghers, 11, who finished seventh and ninth, respectively, among 23 competitors in the Midget Girls 3K.

The St. Paul Public Schools will mark the 100th anniversary of its athletic conference in 1998-99. Volunteers are now being sought to help plan the celebration. Among the events that have been suggested so far are a centennial re-enactment of the first conference football game between Central High and Mechanic Arts, a banquet and the selection of the top 100 athletes of the past 100 years and the top 25 female athletes of the past 25 years. Prospective volunteers are invited to call Ron Slotsve, athletic director, at 293-5104.

The level 6 team from Turners Gymnastics in Mendota Heights placed first in the recent USA Gymnastics Qualifier. Individual first-place performances were turned in by Laura Hansen on the beam, Elizabeth Skradski on the vault and Kirsten Johnson on the uneven bars. Johnson qualified for state with a second-place in the all-around. Also placing were Nicole Bernard, Shelby Dixon, Tiffany Heaver, Audrey Liqueard, Hannah Nilles and Jenna Wollemann.



Highland Catholic School's boys "C" soccer team ended their season with a perfect 7-0 record. Pictured, from left, are (front row) Joe Morevac, Andy Gikling, Lee Bengel, Eric Larson, Max Filter, Tony Cullen, Casey Moores and Michael Jones; and (back row) Charlie Salmen, Paul Glineburg, Mike Distad, Luke Redfern, coach Terry Cullen, Spencer Corrigan, Chris Ewald, Jimmy Osborne and Kyle Robertson.

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Bodywork additional by estimate.

Cody's Corner: Twins need to cast their net into free-agent waters/

from page 37

trips for the Steinbach clan.

Pitching, of course, is the issue, and the Twins' staff, though slightly superior to the Devil Rays' and the Diamondbacks', has enormous room for improvement. G.M. Terry Ryan will have to cast his net into the free-agent waters and reel in a stringer or land a couple of live young arms through a Chuck Knoblauch trade. Todd Walker, who's proven he's no third baseman, could then return to his natural position at second.

It's fast becoming a holiday tradition. Each winter, just as Christmas lights begin to brighten front yards, the Vikings start to fade in the NFC Central. With their 8-2 start now a distant memory, it's time for the Purple Gang to set out on its annual quest for home-field advantage in the Wild Card game. This year, success or failure is apt to hinge on the December 14 home game against the Lions. In order to win this one, Brad Johnson will need to reacquire himself with his two favorite wide receivers. Detroit completely shut down Jake Reed and Cris Carter in the two teams' first meeting.

As in past years, Robert Smith's health also will be a big factor heading into the stretch. While Cal Ripken's Iron Man record may not be in jeopardy, Smith has succeeded in putting together a pair of four-game playing streaks this year. Another key for the Vikes is the play of the cornerbacks, who'll have to come up big against San Francisco, Detroit and Indianapolis. Corey Fuller and DeWayne Washington are renowned for their trash talk, but it's not enough to talk a good game; it's time they played one.

Despite winning four of their first six road games, the Timberwolves find themselves hovering around the .500 mark. This team has had more problems at home than Macauley Caulkin. The trio of Roberts, Parks and Rozier have done little to erase the memories of Stoyko Vrankovic.

One positive development has been the continued improvement of Chris Carr at two-guard. Carr is athletic, has good range and wants the ball in key situations. Remember, this kid is not that much older than Garnett and Marbury. Fellow shooting guard Doug West has now become more expendable. A big man—any big man—would be a suitable asking price.

You'd think Clem's Crew could contend for the middle of the Big Ten pack on the strength of their Final Four fumes

alone, but maybe not. Non-conference losses to Utah State and Alabama have dimmed the hopes of even the most optimistic Gopher fans. There just isn't that much talent in the lineup. Haskins, who has perfected the art of recruiting players who aren't quite good enough to leave college early for the NBA draft, outdid himself with his current group.

Point guard Eric Harris is not a dependable scorer. Miles Tarver gives "limited" a whole new meaning at the post. Power forward Quincy Lewis put on 20 pounds during the off-season, but still does a decent imitation of a zipper when standing sideways. Junior-college transfer Kevin Clark is the reincarnation of Townsend Orr; he's so quick he can create a bad shot in virtually any situation. Sam fans can expect to see plenty of Jacobson, but his game has suffered from the departure of James, Thomas and Jackson. He'll still have his moments of brilliance in the Barn, but 35 minutes a game will drastically reduce his productivity by February. Sounds like a convenience store (7-11) conference season to me.

On the bright side, it was recently announced that the Gophers are not threatening to leave town.

CHEAP SHOTS FROM THE BLEACHERS

Minnesota's new NHL franchise has unveiled six possible nicknames for the team. Not one of them strikes me as particularly clever or appropriate. The "Freeze" sounds like a Batman villain. The "Northern Lights" conjures up a low-fat tortilla chip. The "White Bears" reminds me of the two high school hookers in *Fargo*. The "Blue Ox"? It ain't you, Babe. The "Minnesota Wild"? Obviously not a reference to downtown St. Paul on a Saturday night. The "Voyageurs"? Why would anyone name a team after a bimonthly neighborhood newspaper?

Glad to see Augsburg advance in the first round of the NCAA Division III regional football playoffs. Due to an obscure rule, the Augies (9-1, MIAC champs) had to travel to Fargo to play lower-ranked Concordia-Moorhead (8-2, MIAC runner-up). That just ain't right.

PREPS REAP HONORS

A plethora of local high school athletes were honored recently for their participation in fall sports.

All-conference honors in football went to Bernie Lacy, Kevin Mason, Jeff Garrett, Ben Larson and Preston Foster of Central; Nick Sundsmo, Enoch Griffin, Tim Minor and Richard Lewis of Highland Park; Jerry Burch, Nick Birk, Phil Archer, Keith Arnold, Andy Moore, Brian Whinnery and Jack Hannahan of Cretin-Derham Hall; and T.J. Prunty of St. Paul Academy.

All-conference in boys soccer were Damien Allen, Peter Bedard, Ramile Puerto, Evan Richardson, Matt Weiss and Mike Trudeau of Central; Matt Stern of Highland Park; Joe Roedler, Todd Clauser, Dan Schmidt, B.J. Stevens and Ben Olin of CDH; Andy Bader, Marty Barklow, Kevin Campbell and Mike Langer of Sibley; Jeff Chuy, Kevin Fitzgerald, Shaun O'Farrell and Kevin Scheid of St. Thomas Academy; and Adam Martin, Peter Kiedrowski, Nick Wendland and Andy Rotkenstein of Minnehaha Academy.

All-conference honors in girls soccer went to Katie Bernabei, Alice LaFave, Christina Adams, Lauren Seykora of Visitation; Dee Shulman, Heather Murphy, Karen Tani and Leslie Gerbering of SPA; and Sarah Kron, Taylor Hilker, Kettie Widfield and Birungi Mitubi of Minnehaha.

All-conference in cross country were Paul Fischer, Matt Peterson, Bryan Donald, Dan Knappmiller, Ben Folman, Nick Kanavati, Molly Barker, Sonja Bostrom, Christina Gosack, Siri Larson, Teoi Knight and Angela Powlak of Central; Dan Ledman, Brian Knutson, Bryan Tuohy, Wade Moravec, Anna Shields and Loraine Leete of CDH; and Sara Conrad and Lindsay Conrad of Highland Park.

At the state girls swimming and diving meet, the top local finisher was Lisa Lendway of CDH, who swam 10th in the 100-meter breaststroke. Other state qualifiers included Nora Ames of Minnehaha, 11th in the 200M freestyle; Amy Brennan of CDH, 12th in the 100M backstroke; Kristen Kleven of Highland Park/SPA, 16th in the 50M freestyle; Kathleen Conway of CDH, 15th in the 100M butterfly; and Katie Bernabei of Visitation, 12th in the 1M diving.

Three area soccer coaches received section coach of the year awards: Kate Hand of the CDH girls team, Terry Doud of Sibley boys and Mike Holbach of Sibley girls. CDH baseball coach Jim O'Neill received the state coaches association's coach of the year award.

Professional Directory

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

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**Next Issue: Dec. 17
Deadline: Dec. 10**

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RED WORMS, bins, books, demo's. Indoor compost supply. Mary, 378-9234. **gv**

HUGE FURNITURE sale. Bed sets: king \$99; full \$59 & \$69; exc. cond.; frames \$25 & up; bedspreads \$10; chairs \$19; carpet 12 x 17 \$39 & up/roll, drapes \$5 ea.; lamps \$15/up; artwork \$15; wood desks \$69; round tables \$39; nightstands \$49; framed mirrors \$29; hide-a-beds \$159; 19" color TV's with remote, AM/FM radio, \$89. New sofas, living room and bedroom sets. New mattresses: king & queen, \$149. Hundreds of other items, new & used. Hotel Furniture Liquidators. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10-7, Sat., 10-6; St. Paul: 1800 University Ave. 645-9929; 927 Payne Ave., 771-9981. Mpls.: 2726 E. Lake St., 721-1899. Deliveries available. **gv**

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MARY KAY SKIN CARE products available; home delivery; Meredith, 690-1992. **v**

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TWO-YEAR-OLD Himalayan male de-clawed, neutered cat; wonderful as only pet; \$50; 698-5059. **v**

WATKINS PRODUCTS. Great Christmas gifts. Free catalogs. Home delivery. Call LeAnne, 698-8316. Ind. Mktg. Rep. **v**

For Sale

ALUMINUM ADJUSTABLE CANE-good enough for your mom? Not mine! Distinctive canes and walking sticks make great gifts for moms, dads, grandparents and your brother-in-law with the bad knee. From \$35-\$350 at Raising Cane, Mall of America or catalog. 854-3452. **v**

SNOW CHAMP snowblower, \$75; pot-bellied stove, \$200; 644-9256. **v**

MUST SELL! 1/3 cut marquise with baguettes, wedding band with 6 diamonds; 621-8587. **v**

NORDICTRACK, basic rowing machine, ABS, 690-5919. **v**

NORDICTRACK PRO, excellent condition, only used 20 times, \$350/best offer; 698-7143. **v**

FRIGIDAIRE STOVE, electric, clean, great condition, \$125; 699-2993. **v**

TENOR SAX, Yamaha, perfect condition, \$500; 690-9524. **v**

WICKER COUCH, \$225, wicker rocker, \$75, oak double bed, headboard, footboard, \$125; 724-1586. **v**

POWER LIFT CHAIR, wheelchair, over the chair or bed table, commode and other medical accessories. 690-8418. **v**

BEANIES. Lots and lots of them. Good prices. Call 699-8538. **v**

Craft/Boutique/Holiday

RARE & USED BOOKS, 30-50% off, special bargains, shelves, bookends, Annotators 2, 626 Armstrong Ave., Dec. 13-15, 10-3; 221-0888. **gv**

ROYAL HOLIDAYS Craft Sale & Boutique. Sat., Dec. 6, 10-5; Sun., Dec. 7, 11-4. Maplewood Community Center, 2100 White Bear Ave. (1/2 mile south of Hwy. 36). Great variety. Free admission & parking. Info, 785-0093. Sponsored by Royal Guard. **v**

BOULIQUE SALE. Dec. 5, 3-8; Dec. 6, 9-4; 1902 Juliet Ave. **v**

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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. **gv**

Next Issue: December 17 Deadline: December 10

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All classified ads are payable in advance by cash, check or credit card and cannot be taken over the phone. Please mail or deliver your ad with payment to the *Villager*, 757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116-2296 or fax it with your credit card information to 699-6501.

For more information, call 699-1462.

Classified ads appearing in the *Villager* are coded with a "v" in the ad. Those in the *Grand Gazette* and *Villager* are coded with a "gv."

Real Estate

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WANTED: OLD COSTUME jewelry (pre 1970's), perfume bottles, compacts and handbags, fair prices paid. Contact Lorraine, 228-0345, leave msg. **gv**

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9.75	10.50	11.25	12.00
12.75	13.50	14.25	15.00
15.75	16.50	17.25	18.00

Please Note: Classified ads are 75 cents a word, \$7.50 minimum. (See savings on ValuMart rates above.) All classified ads are payable in advance: cash, check, credit card. Mail, fax or deliver your ad to: *Villager*, 757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116. Fax: 699-6501. For more information, call 699-1462.

To charge your ad, please complete: ☐ Discover ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____
Signature _____ Phone _____

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

RECEPTIONIST

COME JOIN OUR TEAM!
10-15 HOURS/WEEK
Our St. Paul (Highland Park) office is looking for a new team player with excellent customer service skills, good phone etiquette and computer/typing experience to schedule property showings and provide general office support. Evening and weekend hours. Call Tammy at 690-8481. EOE

Edina Realty

HOUSEKEEPERS

FT and PT opportunities exist for Housekeepers. These are great opportunities for students 16 and over! Excellent benefits! Flexible hours plus alternating weekends and holidays. Apply in person at: Rosewood Estate, 750 Mississippi River Blvd., St. Paul, or call 698-1111 to set up an interview. EOE.

ROSEWOOD ESTATE
Equal Opportunity Employer

PT REAL ESTATE ASSISTANT

20 HRS./WK, real estate call ground a plus, car needed, call Robin 699-6666, Ext. 22.

Above Average Pay - Flexible Schedule

PART-TIME GENERAL OFFICE support. Duties include phones, word processing, spreadsheet. Excellent phone and computer skills required. Pay based on qualifications. Cahill, Schmitz & Cahill Gary Johnson, 646-7217

OFFICE HELP

The University of St. Thomas Development Office is needing Office Help 30 hours per week. File, microfilm, organize. Flexible hours anytime between 8 and 4:30. Must be detail oriented and able to work independently. Excellent benefits package. To apply: send cover letter (refer to #400107 to apply for this position) and resume before 4:30 p.m. Friday, December 12, 1997 to: Human Resources, Mail #AQU217, 2115 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105. Applications received after this date are not guaranteed consideration. EOE.

ST. THOMAS

The smart place to advertise for unusually qualified employees

SECRETARY

Full-time secretary position available immediately in a non-smoking office. Skills and responsibilities include general clerical work, back-up receptionist, friendly and professional communications, quality proofing skills, experience in Microsoft Word and the ability to work independently. Starting salary of \$9.45/hr + medical/dental/life insurance, PTO (paid time off), pension & 125 plan. Send resume via fax to 699-0799 or mail to 690 S. Cleveland Ave. St. Paul, MN 55116, Attn: Office Mgr. EOE.

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NEEDED:

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All Shifts Available
Monday - Saturday
Apply in Person

Big Top Liquors
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St. Paul

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Earn a salary while studying to become a Chiropractic Paraprofessional.

- paid positions for most students while in their first term;
- earn an A.A. S. degree from Normandale Community College;
- acquire a Chiropractic Paraprofessional certificate from Northwestern College of Chiropractic.

Attend an information session on Dec. 17. For details, call Carol in the Paraprofessional office at Northwestern at (612) 887-1381 or visit our WEB site at <http://www.nwchiro.edu>

Home Improvements

NO SALESMEN

WE DO OUR OWN WORK. General Remodeling. Portfolio and References. Mn. Lic. #20068296; Pat, 332-6017; 235-8995, pager. v

CABINETS, CARPENTRY. In home or my shop; furniture repairs, refinishing. Small jobs welcome. John, 659-8926. v

FOX'S PAINTING. Reasonable, professional, references; residential/commercial; verry neat; 730-9944. v

HANDYMAN. Snow shoveling, affordable, household repairs, lifetime experience; Highland resident; insured; 1-800-273-1585. v

Home Services

KEN BRISSON SEWING Machine Repair; home services, free estimates, work guaranteed; 464-3702. gv

BURTON'S RAIN GUTTER Service. Install, clean, repair; rainleader disconnects; chimney caps; since 1973, licensed, insured; Burton Johnson, 699-8900. gv

WILLIE'S RUBBISH HAULING and small demolition and garage and basement cleaning; 825-6511; 650-7695, pager; licensed. gv

A & B APPLIANCE Repair and maintenance; 10% senior discount; Visa, MasterCard accepted; 698-6017. gv

HANDYMAN, PLOWING, hauling, demolition, reasonable rates; phone, 729-6272, Michael. gv

CARPET RECYCLING Services. Take-up, floor prep, haul away. VCT, linoleum, adhesive removal. Full service for less than your installer charges. NATION-WIDE CARPET RECYCLING; 521-2909, 24 hours. gv

ERRANDS MADE EASY shopping service. Holiday gift certificates available. 699-4564. gv

FURNITURE REPAIR. All types; nicks, gouges, scratches, buttons, springs & things; complete antique restoration; 482-9386. We also buy antiques. v

HANDYMAN. Handling most household repairs; 10 years' experience in Highland; Pat, 698-1820. v

HAULING, REASONABLE rates; free estimates, demolition, etc.; 869-8697; 722-0292. v

SEWING MACHINE & Serger: service, sales, rentals; in-home, economical, 30 years' experience. Truman, 699-0436. v

HANDYMAN, 20 years' experience, big or small jobs; 482-9386. v

CLOCKS REPAIRED, experienced craftsman, reasonable rates; all work guaranteed; 698-9698. v

ANTIQUE CLOCK REPAIR (and others); Grandfather service; local moving; 698-9220. v

CHAIR CANING, reasonable rates, James Bell, years of experience; 699-8740. v

UPHOLSTERY. Labor starting at chairs, \$225; loveseats, \$275; couches, \$375; Orb Upholstery, 25 years; Dave, 721-5105. v

CARPET CLEANING, two average-size rooms, \$35.00; 10% off upholstery cleaning; Dave, 721-5105. v

CARPET RESTRETCHES/Repairs, free estimates; 9 years' experience; Chad, 659-0288. v

GUTTER CLEANING/repair; roof repair; snowplowing; 724-3934. v

WINDOW CLEANING, gutter cleaning, gutter repair. C-View, 489-5168. v

HARRIS WINDOW/gutter, since 1986, year-round interior/exterior window cleaning. Call for free estimate; 880-2527. v

Housecleaning

PROFESSIONAL CLEANING COUPLE 15 years; housekeeping, office cleaning; window washing, carpet cleaning; move in/move out cleaning; insured, bonded; William, 823-2590. gv

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES

- Tabs and Transfers
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- Bicycles, Snowmobile and Boat Registration

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9 - 7:30 Weekdays
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2nd floor
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SEARS
Phone 291-4267

FREE-LANCE WRITERS WANTED

The Villager and Grand Gazette newspapers are seeking reporters to write news and feature stories on a free-lance basis. Pay per story is competitive and commensurate with the quality of the written work submitted. Journalism school students or graduates or those with prior newspaper experience are preferred. Send resume, cover letter and clips to: Editors, Villager/Gazette, 757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116-2250.

VILLAGER
COMMUNICATIONS INC
VILLAGER GRAND GAZETTE

Home Care

Fairview Home Care and Hospice has the following positions available:

HOME HEALTH AIDE

Looking for flexible working hours? Prefer to work Days, Evenings, or Nights? Seeking Full-Time or Part-Time Employment?

Positions available at Edina Park Plaza, MN Masonic/Bloomington, St. Therese/Hopkins, Cedar Ridge/Apple Valley, and Other Metro Locations. Salary starts at \$8.90/hr and increases for your experience! Requires 1000 hours as Nursing Assistant, NAR, or Home Health Aide.

HOMEMAKER

To provide companionship and light housekeeping in your area. Rate of pay is \$8.23/hr.

An excellent benefits package is included for most positions. Call Mitch at 728-2434 to apply.

FAIRVIEW
Home Care and Hospice
Equal Opportunity Employer

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Early A.M.
Evening
Shifts

-Full/Part Time -Flex Hours
-Paid Parking -Benefits
-Start up to \$9/hr.

Apply at store

MSP Intl Airport
Entrance to Blue Concourse

BANKING

Highland Banks in St. Paul has the following opportunities available:

LOAN ADMINISTRATOR

Position prepares and processes all documents for consumer and commercial loans. Candidates must have previous banking or bookkeeping experience; strong customer service and interpersonal skills; strong attention to detail; and PC skills. Knowledge of ITI software is helpful.

TELLERS

FT Teller positions available to provide superior customer service involving receipt and payment of negotiable items and cross-sell bank products and services to new and existing customers. Previous teller or cashiering experience preferred; excellent customer service skills required; must be flexible with work hours. Competitive benefits and salary.

RECEPTIONIST

PT professional receptionist with 1-2 years experience to provide support to our banking staff. Position includes answering busy phones, providing customer service regarding deposit accounts, sorting and distributing mail, typing correspondence, maintaining files and assisting with special projects.

Candidates must have strong verbal communication skills; initiative; interpersonal skills; ability to shift gears; and a professional presentation. Microsoft Word experience is helpful. If interested contact Human Resources at 690-8207 or send resume and salary requirements to:

Human Resources

HIGHLAND BANKS

2100 Ford Parkway
St. Paul, MN 55116

EOE

Attention! Send this ad to your college student!

TELLERS

First Bank is a large, multi-regional U.S. Bank holding company headquartered in Minneapolis, MN. First Bank System, Inc. acquired U.S. Bancorp of Portland, OR, on Aug. 1, 1997 and adopted the U.S. Bancorp name. Until the two companies are fully integrated in 1998, customers will continue to recognize the First Bank logo and other affiliate names.

Currently we have several teller opportunities close to your home or school. Opportunities for full-time and part-time. Excellent benefits available for most positions. Primary duties include conducting routine financial transactions, cash balancing and making product and service referrals. If you are seeking a great career, flexibility and benefits, apply today! Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent, good interpersonal communication skills, previous cash handling or customer service experience, good math skills, with PC and 10 key preferred. We provide your training! We offer a competitive salary and benefits package (based on hours worked).

Interested individuals should apply in person at any First Bank location or send resume to: First Bank, Attn: Human Resources MPFP2101, 601 2nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55402.



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IN-DEMAND HOUSECLEANER has some openings. Working in area 7 years. Great references. Bid jobs, will clean eves./weekends, houses/offices; Kathy, 969-4880 pager/voice mail. **gv**

QUALITY CLEANING. Serving Highland area for 15 years. Rita, 699-7022. **v**

TWO HONEST cleaning ladies; mature; fast; free estimates; 724-4314, lve. msge. **v**

DEPENDABLE, EXPERIENCED, reasonable housecleaning; St. Kates' student; days or evenings, 699-6809. **v**

EXPERIENCED, RELIABLE woman will do home and office cleaning. Free estimates. References. 224-4830. **v**

HOUSECLEANING. Over 25 years in Highland; excellent references; honest, mature, fast; phone estimates; call 690-1599, leave message. **v**

FRESH SCENT HOME CLEANING. Weekly, biweekly, monthly rates; reliable, thorough, affordable. Great references. Free estimates. 458-3113. **v**

LOYAL, TRUSTWORTHY, dependable, thorough; Liz, 728-0862. **v**

THOROUGH, reliable, housekeeper looking for work, 724-5868, Gerry. **v**

Commercial Cleaning

HODGES CLEANING CO. Complete office, business, home cleaning; 698-7149; pager 637-8317. **gv**

EXPERIENCED, RELIABLE office cleaning at reasonable prices, excellent references; Linda, 227-4320. **v**

Snow/Lawn/Landscape

MURPHY'S LAWN & LANDSCAPING. Quality service. Free estimates. Snowplowing, salt, sanding, deicing; parking lots, alleys; commercial; 698-7162. **gv**

COMMERCIAL SNOWPLOWING, bobcat and removal; 699-1169. **gv**

****SERVICE LANDSCAPING 646-4997**** Free estimates, lawn maintenance, edging, fertilizing, garden tilling, de-thatching, sodding, seeding, tree/shrub planting, trimming & removal, decorative rock, retaining walls, excavating, cultivating, brush cleaning, gutter cleaning & more! **gv**

SNOW REMOVAL; gutter cleaning/repair; best prices; workmanship guaranteed; 699-2832. **gv**

ECKMAN LAWN Maintenance. Complete snowplowing and removal services; salting, sanding; bobcat work; residential/commercial; free estimates; 291-8607. **gv**

THE BEST snow removal. Commercial/residential. Bluhm Brothers, Inc. 227-2584. **gv**

TIM'S SNOWPLOWING. Alleys, driveways, parking lots; residential/commercial. call 9 a.m.-10 p.m., 690-1284. **gv**

ROOF SNOW and ice removal; sidewalks/drives shoveled. Serving Highland since 1973. Licensed, insured. BURTON'S RAIN GUTTER SERVICE; 699-8900. **gv**

TOM GALLAGHER snow services; commercial/residential; snowplowing; sanding/salting; ROOF SNOW ICE REMOVAL. NO STEAM. Free estimates. 293-9462. **gv**

ROGER'S TREE SERVICE. TREES & SHRUBS trimmed, removed; planted; serving Highland 25 years. Licensed/insured; Roger Gatz, 699-7022. **v**

EARLY BIRD LAWNSCAPES. Year-round service. 645-6050. **v**

SNOW/ALLEY PLOWING. Call for estimates. HRS Lawn Care; days, 699-1388; message, 581-9407. **v**

DEW SNOW/LAWN Service. Special services; quality, experienced; free estimates; 698-6148. **v**

Snow/Lawn/Landscape

SNOWBIRD SNOWPLOWING, 8 years' experience; 24 hr. paging cellular service; call Dale for quote; 729-8879. **v**

ALLEY PLOWING. Mac-Grove/Highland, 25 years' of service; Bob, 690-5564. **v**

SNOW PLOWING. Lots and alleys; snow removal and sanding; Bob, 690-5564. **v**

CALL KEN'S: 696-1027. Snow shoveling, fall cleanups. Please leave message. **v**

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RECEIVE ALL OF THE benefits of the new tax law by having us prepare your tax return. We prepare Individual, C & S Corporate and Partnership tax returns. Electronic filing available. We specialize in business accounting, bookkeeping, and complete payroll services. Serving clientele all year round and not just at tax time. Located at 1337 St. Clair Avenue. 690-5498. **gv**

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Insurance

INSURANCE OF ALL kinds. Auto, Home, Life, Health, Risk. Call for a free quote today. Todd Hughes, 645-1096. **v**

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PRO-TYPING SERVICES 699-9476. Professional quality, personalized craftsmanship; computer services, manuscripts, editing, custom resumes, forms, business, academic, etc. **gv**

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PERSONAL COMPUTER Coach: One-on-one computer help for nontechnical people, your own home or office. Trouble-shooting, training and set-up services for Windows, Windows 95, Macintosh, Internet. Fultz Consulting, 690-9793. **v**

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SMALL BUSINESS SPECIALIST helps you get back to business! Professional office organization, systems management, AP/AR, payroll, collections, type 90 wpm, computerized (QuickBooks). Hourly. 728-1771, Linda Wogstad. **v**

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VILLAGER grand gazette
1997 PUBLICATION DATES

JANUARY							JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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JUNE							DECEMBER						
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29	30						24	25	26	27	28	29	30

☐ Villager Date ☐ Gazette Date

For more information, call
Tim, Dennis or Susan
PHONE: 699-1462 FAX: 699-6501
757 SNELLING AVE. SO. • ST. PAUL, MN 55116

1997 VILLAGER DEADLINES
News items — Tuesday (8 days prior)
Classified ads — Wednesday (7 days prior)
Employment and Service Directory — Thursday at noon
Display ads — Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
Display ads (camera-ready) — Friday at noon

1997 GAZETTE DEADLINES
News items — Wednesday (10 days prior)
Classified ads — Monday
Display ads — Tuesday
Display ads (camera-ready) — Wednesday at noon

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Help Wanted

WORK FROM HOME!! \$25-\$75/hour; PT-FT needed; customer service; great attitude a must; call for interview; 659-6318.

PT/FT HOUSECLEANERS wanted, experience preferred, flexible day time hours, M-F, car necessary; 222-2300.

CUSTOMER SERVICE, sales/office, part-time. Looking for enthusiastic person with good communication skills, typing or computer skills required. Openings for 2 days/week and ability to work full time prior to floral holidays. Apply in person. A. Johnson & Son Florists, 1738 Grand Ave., 695-3225.

HAIRSTYLIST, contemporary salon on Grand; reasonable chair rental; 228-1348.

CONTRACT CARRIERS for delivery of the Villager or Grand Gazette; 561-6233.

PART-TIME GENERAL office support. Duties include phones, word processing, spreadsheet. Excellent phone and computer skills required. Flexible schedule. Pay based on qualifications. Gary Johnson, 646-7217.

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DELIVERY. NEWSPAPER delivery service needs motor and walking carriers. Company vehicle provided. Flexible days M-F, PT-FT. Weekly pay, \$6-\$10 per hour. 487-1328.

Help Wanted

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SITTER SERVICE needs adults, days, evenings & vacations; \$350/week and up. Car necessary. 429-2963.

DENTAL OFFICE needs someone after school and early evenings to file, stock supplies, telephone confirmation of appointments, appointment making by computer; leading to duties as either dental assistant or receptionist. Please call 698-0848, ask for Sarah.

DENTAL ASSISTANT, part-time, 16 hours/week now, leading to more hours if preferred. No experience necessary. Please call 698-0848, ask for Sarah.

SERIOUS MONEY for serious people. \$2-\$5K per week, FT-PT, not MLM, locally operated; 1-800-292-2347, 24 hours.

SALON RECEPTIONIST, \$7/hour, Thurs. & Fri. 9-2; every other Sat. 8:30 to 4; choice of 1 to 3 days; career advancement; Victoria, 698-6385.

"TCBY," FT, PT, benefits, up to \$9/hour. Apply at store. MSP Airport, Blue Concourse.

ASST. TEACHERS and Child Care Aide. Quality child care center in MacGroveland area. Full- & part-time positions available. A. Child's View, 690-0590.

R.N. CONSULTANT needed for 1-2 hours per month; \$50/visit. Call Jim at 690-0590.

CUSTODIAN for senior housing facility in south Minneapolis. Clean common areas, program setups, snow removal; must have carpet and floor care experience. Special engineers license preferred. Apply in person at Beckettwood Cooperative, 4300 W. River Pkwy., Mpls., or call Linda, 722-4077.

PT ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant/Bookkeeper. Hard-working, detail-oriented individual wanted to assist with general administration/bookkeeping. Prior bookkeeping experience and MAC OS skills required. Please fax resume to 612-644-4248 or call 644-4161. Attn: Chris, Red House Records.

CUSTOMER SERVICE, full time. Busy, friendly, neighborhood, Grand Ave. & Highland locations; organized, mature person, excellent compensation pay package. Call Holly, 699-2703, White Way Cleaners.

CHURCH CUSTODIAN wanted part-time; on busline; 699-2350.

NEED PARTNER to clean houses; with car; call for appointment, 690-1599, lve.msge.

TEACHER'S AIDE, part-time opening; to work with all age groups; 905-9303.

PART-TIME RETAIL work, flexible hours, call 228-0700 today.

HAIRSTYLIST, CHAIR RENTAL. Alebeat salon, Grand Avenue area; Alex, 291-7737.

HOLY SPIRIT EXTENDED day program. Activities leader & assistants, full/ part time, \$7.75-\$9; full-time benefits; 698-2354.

For additional job openings, turn to the Employment Opportunities ad section. For advertising information, call 699-1462.

Business Opportunity

WORK AT HOME; computer; world's largest electronic commerce home-shopping network seeks leaders; recruit/train; global associates, 30-100K; no inventory/purchases; complete training; 841-8989, kingston@goldengate.net.

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SERVICE DIRECTORY

Child Care Wanted

RESPONSIBLE BABYSITTER needed 2 afternoons a week for 6-month-old baby girl in my Highland Park home; begin Jan.; references; Megan, 699-9854. **v**

CARE FOR 4-year-old, our home, Mon.-Tues., 4:45 p.m.-7:15 p.m., \$30/week; 698-7143. **v**

WANTED: OCCASIONAL babysitting for nice 10-year-old girl; 690-1228. **v**

EXPERIENCED, ENERGETIC nanny needed 12-15 hours per week for 3 small children beginning January. Must have car and excellent references; 699-5619. **v**

MAC-GROVELAND FAMILY needs responsible, enthusiastic, in-home child care. Children, 5, 3, 1; Feb.-May. Mon. late afternoon, Tues. & Wed., 3-7; Fri. afternoon. Students welcome. 690-3390. **v**

NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER needed for 2 lovely girls ages 9 & 6 in Highland, 12-6 p.m.; some overnight stay. Must drive. 699-9907. **v**

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 641-0332. **gv**

SITTER SERVICE has nannies for all occasions; days, evenings, vacations; FT/PT; 429-2963. **v**

PART-TIME and occasional child care for children over 2 years; my home; licensed, experienced; 690-1079. **v**

VERY LOVING MOTHER of 2 will provide full-time day care in my home; excellent references; call Debbie, 649-0980. **v**

LOVING, LICENSED, full-time infant care; 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sue, 644-1308. **v**

Home Health Care Svc.

AIDE/COMPANION in your home, 4-12 hours; car, references, experienced; 588-4647. **v**

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. **gv**

For Rent Residential

COZY STUDIO APT. in exclusive scenic area; quiet, controlled access entry building on river; no pets; 690-2639. **v**

SOUTH HIGHLAND, 1-bedroom apartment in controlled access entry building. Convenient to shopping and busline; no pets; 690-0744. **v**

HIGHLAND. LARGE 1-BR apartment avail. Jan. 1, \$525; 690-8418. **v**

MINNEHAHA FALLS. One-bedroom apartment in side/side owner-occupied duplex. Located in Longfellow, 2 blocks from river, falls, bike paths; on bus line; garage, washer/dryer; no pets; NS; \$550 + util. & dep.; avail. Jan. 1; David, 721-1229. **v**

CHARMING 2-BEDROOM house, Como area. Garage, W/D; no pets; \$750 month + utilities; Mike, 450-9569. **v**

Roommates Wanted

HIGHLAND PARK, NS, female to share 3-bedroom house, W/D, \$350/mo. incl. utilities; avail. Dec. 1; 698-3383. **gv**

TWO-BEDROOM, 2-bath apartment, male/female; \$295 plus 1/2 util.; avail. Dec./Jan.; quiet, Highland; Jennifer, 690-4213. NS. **v**

NS, M/F TO SHARE 3-BR, double bungalow, Mac-Groveland area; W/D, dishwasher, \$283/mo. + util.; avail. immed.; 646-4625, leave message. **v**

Wanted to Rent

LOUISE'S ALTERATIONS. Must relocate. Needs reasonable 600' ASAP; Louise, 698-6916. **v**

COLLEGE FRESHMAN wants to rent garage near Univ. of St. Thomas, small car; Kate, 1-712-336-0547. **v**

Vacation Opportunity

SANIBEL, FLORIDA. Furnished canal home for the holidays; Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Easter; (612) 699-4825; (941) 481-6130. **gv**

Restaurants

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Quality And Character!
287 Mount Curve Blvd.: Truly a wonderful family home! 4 BRs, 4 baths, den, 2 fireplaces, 3-season porch. Set on a beautiful lot with mature trees.
Mary Gallivan 690-8415 \$340,000



Spectacular Area!
525 Mount Curve Blvd.: 2,700 sq. ft. of living space! 4 BRs, large first floor family room with fireplace, master suite, fabulous lot!
Mary Gallivan 690-8415 \$299,000



Manhattan On Summit!
605 Summit: This dramatic newer, 3-BR, 3-bath townhome combines contemporary style with all-new European decor. Four finished levels, oak and cherry floors, master suite, fireplace!
Mary Gallivan 690-8415 \$264,000



Affordable Bungalow.
1386 Eleanor: Adorable 3-BR home located on a quiet Highland street. Two full baths, private upstairs owner's suite with sitting area and large closet.
Mary Gallivan 690-8415 \$126,500



Retail Opportunity!
1089 Grand Avenue: Excellent business opportunity on desirable Grand Avenue! Spacious first floor retail space, new mechanicals and upstairs 1+ BR apartment.
Mary Gallivan 690-8415 \$345,000



Crocus Location!
TERRIFIC PRICE! Tremendous value! 3 BRs, 2-story, hardwood floors, period light fixtures, open staircase, expansive yard! All this and Crocus for \$119,900!
Becky Mickelberg 690-8417 \$119,900



1469 Edgcombe Road.
Beautiful Tudor exterior. Tremendous value and potential! 3 BRs, dynamite upper level porch with tree-top views, formal dining plus eat-in kitchen, living room fireplace.
Becky Mickelberg 690-8417 \$227,500



Main Floor Family Room!
Family room boasts a Chicago brick fireplace. Knockout kitchen has light oak cupboards. 2 BRs on main level, 1 BR + den up. Immaculate throughout! This is a must-see! 711 Hall.
Becky Mickelberg 690-8417 \$99,900



New List - Updated!
Just move in and enjoy! New furnace and A/C, new siding, new roof, new combination windows. Hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces and a wonderful block of homes. Mint!
Phyllis Salmen 690-8446 \$139,900



Reduced To \$525,000!
This exceptional home is close to everything! Enjoy 6 acres of privacy, vaulted ceiling in family room, screened porch and 4 BRs. Sunfish Lake!
Phyllis Salmen 690-8446 \$525,000



Location + Condition =
this impeccable 3-BR, 2-bath Highland Park home. Spacious room sizes, large eat-in kitchen, C/A, 2-1/2 car garage with large workshop. Just blocks to the Village, parks, schools.
Don Peterson Norm Geiger 690-8468 \$139,900



Reduced Price!
1299 Watson: A cute home with classy style! 2 BRs, one up and one on main level. Home needs updated decor; good structure, aluminum siding.
Mary Ann Adrian 690-8464 \$91,000



Mendota Ranch Home.
752 Pontiac Pl.: Genuinely lovely home with a professionally done family/dining room. 2 baths, 2 BRs, plus a large recreation room!
Mary Ann Adrian 690-8464 \$129,900



Totally Gracious!
661 Fairview: This interior is totally pleasing! There is newer carpet in some areas — and hardwood floors in others. The special feature is a wonderful family room!
Mary Ann Adrian 690-8464 \$139,900



2095 Juno.
A great location... and surprisingly spacious inside! 3 BRs, 2 baths, plus an eat-in kitchen. The exterior is the Tudor style with brick and stucco.
Mary Ann Adrian 690-8464 \$139,000



Over The River And...
Into the desirable area of "Bryn-Mawr." Totally rehabbed 1-1/2 story home boasts gleaming hardwood floors, new sheetrock, 3 BRs. Master up has new carpet + loads of closets!
Sue Drude Noyes 690-8422 \$117,900



Upper St. Dennis!
This beautiful Highland home is perfect for both family and entertaining! Huge formal living and dining rooms, 4 BRs, 3 baths, family room on each level, new lower level.
Sue Drude Noyes 690-8422 \$237,900



Love At First Sight!
This 1-1/2 story home has been professionally renovated on all three floors! 2 BRs on main floor, upper level has a huge master with vaulted ceiling, fir floor. New LL family room.
Sue Drude Noyes 690-8422 \$118,900



Turn Of The Century.
Tangletown — wonderful 2+ story home. Built in 1887 as a farm home. 4 BRs, 2 baths, 2 family rooms, third floor loft, 260' deep lot, double garage. Move in for the holidays!
Peryl Krawetz 690-8483 LOW \$200's



Move In For Holidays!
And enjoy! Beautiful spacious 4-BR, 2-bath split. Unique fireplace, A/C, sparkling hardwood floors, family room, large new kitchen. Excellent condition — great location.
Peryl Krawetz 690-8483 \$160's



Impeccable Cape Cod!
2094 Scheffer: Price just reduced to sell now! Handsome brick fireplace, main floor family room, eat-in kitchen, double garage and fenced yard!
Jim Burton 690-8440 \$139,900



Great Cash Flow!
Terrific Como duplex. 3 BRs and laundry facilities in each unit. The building is in excellent condition and doesn't show its value from the exterior!
Jim Burton 690-8440 \$89,900



Rambler On Fairmount!
Charming home in lovely quiet neighborhood. New carpet and new decor, spacious 22' living room, large kitchen with new appliances, screened porch. Large fenced yard, patio. Garage.
Mary Ann Buelow 690-8418 \$129,900



Picture Pretty - Highland.
Spacious 2,500 sq. ft., 4-BR home with lovely wood floors, fireplace, French doors, large kitchen, sunny eating area. New 2-1/2 car garage, fenced yard, patio area.
Mary Ann Buelow 690-8418 \$199,900



Lovely Crocus Hill Home!
Spacious, well-maintained home is perfect for entertaining! Large formal living room and dining room with buffet, terrific family room with fireplace. Screened porch overlooks back yard.
Mary Ann Buelow 690-8418 \$245,000



Impress The Family!
658 Laurel Avenue — rich woodwork, stunning fireplace, French doors, new custom kitchen, new bath and 3+ BRs make this home perfect for holiday entertaining and family fun!
Brad Palecek 690-8427 \$146,900



1998 Made Perfect!
2105 Princeton — start the new year right with this 4-BR "cottage" on a beautiful wooded block of Princeton! New kitchen, brick fireplace and cozy front porch!
Brad Palecek 690-8427 \$149,900



Holiday Entertaining!
88 Exeter Place — entertain in style with this stunning 3-BR, 2-bath Dutch Colonial in "premier" Shadow Falls! Start your new year with this immaculate home!
Brad Palecek 690-8427 \$229,500



Price Reduced!
1555 - 10th Avenue offers spacious one-level living! Great for retirees or growing family. 3+ BR custom rambler, 1-acre lot, triple garage, cherry-wood cabinets, steel siding.
Sue Purvis 690-8436 \$179,900



New Price On Charming!
1660 Concordia: Absolutely impeccable starter has everything! New kitchen, oak floors and trim, 2 large BRs, 2+ car garage, deck, 3-season porch. Cheaper than rent!
Allen Short 690-8428 \$73,000



New Price - New Kitchen!
Convenient Mac-Grove location just 6 blocks to river. Stucco exterior, double garage, 3 BRs plus a paneled study up, living room fireplace, new kitchen linoleum and paint!
Linda J. Alter 690-8472 \$165,000



Walk To The River!
Cozy 3-BR, 2-bath home including main floor family room, fireplace, eat-in kitchen, sunny front porch, double garage. Walk to the river and shopping! Well maintained.
Elizabeth Day 690-8405 \$99,900



Splendid Interior!
Elegant brick Crocus Hill 3-story in mint condition! Stunning original glasswork, light fixtures and woodwork. 3 porches, 2 fireplaces, great kitchen, comfortable and inviting.
Mary Hardy 225-3903 \$450,000



Summit Avenue Condo.
Large, classy condo with superb views features polished oak floors, very tall ceilings, fireplace, new kitchen, large pillared porch, grand and elegant rooms.
Dan Blackstad 225-3907 \$162,000



1842 Bohland.
Exceptional 1940's brick home with stunning recent updates including a gourmet kitchen and contemporary-styled family room, porch and master bedroom.
Dan Blackstad 225-3907 \$234,900