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Mobile Menders founder Michelle Ooley listens to Clyde Cassterens and Tony Shaw before repairing a sweatshirt on a recent visit to the Ebenezer Senior Apartments Minneapolis.

Mending the fabric of community

Mobile crew is repairing more than just garments

BY ANNE HAUTH

Last April a man named Jim who lives at the Union Gospel Mission on University Avenue brought a coat with a shredded zipper to a fix-it clinic sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. West End resident Michelle Ooley was there helping to mend clothing. Jim's zipper couldn't be fixed on the spot, so Ooley offered to take it home—a simple gesture that she now realizes was “like dropping

a boulder into a pond.”

When Ooley returned the repaired coat to Jim, he cried and asked for a hug. “He told me he had his first game in a new softball league that night, and he could finally wear his coat,” Ooley said. “We were both crying. At that moment I realized I had to do something.”

So she created Mobile Menders, a group of volunteers who provide free sewing services to

MOBILE MENDERS ►2

Citizens League study opens the debate over \$15 minimum wage

BY JANE MCCLURE

Supporters of a \$15 per hour minimum wage are urging city officials to move quickly in approving it. However, City Council members said they were more inclined to proceed carefully while scrutinizing the impact the higher minimum wage could have on employers as well as employees.

More than 60 people—some holding posters that said “\$15 Now” and others in red shirts that shouted “The Rent Can't Wait”—filled a February 21 City Council policy session to hear about a new Citizens League report on raising the minimum wage in St. Paul. After the policy session, the group \$15 Now held a press conference. Some said they want to hold St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter to his campaign promise to make the minimum wage increase a high priority in his first months in office.

The City Council would like to have a proposed wage ordinance ready by the fall, according to its president, Amy Brendmoen. However, she and other council members said they first need to examine all of the potential impacts of a mandatory wage increase. Not all of the parties in the debate have had time to organize, Brendmoen said.

“We need a lot more conversation on this, and I'm glad we're taking a thoughtful approach,” said Ward 2 City Council member Rebecca Noecker. According to her, the issues are complex. However, she added, the ques-

MINIMUM WAGE ►2

St. Paul teachers contract holds the line on spending

But district promises new hires that may require cuts elsewhere in '18-19 budget

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

The St. Paul Federation of Teachers approved a new two-year contract with the St. Paul Public Schools on February 22 that includes 1 percent raises each year along with new caps on classroom sizes, more English language learner (ELL) teachers, more educa-

tional assistants in special education and a commitment to increase the district's investments in parent-teacher conferences and in “restorative practices” for student discipline.

Other than the salary increases, for which the school district budgeted \$4.1 million over the two years, the contract is revenue neutral, according to St. Paul Superintendent Joe Gothard. “Those items that call for new expenditures are all to begin during the next fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2018),” Gothard said. “As the budget for next year is worked on, we'll be reallocating some funds to help pay for the other programs.”

“We're very pleased that the negotiating teams

were able to reach an agreement on the contract and avert a strike,” said Steve Marchese, vice chair of the St. Paul School Board. Staying within the district's budget parameters was critical, Marchese added. “The district was able to address some of the top issues presented by the teachers federation while demonstrating financial responsibility,” he said. “It's very clear that we need additional revenue to be able to provide the services our students need, and we're going to continue to work within our budget and advocate for our students and our schools.”

ST. PAUL TEACHERS CONTRACT ►3

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1◀ MOBILE MENDERS

those in need. Several times a month, a handful of Menders with sewing machines in tow set up shop at Twin Cities shelters, housing developments and community centers. Local residents bring in clothing that needs mending or alterations, and the volunteers go to work.

Ooley realized early on that something as simple as hemming a pair of pants or replacing buttons on a shirt could have a huge impact. "It's expensive to get clothing altered or fixed," she said, "so lots of people end up wearing clothing they don't feel good in or the clothing ends up in a landfill."

When Ooley launched Mobile Menders, she had just a few volunteers and a single location. Word spread quickly, however, and eight months later the group has 160 volunteers and 17 locations. Ooley keeps track of the clothing fixed. By her estimate, Mobile Menders has kept more than 400 pounds of clothing out of landfills in its first eight months.

Mobile Menders' work has also been personally rewarding. Ooley has several stories like Jim's—stories of people who are overcome with gratitude when the volunteers give new life to clothing. "It's amazing to see the emotional connection people have to their clothes," she said. An article of clothing might

"In addition to the mending, there's this building of community. We're all here together sharing our stories. There's an important conversation going on."

be all that a person has left from a deceased loved one, she said. A favorite sweatshirt could be a source of comfort for a person struggling with depression.

Other clients are just grateful to be looking good in their clothes again. "They tell us, 'If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't be able to go to work,'" Ooley said.

The positive feelings are mutual, the volunteers say. Shelley Shreffler, who spent a recent Saturday working on garments at Union Gospel Mission, credited Mobile Menders for giving her a way to put her commitment to social justice into action. "I'm not the type to be out there marching," Shreffler said. "But to spend an afternoon meeting people and making a difference in people's lives by doing this simple thing, it really means a lot to me."

The work also gives her a reason to engage in a hobby she has enjoyed since she was young. "This guy wanted thumb holes in his hoodie," Shreffler said as she made cuts and stitches into a cuff. "I've never done this before, but it's fun for me to problem-solve."

Lynn Collins, who volunteers with Mobile Menders twice a month, said that while all of the volunteers share a desire to help others and the environment, each Mender brings a different set of skills to the job. That diversity makes for a rich learning environment, she said.

A Union Gospel Mission resident named Moose said he loves it when the Menders are there so he can "hang out and



Mobile Menders volunteers Laura Sindberg Wolfman (left) and Jan Fransen repair garments for clients at the Ebenezer Senior Apartments in Minneapolis.



Mobile Menders founder Michelle Ooley stitches a pair of jeans for a resident of the Ebenezer Senior Apartments in Minneapolis. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

talk." The hum of the sewing machines also reminds him of his mother, who used to sew all of his clothes, he said.

Getting to know people like Moose, Jim and the volunteers has been an unexpected source of joy for Ooley. "In addition to the mending, there's this building of community," she said. "We're all here together sharing our stories. There's an important conversation going on."

With so many volunteers engaged in the group, Ooley now spends most of her time at Mobile Menders events talking to the people the organization serves and making plans for the future. She is enrolled in a class on how to start a nonprofit organization and has raised enough money to apply for nonprofit status. Her plan is to seek grants to expand Mobile Menders' reach. She wants to conduct clinics to teach volunteer menders new skills, schedule events in other neighborhoods and partner with Meals on Wheels to arrange the pickup and delivery of clothing.

"People in other cities and states have asked

me, 'Is there a chapter here?' I hope that someday I can say yes," Ooley said. "I want to empower and inspire people to start this in their own communities."

Jim, the inspiration for it all, has remained involved since that first hug. He helps set up and facilitate the event whenever Mobile Menders comes to Union Gospel Mission.

Ooley and her volunteers have changed his life, Jim said. "I used to be hopeless and saw no light. To go from that to being an asset in someone's life is huge," he said. "We never know how a simple gesture will blossom into something bigger or what kind of ripple effect it will have. This feels like some kind of miracle."

Those who are interested in learning more about Mobile Menders are invited to attend a volunteer meet and greet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at the Roseville Public Library on the corner of Hamline Avenue and County Road B, or they may visit mobilemendersewing.com.

1◀ MINIMUM WAGE

tion of whether to set a higher minimum wage is ultimately about the city's values. While the minimum wage in the 1960s and 1970s may have been enough to keep a large majority of St. Paul's households out of poverty, that is not the case now, Noecker said.

The cost of living has risen much faster than wages, agreed Ward 7 council member Jane Prince.

Rising rents and a decrease in the supply of low-income housing have made more than 16,000 St. Paul households "cost-burdened," the Citizens League reports. That means they pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing and thus may struggle to cover the costs of health care, child care and other necessities.

The nonpartisan Citizens League has been studying the minimum wage issue since last November with funding from the St. Paul Foundation, according to its executive director, Pahoua Yang Hoffman. Hoffman met with many of the affected groups and individuals to gather data for the initial scoping study. More than 100 online responses were reviewed, and 277 people were interviewed in person. According to Hoffman, more study is needed, but that would require additional financing.

The city of Minneapolis increased its minimum wage to \$15 an hour last year, though it is phasing it in over the course of seven years. The state minimum wage is currently \$9.65 per hour for large employers and \$7.87 for small employers and for all workers under the

age of 18 and workers under the age of 20 who are in a 90-day training period.

The Citizens League found that more than 40 percent of St. Paul residents live in poverty—more than any city in the metropolitan area. That finding is similar to what the Metropolitan Council found between 2011 and 2015 when it reported that more than 40 percent of St. Paul residents were living on incomes no higher than 185 percent of the federal poverty level or \$44,875 per year for a family of four.

Thus far, much of the minimum wage debate in St. Paul has centered on bars and restaurants. Hospitality workers have debated the pros and cons of a tip credit, which would set a lower minimum wage for tipped employees to account for the extra income they earn from tips.

The Citizens League study found that the effect of a large minimum wage increase would vary depending on the size and type of business. Large corporations, small mom-and-pop operations, nonprofits and colleges and universities would all see varying impacts. Small-business owners expressed concerns that they would have to lay off staff or cut workers' hours with a higher minimum wage, Hoffman said.

Large employers, defined as workplaces with 500 or more employees, were found to have fewer workers making less than \$15 per hour. Some of these employers, including Allina Health, Ecolab, U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo, have already announced that they are raising their minimum wage to \$15.

Then there are the varying impacts on spe-

Small-business owners expressed concerns that they would have to lay off staff or cut workers' hours with a higher minimum wage. Large employers were found to have fewer workers making less than \$15 per hour, and some have already announced that they are raising their minimum wage to \$15.

cific worker groups. For example, a longtime federal law allows employers to pay people with disabilities less than minimum wage for training jobs or in sheltered workshops. This is seen as helping people who otherwise could not hold a job, Hoffman said. State and federal reimbursements that help people with disabilities live in the community come into play here, so it would have to be determined how those reimbursements would be affected by higher wages.

A second business sector that merits more scrutiny is immigrant-owned businesses. Hoffman said some of these business owners may not understand what the minimum wage issue is about. More robust public education and discussion are needed, she said.

Another issue is franchise owners whose prices for food, goods and services are set na-

tionally, not locally. They may not be able to raise prices to cover higher wages. Hoffman said she was surprised to learn that the same issue can affect bookstores where the prices are set by the publishers.

Yet another workforce to receive consideration is personal care and home health care attendants, whose services are often covered by Medicaid reimbursements. Though care agencies may want to pay workers more for what are physically challenging jobs, the pay is affected by the rate of governmental reimbursement, Hoffman said.

Universities and colleges also weighed in on the minimum wage debate. While most college and university employees are near or above the \$15 per hour level, undergraduate students working part-time on campus are often paid considerably less, and college officials contend they would have to reduce the number of student jobs, raise tuition or both to cover the cost of higher wages for student workers.

Nonprofit organizations that offer programs to prepare young people for the working world are concerned about an increase in the minimum wage. These employers told the Citizens League that they, too, would have to limit hiring if they had to pay higher wages for trainees.

An employer who hires hard-to-employ people, including those coming out of the corrections system or in recovery from alcoholism or chemical dependency, told Hoffman that he may be forced to hire people with more solid work histories to afford paying workers a higher wage.

Pedestrian safety improvements get green light on Grand

Upgrades planned for busy stretch between Victoria and Hamline

By JANE McCLURE

Pedestrian safety improvements on Grand Avenue between Victoria Street and Hamline Avenue were approved by the St. Paul City Council on February 21. No one attended a public hearing on the project, which went through its final rounds of review this winter with the Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA) and the Summit Hill and Macalester-Groveland district councils.

That 1-mile stretch of Grand has been the site of dozens of car accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists over the past decade, including three fatalities. The avenue carries around 14,475 vehicles per day between Hamline and Lexington Parkway, and 13,200 between Lexington and Victoria.

All four-way intersections in the project area will see improvements, according to city traffic engineer HunWen Westman. All non-compliant sidewalk corners will be rebuilt to comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Bus stops will be shifted, but not removed, and wider crosswalks will be striped.

Intersections with traffic signals—at Victoria, Lexington and Hamline—will be upgraded with audible push buttons, pedestrian countdown timers and larger signal heads. Lights will be installed above the traffic signals to assist police in determining if a motorist has run a red light.



St. Paul Police Sergeant Mark Ficcadenti writes up a motorist for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk during a pedestrian safety awareness event in 2015 on Grand Avenue at Syndicate Street. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Leading pedestrian interval (LPI) signal phasing also will be added at Lexington and Hamline to give pedestrians a head start when crossing at those intersections. The Grand-Victoria intersection already has LPI signals.

Intersections without traffic signals—Syndicate, Dunlap, Oxford, Chatsworth and Milton streets—will get corner bumpouts to shorten the distance for pedestrians when

crossing Grand.

The city will seek bids for the project in May, and work is expected to start in late June and be complete this summer. Grand will remain open while the work is done.

Funding for the project includes a \$667,800 federal grant received in 2015 and a \$250,000 match through the city's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB). Abutting property own-

ers will not be assessed for the work.

Pedestrian safety on Grand has been discussed for years by GABA and the two district councils. There were 27 accidents involving pedestrians and 23 involving bicycles on that stretch of Grand from 2004-2013. CIB funding requests to make the improvements were denied in 2010, 2012 and 2014, which prompted the city's Department of Public Works to seek federal funds.

Westman said that if the budget becomes tight, the city may have to go from four bumpouts to two at some intersections and asked the district councils to weigh in on where those reductions could be made.

The Macalester-Groveland board discussed the matter in February and asked that the Grand-Syndicate intersection retain all four corner bumpouts. Board members cited the number of accidents there, including a pedestrian fatality in 2011.

The Summit Hill Association also reviewed the project in February and said it would like to see stepped-up police enforcement to reduce speeding, aggressive driving, running red lights and violating the law requiring motorists to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

The grant also calls for Public Works, GABA and the district councils to work together on a pedestrian safety campaign once the project is completed.

The only intersection on Grand within the project area that will not see improvements is at Ayd Mill Road, which has entrance and exit ramps only on the south side of the avenue. SHA board member Amanda Karls said future improvements are needed there since the crossing can be hazardous.

1 ST. PAUL TEACHERS CONTRACT

A joint release of the contract terms by the school district and teachers federation states their intent to collaborate on efforts to secure more financial support for the public schools from major corporations and nonprofit organizations, to lobby the state and federal governments to fully fund special education and ELL programs and to cooperate on a door-to-door campaign to recruit more students. The district also agreed to consider holding a referendum to ask St. Paul voters to approve another excess property tax levy.

The district agreed to increase its investment in Academic Parent Teacher Teams and other parent-teacher conferences to foster better relationships between parents and teachers. The district will expand from nine to 12 the number of pilot schools employing restorative practices in student discipline and fund those restorative practices for another three years. The district will also hire a coordinator of restorative practices.

In the midst of contract negotiations, the teachers federation and the unions for educational assistants and school community service professionals merged their efforts. "This way, the three classroom unions are settled and everything is getting back to normal,"

The new contract establishes definitive caps on classroom sizes, including 20 students in prekindergarten, 27 in kindergarten, 28 in grades 1 to 3, 31 in grades 4 and 5, 38 in grades 6-8, and 40 in grades 9-12.

said teachers federation president Nick Faber.

The new contract stipulates that beginning in September the district will hire additional paraprofessionals at the Student Placement Center to assist with student language assessments and offer English translation services to families who are there to enroll their children.

The district agreed to add 30 new ELL teachers over the two years—five each year in the elementary schools and 10 each year in the secondary schools—and to cap ELL classrooms at a maximum of 27 students. The district will also hire 23 paraprofessionals, including 13 educational assistants, to support the 23 elementary schools that have special-education classrooms.

Since 2014, classrooms in the district have been limited to a range of maximum sizes, in-

cluding 20 students in prekindergarten, 20-26 in kindergarten, 22-27 in grades 1 to 3, 25-29 in grades 4 and 5, 29-35 in grades 6-8 and 30-37 in grades 9-12, with slightly lower numbers in the 30 schools that have the most students from low-income households. Nevertheless, classrooms have been known to be considerably larger than that.

The new contract establishes definitive caps on classroom sizes beginning in the 2018-19 school year, including 20 students in prekindergarten, 27 in kindergarten, 28 in grades 1 to 3, 31 in grades 4 and 5, 38 in grades 6-8, and 40 in grades 9-12, with slightly lower caps in the 30 schools that have the most students from low-income households.

The new caps are "an improvement for both our teachers and our students," Faber said, "because the caps will be enforceable and ensure uniformity across the district. We also agreed to set up a committee made up of equal parts teachers federation and district representatives to look at class sizes and make recommendations for the future."

Educational assistant wages will increase by 25 cents per hour retroactive to January 1 and by another 1 percent beginning July 1. Educational assistants with 25 or more years of service will get an additional \$1.85 per hour on July 1. However, educational assistants will

also see their monthly health insurance premiums increase by \$10 and \$15 for individual and family coverage, respectively.

School and community service professionals received a 1 percent raise retroactive to January 6 and another 1 percent raise on July 1. They will see their monthly health insurance premiums increase by \$44 for single coverage and \$49 for family coverage.

Teachers' wages will increase by 1 percent retroactive to January 6 and another 1 percent on July 1. Their monthly health insurance premiums will increase by \$15 for individuals and \$40 for families.

According to Faber, the teachers federation is especially pleased with the 30 additional ELL teachers. "That's something the district has been unwilling to do in recent contracts," he said. "I feel good that our support professionals were not forgotten."

"We had a set of guiding principles and values we established last fall," Gothard said, "and we stayed consistent on those throughout the contract negotiations. I know there was a great deal of concern in the community about a teachers strike, but we were able to come together in the end. We'll need more collaboration like that in the years ahead."

The School Board has yet to approve the contract. That vote is scheduled for March 20.

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Rathskeller reborn

HPC OKs permit for \$8M brewery renovation project

BY JANE MCCLURE

Renovation of the former Schmidt Brewery rathskeller and office building is moving forward with the unanimous approval of an amended building permit by the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) on February 8.

The \$8 million project is expected to take another eight months to complete, but the office and rathskeller building is already fully leased. Tenants will be announced soon, according to Craig Cohen, the lead developer for Rathskeller Renaissance LLC, which purchased the building last year from the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation.

The West Seventh Federation will also move into the building once the renovation is complete.

Cohen is currently wrapping up the conversion of the former Schmidt Brewery keg house into the Keg & Case Market, a new food hall with restaurants and other food vendors that is expected to open late this spring or summer. The Keg & Case Market will be anchored by In Bloom, a restaurant led by the partnership of Nick Rancone and Thomas Boemer of the Corner Table and Revival restaurants. Other tenants include Sweet Science Ice Cream, Clutch Brewing, Five Watt Coffee shop and the Gazta & Enhancements cheese shop.

"We have both projects going at once, so it's a busy time at the brewery," Cohen said. He expressed his appreciation to city staff for helping the projects move forward. "We've been working with changes to the federal historic tax credits and trying to get everything in place as those are changing," he said.

The office and rathskeller building is the last part of the old brewery complex to be redeveloped. Federation staff had overseen some work on the building over the past five years, including efforts to stabilize the structure. Though the rathskeller opened for a few special events over the past dozen years, the office building has not



The historic facade of the old Schmidt Brewery office building with its celebrated rathskeller inside.

PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD



"King Gambrinus," the patron saint of malt, stood with hoisted chalice in the old rathskeller at Schmidt Brewery in 2006.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

been used since Gopher State Ethanol closed in 2004.

The U-shaped office building was constructed in 1935 in the Streamline Moderne style with brick and Bedford stone trim. The exterior and part of the interior fall under the HPC's auspices since the building is included in the Jacob Schmidt Brewing Company Historic District.

Historic designation was sought years ago to protect the brewery structures and to qualify for state and national historic tax credits to help pay for their rehabilitation. Recent changes to federal tax laws have developers scurrying to get projects underway before the changes take effect.

One distinctive feature of the office building is the main entrance on West Seventh Street with its elaborate architrave of broad, fluted pilasters, wide lintel and a carved rendition of the Jacob Schmidt Brewing logo.

The original front door on West Seventh will be restored and its

hardware will be upgraded, according to George Gause of the HPC staff. The other doors on the building, which are not original, will be replaced with compatible new doors. The stoop on the southeast facade where customers entered to visit the Schmidt gift shop, take brewery tours and enter the rathskeller and tasting room will be replaced or rebuilt.

Missing, damaged and deteriorated bricks and other exterior details will be repaired to match what exists. Repairs will be made to the original wood windows. Newer aluminum windows will be replaced with windows that are historically appropriate.

Much work remains to be done on the interior, according to the HPC report. The western section of the building has a wood frame floor and roof system that has shifted over time. Significant cracks are visible in the floor and walls, so the area must be stabilized before it is repaired. The masonry is also in need of restoration in the rathskel-

ler, tasting room, bar, front stair and lobby, where the intent is to reuse historic materials.

The existing art deco handrail from the first floor to the rathskeller is to be retained and repaired. The ornamental stair railing in the front lobby and the stairs to the rathskeller will also be repaired. The Schmidt logos will remain in the floors, which will otherwise be recovered with new composite tiling to match the existing pattern.

The office and rathskeller building is required to have an automatic fire protection system, and it will need extensive HVAC work. Some ductwork will be reused where possible, but most of the HVAC system will be new. The electrical system will be rehabilitated, but the historic light fixtures will be kept.

The historic first-floor safe will also remain. The old brewery gift shop in the basement will be repurposed as event or tenant space, and improved restrooms and a new elevator will be installed.

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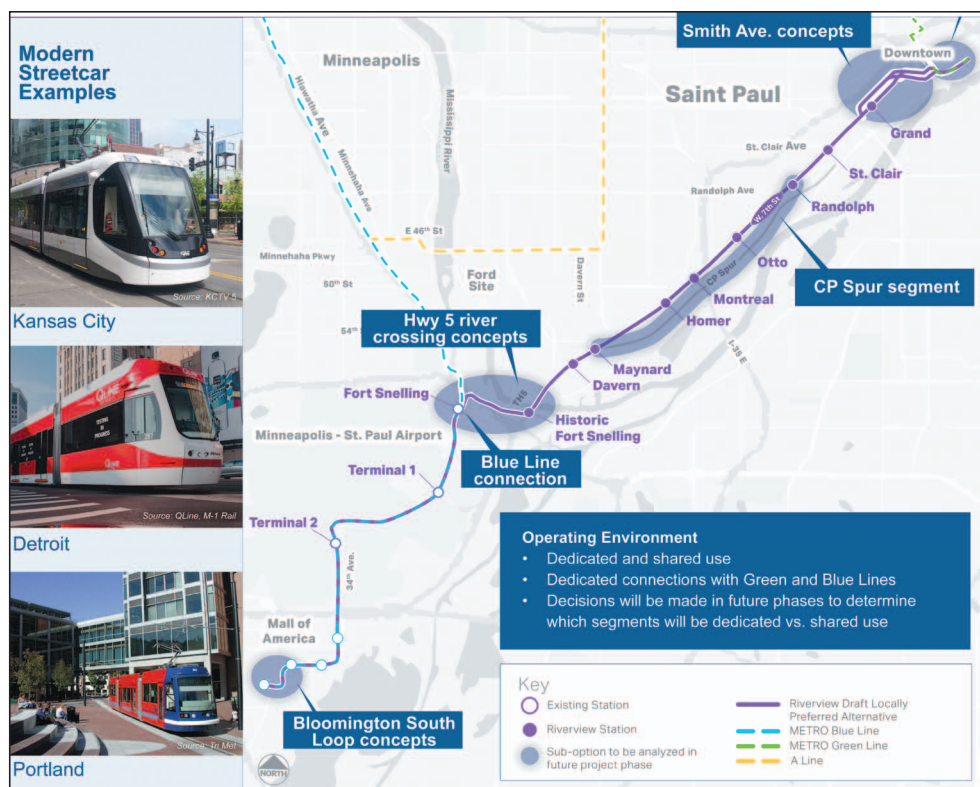
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The diagram above shows the remaining options for routing a modern streetcar line between downtown St. Paul and the Mall of America in Bloomington.

County Board weighs the pros and cons of Riverview streetcar

By JANE MCCLURE

Almost a dozen people appeared before the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on February 20 to voice their support or objections to the preferred route and mode of transit for the proposed Riverview Corridor transit line linking downtown St. Paul's Union Depot to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America.

The Riverview Corridor Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) has recommended a modern streetcar for the corridor running along West Seventh Street and Highway 5. The Ramsey County Board took no action on February 20, preferring to wait until the St. Paul City Council and the Hennepin County Board have voted on their preferred alternative for the transit route, according to Riverview project manager Mike Rogers.

The Bloomington City Council and the Metropolitan Airports Commission voted in January to support the Riverview PAC's recommendation. The St. Paul City Council has scheduled a public hearing on the issue at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 7.

Representatives of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Minnesota Wild hockey team, St. Paul Saints baseball team, Visit St. Paul and St. Paul Smart Trips/Transit for Livable Communities all spoke in favor of the proposed transit project, which is currently estimated at almost \$2 billion. One advantage supporters cited for the streetcar line is that fixed-rail transit will make RiverCentre, Xcel Energy Center and other downtown venues more attractive to the sponsors of events and conferences.

Local employers have told the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce that having good transit is "essential" to attracting top-notch employees, according to Shannon Watson, the Chamber's public affairs director. She said the higher cost of constructing the streetcar system will be justified over the long term.

Terry Mattson, CEO and president of Visit St. Paul, said that group is "squarely behind" the proposed streetcar. He warned of "what could happen if we don't do this." St. Paul, he said, could become an island.

The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation would rather see enhanced bus rapid transit in the Riverview Corridor, according to its executive director, Emily Northey. "Our neighborhood needs improved transit," she said. However, a fixed-rail streetcar system could adversely affect the on-street parking

that small businesses rely on, she said, and it would create a barrier between neighborhoods on either side of West Seventh.

Macalester-Groveland resident Joan Pasuik said that while she supports improved transit, she prefers rapid transit buses over streetcars because of their greater flexibility and lower costs. "Rapid buses are proven here," she said, citing the success of the A Line that runs along Snelling Avenue, Ford Parkway and East 46th Street between Roseville and the light-rail Blue Line in Minneapolis.

A fixed-rail streetcar could adversely affect or even eliminate the bike lanes on West Seventh, Pasuik said. She urged local officials to consider new transit that does not require tracks. Pasuik also pointed out that by 2027, the year the proposed streetcar line is envisioned to begin operating, self-driving vehicles may be a more popular choice for commuters.

"What upsets me is that we might be spending \$2 billion on what could be a fiasco," said West End resident Gary Brueggemann, who also spoke in favor of bus rapid transit in the Riverview Corridor.

Highland Park resident Jim Schoettler and downtown resident Jay Severance said that while they support streetcars, they think light-rail transit would be a better fit with the rest of the region's transportation system. Schoettler also spoke for the further consideration of a new bridge across the Mississippi River from the southwest corner of the former Ford Plant to South Minneapolis and a connection with the Blue Line at 54th Street.

Severance said more attention needs to be paid to the potential for traffic congestion on Fifth and Sixth streets in downtown. He suggested that the Canadian Pacific Railroad spur that runs between downtown and the former Ford Plant be considered as a route for Riverview.

The selection of a locally preferred alternative for the Riverview line is required by the Federal Transit Administration as part of its review for federal funding. Riverview planners are hoping the federal government agrees to pay half the costs of the transit line's construction, with the rest coming from the state and local governments.

Another consideration for local governments is a followup study of both short-term and long-term transit improvements linking the Riverview line to Highland Village and the former Ford Plant where the construction of up to 4,000 new homes as well as commercial buildings is being contemplated.

Highland sidewalks OK'd to create safer way to schools

By JANE McCLURE

The St. Paul City Council voted on February 21 to approve a Safe Routes to Schools project that will fill in missing sidewalks in the Highland Park neighborhood near Expo, Holy Spirit and Cretin-Derham Hall schools.

Ward 3 council member Chris Tolbert, whose office worked to get St. Paul's first Safe Routes grant for the project, said he is pleased that it is moving ahead.

"These are young people in our community and we had to ask, 'How do we help and protect them?'" said Melanie McMahon, Tolbert's legislative aide who lives with her family in the project area. "If we were going to build this neighborhood today, there would be sidewalks."

Parents lobbied for the sidewalks after Hanna Cooper's daughter, Amelia, was struck by a vehicle at Pascal Street and Hartford Avenue while she was walking home from Expo in November 2015.

"Believe me, that's the telephone call you

don't want to get," Cooper said. She and others noted that more than 1,000 students walk, bike or drive through the area each day.

The project was awarded a \$498,400 federal grant last year through the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Advisory Board. The grant is expected to cover all the costs and property owners will not be assessed.

A similar project is pending near Washington Technology High School in the city's North End. Other applications are in process, including one that would benefit students attending Horace Mann, Highland Catholic and Highland Park elementary schools.

Only a few neighbors attended the council hearing on February 21, but about three dozen reviewed the project during a meeting of the Highland District Council (HDC) Transportation Committee the week before. At the meeting, they were able to see where public right-of-way lines end and private properties begin. That was a surprise to some homeowners, who did not realize that part of their yards was actually city property.

The project will fill in missing stretches of

sidewalk on both sides of Hartford Avenue between Snelling Avenue and Pascal Street, on Pascal between Randolph Avenue and Highland Parkway, and on Saratoga and Warwick streets between Hartford and Scheffer Avenue.

Six-foot-wide sidewalks are planned, but they could be reduced to 5 feet in some places where homes are closer to the street.

"There are a lot of tradeoffs," said project manager Elizabeth Stifler of the St. Paul Department of Public Works. That includes the removal of boulevard gardens and some trees.

Handicapped-accessible curb ramps will be added and ash trees will be removed, since the area already has an infestation of emerald ash borers. Some steps will be rebuilt and concrete driveway aprons replaced.

Reactions to the project have been mixed. Steve Hefty, who lives near Pascal and Scheffer, said that his family has been "farming city land" and will have to move a garden on city right-of-way.

Boulevard trees also will be affected. "I understand the need for a sidewalk, but it's hard

to lose the garden and the shade," Hefty said.

Scheffer Avenue residents Mark and Terri Palmquist are also concerned about the loss of trees and the project's potential impact on their home. "This will affect the quiet enjoyment of our house," Mark Palmquist said.

Others said the sidewalks are long overdue. Dawn Zaidel has a short walk in front of her Saratoga Street home, but people have to step onto her driveway and the street when they are walking through the area.

"A network of sidewalks is necessary for safety," said Zaidel, adding that she often sees neighbors pulling wagons or pushing strollers in the streets. "I'm afraid for them."

Bob Wiswell lives near Pascal and Hartford and often sees students and other neighbors running or walking dogs in the street. "I think this project is wonderful," he said.

Wiswell asked if the HDC and city could look at additional traffic controls, including at least one more stop sign on Pascal. "It's a speedway now," he said.

Stop signs and tree replacement are issues that the HDC plans to address in the future.



Tom Schroeder takes in the morning sun outside the Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery on Smith Avenue. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Outdoor seating sought at historic Waldmann

By JANE McCLURE

A biergarten could soon sprout next to the Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery at 445 N. Smith Ave. The planned patio will be taken up by the St. Paul Planning Commission Zoning Committee this spring for a possible amendment to the property's historic use variance. The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation recommended approval of the amendment on February 12, and the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) voted on February 8 to support plans for the patio itself.

The variance request is for a 52-by-35-foot grassy area beside the historic building, which was previously known as the "stone saloon." The HPC's approval of the patio was needed before the variance request could proceed.

During the HPC's review, most of the debate centered on building owner Tom Schroeder's plans to surround the patio with a rough-cut cedar rail fence and a hedge along the east fence line. He said the hedge would help muffle noise from Smith Avenue. Traffic on the street is currently limited due to work on the nearby High Bridge. When the bridge is open, Smith carries 1,000-1,500 vehicles per day.

"The noise is pretty profound," said project architect John Yust. "We think a hedge would contribute to mitigating that noise."

Several neighbors attended the hearing. No one spoke against the hedge, and some said it would add more greenery to the area.

HPC staff recommended removing the hedge from the plans, but commissioners left it in after debating whether they even had jurisdiction over hedges. Some commissioners favored a higher fence, but a height of 3½ feet was approved as called for in design guidelines for historic properties.

No changes are planned to the stone structure itself. A 10-by-14-foot canopy would be added to the east side of the brew barn covering a concrete pad from which food and refreshments will be served. Four tables with bench seating and four high-top tables would be placed on a surface of crushed limestone. Bike racks would also be added.

It took nine years, several rounds of public reviews and many changes to make the Waldmann a reality. A second house on the property was moved, a wooden addition to the stone building was torn down, and a new addition with a large brewing facility was constructed. The Waldmann has served more than 20,000 visitors since they opened last fall.

The Waldmann has hosted history talks, tours, group gatherings and four Minnesota Historical Society events. The building is part of a scattered-site historic district in the Uptown area of the West End neighborhood.

In 2015, the Waldmann received St. Paul's first historic use variance. German immigrant Anton Waldmann operated a lager house there from shortly after it was built in 1857 to 1863. The building was also used as a private home, and the variance allowed for the property to be returned to its previous use without rezoning.

Though no evidence has been found that the saloon had a biergarten, Schroeder's request for the variance amendment stated that "outdoor seating was frequently provided at German lager saloons like Waldmann's. The neighborhood contained some notable examples, including extravagant beer gardens adjacent to Banholzer's Brewery on Stewart Avenue, and alongside Schade's Saloon across West Seventh from the Stahlmann/Schmidt brewery."

The project will likely come back before the HPC for further review. Preliminary plans discussed with the city show the possible addition of a well house, a wood storage shed and a concrete wall.

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News Briefs

Stadium exempted from noise ordinance

Allianz Field, the Major League Soccer stadium now under construction at Snelling Avenue and I-94, received a blanket exemption from St. Paul's noise ordinance on February 14. The City Council approved the measure for all soccer games and soccer league events at the new facility, which is expected to be ready for play by the spring of 2019.

City Council member Dai Thao, whose Ward 1 includes the stadium site, stressed that the exemption does not include concerts or fireworks shows, which would still need City Council approval for a noise variance.

The Union Park District Council (UPDC) had asked that the exemption be rejected and that the City Council set a maximum level of 65 decibels for soccer games and league events at the stadium. That would have been consistent with the maximum allowable daytime noise level in St. Paul, and the UPDC contended that it is a reasonable limitation on the stadium after 10 p.m., considering the city's normal maximum for late-night noise is 55 decibels without a variance.

As an alternative, the UPDC recommended that the blanket exemption be adopted on a trial basis for the first five games of Minnesota United's 2019 soccer season, at which point it could be reviewed and approved for the remainder of the season.

Thao rejected that approach, saying that environmental impact studies of the stadium have indicated that the blanket exemption is a better strategy for handling noise.

"To say you can hold soccer games, but you have to quiet the fans down somehow doesn't make a lot of sense," said Russ Stark, who stepped down on February 15 as the City Council member for Ward 4, which is located just west and north of the stadium site. The city, Stark added, had previously agreed to the noise exemption through a development agreement that was reached with Minnesota United FC prior to the ground-breaking for the stadium.

JCC expansion grows a creative arts wing

The Jewish Community Center's renovation and expansion project continues to grow. The St. Paul Planning Commission on February 23 approved a conditional use permit to allow for a new 4,427-square-foot creative arts wing at the JCC, 1375 St. Paul Ave. That is in addition to the 32,122-square-foot expansion approved in 2017. The creative arts wing will be added on the east side and the rear of the facility. With the new additions, the JCC will have a total of 75,648 square feet.

Rezoning eyed for Norfolk Avenue lot

It appears the Highlands of St. Paul senior housing complex will be moving ahead with plans to tear down two houses at 1891 Norfolk Ave. and 1413 Sue St. and replace them with a 52-space parking lot. The St. Paul Planning Commission on February 23 recommended rezoning the two lots from single-family to multi-family residential. That recommendation will go to the City Council for final action this spring.

Highlands of St. Paul offers independent, assisted living and memory care apartments for seniors. The property, which was occupied for many years by St. Mary's Home, has 86 underground parking spaces, but there is a need for more, according to its owner, Twin Cities-based Oppidan Investment Company. Employees, visitors and some residents are currently parking on adjacent streets and in a lot rented from the nearby St. Andrew Kim Church. Oppidan staff have reported receiving complaints from neighbors about the spillover parking.

Some planning commissioners were hesitant to approve the demolition of the two homes. The design of the parking lot has yet to be approved by city staff. The project has the support of the Highland District Council, though some neighbors questioned whether the parking lot will actually be used.

Mac buys final parcel on Grand Ave. block

The lots at 1659-1669 Grand Ave. which have been vacant since the buildings were torn down there in the spring of 2016 have been sold to Macalester College.

Macalester has no plans for the property currently, according to a college spokesperson. However, the purchase gives the college ownership of the entire block bounded by Grand, Cambridge Street, Summit Avenue and Macalester Street.

Real estate records show that Grand Heritage LLC sold the property to TJL LLC in January for \$1.6 million, then TJL LLC sold the building a day later for \$2.2 million to Macalester. TJL LLC has had the property under contract.

Grand Heritage LLC is owned by Gene Sitzmann, who tangled with city officials in 2015 when his two-story mixed-use building and attached one-story restaurant on Grand were found to be in poor condition. Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert was personally involved in moving tenants out of the building and getting them into emergency housing.

The two-story building was more than 100 years old. It was Grand's oldest commercial building when it was torn down.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.

VILLAGER

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APRIL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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April 11: Home Improvement
April 25: Gardening
Cinco De Mayo

MAY

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May 9: Health & Fitness
Graduation
Mother's Day
May 23: Grand Old Day

JUNE

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June 6: Father's Day
June 20: Boomers & Beyond
Fourth of July

JULY

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July 4: Independence Day
July 18: Highland Fest
Backstories
Rondo Days

AUGUST

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Aug. 1: Education
Aug. 15: Education
Aug. 29: Home Improvement
Selby JazzFest

SEPTEMBER

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Sept. 12: Home Improvement
Sept. 26: Home Improvement

OCTOBER

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Oct. 10: Boomers & Beyond
Halloween
Oct. 24: General Election
Halloween

NOVEMBER

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Nov. 7: Holiday Gift Ideas
Nov. 21: Holiday Gift Ideas
Grand Meander

DECEMBER

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Dec. 5: Holiday Gift Ideas
Dec. 19: Last Minute Gift Guide
Health & Fitness

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Viewpoint

The model for health care reform may be in our past

BY DR. THOMAS W. VOTEL

So much has been written about the status of health care in this country without any progress being made. It appears that no one is on the same page. Some specifics and a definition of terms might be helpful.

Health care insurance is discussed as if it were a reality, but health care cannot be insured. It does not lend itself to the criteria required for the actuarial evaluation used for auto, home and life insurance. It has also been suggested that employers provide health insurance coverage. That does not make sense. Employers have no health care expertise, and they add to the cost of health care.

Medicare and Medicaid did not always exist. The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) was imposed on a dysfunctional health care system controlled by politicians, third-party payers, hospital administrators and clinics run by non-physicians. None of these people are licensed to practice medicine.

Some have suggested having nurse practitioners or physician's assistants provide health care to reduce costs. In the 1970s and '80s when there was a shortage of physicians in rural areas, it was suggested that nurses be given special training to assist physicians in these areas. When I was on the Family Practice faculty at the University of Minnesota, I was asked if my office would provide internships for these students. They served a real purpose, but they were never intended to provide cheap help in emergency rooms, HMOs and specialists' offices.

Without adequate facilities for training physicians, the quality of health care had to suffer. Universities and hospitals that used to provide this health care training no longer exist or have inadequate numbers of patients to provide a training experience. The overuse of emergency rooms exaggerates this problem. Hospital administrators were concerned that emergency rooms were cost centers and insisted they become profit centers. When I left practice in 1989, United Hospital in St. Paul had about 14,000 emergency room visits per year. Last year it had more than 50,000 visits.

I practiced medicine in the golden years when patients were people, not subscribers; when physicians were people, not providers; and when practicing medicine was a vocation, not a job. General practice offices were run by physicians in neighborhoods conveniently close to families. Back then, neighborhood clinics with trained physicians had the ability to treat 85 percent of patient problems and to recognize and refer the rest to appropriate specialists.

The current health care system does not focus on the real needs of Medicaid or Medicare patients. Consider an actual case: A Medicaid patient living alone and without a car developed pain and could not move his shoulder. Friends were able to find a doctor two miles from his home who would see Medicaid patients. The doctor said the patient needed an MRI, and it was scheduled at a clinic three miles from his home. The MRI indicated the patient needed shoulder replacement surgery. This was scheduled at a hospital four miles from his home. After surgery, he was fitted with a special sling at a clinic 10 miles from his home. His subsequent care was at a clinic 15 miles from his home.

Prior to Medicaid and Medicare, and as recently as the 1970s, this patient would have taken a bus to a centrally located city or county hospital supported by local taxes to be seen by a physician in an adjacent orthopedic outpatient clinic. He would have been scheduled for an X-ray and surgery at that hospital with followup care in the adjacent outpatient clinic. Social services would have been arranged for home care.

In the 1970s, all large cities had a centrally located hospital sustained by local taxes, including Ancker Hospital in St. Paul and Hennepin County Hospital in Minneapolis. These hospitals provided health care for the elderly and the indigent and quality emergency care for the community. They trained new physicians (interns) and specialty physicians (residents), had quality nursing schools and served as research facilities for the university.

One might argue that this system could replace our dysfunctional health care system as well as Obamacare did. It would bring health care back to the states where it belongs. Medicaid and Medicare would not be necessary. Neither would their costly bureaucracy in Washington, D.C. Politicians would no longer make health care decisions. The large centrally located hospitals would be available for emergencies and for sophisticated surgery and medical procedures not available at other hospitals. And health care coverage for patients who are not elderly or indigent would be available through health savings accounts or similar prepaid health care programs.

Dr. Thomas W. Votel is a resident of the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood of St. Paul.



Inbox

Disc golf impinges on park

Highland Park is a wonderful resource. The playground, picnic pavilion and open play spaces are filled with people of all ages from across our community. The walkways are busy with joggers, dog walkers and those going to and from the Highland Pool. Some local schools also use the area for team practices.

The existing disc golf course uses a significant amount of space and already impinges on other park users as the discs are frequently flying across walkways and even onto roads. There does not appear to be any justification to dedicate more of such a valuable community resource to a single use (*Villager*, January 31). While an effort was made to survey disc golf users, no information was gathered from the wider range of park users and neighbors. A more comprehensive review will surely show that the community benefits from this space being multi-use, and may likely show that constricting the current disc golf setup would better serve the broader community.

Stewart Shacter
Highland Park

Better golf without the back 9

The St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department is proposing to expand the disc golf course at the northeast corner of Edgumbe Road and Montreal Avenue in Highland Park from nine to 18 holes (*Villager*, January 31). Parks and Rec already has a design and layout approved, based on a six-week survey that only solicited comments from disc golfers. Parks and Rec has never asked any of the immediate neighbors of the park for their thoughts on the expansion.

Based on the survey, Parks and Rec said it had an overwhelming response for the improvements. These included better signage, more benches, more trash receptacles, updated concrete tee pads and metal baskets, more concessions and the expansion to 18 holes. If you're a disc golfer, why wouldn't you have all that on your wish list? After all, you're paying nothing for the improvements, and you pay nothing to use them.

I think it's important to note that you can easily address five of six of the improvements without expanding to 18 holes. As for more concessions, why don't the disc golfers walk across the street to the Highland National clubhouse, where Parks and Rec now has a full-service bar along with food?

Parks and Rec doesn't need to expand the disc golf course to 18 holes in order to address nearly every item on the survey wish list, and it surely doesn't seem fair to take over park space that is used by many for the benefit of a select few. Is there some hidden agenda here that the city of St. Paul is not sharing with us?

C. T. Killian
Highland Park

Maintain park for all to enjoy

I have been a resident of the Highland Park neighborhood for over 40 years. I recently visited the city's website and reviewed the scheme for expanding the disc golf course in Highland Park, a plan that was made without any input from the neighborhood (*Villager*, January 31).

The city's current plan to add nine holes between Beechwood and Montreal avenues seems to me to be one-sided. Over the years, in the area under consideration, I have read, walked, reflected, spent time with my grandchildren, and played Frisbee and other sports. I have seen many other people do the same thing with their families.

At any age, all of us should be open to the betterment of our city and the best utilization of what we have to offer as amenities for public use. My concern with the nine-hole disc golf expansion is that that space will now become a single-use environment rather than an open place for community enjoyment. I am not in favor of the disc golf expansion.

Gary Sirek
Highland Park

You can write that again

Regarding "Fair and open government demands more than first names" (*Villager* Viewpoint, February 14): Indeed! Jane McClure's dead-on indictment of the anti-democratic and sloppy standards and practices at City Hall reveals a new low for the city of St. Paul. McClure, one of St. Paul's most respected and hardworking journalists, speaks for me and my neighbors. Please reprint her column in every issue until something changes downtown.

Kris Jacobs,
Ramsey Hill

8◀ INBOX

For transparency in testimony

Jane McClure made excellent arguments against the new St. Paul City Council policy allowing people at public hearings to no longer provide their full name and address prior to testifying ("Fair and open government demands more than first names," *Villager* Viewpoint, February 14). I totally agree with her that this new policy further erodes trust in our governmental processes. We need more transparency, not less.

Yes, people have a right and duty to address their elected officials on such important matters as a property zoning change, new ordinances or amendments and licenses. But these same people have a responsibility to identify who they are and to give reasons for their testimony. This, as Ms. McClure indicates, makes for open, honest and transparent government.

Jane McClure has been covering urban affairs, monitoring City Council and city staff activities and neighborhood district council issues for decades. She always provides fair and accurate reporting, getting the facts right and explaining the important issues in ways every reader can understand. I trust her "speaking truth to power" on this policy commentary.

Dan Cornejo
Highland Park

Editor's note: The writer is a former director of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development.

The Driver behind HGRA

Bill Driver has stepped down after 20 years as president of the Highland-Groveland Recreation Association (HGRA). During Bill's tenure, the HGRA has increased our program offerings, significantly grown participation, more than doubled the size of the soccer program and instituted numerous improvements that make the HGRA the premier youth recreational program in St. Paul.

Bill was substantially responsible for the agreement that allows the HGRA to use the wonderful facilities at Cretin-Derham Hall for our soccer program, and he also envisioned and implemented the plan to give us oversight of the soccer field at the Talmud Torah. Bill spearheaded our emphasis on small-sided soccer competition that gives the participants more involvement in the actual play. He developed our unique instruction/scrimmage model for our younger participants, and he has been a ceaseless advocate for enhanced safety measures on the soccer field.

Most important, Bill has been the face and voice of the HGRA for these 20 years. He has forged strong partnerships with numerous public and private entities that allow the HGRA to fulfill our mission and serve the community so effectively. Bill has accomplished all of this with exceptional grace, humility and good humor.

Though Bill has relinquished the presidency, we are grateful that he has agreed to remain as a member of the HGRA board of directors, and he will continue to oversee the HGRA's relationships with all of our external partners.

The HGRA served more than 40,000 athletes during Bill's tenure as president, and every one of them (and their families) owes a great debt of gratitude to Bill for his tireless devotion to our programs. He has left his mark on our community in a truly remarkable way.

I also would like to note the resignation of two longtime members of the HGRA board of directors—Jean Bannick and Euan Kerr. Jean and Euan both contributed tremendously to the success of our

programs, and we thank them for their commitment to bringing quality recreational opportunities to our community.

Dennis Merley, President
Highland-Groveland Recreation Association

The voters' will and the reality

I thought that democracy meant that we elect officials who represent our wishes on the governing bodies they occupy. I no longer think this is the case.

Nationally, we have a president at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. playing a game of nuclear chicken with the head of North Korea, neither apparently remembering that at Chernobyl, and in northern Japan where the nuclear reactors melted down, the surrounding areas will not be habitable for eons. A nuclear strike by anybody would be the end of life as we know it on this planet.

On the local level, we have city councilors who pay no attention to the overwhelming opposition to various proposals and pass them anyway. And we have a mayor who has appointed a "chief resilience officer." Where do I get in line to get a nonsense job?

Since we appear to be taxed without representation, I hope some of you are joining me in sending your used tea bags to the mayor and city councilors as a protest. I think that H.L. Mencken had it right when he said, "Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want and deserve to get it good and hard."

Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland

Step toward sustainability

The St. Paul City Council recently voted unanimously to improve the city's Sustainable Building Policy. This is a great step in the right direction, and the City Council deserves credit for sending a clear signal that our community is moving forward on better buildings.

The updated policy expands on a 2009 ordinance that requires public buildings, as well as new construction receiving more than \$200,000 in public funds, to meet certain building standards. The policy also applies to major renovations of over 10,000 square feet, and includes additional provisions to encourage implementing proven green technologies and practices. In other words, if the city is helping to build it, we should build it right.

With buildings accounting for 52 percent of St. Paul's total carbon emissions, policies that pinpoint the building sector are essential to meeting the city's climate goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. This policy allows building architects and engineers to choose from a list of formalized building standards, giving them flexibility to decide which standards best align with their building design. It ensures that the minimum comprehensive sustainability standard is met.

In the eight years it has been in effect, St. Paul's Sustainable Building Policy has applied to nearly 50 projects and almost 3 million square feet of buildings. Projects have included a wide range of both multifamily residential and commercial buildings. The recent revision applies these same requirements to large-scale renovations of public buildings or those receiving public funds that include a heating, cooling or ventilation update.

This plan reflects how technologies and our climate have changed since 2009. The addition of electric vehicle charging-ready infrastructure and on-site renewable energy generation analysis

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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CIRCULATION

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Next Issue: March 14

Visit myvillager.com for deadlines.

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INBOX ▶ 10



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9◀ INBOX

encourages building designers to incorporate technologies at an optimal time in the planning process. The most cost-effective time to install a conduit for electric vehicle charging is when a building is being constructed. With the current rise in availability of electric vehicles, this requirement follows the direction of the market. Also, requiring these projects to access the viability of on-site renewable energy will flag potential projects that benefit building tenants.

As a building expert, I'm glad to see the city approve a cost-effective method to reduce the environmental impact of our public buildings and those receiving public funding. Thank you, city staff and elected officials who helped St. Paul take this step forward.

*Ben Rabe, Senior Policy Associate
Fresh Energy*

Mourning loss of bank building

Recently, a very beautiful and very functional building was torn down for no apparent reason. I am referring to the Midway Bank building on Snelling and University avenues. It was constructed in 1960 at a cost of \$500,000. That building could have been reused. It was not a case of urban blight—quite the contrary. The stone work on the side was quite attractive, and it added so much to University Avenue.

Actually, the Midway area has a poor record of saving buildings: The Montgomery Ward building, the Northern Pacific (later Samaritan) Hospital, the Prom Ballroom, Brown & Bigelow. In the future, I hope we will be more careful about tearing down structures that are perfectly good.

*The Reverend Wm. Vadim Hillebrand
North End*

The soul beneath the swimsuit

“Good Morning America” joins the list of enablers of the sexual objectification of women by having *Sports Illustrated's* Swimsuit Edition's 2018 cover model, Danielle Herrington, as a guest. Herrington was ecstatic over this alleged honor. “I'm over the moon” was her reaction.

There will always be a line-up of starry-eyed girls who don't understand the meaning of the word “degradation” until their nearly nude photos have become fodder for thousands of lecherous boys and men. Wake up, young women! Don't be duped by *Sports Illustrated*, the wolf in sheep's clothing. Don't undress for the camera. The resulting photos become the property of those who could care less about your soul, who care only for their unholy, self-centered gratification.

*Ann Redding
Fuller, Minneapolis*

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

A taxing situation

The Minnesota Legislature's 2018 session has begun. Each time our state government enacts new or increased taxes into law, we the taxpayers are left with less and less money to purchase goods and services, eat at restaurants or donate. Nonprofits receive less money for research and we buy fewer boxes of Girl Scout cookies. Organizations that depend on donations should be worried and causing an uproar about our state's taxing situation.

*Sue Shetka
Macalester-Groveland*

Bringing the war to America

I challenge defining former St. Catherine University student Tnuza Jamal Hassan as a potential terrorist who was self-radicalized. I see her actions as wrong but her anger as normal. She is upset about seeing Muslims killed by the U.S. military. She told FBI agents, “You kill our innocent Muslim people, I kill innocent Americans. That's how it works.” She is wrong to try and kill innocent Americans, but she has every right to be outraged at how the U.S. government shows little regard for the lives of Muslims in the Middle East.

There is no disputing the fact that the U.S. military fights in a way that views Muslim life as expendable, that the U.S. military uses violence in a manner that endangers and kills innocent Muslims. This is seen as an acceptable part of the process in fighting the enemy. With the droppng of just one 500-pound bomb on Mosul, Iraq, the U.S. killed over 100 civilians who were packed into a house seeking cover. This is nearly double the number killed by the mass murderer in Las Vegas, the worst mass murder in U.S. history. Yet no one in this country cares that our government killed all of these Muslim civilians.

Hassan is mad as hell about this, but when she uses

violence, America will crush her, put her in prison for a long time. And America will just continue killing Muslim civilians.

*Frank Erickson
Standish, Minneapolis*

A Twin City conspiracy?

First there was then-Minneapolis mayoral candidate Jacob Frey's lobbyist wife trying to set up St. Paul City Council member Dai Thao at a coffeeshop. The charges were later dropped after being unsubstantiated. Next they charged Thao on a ridiculous claim of voter fraud for helping a non-English speaking elder cast her vote. Now former City Council president Russ Stark, an unabashed supporter of Mayor Melvin Carter's candidacy who had publicly denounced Thao, gets appointed to a more than \$100,000 a year position by Carter. Frey and Carter have made no attempt to hide their support for each other. Anyone else connecting the dots?

*Greg Trentman
Lexington-Hamline*

The dusty air that we breathe

For a long time I've watched the clouds of dust over the Ford Plant site. Also the big dump trucks carrying uncontained loads of soil over the Ford Bridge. It makes me curious: What exactly is it we are breathing? What is dusting Highland Village and the path the trucks take to the soil's destination?

*Michael Dujardin
Nokomis, Minneapolis*

Bridging the divide over climate

Recent testimony from Olympic athletes reminds us of the threats of climate change. News from Arizona where solar energy with storage is cheaper than natural gas shows that we have the technology we need. The problem is political. For too long, climate change has been partisan and toxic. That is beginning to change. Thirty-five Republicans and 35 Democrats are now members of the U.S. House's Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus.

In Minnesota, we are blessed to have U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. She cares deeply about us, protecting our climate and working productively across the aisle. In the Senate, she has gained respect and is widely viewed as someone whom you can work with to get things done. Senator Klobuchar should use her position to break the Senate's partisan deadlock around climate change. It will not be an easy task, but if she does it, Minnesotans and the climate will be grateful.

*Peter J. Jarka-Sellers
Macalester College*

Take action to end gun violence

I'm sure that you are just as horrified as I am about all the mass shootings happening in our country. I'm sure that, like me, you think that something has gone terribly wrong here. I'm sure you want these senseless killings to stop as much as I do. But nothing will change until people like you who venerate their right to bear arms think twice about the societal cost of the status quo, which appears to be an ever-mounting body count at our schools, entertainment venues and places of worship.

Please don't let whatever media you follow tell you that I want to take away your guns. I don't. I just want you to join me in insisting that our federal government do something—anything—to try to spare our communities from the soul-crushing despair of gun violence.

Let's work together to promote common-sense initiatives to address this crisis. Let's exchange ideas, pick the best ones and present them to our lawmakers. Let's join in demanding a timely and appropriate response from them and hold them accountable if they continue to fail us.

As far as I'm concerned, inaction is the only thing that's off the table.

*Bill Celebrezze
Macalester-Groveland*

On the security of a free state

“A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

The Second Amendment and the other nine amendments in the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights were adopted in 1791. The first part about the well-regulated militia referred to the farmers and rebels who banded together to fight the British. They were trained to work as a unit by Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, who was brought over from Prussia by George Washington to train the Continental troops. There was a

great need for trained men to rise up against the oppressor.

The Continental Army mostly had personal muzzle loaders that they also used to hunt dinner. There was no arms industry in this country, hence the Second Amendment.

Fast-forward 250 years, and the times are greatly changed. We now have a standing army, navy, air force and police. AR 15s, AK 47s and other semi- or fully automatic weapons are not hunting weapons or even good self-defense weapons. They and weapons like them are used as offensive weapons designed to kill as many human beings as possible. There is no other use for them.

*Norm Spilleth
Ericcson, Minneapolis*

Editor's note: The writer is a student at Macalester and leader of the St. Paul chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby.

Healthy seniors of South Mpls.

Regarding the article about the Neighborhood Network for Seniors in St. Paul (*Villager*, February 14): I want to let readers know that there are three organizations in South Minneapolis that provide similar services for older adults: Nokomis Healthy Seniors (612-729-5499), Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors (612-729-5799) and Southeast Seniors (612-331-2302).

*Tricia Theurer
Nokomis, Minneapolis*

Making excuses for Trump

You know how annoying it is when parents fail to hold their kids accountable for their obnoxious behavior? They excuse Johnny for putting glue in your daughter's hair and Sylvia for spreading rumors about your son on social media. What's even more annoying is witnessing the endless parade of people in Congress, the media, even your own neighborhood newspaper who continue to make excuses for President Trump's immoral and unprofessional behavior.

“He's unconventional,” they say. “He's just telling it like it is. He's not politically correct. Look at the stock market!” It's astounding to witness the same righteous people who got hysterical when President Obama wore a tan suit now turning a blind eye to flagrant lying, poor judgment, obvious incompetence and total lack of self-control.

I'm not a Republican, but I used to admire the position they once took as “the party of personal responsibility.” Now I sit back and wonder: What will it take for these apologists to finally call out their president for acting like the most arrogant, spoiled and entitled child of all time?

*Marc Conklin
Macalester-Groveland*

For a carbon-based energy fee

President Trump may not know the difference between weather and climate, but I do, and a cold winter here in Minnesota does not negate the fact that 2017 was the hottest year ever worldwide. Global warming is extremely well documented, and it is causing climate change around the world. Here in the north, it brings alternating drought and prolonged rainy periods. Across the nation, climate change has brought about hurricanes and wildfires that caused more than \$300 billion in damage. If we do not reduce the heat-trapping emissions that are warming our planet, such disasters will outpace our ability to recover and adapt.

On the bright side, the costs of wind and solar energy continue to drop, and the conversion to a clean-energy economy is increasing. Adoption of a carbon fee and dividend plan would be the simplest, most effective market-based way to speed up this process. Not only would it markedly decrease greenhouse gases, but it would add millions of new American jobs and make America more prosperous. If we want energy independence, we need to focus on sustainable, renewable, clean energy, not carbon-dioxide-producing energy sources.

I hope we never hear our kids ask, “Why didn't you know? Why didn't you do anything?” We can and should do something now. We need to urge our representatives, both Democrat and Republican, to legislate a fee on all carbon-based energy sources.

*Cathy Ruther
Macalester-Groveland*

The *Villager* welcomes letters to the editors. To be considered for publication, however, letters must be signed, include a telephone number for verification purposes and indicate the neighborhood in which the letter writer lives. You may send your letter to the *Villager* at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116, or email it to letters@myvillager.com.

District Council News

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Welcome to the neighborhood—The Highland District Council will host a spring welcome event for new residents from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, March 23, at the Highland Bakery and Cafe, 2012 Ford Pkwy. All are welcome, whether they just moved in or have lived here for years and are looking to be more involved. For information, contact the HDC office.

Community development—The HDC's Community Development Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at the Highland Park Community Center. The agenda will include a discussion of plans for expanding the Highland Park disc golf course and an update on campus parking at St. Catherine University.

Upcoming meetings—Board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1; Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 13. Both meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Home Improvement Fair—The annual Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair will be held from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. Learn more at macgrove.org/hif.

Get involved—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council currently has openings on its board of directors for at-large faith, at-large business and at-large landlord representatives. The council also has four standing committees that meet once a month. Those who attend three consecutive committee meetings can become voting members. Visit macgrove.org/node/341.

Upcoming meetings—Community Building Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 12; Environment Committee, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 15; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 26. The meetings will be held at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Zoning and Land Use—The Summit Hill Association's Zoning and Land Use Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Monday March 5, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. The committee will discuss the liquor license application of the Red Rabbit Restaurant, which has purchased the Wild Onion at 788 Grand Ave. Also at the meeting, city traffic engineer Elizabeth Stiffler will talk about recommended changes to St. Paul's residential permit parking program. The city's report can be found at tinyurl.com/yadt4p24. Comments can be made at the meeting or sent by March 4 to info@summithillassociation.org.

Summit Hill Plan—The SHA is updating its neighborhood plan and is asking all those who live or own a business in the neighborhood to take a survey by February 28 at tinyurl.com/y8pbdw8m. Those who take the survey can register to win a \$100 gift card from Cafe Latte.

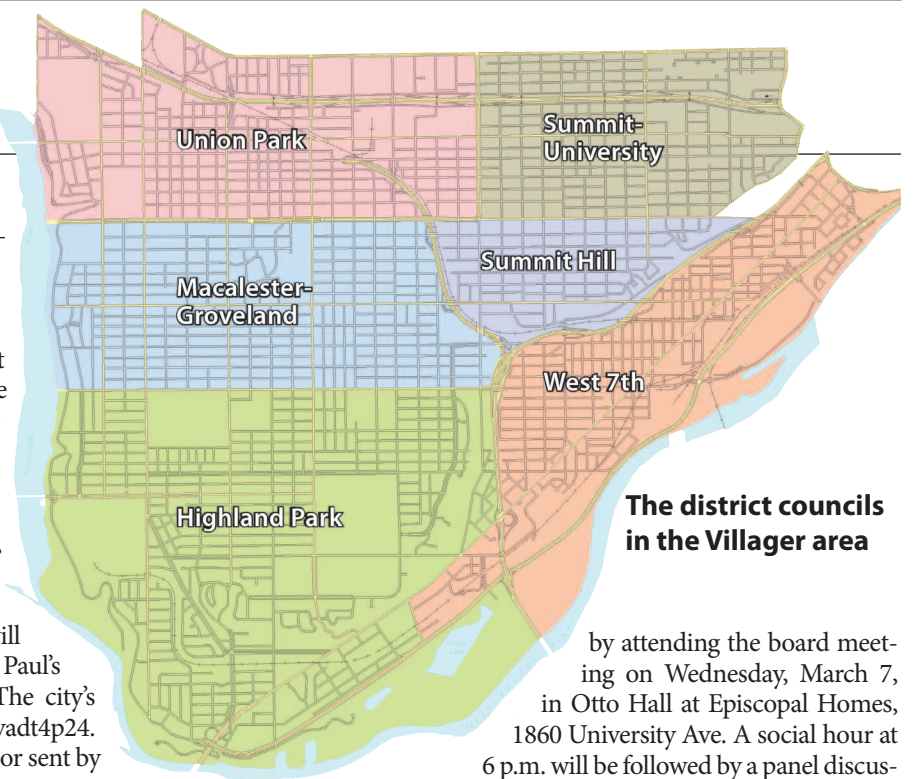
A splendid event—Lynne Rossetto Kasper, who is well-known for her National Public Radio broadcast of "The Splendid Table," will be the special guest during an SHA dinner on Monday, March 26, prepared by Cooks of Crocus Hill, 877 Grand Ave. For tickets, see tinyurl.com/ybjaav42.

Board election—An election for one open seat on the SHA board of directors will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 12, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. Application forms can be found on the website.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Celebrating 10 years—The public is invited to join the Union Park District Council in celebrating its 10th anniversary



The district councils in the Villager area

by attending the board meeting on Wednesday, March 7, in Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave. A social hour at 6 p.m. will be followed by a panel discussion about the history of the Merriam Park,

Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods at 7 p.m. A special report highlighting the work of the council can be picked up at the celebration or received by emailing michael@unionparkdc.org.

Micro-grants available—The UPDC is inviting area residents to apply for grants of \$200-\$600 to complete improvement projects in the neighborhood. The application deadline is April 30. For details, visit unionparkdc.org/micro-grants.

Music and movement classes—The UPDC has teamed up with Playing With Music to offer music and movement classes at 10 a.m. on Saturdays at 161 N Snelling Ave. for children from birth through kindergarten and their caregivers. A Ukulele Club for children ages 5-8 is also being offered at 11 a.m. on Saturdays. To register, email marksorvari@gmail.com.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 12; Land Use and Economic Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 19. Unless otherwise noted, the meetings will be held at 161 N. Snelling Ave.



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Historic designation sought for former West End fire station

By JANE McCLURE

The conversion of St. Paul's decommissioned Fire Station 10 at 754 Randolph Ave. into a restaurant and craft brewery is moving ahead. The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) voted on February 22 to send a draft preservation plan to the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office for its review. That is a step toward designating the station as a historic preservation site, as well as its possible placement on the National Register of Historic Places. A public hearing on the designation is anticipated in May.

Developer Travis Temke presented his preliminary plans to the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation on February 12. The district council will act on the historic designation request once it is ready. It is unclear if the project needs any other approvals, such as parking or setback variances.

The first level of the firehouse would become a restaurant, while the second floor could be used for a banquet center. Temke said his hope is to start with a coffee cafe offering light breakfasts, then expand into a full-service restaurant and craft brewery/taproom. Plans also include a patio and landscaping.

Federation members said they would like to see some features of the firehouse preserved, both inside and outside. Temke said there is not much left to preserve inside.



A restaurant and craft brewery are being planned for Fire Station 10 at 754 Randolph Ave. Constructed in 1885, the firehouse was once the oldest active station in the state.

"Really, the only thing left is the fire pole," Temke said. He added that the wooden sheds behind the building date from 40-60 years ago and are not considered historic.

Federation board members expressed concern about parking. The banquet center could hold as many as 220 people, while the restaurant could hold 110.

"That's a lot of people and a lot of parking

demand," said federation president Becky Yust. Temke said his plan is to seek shared parking arrangements with a nearby church and other businesses.

The firehouse was constructed in 1885 and was expanded in 1911. It was the oldest active fire station in the state until 2010 when its fire company moved to the new Fire Station 1 at Randolph Avenue and West Seventh Street.

Since then, Station 10 has been used for fire equipment storage and classrooms.

The two-story brick building was home to several fire companies over the years, and at one time served as the hospital for ill and injured horses that pulled fire equipment.

Station 10 is considered historically significant in part because it was one of the early city fire stations that was racially integrated. St. Paul disbanded its African-American fire companies in 1942, and the firemen were integrated into other companies.

Redeveloping the station will require reviews by the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), the HPC and the Planning Commission. Historic designation requires HPC, Planning Commission and City Council approval. The designation requires developers to take extra steps to maintain historic features of the property, but also allows them to seek state and federal historic tax credits.

Temke is co-founder and president of F-Town Brewery in Faribault. He plans to close that craft brewery and move its equipment to St. Paul. He is a St. Paul native and recently moved with his family to the Cherokee Park neighborhood.

Last December, the HRA gave Temke's M.O.E. Craft Brewing Company tentative developer status for the site. The city had received about 50 inquiries about the property and reviewed a dozen formal proposals.

Apartments planned for old plant near University-Cleveland

Commission OKs permit allowing first-floor units

By JANE McCLURE

The proposed conversion of a century-old meat packing plant into a 64-unit apartment complex passed its first test before the St. Paul Planning Commission on February 23. The commission approved a conditional use permit for Superior LLC's project at 2103 Wabash Ave. That decision is final, barring an appeal to the City Council.

The building has sat largely vacant since 1979. Its first floor had been used for pet boarding, guitar repair and industrial tire sale businesses. The oldest part of the structure dates from 1886. It was added onto in 1911, 1928 and 1947. It has floor levels and roof heights ranging from one to three stories.

The developers are hoping to get work underway by June, before changes are made to federal historic tax credits. Before then, they need to secure historic designation for the property to enable them to apply for the tax credits.

More than an hour of debate before the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee on February 15 revealed the complexity of redeveloping the industrially zoned property. The 1.6-acre site is located a block south of the light-rail Green Line and a block west of Cleveland Avenue.

"Our goal is to save and reuse the historic structure," said developer Clint Blaiser during the Zoning Committee meeting.

The conditional use permit approved on February 23 allows more than six dwellings in an industrial zone. It also allows 39 dwellings on the first floor where none are currently allowed, and 10 percent of the first floor to be

devoted to non-residential uses instead of the required 80 percent.

Blaiser said the building's configuration made residential use the most feasible. "It has about 30 roofs and about as many elevations inside," he said.

"It's basically a historic shell," stated Rich Wessling, project architect from UrbanWorks Architecture.

He and Blaiser said it makes more sense to gut and rehabilitate the building than to tear it down and start fresh. They see the apartments as being affordable for young families and workers who want easy access to light rail, bus service and other local amenities.

The building is in very poor condition, Blaiser said, but is appealing because of its location in an area where several other old industrial and warehouse properties have been repurposed as part of the city's Creative Enterprise Zone.

The building is in an area with no sidewalks and large amounts of truck traffic, which city staff and some commissioners saw as impediments to residential reuse. One idea that was suggested is to vacate the adjacent portion of Montgomery Street and create more of a walking, biking and parking area.

There is a city policy to preserve existing industrial uses in the West Midway area. However, the St. Paul Port Authority, Midway Chamber of Commerce and St. Anthony Park Community Council all support the Superior LLC project.

"We want places where our employees can live," said Midway Chamber board member John Young.

Both business groups noted that the property has been underused for many years and Young said the site has been looked at and rejected by many would-be industrial developers.

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The Kiosk

Wednesday, February 28

“WRITING ON THE WALL: A History of Graffiti” will be presented by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota from 5-6:30 p.m. at Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery, 445 N. Smith Ave. The cost is \$15, and that includes a free beer or soda. Visit mnpreservation.org or call 651-293-9047.

A FULL MOON WALK with the Friends of Coldwater will step out at 7 p.m. from the parking lot at Coldwater Springs, located about a half mile south of 54th Street on the frontage road just east of Highway 55. All are welcome. In recognition of Black History Month, Dred Scott will be remembered. Scott was the black slave who sued for his freedom based on his residency from 1836-40 at Fort Snelling.

Friday/March 2

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

A FISH FRY will be held from 5:30-8 p.m. at St. Thomas More School, 1065 Summit Ave. The parish will serve up a delicious meal of fried cod, mashed potatoes, French fries, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, roll and cookies. Beer, wine and soda will be available for purchase. Meal tickets are \$10, \$5 for children ages 5-12, or \$30 per family. Stations of the Cross will precede the fish fry at 5 p.m. in the church.

Saturday/March 3

A PANCAKE BREAKFAST will be served for the benefit of the Dodge Nature Center from 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at Garlough School, 1740 Charlton St. in West St. Paul. Enjoy pancakes topped with pure maple syrup, and after breakfast join a naturalist on a hike to learn about the process of maple sap collection and syrup production. Meal tickets are \$5. Call 651-455-4531.

BINGO WILL BE PLAYED for ham and cash prizes from 5:30-9 p.m. at St. Helena Catholic School, 3204 E. 43rd St. in Minneapolis. The doors open at 4:45 p.m. Concessions, pull tabs and meat raffles will be available throughout the evening. Visit sainthelenaschool.us or call 612-729-9301.

Sunday/March 4

DISTRICT 64B REPRESENTATIVE Dave Pinto will be holding open office hours from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. He invites his constituents in the Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland and West End neighborhoods to stop by and chat about the legislative session and legislative priorities. To contact him, call 651-296-4199 or email rep.dave.pinto@house.mn.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY will be celebrated from 1-5 p.m. in the Student Center at Hamline University, Snelling and Englewood avenues. “Media, Technology & Gender Equality” will be explored in workshops. Nekessa Julia Opoti will discuss minority and immigrant life in Minnesota, and poet and Minneapolis City Council



The stuff of legend.

Dressed in a cap and scarf that his railroading host James J. Hill could appreciate, Aengus Botkin, 4, cuddled his Teddy Bear while he, his mother Margaret and grandmother Ann listened to Kari Nielsen of the Minnesota Historical Society read a story about Teddy Roosevelt and the legend of the Teddy Bear during a President's Day program at Hill's historical home. According to the society, our 26th president, Theodore Roosevelt, was a friend of James J. Hill back in the day. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



member Andrea Jenkins will perform. Admission is free, but reservations are requested. Visit bit.ly/2CJXsOA.

Monday/March 5

THE CORNISH-AMERICAN Heritage Society will celebrate St. Piran's Day from noon-3 p.m. at Merlin's Rest, 3601 E. Lake St., Minneapolis. Members and friends will dine on pints and pasties, swap stories, share photos and ruminate on all things Cornish. St. Piran is the patron saint of Cornwall, and a highlight of the afternoon will be the singing of the Cornish anthem “Trelawny” at 3 p.m. Call 651-485-1699.

HAVE COFFEE with members of the League of Women Voters of St. Paul and learn about Ramsey County government from 6-7:30 p.m. in the classroom at Mississippi Market, 1500 W. Seventh St. Attendees are asked to park at the far reaches of the market's parking lot.

Tuesday/March 6

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather for a three-mile hike through Highland Park beginning at 11:30 a.m. in front of the condos at 1800 Graham Ave. New members are welcome. Call 651-455-0052.

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

THE ST. PAUL CAMERA CLUB will hold its monthly salon at 6:30 p.m. in Otto Hall in the Gardens building at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave. Monochrome prints and digital images of winter will be critiqued. Visitors are welcome. Call 651-578-1874.

Wednesday/March 7

HAVE COFFEE with an officer from the Mendota Heights Police Department at 9 a.m. at TK's Coffee, 813 Sibley Memorial

Hwy. Coffee With a Cop is offered on the first Wednesday of every month in Mendota Heights. In even-numbered months, the conversation begins at 6 p.m. at Caribou Coffee, 720 Main St. Call 651-452-1366.

Thursday/March 8

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED to know about cremation will be addressed by funeral directors Jay Dietz and Dana Makepeace at Kessler & Maguire Funeral Home, 640 W. Seventh St. The free seminar will open at 11 a.m. with coffee and cookies and will end with a light lunch. Door prizes will be drawn. For reservations, call 651-224-2341.

ENCOUNTERING THE CHINESE traditions of Confucianism and Daoism will be addressed by Mark Berkson of the Department of Religion at Hamline University in a free program at noon in Room 100 of McNeely Hall at the University of St. Thomas. The two religious traditions are radically different, according to Berkson, yet many Chinese maintain a connection with both, in part because they both give insightful perspectives on humanity and how to live. Visit stthomas.edu/jpc.

“TRANSFORMATION BY TRAIN? What Light Rail Means for Minneapolis” will be addressed by economics professor Sarah West in a free program at 4:45 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Campus Center at Macalester College. Call 651-696-6227.

AMERICAN AIRPOWER STRATEGY in World War II author Conrad C. Crane and veterans who took part in the air operations will describe the overall strategy and individual feats that contributed to Allied victory from 7-9 p.m. in the Visitors Center at Historic Fort Snelling. Admission to the History Roundtable is by donation with \$5 recommended, free for students and veterans. Call 612-726-1171.

Friday/March 9

MENTAL ILLNESS in the Victorian era

of the late 19th century when health issues were hush-hush and treatment options were limited will be discussed in 75-minute programs beginning at 7 and 8:30 p.m. at the Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Alexander Ramsey's brother Justus and son-in-law Charles both suffered from mental illness. Discover how the influential family handled it. The cost is \$11, \$10 for seniors and college students. Call 651-296-8760.

Saturday/March 10

LEARN HOW TO GROW your own mushrooms from noon-2 p.m. at Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. in West St. Paul. Participants will build a kit to grow oyster mushrooms while they learn about the life cycles of mushrooms, their natural habitats and environmental triggers. The cost is \$30 per adult. Call 651-455-4531.

AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT spaghetti dinner will be served from 5-7 p.m. at St. Helena Catholic School, 3204 E. 43rd St. in Minneapolis. Meal tickets are \$9, \$7 for seniors and children age 12 and under, or \$30 per family before March 2; \$11, \$9 and \$35 after that date. Visit sainthelenaschool.us or call 612-729-9301.

Monday/March 12

“MY AMERICA,” featuring the finalists in a statewide creative writing contest about the American experience and what the country can become, will be presented at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Hosted by artistic director Sarah Bellamy, the event begins at 6 p.m. with light refreshments followed by a 90-minute presentation and discussion. Tickets are \$20. Call 651-224-3180 or visit penumbra theatre.org.

Tuesday/March 13

THE ADVANTAGES of breastfeeding for mother and child will be discussed from 7-8:45 p.m. by the Como-Midway group of La Leche League. Pregnant women, mothers and their children are invited. For more information, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—Copper tubing was reported stolen from a construction site at Highland Park Elementary School, 1700 Saunders Ave., at 10:30 a.m. Friday, February 16.

—A home was broken into on the 900 block of South Lexington Parkway between February 16-19.

—A burglary was reported at Horace Mann Elementary School, 2001 Eleanor Ave., between 6:22-8 a.m. Tuesday, February 20.

Theft—A catalytic converter was stolen from a van at Haskell's, 2221 Ford Pkwy., during the evening of February 3-4.

—An air compressor was stolen from a construction trailer at Horace Mann School, 2001 Eleanor Ave., between 7:55-8:51 a.m. Monday, February 12.

—A vehicle was stolen at Carondelet Village, 525 S. Fairview Ave., between 11:12 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, February 12.

—Two bags were stolen from a vehicle at Crosby Farm Park between 1:15-3:20 p.m. Thursday, February 15.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 2200 block of West Seventh Street on February 18-19.

Assault—A 28-year-old man was arrested on two counts of felony assault after he chased occupants with what appeared to be a gun at Ras Restaurant and Lounge, 2516 W. Seventh St., at 2:25 p.m. Saturday, February 17.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—A 36-year-old man was arrested for felony possession of burglary tools after attempting to steal a cellphone at the Midway Target at 11:54 a.m. Tuesday, February 13.

Theft—Police recovered a stolen vehicle during a traffic stop on University Avenue and Lexington Parkway at 10:12 p.m. Thursday, February 8.

—A vehicle was reported stolen at Super-America, 399 N. Lexington Pkwy., at 10:39 p.m. Thursday, February 8.

—A suspect stole a television from the Midway Target and fled aboard a light-rail train at 8:34 a.m. Saturday, February 10.

—Stolen vehicles were reported on Lexington Parkway and Ashland Avenue on February 16, and on the 1200 block of Laurel Avenue on February 18-19.

Macalester-Groveland

Theft—Military-issued equipment was stolen from a vehicle on the 1300 block of Grand Avenue during the evening of February 9-10.

—Stolen vehicles were reported on Fairview and Randolph avenues on February 12,

on the 1800 block of Wellesley Avenue on February 16-17 and on the 2100 block of Fairmount Avenue on February 19.

Assault—A caregiver reported being assaulted at a residence on the 300 block of Warwick Street at 4:07 p.m. Thursday, February 15.

Miscellaneous—Felony damage was done to property on Cretin and Summit avenues between 3-9 p.m. Thursday, February 8.

Mendota Heights

Robbery—A robbery was reported on the 700 block of Main Street at 5:57 p.m. Monday, February 12.

Theft—Tools were reported stolen from a construction site on the 2000 block of Dodd Road at 6:51 a.m. Friday, February 2.

—A juvenile was arrested for driving a stolen vehicle near Dodd Road and Delaware Avenue at 11 a.m. Friday, February 2.

—Several electronic items were reported stolen from a bus on the 1000 block of Northland Drive at 11:10 p.m. Saturday, February 3.

—Numerous items were reported stolen from a construction site on the 1000 block of Windy Ridge Place at 7:52 a.m. Monday, February 5.

—One suspect was cited for theft and another for driving after revocation of a license after police stopped a vehicle fleeing from a theft on the 1200 block of Mendota Heights Road at 8:49 p.m. Tuesday, February 6. The stolen items were returned.

—A laptop computer was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1300 block of Highway 13 at 6:23 p.m. Sunday, February 11. Two additional thefts in the area occurred later that evening and were believed to be related.

Miscellaneous—Police responded to a call from the 700 block of Highway 110 at 7:20 p.m. Sunday, February 4, on a report of a vehicle being damaged by a person with a baseball bat.

—Several juveniles were cited for underage drinking after police responded to a large party at 10:44 p.m. Saturday, February 10, on the 600 block of Evergreen Knolls.

Merriam Park

Theft—A vehicle was reported stolen at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., at 3 p.m. Friday, February 2.

Assault—A woman was pushed to the ground and kicked during a domestic assault on Snelling and University avenues at 12:55 p.m. Monday, February 19.

Miscellaneous—Felony damage to property was reported on the 1600 block of Selby Avenue at 9:06 p.m. Monday, January 29.

—Police responded to a report of a kidnapping at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, February 17, at Marshall and Snelling avenues.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery that resulted in a carjacking was reported at the Midway Walmart at 7:10 p.m. Tuesday, February 13. Another strong-arm robbery also occurred there between 4:59-5:18 p.m. Friday, February 16.

Theft—A cellphone valued at more than \$1,000 was stolen at the Sprint Store, 1360 University Ave., at 6 p.m. Monday, February 12.

—A 26-year-old woman was cited for trying to steal more than 24 items from the Midway Walmart at 2:36 p.m. Wednesday, February 21. The items were found inside her purse, in a shopping cart and under an infant in a portable car seat. The woman was banned from shopping at all Walgreens for a year.

Assault—A female was assaulted by several people at the Midway McDonald's at 6:31 p.m. Sunday, February 11. She declined medical attention.

—A felony assault that included terroristic threats was reported at Higher Ground Academy, 1381 Marshall Ave., at 8:18 p.m. Thursday, February 15.

Miscellaneous—Police responded to a weapons call at 2:55 p.m. Friday, February 9, on the 1500 block of University Avenue and arrested a 43-year-old homeless man for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Summit Hill

Theft—A man reported being the victim of a pickpocket at 3:20 p.m. Sunday, February 18, on Grand Avenue and Lexington Parkway. The suspect was described as a 26-year-old white male, 6-foot-2, with dark hair, dark coat, possibly a mole on his cheek and very good looking.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 900 block of Grand Avenue between 8:43-10:11 a.m. Wednesday, February 21.

Assault—A man reported being assaulted by bouncers at the Wild Onion, 788 Grand Ave., at midnight Sunday, February 4.

Miscellaneous—Police were called to Walgreens, 734 Grand Ave., at 1:45 p.m. Saturday, February 17, regarding the discovery of a credit card skimming device.

Summit-University

Robbery—A woman said she was robbed at gunpoint near the AA Market, 191 N. Western Ave., at around 5:29 p.m. Wednesday, February 21.

Burglary—A burglary occurred on the 700 block of Marshall Avenue between 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, February 2.

Theft—A backpack and suitcase were stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Selby Avenue between 6:35-8:30 p.m. Tuesday,

February 13.

—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 800 block of Iglehart Avenue at 12:06 a.m. Wednesday, February 14.

—Two thefts were reported at the St. Paul YWCA, 375 Selby Ave., between 3-4 p.m. Sunday, February 18. One theft involved a set of keys, the other included keys, credit cards, ID and an iPhone.

Weapons—Several bullets were fired into the Pioneer Lodge, 334 N. Milton St., as well as vehicles parked outside of the building at 8:20 p.m. Tuesday, February 13. An occupied home was struck by gunfire as well. No injuries were reported.

Miscellaneous—A 39-year-old man was cited on February 8 and again on February 11 for obstructing traffic while begging for money from motorists in the street on Concordia Avenue and Dale Street.

West End

Burglary—A 36-year-old woman wearing a facemask and armed with a knife kicked in an apartment door and assaulted another female at 4:36 p.m. Friday, February 16, on the 200 block of South Western Avenue. The victim was then pushed out of a second-floor window, suffering injuries to her legs in the process. The suspect was found hiding in the apartment and was arrested for burglary and assault.

—A large cement drill was reported stolen from a construction site on the 200 block of Grand Avenue on Friday, February 16. Several other construction tools were also stolen from the site during the weekend of February 17-18.

—An apartment break-in was reported on the 700 block of Watson Avenue between 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 21. The apartment was ransacked and a handgun was reported stolen.

Theft—Stolen vehicles were reported on the 700 block of Jefferson Avenue on February 16 and on the 800 block of Juno Avenue on February 17.

Assault—A man was assaulted at Super-America, 1734 W. Seventh St., at 8:45 p.m. Sunday, February 11.

—A woman was taken to the hospital after being assaulted at West Seventh Street and St. Clair Avenue at 5:42 p.m. Tuesday, February 13.

—A woman was arrested for felony assault and making terroristic threats at United Hospital at 11:51 a.m. Thursday, February 15.

—A student was assaulted by another student in the gym at Linwood Monroe School, 810 Palace Ave., at 4 p.m. Friday, February 16.

Weapons—Gunfire was reported on the 1500 block of Race Street at 2:45 p.m. Monday, February 19.

Names in the News

Chris Davies, a Snelling-Hamline musician, recently released a single "Hollywood" and is donating half of all sales to help fight human trafficking through the Family Partnership organization. The song tells the story of a young woman who travels to Hollywood with a dream of being a star only to find herself in the grips of sexual exploitation. In the end, she has the resolve to go back home with a new dream, to be with someone who cares. The single is available on iTunes, Amazon and other online outlets. Visit chrisdaviesmusic.com.

Friends for a Nonviolent World will hold an open house at 1 p.m. and its annual meeting from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, March 11, at its new location in the Central Midway Building, 393 N. Dunlap St., Suite 307. People can see the new space, hear about the group's accomplishments in 2017 and learn what is planned for 2018 and beyond. Call 651-644-5851.

The St. Paul Public Library has translated the children's book *Teach Me To Love* by Denise Brennan-Nelson into Amharic and Oromo, Ethiopian languages spoken by two of St. Paul's largest immigrant populations. It follows the library's release of two bilingual children's books in English and the Karen lan-

guage in 2015—a first for a public library in Minnesota. *Teach Me To Love* was made possible with the support of The Friends of St. Paul Public Library, Sandra Schloff and Sleeping Bear Press of Michigan.

Kristi Abbott, a resident of St. Paul's Lowertown, has been selected to create the official commemorative art for the 2018 Minnesota State Fair. Her piece will be unveiled at the fairgrounds in June. Abbott is a collage artist and native of Australia, who spent her life traveling between Sydney and visiting family in St. Paul. After a decade in the corporate arena and earning a graduate degree in design and an executive MBA, she decided to leave the corporate world and move to Minnesota to pursue art. For examples of her work, visit madebykristi.com.

Rod Kaats has been named the producing artistic director of the Ordway Center for Performing Arts. He succeeds James Rocco, who stepped down from the Ordway last year. Kaats (rhymes with "gates") has worked as a producer and director on theatrical productions both on Broadway and across the country for the last 30 years. As the vice president of Pace The-

atrical Group (now Broadway Across America) and a founder of The Booking Group, he helped revolutionize touring commercial theater in the United States.

Benita Alleman of Summit-University was named the winner for the most expressive Super Bowl theme during the Little Free Library's national Ice Your Library Contest. Participants were invited to decorate their neighborhood Little Free Libraries in celebration of winter, the St. Paul Winter Carnival and the Super Bowl. Other winners included Margaret Grafenstein of Roseville for her Winter Carnival theme; Debbie Teague of Bossier City, Los Angeles, for her use of real snow and ice; and Laura Trellue of Round Rock, Texas, for her use of fake snow and ice. Winners received a \$200 Target gift card.

Michele and Jeff Boston of Summit Hill have transferred all of the assets, obligations and leadership of their children's clinic in Port Salut, Haiti, to St. Luke Hospital and its parent affiliate St. Damien. The Bostons opened Klinik Timoun Nou Yo (Our Children's Clinic in the Creole language) in November 2012. The couple also reported they were in the process of dissolving their nonprofit foundation No Time For Poverty.

On the Town

Pol with principles

Former Fraser aide pens a biography about Mpls. congressman and mayor

BY ROGER BARR

In 1967 Iric Nathanson was a 26-year-old aide to U.S. Representative Donald Fraser in Minnesota's Fifth District. Nathanson was working out of Fraser's Minneapolis office, but that year he traveled to Washington, D.C., for a brief orientation session. He ended up spending the next 11 years working for Fraser in the nation's capital, an eyewitness to the congressman's rise as a force in Minnesota politics.

Fraser's remarkable life and career in Congress and as a long-time mayor of Minneapolis is told in a new biography by Nathanson, *Don Fraser: Minnesota's Quiet Crusader* (Nodin Press, \$19.95).

It was in Washington that Nathanson came to know and appreciate Fraser's intelligence, drive and character. It was also where he first honed his writing skills as Fraser's press secretary.

The book was decades in the making. Nathanson decided already in 1978 that Fraser's congressional career was worthy of a biography. "But it never happened," he said. Then, two years ago, Nathanson figured the time had come.

"No one else was doing it," he said. "I'd written shorter articles about Fraser that had appeared in *Hennepin History*." When Minneapolis-based Nodin Press agreed to publish the book, Nathanson began working on it in earnest.

Fraser was born in Minneapolis in 1924, graduated from University High School and enrolled in the University of Minnesota. Following a stint in the U.S. Navy during World

War II, he resumed his education at the U of M, earned a law degree and passed the bar in 1948. Fraser married Arvonne Skelton in 1950, and in 1954 was elected to the Minnesota Senate. Eight years later, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In Congress, Fraser's passion was human rights. He played a significant role in securing passage of the Minnesota Fair Housing Act that prohibited racial and ethnic discrimination in housing. In the wake of the 1968 Democratic National Convention, he chaired what became known as the McGovern-Fraser Commission, which restructured the way the

Democratic Party nominated presidential candidates. He also spearheaded the inclusion of civil rights as an element of foreign policy, helping to pass legislation that required the U.S. State Department to report on human rights conditions in countries receiving foreign aid.

Fraser gave up his seat in Congress in 1978 to run for the U.S. Senate. Although he was considered the favorite for the DFL nomination, he was upset in the

primary election by Bob Short, who lost in the general election to Republican David Durenberger.

Though stung by his primary defeat, Fraser did not remain on the political sidelines for long. In 1979 he turned Minneapolis politics on its ear by running for mayor, a position he held from 1980-93. Fraser remained active in politics for years afterward. He and Arvonne, his wife of 68 years, now live near downtown Minneapolis.

"Fraser said the job he liked best was being mayor," Nathanson said. "He could see the direct results of the work he was doing, and the pace was much faster."

Though popular among Minneapolis voters, Fraser often clashed with his City Council. "He was not a good schmoozer," Nathanson said. "He didn't always work well with the City Council, and that limited his effectiveness as mayor. He wasn't a charismatic leader and cheerleader for the city. His critics faulted him for that."

However, Nathanson said, Fraser more than made up for that shortcoming with his firm convictions, his thoughtfulness and his analytical approach. "He understood the details and consequences of the agenda he was promoting," Nathanson said.

Fraser worked endlessly to broaden the role of government to address social issues, influencing affordable housing on the local and state level. He was devoted to establishing youth programs. "He was an advocate of early childhood education when no mayors were stressing that," recalled George Latimer, who was St. Paul's mayor at the time. "That policy helped transform urban conversations."

Fraser worked to secure the construction of a new convention center

"What Don shows is that politics has been a noble profession and could be again. The reason he kept getting elected time and again is because voters understood he had strong character."



Don Fraser biographer Iric Nathanson. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

in downtown Minneapolis rather than on a Bloomington site favored by some developers. He also deserves credit for saving the State Theater from being torn down, according to Nathanson.

After Fraser's defeat in the 1978 primary, Nathanson remained in Washington, D.C., working for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In 1980 he returned to Minneapolis where he became a HUD fellow. He later worked for the Minneapolis Community Development Agency, focusing on small-business development. He did freelance writing on the side, producing articles on Minneapolis history, neighborhoods and urban development. In 2003 he joined the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers and retired about a year ago.

Nathanson is "extremely well-respected in our field," said Jim Roth, consortium president and CEO. "He played a key role in developing our small lending program which has spurred much of our growth."

Nathanson produced the consortium's newsletter. His first book, *Minneapolis in the 20th Century*, was published in 2009. He is also the author of *World War I Minnesota*, published in 2016.

For Nathanson, the biggest hurdle in writ-

ing Fraser's biography was pulling his varied careers in city, state and national politics into a single narrative. "He was involved in a broad array of local and national issues," Nathanson said. "Tying all those pieces together in a focused story was a challenge."

"There's no one I've ever known whose public persona and private beliefs were so totally aligned," Latimer said. "Don is always focused on principles rather than fashion or whims. For those of us who already know, love and respect him, (Nathanson's biography) adds several elements that are often overlooked. Don is very tenacious. There's definitely steel under that velvet."

In an era when many believe that Washington politics is broken, Nathanson thinks Fraser's life can be instructive. "Character counts," he said. "Clearly this past year, we've shown how important it is to have elected officials with good character. What Don shows is that politics has been a noble profession and could be again. The reason he kept getting elected time and again is because voters understood he had strong character."

Nathanson will discuss his book and his memories of Fraser in conversation with Latimer at 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 28, at Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-225-8989.

Don Fraser Minnesota's Quiet Crusader



Iric Nathanson
foreword by Norman Ornstein

On the Town *Briefly*

Theater

Jane Austen's Emma, a play by Sandra Fenichel adapted from the comic masterpiece by the 19th-century British novelist, will close with shows at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 2-4 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis. Tickets are \$22 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010.

A Crack in the Sky, a new play about a young Somali immigrant, is being performed through March 4 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Written by Harrison David Rivers and Ahmed Ismail Yusuf, the autobiographical drama examines the courage of immigrants and the generosity of those who help in the journey. Show times are 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. A discussion about the Somali-American experience follows Sunday's matinee. Ticket prices, which are subject to change, are \$25-\$40 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 651-292-4323 or visit historytheatre.com.

My Mother Has 4 Noses, a one-woman drama about a daughter who cares for her aging mother in the last years of her life, is playing through March 10 at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis. Actor Jonatha Brooke stars. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$37-\$47 with discounts for students and anyone under age 30. Call 612-822-7063.

Collected Stories, a drama by Donald Margulies about how the friendship of two writers devolves into scathing bitterness when one draws upon the life experiences of the other in her fiction, is playing through March 18 on the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's stage at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Maggie Bearmon Pistner and Ashley Rose Montondo star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Saturdays and 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays. Tickets range from \$23-\$38. For reservations, call 651-647-4315 or visit mnjewishtheatre.org.

A Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry's classic drama about an African-American family that confronts adversity with passion, hope and a zest for living, is playing through



Musical mayhem on the high seas. Alice McGlave (left), Victoria Price, Christina Baldwin, Elizabeth Hawkinson, Zach Garcia, Charles Eaton and Bradley Greenwald star in Park Square Theatre's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. Adapted and directed by Doug Scholz-Carlson, the operetta is being staged at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 25 on the stage at 20 W. Seventh Place. For tickets, call 651-291-7005. PHOTO BY PETRONELLA J. YTSMA

March 16 on the thrust stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Warren C. Bowles directs. Darius Dotch, Cynthia Jones-Taylor and Ivory Doubletree star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. March 1, 2, 10, 15 and 16, and 2 p.m. March 4. For ticket information, call 651-291-7005 or visit parksquaretheatre.org.

Multiple spaces at the historic James J. Hill House serve as the set for *Hamlet*. The Shakespearean classic about a family tragedy and the search for truth will be staged by the Wayward Theatre Company at 7 p.m. Thursdays through Mondays, March 2-24, in the mansion at 240 Summit Ave. Tickets are \$30-\$35. Call 651-297-2555.

Film

Dream Big: Engineering Our World will open March 2 in the Omnitheater at the Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. The giant-screen film cele-

brates human ingenuity and the compassion and creativity that drive engineers to create a better world. *Dream Big* introduces four people who are making their living as engineers: Menzer Pehlivan, a geotechnical engineer from Turkey; Angelica Hernandez, a Mexican immigrant whose interest in engineering was sparked by a high school robotics club; Steve Burrows, a structural engineer who takes his inspiration from the marvels of the ancient past; and Avery Bang, a young Midwestern woman who builds footbridges in underdeveloped countries. Admission is \$9.95, \$8.95 for seniors and children ages 4-12. Call 651-221-9444 or visit www.smm.org.

Tracing the Future, a documentary that follows Japanese photographer Naoya Hatakeyama as he records the devastation in his hometown from an earthquake and tsunami in 2011, will be shown in a free program at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 4, in the Lecture Hall of the Campus Center at Macalester College.

Hatakeyama, whose meticulous photographs are being displayed from March 4 through July 22 at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, will take part in a Q&A after the screening. Call 651-696-6279.

Dolores, a documentary about little-known Dolores Huerta, co-founder with Cesar Chavez of the first farmworkers union and one of the most defiant feminists of the 20th century, will be shown at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at TPT Street Space, 172 E. Fourth St. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended. Visit mnhs.org/event/5306.

Dance

Two dance works from Northern India, *Ritusamhara: The Seasons* and *Baromase Tero Parbon*, which celebrate the changing seasons and the 13 Hindu festivals of the calendar year, will be performed by Katha Dance Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday,

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Income restrictions apply

March 2 and 3, in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. Tickets are \$15-\$29 with discounts for students, seniors and veterans. A free preview will be offered at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 1. Visit oshag.stkate.edu or call 651-690-6700.

Kickin' It Irish, an Irish music and dance spectacular featuring 20 world-class dancers and a six-piece band, will be presented on March 10 and 11 at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. Playing in the band will be Cormac O'Sé, Aidín Ní Shé, Todd Menton of Boiled in Lead, Brian Miller of Bua, Randy Gosa of the Lost 40, David Ochs and Seán O'Brien. Show times are 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$22 at the door, \$11 for seniors and free to youths age 18 and under. Visit celticjunction.org.

Music

Celebrate spring as they do in the Balkans. Baba Marta Day will be marked on Saturday, March 3, with a dance party featuring the live music of Orkestar Bez Ime, Mila Vocal Ensemble, Traki and Nomadi. The program will run from 6-10 p.m. at Amsterdam Bar & Hall, 6 W. Sixth St. Tickets are \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance, \$5 for children ages 12 and under. Call 612-285-3112.

Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St., Suite 200, will host the following: 113 Contemporary Music Festival, featuring performances by violinist Yamhali Garcia, pianist Neil Nanyi Qiang, baritone Justin Spenner, mezzo-soprano Alyssa Anderson, cellist Rebecca Parker Downs, saxophonist Jeffery Kyle Hutchins and clarinetist Paul Schimming at 7 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Sunday, March 2 and 4 (tickets are \$15, \$5 for students, free for children); pianist Ann DuHamel and soprano Maria Jette in a song cycle of poems from Athena Kildegaard's new collection at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 3 (free); guitarist Dan Lippel in works from Scott Miller's new CD and DVD, "Raba," at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10 (\$15 and \$10, includes a screening of the DVD and a copy of the CD); and a concert release of *The Boy Patrick*, an audio book of the life of St. Patrick told through music, words and pictures, 1 p.m. Sunday, March 11 (free). Call 651-755-1600 or visit studiozstpaul.com.

Warm up to some of the best bands in the Twin Cities at free concerts from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sundays at Como Conservatory. The schedule includes the barroom bluegrass and lyrical ballads of Dead Pigeons on March 4, and the Delta blues and British pop of Heatwave & Landman on March 11. Beer, wine, pop and light snacks will be available for purchase.

Chart-topping blues artists, the Robert Cray Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 4, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Reserved seats are \$48. Call 651-290-1200, 800-514-3849 or visit etix.com.

The Hill House Chamber Players will present the music, poetry and stories of World War I and songs by Beethoven and Brahms at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 5, in the art gallery of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. A conversation with violinists Julie Ayer and Catherine Schubilske, violist Thomas Turner, cellist Tanya Remenikova, pianist Mary Jo Gothmann and music blogger Emily Hogstad will precede the concert at 6:45



Chopin Society favorite, British pianist Imogen Cooper will perform the music of Beethoven, Haydn, Liszt, and Julian Anderson in recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 4, in Mairs Concert Hall in the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Tickets are \$30, \$15 for full-time students. Call 612-822-0123.

p.m. Tickets are \$23, \$13 for students, and that includes refreshments at intermission and a post-performance tour of the Hill House. Call 651-297-2555.

Raised in Minnesota and Mexico, singer Lila Downs will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at the Ordway Music Theater. A global superstar, Downs was influenced by the folk and ranchera music of Latin America and the folk, jazz, blues and hip-hop of North America. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for a preconcert lecture and demonstration on blending indigenous pre-Columbian and contemporary electronic instruments. Tickets start at \$32. Call 651-224-4222.

Thursday Musical will present performances by pianist Salam Murtada, the Nokomis Piano Quartet and flutist Jennifer Kennard on March 8. The music begins at 10:30 a.m. in Antonello Hall at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 Second St. S., Minneapolis. Admission is \$15, \$6 for students. A reception with free coffee and doughnuts will precede the show at 10 a.m. Visit thursdaymusical.org.

Gaelic Storm, the Celtic band whose latest release, "Go Climb a Tree," mixes traditional Irish music with modern influences, will take the stage at 8 p.m. Friday, March 9, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Reserved seating is \$37.50. Call 800-514-3849 or visit etix.com.

Five centuries of music inspired by St. Benedict's rule of unconditional hospitality will be performed on March 9-11 by the Rose Ensemble. "Welcome the Stranger: The Promise of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica" will highlight the music of Caterina Assandra (1590-1618) and Chiara Margarita Cozzolani (1602-78) as well as a new work by Minnesota composer Abbie Betinis. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Colonial Church of Edina; 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Church of the Holy Cross, 1621 University Ave. NE, in Minneapolis; and 3 p.m. Sunday in St. Mary's Chapel at the St. Paul Seminary, 2260 Summit Ave. Tickets are \$15-\$38, \$10 for students, free to children age 12 and under. Call 651-225-4340 or visit roseensemble.org. The ensemble will offer a free lecture and demonstration of the concert program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.

The band Fathom Lane and guitarist Michael Gay of Almighty American will share the stage in a Loud at the Library concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 9, at the Latimer Library, 90 W. Fourth St. The doors will open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10, and that includes a free beer compliments of Summit Brewing for music-lovers age 21 and older. Visit thefriends.org or call 651-222-3242.

Singer-songwriter Cliff Eberhardt will deliver his well-crafted songs and rich vocals in concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave. Tickets are \$20. Call 651-645-2647.

Hot on the heels of her Super Bowl performance, the international pop star P!nk will bring her Beautiful Trauma tour to Xcel Energy Center at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 12. Tickets start at \$47.45. Stop by the Xcel box office, call 800-745-3000 or visit ticketmaster.com.

Family

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, a stage adaptation of Mildred D. Taylor's novel about a young African-American girl who comes of age in 1933 Mississippi and discovers the world is not what she expected, is being performed mornings, afternoons and evenings through March 3 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. The full-length drama is not recommended for children under age 8. For tickets, visit steppingstonetheatre.org.

"Ta Da!", a series of puppet shows for children, continues at 10 a.m. and noon on Saturdays at In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, 1500 E. Lake St. The weekly series will conclude with *The Way of the Monarch* by Laurie Witzkowski on March 3 and *The Book Worm Tales* by K&M Puppets on March 10. Tickets are \$7. A Make-n-Take puppet-making workshop is offered between shows at 11 a.m. The cost of the workshop is \$5 for children and \$3 for adults. To register, call 612-721-2535.

The Okee Dokee Brothers will perform at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at the Ordway Concert Hall. The Grammy Award-winning duo of Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander have been exploring the outdoors together since they were kids. Their shows make room for children to dance, parents to share stories and everyone to gain respect for nature and each other. Tickets start at \$16. A limited number of lap passes for children under age 3 will be available for \$5. Visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

Discover why 1861 was such an important year for the U.S. and for the Ramsey family of St. Paul in an hour-long children's program beginning at noon, 12:30 and 1 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at the historic home of Alexander and Anna Ramsey, 265 S. Exchange St. Learn about the Civil War and the new inventions of the era. Make hardtack in the kitchen, sample gingerbread cake, use a map to explore the Ramsey mansion. The cost is \$10, \$9 for seniors, veterans and college students, \$7 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-296-8760.

Their Great Gift: *Courage, Sacrifice, and Hope in a New Land* photographer Wing Young Huie and writer John Coy will discuss their award-winning book about immigration and tell of the people in their families who came to Minnesota in a free program at 6:30

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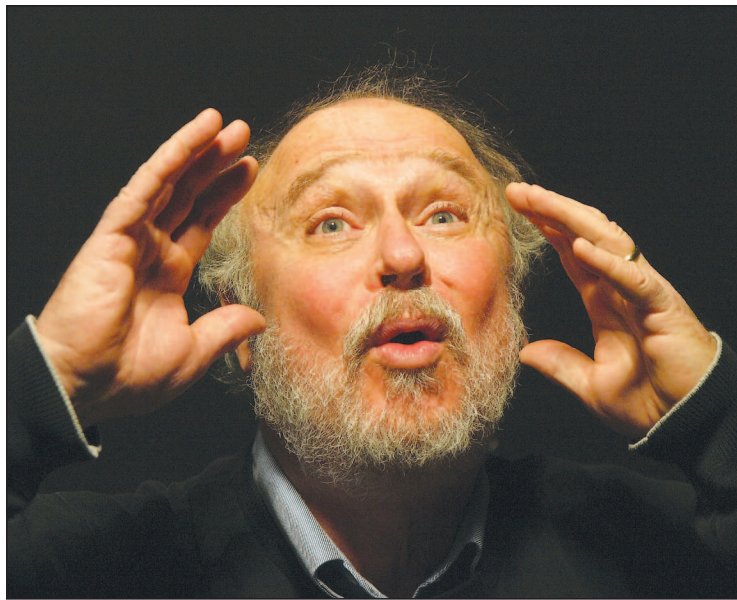
Travel the world without leaving the Twin Cities. Landmark Center is offering weekend programs that highlight the music, dance, folklore, customs and cuisine of various cultures. The schedule includes Bolivia from 1-3 p.m. March 11 (admission is free); a St. Patrick's Day celebration from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 17 (\$5-\$7); and the Irish Day of Dance from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. March 18 (\$5-\$7). Call 651-292-3225.

Books

Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will host readings and discussions with authors Iric Nathanson and *Don Fraser: Minnesota's Quiet Crusader*, his new biography of the former congressman and Minneapolis mayor, on February 28; Andrea Gibson and her poetry collection, *Take Me With You*, at 4 p.m. March 11; and Maya Dusenbery and her book, *Doing Harm: The Truth about How Bad Medicine and Lazy Science Leave Women Dismissed, Misdiagnosed and Sick*, March 15. The programs are free and begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. Call 651-225-8989.

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will host readings and discussions with authors Joseph Cassara and his debut novel, *The House of Impossible Beauties*, on March 1; Judy McConnell and her novel, *Dreamhouse*, March 7; St. Paul native Jim Landwehr and his memoir, *The Portland House*, March 10; and Katie Heaney and her memoir, *Would You Rather?*, March 16. The programs are all free and begin at 7 p.m. Call 651-493-2791.

Irish-American performer and author Tom Dahill will celebrate the relaunching of his memoir, *Danny Who? Four Decades in Irish*



Like a good story? Richard Rousseau (above), a master of the genre, and guest tellers Amy Salloway and Laura Packer will hold court from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Friday, March 2, at Coffee Bene, 53 S. Cleveland Ave. Admission is free, though donations will be appreciated. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Music, with an afternoon of live music, a reading, book signing and pot-luck dinner from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, March 4, at the Dubliner Pub and Cafe, 2162 University Ave. Everyone who purchases a book or CD will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 Dubliner Pub gift certificate.

Tales of the Falls, a storytelling tour led by a master of the genre, Richard Rousseau, will be offered from 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 11, at Mill City Museum, 704 S. Second St., Minneapolis. Rousseau will spin three tales that weave the history of St. Anthony Falls into expectations for the present day. Tickets are \$18, and that includes admission to the museum. Call 612-341-7555.

Meet the finalists for Minnesota Book Awards in nine categories in a free program

at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis. Lovers of literature may mingle with the finalists, buy their books and get them signed. The authors will talk about their books, their writing method and more. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served. The 30th annual Minnesota Book Awards will be held on April 21 at the InterContinental Hotel St. Paul Riverfront. Tickets are \$40-\$60. Call 651-222-3242.

The Great Books Discussions Group will examine Jean-Paul Sartre's short story "The Wall" at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Sartre was active in the French Resistance during World War II, and this story reflects that experience. The public is invited. Contact Margaret King at 651-285-7550.

Exhibits

The evolution of feminist imagery in contemporary art is being explored in two exhibits running through March 16 in the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at St. Catherine University. "Born Again" features selected works from Judy Chicago's Birth Project, a series of screen prints, needlework

and other textiles that first toured the U.S. in the mid-1980s. "After: Birth" includes contemporary responses to motherhood and sexuality by a dozen artists working in fiber, clay and photography. Admission is free. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

"The Irish Mission at Watson House," an exhibit showcasing the experiences of Irish immigrants, is on view through April 29 in the library at St. Catherine University. The exhibit was created by Maureen Murphy, professor emerita of Irish Studies at Hofstra University, to highlight the stories of Irish immigrant women, the obstacles they faced coming to America, and the efforts of the Catholic clergy to improve the immigration process for the more than 100,000 women. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 7:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Sunday. Visit library.stkate.edu.

"Organic Influences," the porcelain, stone-ware and earthenware pottery of Marjorie Wade and the lithography, solar etching and mezzo-tints of Diane Hatchitt, are being displayed through April 27 at Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave. For gallery hours, call 651-644-9200.

Et cetera

Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave., is accepting entries for Here and Now, its sixth annual poetry contest. The four best poems are worth \$750 each. They must be set in winter in St. Paul, be original, previously unpublished and by an author who has full rights to the material. Only one poem is permitted per person. Email your poem to poetry@commongoodbooks.com no later than 5 p.m. March 9. The winners will be announced on March 16. For more information, call 651-225-8989.



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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Winter Games leave warm feeling

And once again the Minnesota high school tournament season is upon us. The tournaments themselves are fun, but as coaches will often tell you, the section playoffs that teams need to navigate to get to state are often even more tense and dramatic. Girls' hockey concluded last weekend. Boys' swimming and wrestling, which are perhaps the most complicated events the Minnesota State High School League runs, are this weekend. Boys' hockey, which annually draws the biggest crowds, is next week.

Still, they all have a tough act to follow.

The curtain came down on the Winter Olympics last Sunday, and with it, we came to the end of a lot of dramatic spectacles. We didn't know a lot of the participants beforehand and we knew even less about how some of the events were scored, but it didn't seem to take long for interest in the Games to spike. Some of the events were so captivating that a good number of people probably stayed up well past their usual bedtimes to see how the competitions turned out.

Part of that may be sociological. The United States isn't the dominant country in the Winter Olympics. We didn't win the most medals. Some of the most interesting events didn't result in U.S. victories. But the Olympics offer us something we don't see very often in professional sports. Although the majority of the participants are no longer rank amateurs—just about all of them receive some sort of compensation—they often participate with the reckless abandon we associate with youngsters at play.

We all like to win, but we also like to watch good competition. The Dream Team of U.S. basketball may indeed be the best cagers in the world. But putting that bunch against, say, Australia, doesn't make for thrilling television. When a team wins a game by 50 points, the winners and their fans may enjoy it, but to everybody else it's the equivalent of one long yawn.

So we got caught up last week watching figure skaters compete even if their names meant nothing to us. Most people who live here have skated at one time or another. Some of us have even tried to skate backward, albeit with minimal success. Thus, when we see 18-year-olds jump, twirl in mid-air and land on their feet, we're impressed and ask, "How do they do that?"

We knew there were better international skaters out there than the Americans, but it didn't matter. You would've had to be a hardhearted soul not to feel for French skater Gabriella Papadakis, who had a wardrobe malfunction on live television. She came back the next night to team up with her partner for a silver medal in ice dancing.

Events held during the Summer Olympics are often a matter of speed vs. speed and brute strength vs. brute strength. The Winter Olympics has events that combine athleticism with artistry and heart.

This same sort of familiarity goes to the skiing competitions. Most of us have never slalomed, but we got caught up in watching St. Paul native Lindsey Vonn compete in what was likely her last Olympics. One doesn't have to have ever been on skis to appreciate how tough it must be to go down a steep hill at 60 mph while twisting left and right.

So we went with Lindsey all the way. It was, admittedly, a bit anticlimactic as Vonn wavered off course and eliminated herself from one last shot at gold in the Alpine event. Being 33 years old is ancient in that sport, but she still was able to capture a bronze medal in downhill. We admired her for the effort and the fact that she could still smile when it was over.

The most riveting video of the two weeks was something for which we already knew the result. Watching Afton native Jessie Diggins' frantic push that ended in a gold medal in the cross-country women's team sprint reminded us of the

WRIGHT CALL ► 20



St. Paul United senior Olivia Williams Ridge battles with an Alexandria defender as teammate Meredith Killian skates at right during the United's 3-2 loss to the Cardinals in the state Class A girls' hockey tournament. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

State girls' hockey tourney

United stand tough to claim consolation crown

BY BILL WAGNER

The St. Paul United girls' hockey team lost a 3-2 squeaker to Alexandria in the first round of the state Class A tournament on February 21 at Xcel Energy Center. However, the United reverted to their normal routine of coming through when the heat is on to win their next two games and take home the tourney's consolation title.

United coach Nate Mauer had gotten used to seeing his team (21-10) score clutch goals this year. After all, they had salvaged victories four times during the regular season by scoring with under 30 seconds to play.

The 3-2 win in overtime against Red Wing on February 24 at Ridder Arena to win the consolation trophy was no

different. The United, who finished as runners-up in the last two state tournaments, got a short-handed goal in the second period from senior Bergen Kobienia, assisted by sophomore Meredith Killian, to tie the score. However, the Wingers went ahead again 2-1 late in the period.

Kobienia tied it up again when she snapped off a quick shot that caught the net at the 9-minute mark in the third period, with an assist from senior Samantha Burke. That made for an exciting finish as both teams had their chances, but couldn't cash in.

In the sudden-death overtime, sophomore Jenna Hoops jumped on a rebound with only 42 seconds elapsed to give the United the victory. The goal, with an assist from senior Olivia Williams Ridge, wasn't necessarily the

prettiest, but it counted every bit as much as a blistering 40-foot slap shot.

"It was bouncing around and I barely got it on my backhand," said an excited Hoops afterward, "but I was able to get it in."

It didn't look as if the United would even get the chance to earn a consolation victory earlier, because they spent so much time killing penalties. They received four minor penalties in the second period alone, and at one point had to ward off a two-player disadvantage for more than 1½ minutes.

United sophomore goalie Bridget Emerson stood tall for most of the rest of the game. "She did well," Mauer about Emerson, who notched 32 saves. "She made some good saves."

ST. PAUL UNITED ► 20

Sibley's Redding vaults way to silver in state all-around

BY BILL WAGNER

There wasn't much need for Henry Sibley High School senior Sophie Redding to hear any pep talk going into the state Class AA gymnastics meet on February 24 at Maturi Pavilion in Minneapolis.

"She just needs to go out there and have fun," said her coach Jennifer Hogan.

Redding did just that in her final performance wearing Sibley's gold and red. She posted an all-around score of 38.450 to take state runner-up honors by less than three-tenths of a point behind defending champion Chaney Neu of Champlin Park.

Redding won the vault with a score of 9.900, was third in the floor exercise with a 9.725, was fourth in the bars with a 9.625 and was 24th in the beam with a 9.200.

After the competition was over, there wasn't much to be disappointed about for those in Redding's camp. "I told her I was proud of her," Hogan said.

Redding was beaming afterward. "I'm ecstatic that I was able to do what I did tonight," she said. "I'm very proud of myself."

Redding capped off a glittering season as well as a career that saw her qualify for state for all four years as a Warrior. This



Henry Sibley senior gymnast Sophie Redding. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

SIBLEY'S REDDING ► 21

19◀ ST. PAUL UNITED

Mauer, who employed three different goalies during the tournament, liked the way his squad responded against Red Wing as well as the 5-2 win over New Ulm in the first round of consolation after suffering great disappointment in the Alexandria game.

"We're used to having to come back, and we did it again," he said.

It took the United offense a while to get heated up in the game against New Ulm, but two goals in each of the second and third periods did the trick. Killian got it rolling for the victors with an unassisted power play goal at 16:31 of the first period.

Junior Madison Shuman then scored to make it 2-0 at 3:49 of the second, with Burke and Killian assisting. Hoops made it 3-0 at 8:23 on an unassisted goal before New Ulm countered with its first score.

New Ulm scored early in the third to make it a game again at 3-2. But that margin didn't hold up for long as Burke lit the lamp, assisted by junior Seringa McHugh, to go up by two. It became 5-2 on Killian's second goal of the game, assisted by Williams Ridge and junior Catherine Kerin, on a power play.

United junior goalie Kenzie Giese held up well, stopping 21 shots by the Eagles.

Burke said she was happy that the squad rebounded so nicely after the first-round loss. "We didn't get down," she said. "We came back and played well. A lot of teams fold when they face some adversity. We didn't."

Burke will be playing college hockey next season at top-10 rated



St. Paul United freshman goalie Jillian Oncay denies a shot by Alexandria's Allison O'Kane in the second period of their state tournament contest on February 21. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Cornell University. There she will be joining former United teammate Joie Phelps, who is now skating on a regular line and producing well after starting slow. Burke is looking forward to their reunion. "She's one of my best friends," she said about

Phelps.

Mauer said Burke was an invaluable captain this year because of the leadership skills she displayed. "She demands a lot out of the girls," he said.

The loss against Alexandria in

the opening round began as if the United were going to run the Cardinals right out of Xcel Energy Center. The United had the first seven shots on goal in the game and Alexandria had all kinds of trouble getting the puck out of its own end.

The United took the game's first lead at 2:56 of the first period when Burke clicked on a hard slap shot, assisted by Williams Ridge. But the United didn't score again until there was 57 seconds left in the game.

That time it was Kerin who did the honors from the high slot, with Burke and Killian assisting. However, there simply wasn't enough time after that. The United pulled goalie Jillian Oncay and almost managed to tie it in the final minute, but the puck wouldn't go in.

Alexandria got great mileage out of goalie Hailee Bailey, an 8th-grader who made several spectacular saves in the game.

Mauer said that his team's early strong start didn't fluster the Cardinals, who were never that vulnerable again in the game. "After those first few minutes, they forechecked better and cut off the passing lanes," he said.

The United again showed their mettle in the section finals against South St. Paul. They trailed 1-0 with just 1:06 left in the game, when Kobienia put one in, assisted by Burke, to send the game into overtime. Then, with just 3:05 left, Kerin hit on a hard shot from the slot to give the United their fourth state tournament berth in the past five years.

The loss was a bitter one for South St. Paul, which was playing on its home rink, but couldn't hold onto the lead late.

Hoops said the United are quite comfortable together as a team, and that their performance this year should bode well for future success.

"I have such great teammates," she said. "I wouldn't want to play for anybody else."

SPA's Moore finishes fourth overall in state Nordic ski meet

BY BILL WAGNER

It's amazing what St. Paul Academy junior Peter Moore can accomplish in Nordic skiing when he's not missing equipment.

Moore finished last year's state boys' cross-country meet in 24th place despite a significant handicap. "He finished with a broken pole," said coach Jon Isom.

Moore said another competitor fell onto his pole and broke it with around 2K left in the 5K race. "It was frustrating because I was sitting in the top 10 at that point," he said.

This winter, with both poles intact, Moore finished fourth overall at the state meet on February 15 at Giants Ridge in Biwabik. His time of 28:51.7 (14:05 in the freestyle event

and 14:46.7 in the classic race) was just six-hundredths of a second off the winning pace of Grand Rapids' Garrett Beckrich. Anders Sonnesyn and Luc Golin of Wayzata took second and third, respectively.

It was a superb though not unexpected performance by Moore, who's been consistent all season.

"I pretty much expected it," Isom said about Moore. "He's been skiing well all year. It was a sprint between second, third and fourth, and he's been going against those same competitors all year. He just went out there and did what he needed to do. I told him the same thing I say to all the kids: Have fun."

Isom said Moore's work ethic is about as good as they come. "There's nothing chal-

lenging about coaching him," he said. "He's a humble guy and a good teammate."

Moore, a Summit Hill resident, will be heading to Utah to compete in the Junior National cross-country skiing championships in early March. He also is an accomplished cyclist. Last summer, he won five gold medals and a silver and took first overall for boys ages 15-16 in the USA Cycling Juniors Track National Championships in Los Angeles.

State boys' competition

Highland Park, the defending bronze medalists, finished 11th in the boys' team competition in Biwabik with a total of 269 points. Senior Ben Earl-Moseley finished 47th overall and scored 84 points. Also scor-

ing for the Scots were junior Nathaniel Alden (72), senior Ed Shaw (60) and freshman Otto Schmidt (53).

Central senior Simon Brooks was 27th overall with a time of 31:14.4.

Minnehaha Academy took 16th in the team competition with 163 points. More than half of those were logged by senior Peter Carlen, who got 83 points for his time of 31:56.9.

State girls' competition

Highland was seventh in the girls' team competition with 338 points. Eighth-grader Molly Moening took 18th with a time of 34:56.4 (99 points). Also scoring were freshmen Celeste Alden (91) and Anna Schmidt (79), and senior Lauren Mendoza (69).

19◀ WRIGHT CALL

Olympic hockey victory at Lake Placid in 1980. We knew she won—the event took place in the middle of the night our time—but we wondered how as she labored up those hills and then had to kick it into high gear.

We may not understand snowboarding or just how in the world they get a bobsled to go that fast, but we've learned to appreciate it.

The women's hockey gold medal game lasted until 1:12 a.m. and it was worth staying up to see it. Granted, there isn't a lot of depth in the women's hockey field, but the men's hockey tournament was tarnished by the NHL's selfishness in not allowing the best players in the world to participate. Team USA gave it a good college try, but it seemed obvious early on that they didn't have enough to get very far.

If you're a fan of the sport, all you had left was the women's traditional U.S. vs. Canada game for the gold. The Americans had been close several times, with no success to show for it. They lost a preliminary game to Canada by 2-1 and seemed on their way to doing so again when Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson suddenly broke free and tied the game midway through the third period.

That unleashed some of the best hockey seen on TV in a

Most of us have never slalommed, but we got caught up in watching St. Paul native Lindsey Vonn compete in what was likely her last Olympics. One doesn't have to have ever been on skis to appreciate how tough it must be to go down a steep hill at 60 mph while twisting left and right.

long time. Team USA attacked relentlessly for the rest of the third period to no avail. Olympic rules called for four-on-four hockey for 20 minutes. The result was tight checking for a while, followed by a series of gambits both ways that required both goalies to be on top of their game.

After all that, it went to a shootout. The teams each scored twice in the allotted five shots. Now we were in a form of sudden death. Lamoureux-Davidson put on a move for a goal that was so nifty one hopes Wild coach Bruce Boudreau teaches it to his players. The Canadians didn't score and the three-hour plus drama ended happily for the U.S.

A happy ending always helps, but what was striking was how intense the game was without breaking into a

free-for-all. It was an example of sports at their best—ultra-competitive while also being sportsmanlike.

It was an afterthought that this almost didn't happen. Vonn and many other Olympic athletes make good money from endorsements. U.S. women's hockey players usually don't get such offers. They had gotten just a pittance in compensation in the past. Now they wanted real money if they were going to be asked to forfeit several months or even years to play in the Olympics. They threatened not to play, but USA Hockey gave in quickly. Those of us who stayed up until that bleary-eyed hour are glad we did. Winning beat losing, but it would've been a great show even if it had gone the other way.

That is perhaps why this Olympics was so enjoyable. We like our pro sports teams, but we tend to view them differently. We're frequently critical or deeply disappointed when they don't succeed.

It may be that we don't understand enough of the inside details to know whether some Americans could have done better at the Winter Games. We know what we like though.

Former U.S. Chief Justice the late Earl Warren said it best: "I always turn to the sports pages first, which record people's accomplishments. The front page has nothing but man's failures."

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19◀ SIBLEY'S REDDING

winter's second-place finish was a welcome rebound from a year ago, when she had a good regular season and took third in the bar at state and fourth in the floor, but finished 10th in the all-around.

This time, she brought her "A" game, especially in the vault. Her performance there was so breathtaking that an audible gasp went up from crowd as she went airborne and hit her spot on the mat. Afterward, Redding started to cry as she fielded high-fives from coaches, teammates and even opposing competitors. Rest assured, they were tears of joy.

"We were all crying," Hogan said.

Redding earned her way to state with a similarly stellar job at the Section 3AA meet on February 16 at Woodbury when she put together a 38.25 performance to lead the pack. The interesting thing about sections was that Redding didn't place in the top three in any of the four events. However, she scored enough points in each one to take the all-around.

Redding began competing at Sibley in 9th grade after having been a solid club gymnast at Perpetual Motion. She had even quit the sport for a time prior to that, fearing burnout. However, her ascension to the Warrior varsity proved a solid move.

"It was a good chance to be part of a team and experience achieving some team goals," Hogan said. "You

Her performance in the vault was so breathtaking that an audible gasp went up from crowd as she went airborne and hit her spot on the mat.

could tell that she was going to be something special. You could tell that she was having fun."

Redding also had to weather health issues throughout her high school career. She has had problems with both ankles and appeared to wince, however slightly, after coming to rest during the vault at state. However, afterward she said, "I'm OK," pointing toward her ankle.

Her successful prep career has been the culmination of practicing well, competing well and enjoying herself. She said she doesn't really think about anything in particular when she's in the middle of a routine.

"I think about what I need to do before I start," she said, "but once I'm into it, my mind goes blank."

Redding credits both Hogan and her mother for their roles in making her one of the best in the state at what she does.

"They've both been so supportive of me," she said. She described



Sibley gymnast Sophie Redding practices her balance beam routine prior to state while assistant coach Tasha Golding, head coach Jennifer Hogan and teammate Hadley Witham observe. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Hogan as not just a good coach, but a good family friend.

Redding will be carrying on a family tradition when she competes

for Gustavus Adolphus next season. Both of her parents attended Gustavus. And though its gymnastics team has been down recently, the

Auggies have earned eight national titles in the sport, have turned out 55 all-Americans and have had 18 national event champions.

Sports Shorts

St. Thomas Academy sophomore Jack Folkman took seventh overall in the state boys' Alpine ski championships on February 14 at Giants Ridge in Biwabik. He finished the dual-course race with a combined time of 1:15.62 to lead the Cadets to a fifth-place finish. Also scoring for STA were Mason Thorpe, Joe Zirnelt and Jack Muske.

St. Paul Academy junior Bailey Donovan finished seventh in the state girls' Alpine ski championships on February 14 at Giants Ridge. She finished with a two-race time of 1:18.17.

Henry Sibley High School was the Section 3AAA qualifier for the High Kick competition of the state girls' dance team tournament on February 16-17 at Target Center in Minneapolis.

Great Strides, a 3-mile walk to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, will be held on Saturday, May 5, at Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis. Check-in is at 9 a.m. Registration is free, and walkers are encouraged to raise funds to support research, drug development and advocacy. For information, contact the Minnesota chapter at minn@cff.org or 651-631-3290.

The 2018 Walk for Animals to benefit the Animal Humane Society will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 5, at the society's location at 845 Meadow Lane in Golden Valley. Walkers can check in early from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, May 3, at Summit Brewing, 910 Montreal Circle, or the Golden Valley site. The first 500 registrants who raise \$50 will receive an early bird prize. Visit animalhumanesociety.org.

The inaugural J. Robinson Wrestling Classic will be held on Sunday, March 4, in Flynn Hall at St. Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights. The tournament is open to boys and girls in grades preK-8 and will feature round-robin brackets organized by weight and experience; staggered weigh-ins and competition times; full-size mats for 7th- and 8th-graders; and an autograph session with Robinson, a three-time NCAA national champion wrestling coach. The entry fee is \$12 online and \$15 at the door, and all proceeds will benefit the Minnesota-based United Heroes League. Visit tinyurl.com/y9l5mflq.

The 18th annual Upper Midwest Scuba and Adventure Travel Show will be held from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, March 3,

in the Double Tree by Hilton Bloomington, 7800 Normandale Blvd., Minneapolis. The show combines professional divers, shipwreck hunters, educators, and underwater photographers, videographers and archaeologists in a day of history and grand storytelling. A panel of guests will talk about the Titanic's sister ship Britannic, Minnesota's deepest, most intact shipwreck, whaleback steamers of the Great Lakes, and a 420-foot dive on the Senator. The event will have experts available to answer questions about diving, classes on the latest technology, raffle prizes and a silent auction. Visit umsatshow.org.

The 2018 Frozen Faceoff of the National Collegiate Hockey Conference will take place Friday and Saturday, March 16-17, at Xcel Energy Center. Team practices will be open to the public on Thursday, March 15, followed by a Fan Skate from 7-8:30 p.m. Fan Fest, featuring music, interactive games, food and refreshments, will take place on Friday and Saturday across West Seventh Street from Xcel Center. For tickets and other information, visit NCHCHockey.com/frozenfaceoff.

Religious Notes

"Film and Orthodox Christianity," a program on whether, what and how to watch movies, will be the topic of a Lenten retreat on March 2-4 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Ave. Bobby Maddex of *Salvo Magazine* and Ancient Faith Radio, will lead the weekend retreat. For more information, visit stgeorgegoc.org or call 651-222-6220.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Ave., is offering a Lenten service, community meal and lecture every Wednesday and Friday during Lent. Wednesday's theme is a virtual pilgrimage to holy sites in and outside the old Palestine. Friday's theme is Orthodox Christianity in America with lectures by Bobby Maddex on March 2, the Reverend Jason Houck on March 9; Iulian Ciuta on March 16; and the Reverend John Chagnon on March 23. The Lenten service begins at 6 p.m., followed by the meal at 7:30 p.m. and the lecture at 8 p.m. For information, visit stgeorgegoc.org or call 651-222-6220.

Hymnus Angelicus, an ensemble of 14 voices and instruments, will lead Lenten vespers at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 4, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 700 Wesley Lane in

Mendota Heights. Peaceful and powerful, the reflective program will include two cantatas, the reading of Scripture and congregational singing. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended. Call 651-452-5683.

A traditional service of evensong featuring the music of Orlando Gibbons and Herbert Howells will be offered at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 4, at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 N. Kent St. The service, which is free and open to all, will be followed by choral and congregational singing of African-American spirituals.

Poet and teacher Vic Klimoski of Highland Park will be conducting two workshops in the weeks ahead at the Benedictine Center, 2675 Benet Road in Maplewood. "A Conversation on Virtue and Living a Public Life" will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, March 15. Lunch will be served. The cost is a freewill offering. "Finding the Words," a writing workshop focused on spiritual ideas, insights, hunches and wonderings, will meet from 7-9 p.m. Mondays, March 19, April 9 and 23. The cost is \$75. For more information, call 651-777-7251 or visit benedictinecenter.org.

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., is serving free soup suppers from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays through March 21. Call 651-644-1421.

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's Stabat Mater will be performed by soprano Claudia Finsaas and alto Marykate Maney at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 26, at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church, 100 N. Oxford St. The 1736 composition is an extended meditation on the crucifixion of Christ scored for soloists and string quartet. Admission is free, but donations will be welcome. Visit stpaulref.org.

The Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library spring lecture will be given at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 9, in the Owens Science Hall on the south campus of the University of St. Thomas. Christopher Thompson, associate professor of moral theology, will present his new book, *The Joyful Mystery: Field Notes Toward a Green Thomism*. Parking is available in the Anderson ramp. The event is free and open to the public. Call 651-962-5050 or visit saintpaulseminary.org.

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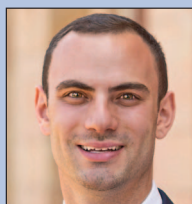
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26th Annual
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Groveland & Highland Park
Home Improvement Fair
Saturday, March 10 • 8:30 am – 1:00 pm
Cretin-Derham Hall

SPECIAL HOME IMPROVEMENT SECTION

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INSIDE

■ BETTER WITH AGE

26th annual fair has focus on helping people stay in their homes longer ▶ 2B

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■ PUT YOUR EQUITY TO WORK

A guide for borrowers when looking to finance home improvements ▶ 6B

■ HERE THEY ARE

A list of the more than 60 exhibitors who will be featured at this year's fair ▶ 7B



John Mitchell of Energy Smart Home explained his products and approach to Elspeth Ronnander and Erik Pieh at last year's fair.

Better with age

Fair offers expert help for those looking to improve their homes

BY FRANK JOSSI

Responding to a graying population, the 26th annual Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair on Saturday, March 10, will offer a special workshop and area of exhibitors focused on helping people age in place.

That is in addition to the many other exhibitors and workshops—along with tech recycling, raffle prizes and food vendors—that have been lined up for this year's fair, which will be held from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St.

"It'll be a fun event again where people attending will get a chance to speak to more than 60 vendors, ranging from contractors to nonprofits," said Kathy Carruth, executive director of the Highland District Council, which cosponsors the fair with the Macalester-Groveland Community Council. "While we'll have organizations offering advice for seniors and folks close to retirement, there's plenty of other information and resources for homeowners who are looking to remodel their homes."

The workshops, which number 16 in all, touch on a variety of topics, including metal roofs, radon, kitchen design, stucco maintenance, bathroom remodeling, window replacement, hiring contractors, improving

energy efficiency and taking out fix-up loans.

"People who attend will be able to learn about a wide variety of home improvement issues and various approaches to dealing with them," Carruth said.

One highlight of this year's fair is a joint presentation on radon by the Minnesota Department of Health and A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation.

"Radon is a threat to the safety of homeowners," Carruth said. "We believe this talk will be really important in helping people learn about radon detection and how they can mitigate the problem if they have it."

On the issue of aging in place, a special area will feature representatives of the Highland Block Nurse Program, Synergy HomeCare and Handi Home Living Solutions. Each offers services to help older adults remain living safely in their homes for as long as possible.

Paula Fischer, program director of the Highland Block Nurse Program, said the nonprofit provides nursing and home health aide visits, rides to appointments and errands, and connections to other services. "We also offer caregiver support and respite," she said.

Seniors must be over age 65 to use the Highland Block Nurse Program, which actually extends beyond the neighborhood to serve people south of St. Clair Avenue. Clients are charged on a sliding-fee scale depending



Harriet Mulinix and children Angie, 2, and Felix, 4, donned special hats at last year's Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair. This year's fair will be held from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at Cretin-Derham Hall. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

on their income, Fischer said. The minimum is just one hour as opposed to three hours for many competing providers that are for-profit.

"All of our services are very affordable," Fischer said. "We're neighborhood-based and we've been serving Highland for 30 years."

The program employs a registered nurse and two home health aides who receive assistance from around 10 volunteers, Fischer said. Funding comes from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Ramsey County, city of St. Paul, federal government and private donations. The program is affiliated with Our Lady of Peace, which offers a Medicare-certified hospice residence, community hospice and home health care.

The world of senior living has changed dramatically since Fischer started working with the Block Nurse Program 25 years ago. No assisted-living housing developments existed back then, nor did for-profit providers of services for seniors.

Those agencies have brought important services to the neighborhood, she said, such as offering care to seniors who need many hours of services. And today Highland Park

has many senior housing developments where seniors can live out their final years if they wish.

"The changes have all been good," Fischer said. "But our focus over all those years has never really changed. Our niche is affordable, neighborhood-based, quality care."

Jim Zenk, the local franchisee of Synergy HomeCare, will make a presentation during a workshop from 10:15-11 a.m. in Room A108 on how seniors can stay in their homes. He is collaborating with Handi Home Living Solutions, a division of Handi Medical Supply.

Matt Liljequist, regional business manager for Handi, said his division "has seen significant growth" after starting a year and a half ago. The goal of the division is simple—to allow seniors to keep living in their homes through the installation of such products as grab bars, ramps, stair lifts and more.

Zenk said Synergy HomeCare offers home care that does not require a nurse, doctor or therapist. Clients are charged by the hour for personal care, bathing, showering, transfer

HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR ► 3



Paul Schmidt, above, of Restoration Window Systems will once again lead a workshop on preserving a home's original windows at this year's home improvement fair. At left, Megan Moffatt chats with Allison Landers of Building Arts Architecture and Construction at last year's fair, while husband Paul and son Louis look on.

2018 Home Improvement Fair workshop schedule						
Times	Room A101	Room A102	Room A105	Room A106	Room A107	Room A108
9:00-9:45 a.m.	Minnesota Housing Fix-Up Fund Loan Lake Area Mortgage	Guidelines for Hiring a Remodeling Contractor Buck Brothers Construction	Talking Trash! How to Downsize to a Smaller Cart Mac-Grove Environment Committee	How Efficiency Can Increase Cost Savings and Comfort Center for Energy and Environment	Metal Roofing Austad Construction	
10:15-11 a.m.	Awesome Kitchen Designs! Otogawa-Anschel Design+Build	Effective Alternatives to Window Replacement Restoration Window Systems	How to Maintain and Repair Your Stucco Smith Cole Stucco & Stone	Hiring a Contractor? "Insure" You're Covered Bob Lawrence Insurance	Should I Stay or Should I Go? Dunn Realty Group	Age in Place: How to Stay in Your Home Longer Synergy Care & Handi Home Living
11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	How to Choose a New Entry Door Window Concepts of Minnesota	Radon A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation/MN Dept. of Health	Homeseller's Guide Re/Max Results—Katie Palm	Structural Health—The Foundation of Life Natural Ways Chiropractic	Bathroom Remodeling Ohana Home & Design	

2◀ HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR

assistance and a host of other services. They can buy a few hours a couple of days a week, depending on their needs, or they can have an attendant stay an entire day.

"It's a pay-as-you-go system, so if a client's daughter is in town she can call us and say, 'We won't need you this week,'" he said.

Zenk's staff is able to allow people with

early stage dementia to stay put until the disease inevitably requires a professional dementia care community, he said.

Business has been good, especially in local neighborhoods. "Boomers are aging and we're sort of in this transition period from serving Depression-era adults to early boomers," Zenk said. "They want to stay with their pets and in their neighborhood where their network is."

Tech Dump once again will be collect-

ing cellphones, cords and small electronic items for free. Visitors to the fair can enter a raffle for prizes. And food will be available for purchase from Menchie's Frozen Yogurt and the Marna's Catering food truck. As always, admission to the home improvement fair is free.

For more information on the fair, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org or macgrove.org/hif or call the councils' offices at 651-695-4005 or 651-695-4000, respectively.

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Marc Katz holds one of the radon test kits that will be available during the Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Fair features joint presentation on reducing exposure to radon

BY SCOTT BEEDY

New windows, a fresh coat of paint, maybe even a long-anticipated redesign of a bathroom or kitchen. Whatever the motivation, the Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair has provided local homeowners with lots of information and options for a quarter of a century.

However, at this year's 26th annual fair there is a new message: safety in the home.

"I work on a radon work group through the Minnesota Cancer Alliance," said Amanda Pederson of A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation. "We're working on teaching more people about radon."

So is Marc Katz, who works in the Indoor Air Unit of the Minnesota Department of Health. It is his job to track and monitor radon, a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that seeps out of the earth and can damage cells in the lung when inhaled. From gathering data to educating people about the risks of radon, Katz's goals mirror Pederson's.

"Radon is known to cause lung cancer," Katz said. "Over a period of time of being exposed, you increase that risk."

That connection is how a new partnership was formed. "A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation and the Minnesota Department of Health are partnering to reduce the risk of lung cancer," Katz said.

Together, they will be educating the public and handing out radon test kits at the annual Home Improvement Fair on Saturday, March 10, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St.

Katz will also be hosting a radon workshop from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in Room A102 during the fair.

"We're trying to teach people who own homes where radon exists, especially in Minnesota where two out of five homes have unsafe levels of radon," Pederson said.

A Breath of Hope was started in 2007 when a small group of lung cancer patients teamed up with caregivers and family members to create a support group. That group organized the first Twin Cities Lung Run/Walk. Five years later, the Wayzata-based A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation was born. Now it is able to fund research, awareness efforts and support for patients and their families.

Bringing the foundation's message to a home improvement expo is a new strategy for Pederson, but it is one she believes will hit home with residents. "We're really excited to be there and teach people about radon and dispel myths," she said.

Radon gas is formed when uranium, which is commonly found in the ground in Minnesota, degrades. It first turns into radium, which ultimately creates radon.

"Radon is radioactive, and we can breathe that radioactive gas in," Katz said. "When it's concentrated inside homes, it becomes a real problem."

Outside, radon is released into the air at levels that do not pose a health risk. However, when it comes to inside there is only one way for homeowners to know if their residence is affected.

"You don't know if your house has high radon levels because radon is invisible and odorless," Katz said. "The only way to know if your home has a high radon level is to test it."

The Environmental Protection Agency has established what is called an action level and that is at 4.0 pCi/L. Chances are your home has at least some level of radon. The average home in Ramsey County is at 3.3 pCi/L, and 32.4 percent test over the 4.0 pCi/L action level.

Discounted radon test kits ranging in price from \$5 to \$25 can be purchased through the Minnesota Department of Health's website at health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indoorair/radon.

According to the website, radon is the main cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second-leading cause of lung cancer in smokers. More than 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States are due to radon. The gas can seep into homes through cracks in slabs or concrete blocks, loose floor and mortar joints, and exposed soil, as in a sump or crawl space.

Radon testing can be done a couple of different ways for different reasons. While it is not required, many inspectors will measure for radon when someone is selling a home by using a short-term test in the lowest livable space, typically the basement.

For those who are not selling, it might be best to test the lowest livable space where they spend at least eight hours a week.

"That would be more indicative of your own exposure," Katz said. "But there's no safe level of radon. Even if you have a radon level between 2.0 and 4.0 pCi/L, you may want to consider reducing that level."

A list of certified contractors who can install a radon reduction system is also available on the health department's website.

"The radon reduction systems usually cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000," Katz said. "It's a little pricey, but we recommend it. Knowing that you reduced that risk—well, it would put my mind at ease."

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Reaching new heights

Metal roofing continues to grow in popularity as more options emerge

BY FRANK JOSSI

For most people, a metal roof means the kind most commonly seen on pole barns. They do not envision the wide variety of steel roofs now available that resemble shingles, shakes and tiles.

Homeowners looking for a more durable roof that fits the character of their home and neighborhood have plenty of metal options to choose from, according to Dave Austad, owner of Austad Construction. The popularity of metal roofs has grown to the point where 16 percent of all roofs being installed are now metal, he said.

Austad will lead a workshop on metal roofing during the Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair on Saturday, March 10, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. His will be part of the first session of workshops offered from 9-9:45 a.m. and will take place in Room A107.

Julie Quarve of Quarve Contracting, which will be exhibiting at the fair, said more than half of her company's roofing business comes from installing metal roofs. However, customer taste is split when it comes to selecting styles.

"It seems to be about 50-50, with some people who want a roof that screams metal and some who want something more conservative," she said.

What is so special about going with metal instead of the more traditional asphalt shingle?

"One of the great advantages of a metal roof is that hail issues are reduced to the point where you can pay less for home insurance," Austad said.

Metal roofs carry a Class 4 rating, which is the highest in the industry for resistance to hail. Quarve agreed that at that classification, homeowners pay less for insurance because of

the unlikelihood of damage due to hail.

"Durability is the number-one reason for the growing popularity of steel roofs," she said. According to her, metal roofs last three times as long as traditional asphalt ones, and are eco-friendly because they can be recycled when removed.

Austad said another advantage of metal roofs in cold weather climates is that they help prevent ice dams. He said metal roofs are mounted above the existing surface, creating a ventilated space that helps stop ice dams from forming as snow melts more uniformly. A granulated surface on the roof also assists in

preventing ice dams.

Quarve generally agreed that ice dams are less of a problem with metal roofs, but said it may require additional work in and around the roof to achieve that result. Since snow slides down some metal roofs more easily, she insures safety by adding features to slow the flow. That way, she said, a huge snowfall will not cause an avalanche or create multiple shoveling tasks for older homeowners.

In summer, metal roofs can reduce the amount of heat entering an attic by at least 20 percent, Austad and Quarve said. Metal roofs can also withstand winds of 120 mph and provide a Class A fire rating.

Metal roofs also come with a 50-year warranty, and sometimes even longer, compared to 10-30 years for more traditional roofing material.

"We've seen homes with metal roofs that are 100 years old and still in good shape," Austad said. "These roofs last a lifetime."

Metal roofs require no maintenance, Quarve said, making them an ideal option for cabin owners. Despite being mounted above the original surface, metal roofs can still be walked on by contractors or homeowners, she added.

Austad said he prefers to remove the old asphalt tiles, which tend to get brittle and break



Mike Harrison and Roger Williams of Quarve Contracting install a new architectural shake-style metal roof on a Macalester-Groveland home. Pictured at left is the roof nearly completed. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

over the years, when installing a metal roof, while Quarve leaves the asphalt shingles on, citing the environmental benefit of hauling nothing to a landfill.

If there is a drawback to a metal roof it is the price, which is typically double a traditional tile roof, Austad said. The cost of a metal roof is between \$8-\$12 a square foot, though it may go even higher for more difficult roofs, such as those on Victorian homes.

Austad's company uses California-based Metro Roof Products, perhaps the leading vendor of integrated metal roof technology. "They really created one system for roof installation," he said.

The company has developed a line of metal

roofs that mimic popular ones commonly found in local neighborhoods, he said. Those include MetroShake, a universal style of roof; MetroShingle, a green product composed of recycled steel; stone-coated MetroTiles for traditional homes; and MetroRoman, a red Mission-style tiling.

Metro, Kassel & Irons and Hopkins-based Edco brands of metal roofing products are used by Quarve. A coating called Kynar by Arkema is applied to retain the color of the roof, which otherwise can fade over time.

Quarve said she hopes metal roofs will eventually grow to 80 percent of the company's roofing business. "That's where the market is going," she said.

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Put your equity to work: Finance your home's improvement

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

It may not be spring yet, but winter appears to be releasing its icy grip, which is a time when a homeowner's fancy turns to thoughts of home improvements. Not so fanciful are the prospects of paying for those improvements. Do you refinance your house, take out a second mortgage or apply for a home equity loan or home equity line of credit?

The U.S. economy has been heating up over the past year, and so have fears of inflation. After remaining at 0.75 or 1 percent for the past several years, the discount rate charged by the Federal Reserve to financial institutions borrowing money increased to 2 percent late last year. That has raised the interest rates banks charge to customers.

According to John Schreier, CEO of Gateway Bank in Mendota Heights, now is a good time to apply for a home improvement loan. "The Fed has signaled that it will raise the discount rate from 2 percent this year to 2.5 percent in 2019 and 3 percent in 2020," he said. "We haven't seen an urgency among customers in most of our home improvement loan products, but more and more customers are seeking to lock in interest with a fixed-rate loan because of the fear of rising interest rates."

"It's a smart move," Schreier said, "because with a variable rate home equity line of credit (HELOC), the interest rate can change monthly. With a home equity loan, the inter-



TruStone Financial's Richard Smyth and Eric Benson met with homeowner Matt Bauer (left) at last year's Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

est rate can be fixed for five years on loans closing within 60 to 90 days.

Andrew Gesell, vice president of Bank Cherokee, offered a word of caution. The recent change in federal income tax law that removed the interest deduction on home mortgages above \$750,000 also removed the interest deduction on home equity loans, second mortgages and home equity lines of credit used for anything other than home improvements. The tax deduction for interest paid during the year is still available on home equity loans, second mortgages and home equity lines of credit that are used for home improvements, but the total debt is subject to the \$750,000 maximum.

The interest rate on a home improvement loan will vary depending on the type of loan, the term of

the loan, a borrower's credit history and the amount of equity remaining in the home. The best loan for any home improvement depends on the size of the project and a borrower's ability to repay, according to Schreier. With HELOCs, the borrower's equity in a home, their financial situation and their credit history are all factors in determining the maximum size of the HELOC, he said.

HELOCs are generally more appropriate for loans of \$50,000 or less, Schreier said. They work like a credit card, allowing the borrower to make monthly payments on just the interest. Then, "when they have extra cash, they can pay down the loan principal to lower their monthly interest payments," Schreier said. And like a credit card, the money remains available to the borrower

even after the balance is paid off.

On larger home improvement projects, Schreier recommends a home equity loan, which is a one-time transaction that is paid back with regularly scheduled payments of principal and interest. Most banks will lend 80 percent loan-to-value, he said, requiring the borrower to maintain a 20 percent down payment. Thus, for a \$100,000 home improvement, a bank will lend \$80,000 with the borrower paying the remainder.

Though Gateway Bank does not offer first-time conventional mortgages, it will do mortgage refinancing, Schreier said. "It's a tool many borrowers use to get the lower mortgage interest rate and to free up some of the equity they have in their home to pay for home improvements and just about anything else, including new appliances, a new car or a vacation," he said.

Bank Cherokee offers first mortgages and the full panoply of home improvement loans from its three offices on Grand, Randolph and Smith avenues in St. Paul. However, people are having a hard time finding a home to buy these days due to the shortage of homes for sale, Gesell said. "So they're looking for home improvement money because they want to increase the value of their home and they want to stay there for a while."

At Bank Cherokee, the interest rate on HELOCs varies according to the prime rate, which can change daily but is currently at 4.5 percent. The fixed rate on home equity loans

at Cherokee is currently about 6 percent, Gesell said.

At Gateway Bank, the interest rate on HELOCs varies from the prime rate to prime plus one (currently 5.5 percent). The interest on its home equity loans is currently at a fixed rate of about 5 percent.

There are alternative sources for financing a home improvement and at interest rates that are often below market. The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's (MHFA's) Fix-Up Fund and its Center for Energy and the Environment (CEE) Home Improvement Loan Program do not offer HELOCs, but they do offer home equity loans, currently at a fixed rate of 5.99 percent. The MHFA Fix-Up Fund is only available to those with an annual income of \$104,000 or less, but many of the CEE home loan programs have no income limits.

The CEE Unsecured Home Improvement Program currently offers home equity loans at a fixed rate of 6.99 percent, or 6.7 percent with automatic withdrawal. The CEE Home Energy Loan Program and Unsecured Home Energy Program for energy-efficiency improvements currently offer fixed-rate loans at 4.99 percent.

A workshop on the MHFA and CEE loan programs and how best to take advantage of them will be conducted by Lake Area Mortgage from 9-9:45 a.m. Saturday, March 10, during the 26th annual Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St.

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Craftsman restores original windows

Paul Schmidt figures he's installed close to 10,000 storm windows since he started Restoration Window Systems in 1999. He is very keen on high quality products and he's had virtually no problems with the storm windows made by Allied Aluminum in Fridley, Minnesota. So when the owners of Allied decided to sell they approached Schmidt about buying. In November 2013 Schmidt became the fourth owner of a company that's been around since 1953.

The two companies fit together very well. The combination of restoring the interior wood window and a high-quality storm window rival the

performance of many new replacement windows.

"I've looked at storm windows all over the country and specifically those available in the Twin Cities area and I can't find a better storm window than those made by Allied" says Schmidt whose engineering background gives him insight into what really does make a good window. "I've had such a good experience with Allied windows that I really do like the windows so much I bought the company!"



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2018 Home Improvement Fair exhibitors

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- A. DeTomaso Construction
- All Energy Solar
- Authentic Construction
- Bath Fitter
- Beissel Window & Siding
- Bob Lawrence State Farm
- Borden Window
- City of St. Paul—Department of Safety and Inspections
- Coulee Bank
- Craftsman Radiator Covers
- Ferndale Realty
- Friends of Highland Arts
- Great Garage Door Co.
- Handi Home Living Solutions
- Handyman @ Your Service
- Hanson Building & Remodeling
- Highland Block Nurse Program
- Highland Business Association
- Highland District Council
- Johnson Creek Landscaping
- Lake Area Mortgage
- Lundberg's Bobcat Service
- Macalester-Groveland Community Council
- Michael Teibel Design
- Minnesota Rusco
- Mint Painting
- Neighborhood House
- Natural Ways Chiropractic
- New Windows for America/ Luxury Bath
- Northeast Tree
- Ohana Home & Design
- Patio Town/Villa Landscapes
- Pella Windows & Doors
- Philip J. Lund Design & Construction
- Precision Door Service—Twin Cities
- Quarve Contracting
- Rainbow Treecare
- Re/Max Results
- Red Pine Builders
- Refined Homes
- Regal Remodelers



Tech Dump will again be offering free recycling of cords, phones and other small electronics at the fair. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

- Renewal by Andersen
- RetroGreen Energy
- St. Paul All In Recycling
- Simons Landscaping
- Smith Cole Stucco & Stone
- St. Paul Police Department
- Stage it Wright
- Sunrise Design & Construction
- Sylvestre Remodeling & Design
- Synergy Home Care
- Tech Dump
- The Center for Energy and Environment Lending
- Window Concepts of Minnesota

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- Restoration Window Systems
- TruStone Financial

Home & Garden Clippings

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota will conduct two classes in the weeks ahead for the do-it-yourselfer. "Rehab Lab: Plaster Repair," a hands-on introduction to the materials, tools and techniques for fixing vintage walls, will be offered from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 10, in a 1915 home in St. Paul's Midway area. The cost is \$60, which includes two mud knives and a mud pan. "What's That Wood? Identifying Woods in the Home" will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at Landmark Center. The cost is \$20. To register for either class, call 651-293-9047 or visit mnpreservation.org/services/education.



Castle Building & Remodeling is offering free remodeling classes at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and at 10 a.m. on Saturdays. The upcoming schedule includes "Evaluating Your Home for Solar" on March 6 at its St. Paul store, 362 S. Snelling Ave.; "Prioritizing Home Improvements" on March 17 at its Longfellow showroom, 4020 Minnehaha Ave. S., Minneapolis; "Planning a Kitchen Remodel" on March 20 at its South Minneapolis showroom, 5 W. Diamond Lake Road; and "Creative Financing for Your Remodel" on March 13 at its Northeast Minneapolis location, 2600 Johnson St. NE. Visit castlebri.com/education-class-schedule-sign-sheet or call 612-789-8509 (Minneapolis) or 651-699-4164 (St. Paul).

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society will hold its annual Spring Garden Gala beginning at 5 p.m. Friday, April 27, at the Marriott Northwest Hotel in Minneapolis. The sixth annual fundraiser will feature a dinner, fashion show of new plants, live and silent auctions, gift bags and door prizes. The cost is \$75. Register at 651-643-3601 or by visiting northerngardener.org.

The Preservation Alliance will offer an introduction to plaster repair on March 10 in St. Paul's Midway area. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

The Twin Cities Bungalow Club will hold its annual home tour on Saturday, May 12. Local owners of bungalows or other early 20th-century houses are invited to include their home on the 2018 tour and allow other homeowners to benefit from their home improvement ideas. For more information, visit bungalowclub.org or call 612-724-5816.

A Ramsey County Fix-It Clinic will be held from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Residents can bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and other items to receive free help from volunteers to fix them. Items must be carried in—no oversized items will be allowed. Participants are encouraged to bring any tools and supplies they think might help with the job. Volunteer fixers also are needed. Email FixItClinics@ramseycounty.us or call 651-266-1199 for more information.

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60 EXHIBITORS 16 WORKSHOPS

- 1 Minnesota Housing Fix-Up Fund Loan**
Lake Area Mortgage
- 2 Guidelines For Hiring A Remodeling Contractor**
Buck Brothers Construction
- 3 Talking Trash! How To Downsize To A Smaller Cart**
MGCC Environment Committee
- 4 How Efficiency Can Increase Cost Savings And Comfort**
The Center For Energy And Environment Lending Center
- 5 Metal Roofing**
Austad Construction
- 6 Awesome Kitchen Designs!**
Otogawa-Anschel Design & Build
- 7 Don't Replace Your Windows! Effective Alternatives To Window Replacement**
Restoration Window Systems
- 8 How To Maintain And Repair Your Stucco**
Smith Cole Stucco & Stone
- 9 Hiring A Contractor? "Insure" You're Covered**
Bob Lawrence Insurance & Financial Services
- 10 Should I Stay Or Should I Go?**
Dunn Realty Group
- 11 How To Choose A New Entry Door**
Window Concepts Of MN
- 12 Radon**
A Breath Of Hope Lung Foundation/MN Dept Of Health
- 13 Homeseller's Guide**
Remax Results - Katie Palm
- 14 Structural Health - The Foundation Of Life**
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