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NOVEMBER 18-DECEMBER 1, 2009

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UST's neighbors grow frustrated over the pace and piecemeal nature of EAW process

BY JANE MCCLURE

Local residents serving on the University of St. Thomas' West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) presented the university on November 10 with a three-page list of issues and suggestions regarding any increased traffic and parking from its new Student Center and Athletic and Recreation Center.

The residents—all representatives of either the Union Park District Council, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association or Neighbors United—have been following work on the environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) that is being prepared for the two projects by St. Thomas and SRF Consulting. The residents say they have grown frustrated about the fast pace of the deliberations and the piecemeal nature of the information they are receiving.

The neighborhood representatives wanted the full WSNAC committee to vote on the three-page document at its November 10 meeting, but St. Thomas' representatives objected to receiving the list so late. "We haven't had a chance to discuss this," said Doug Hennes, the university's vice president

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Highland Park Senior High School student council member Connor Hendrix and president Ali Miller share a laugh while standing on top of a second dumpster full of pumpkins at Immanuel Lutheran Church on November 7 as part of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's 12th annual Great Pumpkin Drop. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Highland finding drugstore resolution hard to swallow

BY JANE MCCLURE

The ongoing dispute over a proposed Walgreens drug store in Highland Village will return to City Hall later this month when representatives of Walgreens and the Highland District Council meet with St. Paul City Council member Pat Harris to discuss a possible revision of the site plan for the property at the northeast corner of Ford Parkway and Finn Street.

An earlier site plan for the new Walgreens had the support of the Highland District Council (HDC), the Highland Business Association and the St. Paul Planning Commission, but it was rejected by the City Council on an appeal by the United Food and Commercial Workers union, which represents employees at the adjacent Snyders Drug store.

The proposed 9,483-square-foot Walgreens would replace an existing party supply store and a gas station and convenience store that has been closed since a fire there earlier this year.

HDC board members, who have spent the better part of a year immersed in the controversy over Walgreens, say they just want the matter settled. Most of them have indicated

they prefer the site plan the City Council rejected over a revised site plan presented by Semper Development on behalf of Walgreens. In a split voice vote on November 4, the HDC passed a motion requesting the City Hall meeting.

Harris said he will meet with the HDC and Walgreens on the issue, but cannot take a position on the new site plan because it too could be appealed to the City Council.

Harris has refused to discuss his reasons for rejecting the previous site plan for Walgreens.

A City Council resolution memorializing its earlier 5-0 decision to reject the site plan

was approved on November 12. The five-page document spells out why the Planning Commission approved the site plan, but devotes only two paragraphs to why the City Council denied it.

Among the reasons cited in the resolution to uphold the appeal of the site plan are that the site plan is inconsistent with city ordinances that call for pedestrian-oriented development in that area. The site is currently zoned for business use, and Walgreens' plan for it did not require any rezoning or variances to city

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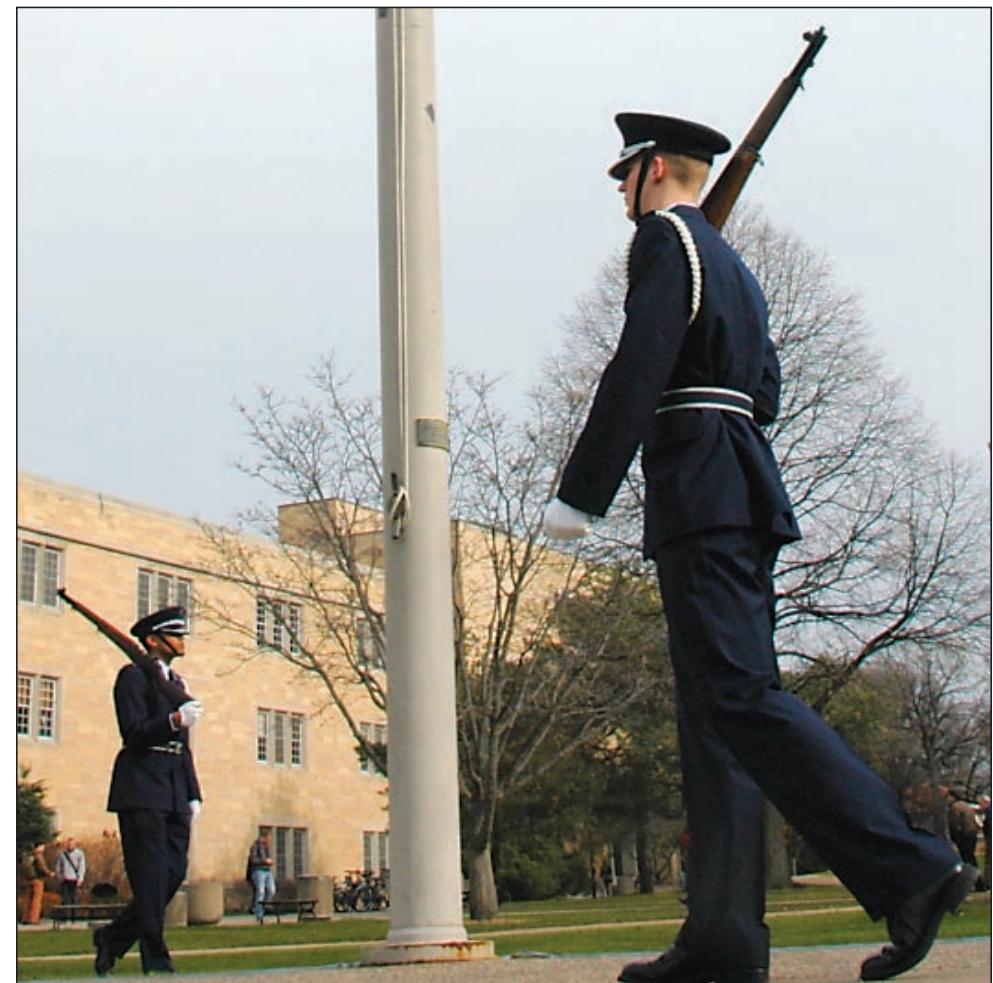
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Lance Myren (right) and Bill Mack were among the University of St. Thomas Air Force ROTC cadets who kept a 24-hour vigil around the flagpole in the campus quadrangle on November 11 and 12 to honor all veterans on Veterans Day. PHOTO BY CHAS JENSEN

CSJs organizing consortium of senior service providers

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, who plan to break ground next year on a new senior housing and health care facility at Fairview and Randolph avenues, are also working to unite close to 20 senior service organizations.

The new consortium of senior service providers is being set up with the assistance of a Minnesota Department of Human Services grant. The intent is to improve the coordination and delivery of senior health, housing and home support services in the area in hopes of increasing the health and vitality of local seniors. Members of the consortium will also work to bring in new services wherever they are needed.

"Our area is rich in services," said Beth Carlson of the Sisters of St. Joseph, "but getting them connected is very, very difficult."

Among the organizations that are already members of the consortium are several local Living at Home/Block Nurse programs, UCare, Fairview Health Services, Presbyterian Homes, St. Catherine University, the Ramsey County Department of Human Services and the St. Paul Public Housing Agency.

The Sisters of St. Joseph plan to begin work next spring on Carondelet Village, a residence for area seniors as well as senior members of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The new facility will offer apartments for independent and assisted living, nursing care and a variety of other health and recreational programs.

Safety concerns derail effort to allow bikes on Ayd Mill Rd.

St. Paul City Council member Russ Stark has withdrawn a proposal that would have lifted the ban on bicycles on Ayd Mill Road. Though the measure drew no opposition at a public hearing in October, Department of Public Works officials and other City Council members had concerns about its safety.

Bicycles have been banned from Ayd Mill Road ever since the road opened 50 years ago. The ban is believed to be linked to a long-standing plan to use the city street as a 2-mile link between I-35E and I-94.

Stark's measure had been amended to

keep the bicycle ban in place on the portion of Ayd Mill Road between Jefferson Avenue and I-35E. However, City Council member Melvin Carter III, whose Ward 1 includes the north end of Ayd Mill Road, said he still had concerns. So did Public Works officials, who questioned whether the four-lane road has sufficient room for bicycles.

Stark acknowledged that Ayd Mill Road as it is currently configured is not an ideal route for bicycling. He agreed that it would be better to withdraw the proposal at least until next year, when the city is expected to reopen a study of reconstructing Ayd Mill Road. The road's future configuration may include room for off-street bicycle and pedestrian trails.

Public hearing reopened on electronic signs ordinance

The St. Paul City Council has decided to delay voting on a new set of regulations governing dynamic billboards and instead will reopen a public hearing on the regulations at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 18.

Dynamic signs are electronic signs that can flash, scroll or otherwise change their messages and images. The new technology has become popular with businesses, but it has also drawn complaints for being a distraction to passing motorists.

The St. Paul Planning Commission had recommended the new regulations as an amendment to the city's sign ordinance. The regulations would govern the size and kind of signs that can be installed in residential and commercial zones as well as the minimum distance between signs.

The City Council has heard concerns from district councils, anti-billboard groups and other individuals about the need to more tightly regulate the signs.

Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune believes that the proposed ordinance does not do enough to protect business districts along West 7th Street, Smith Avenue and parts of Grand Avenue from sign clutter. Thune and other council members said they are also concerned about protecting residential areas from the light cast by signs in adjacent commercial zones.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.

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Size and setback of St. Thomas student center scrutinized

BY JANE MCCLURE

The University of St. Thomas' design for its proposed 225,000-square-foot student center on the northeast corner of Summit and Cretin avenues will be reviewed by the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, November 19, in City Hall.

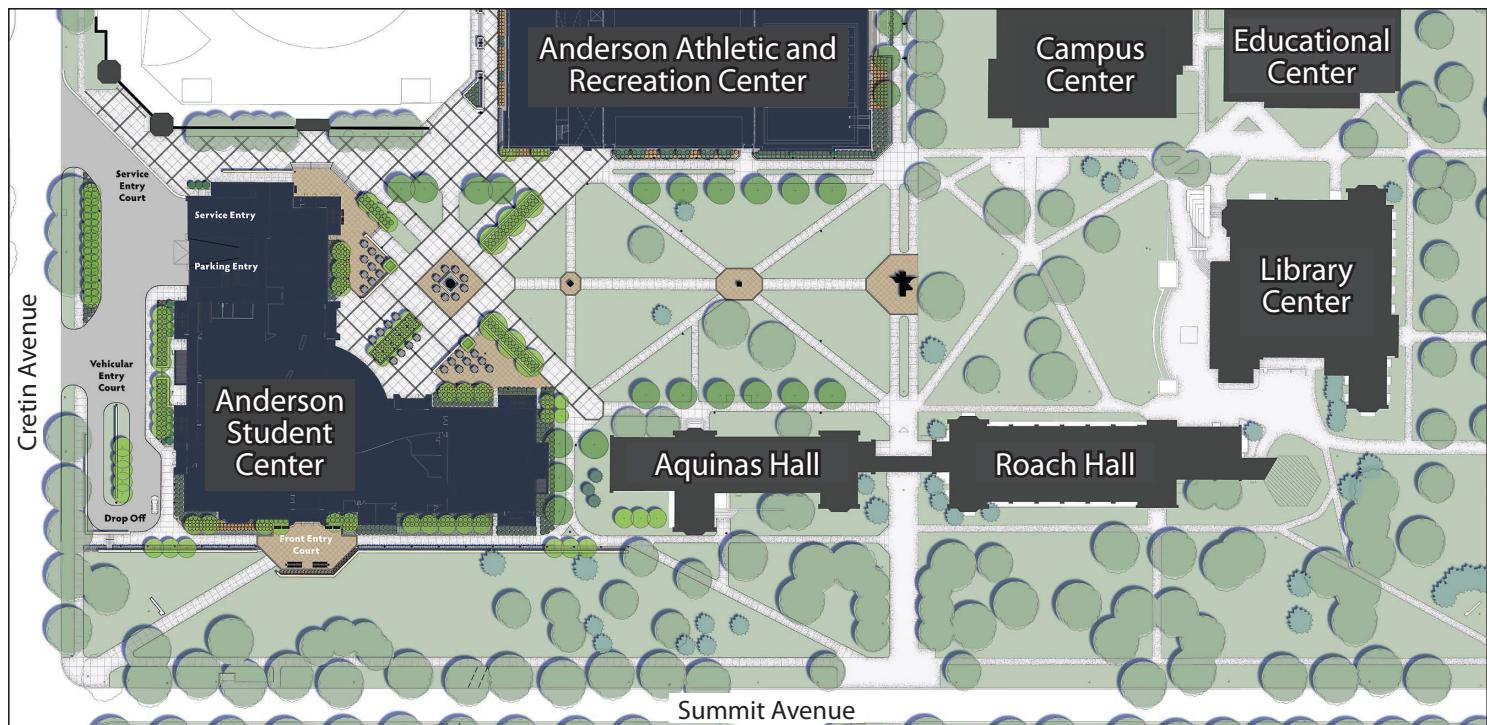
At their meeting on November 5, HPC members agreed that the design of the Anderson Student Center meets most of the guidelines established for the Summit Avenue West Historic Preservation District. However, they had concerns about the building's scale and whether, given its size, it should be set farther back from Summit Avenue.

Scott Banas, chair of the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee and a resident of Merriam Park, said that he too has heard concerns from local residents about the size of the proposed student center.

The L-shaped building would be constructed with similar material and in a similar style as Aquinas and Roach Halls to the east. The ridge line of its roof would be 69 feet, 5 inches high. Aquinas Hall's ridge line is 64 feet, 6 inches high.

Buildings on St. Thomas' campus must be set back at least 100 feet from the public right-of-way, according to its conditional use permit from the city. Aquinas Hall for the most part is set back 143 feet from the Summit right-of-way. The new student center would be set back 120 feet for the most part, although portions of the building would be as close as 109 feet. Setting it back any farther may pose a problem because of the proximity of O'Shaughnessy Stadium to the north.

The HPC is being consulted on the student center's design because of the building's location within the Summit Avenue West Historic Preservation District. The major issue before the HPC is the impact the design would have on nearby historic buildings. The HPC is examining the building's design as part of a



The diagram shows the relative sizes and setbacks of the proposed and existing buildings on the University of St. Thomas campus.

pre-application review, before more detailed design work is completed.

St. Thomas could submit its formal plan for the student center as early as March 2010 if the joint environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) currently under way for the student center and the adjacent Anderson Athletic and Recreation Center is deemed to be adequate.

"This is a very significant project for St. Thomas," said Doug Hennes, the university's vice president for governmental relations. St. Thomas officials are "very proud" of the university's location on Summit and in the historic district, Hennes said, "and we take design issues very seriously. We believe this will be an appropriate addition for the university, for Summit Avenue and for the historic district."

The new student center will be an "iconic" building for St. Thomas, according to Dan

Young-Dixon of Opus Architects. According to him, the architects at Opus have worked to meet the historic district's guidelines while designing a structure that is compatible with other campus buildings.

As currently conceived, the student center would have a clay tile roof, stone tracery, a stone base and buff-colored Kasota limestone walls. The window openings would be similar to Aquinas Hall's. The facade would have three, three-story bays facing Summit and four bays facing Cretin. The bays, which are intended to break up the building's mass, would all be topped with peaks, like the bays on Aquinas and Roach Halls.

St. Thomas officials considered other design options, such as a tiered roof, to reduce the building's height as it appears from the street, but decided on the current design because of how it completes the campus' edge,

Young-Dixon said.

The building will have a low wall on its Summit Avenue side and a sidewalk running diagonally from the main door to the Summit-Cretin intersection. Both street sides of the building would be extensively landscaped with trees and shrubs.

In addition to the student center, the HPC is reviewing a historic resources study of the St. Thomas campus and the surrounding neighborhood by consultants from the 106 Group.

The study, which is part of the EAW for the new student center and recreation center, recently found that nearby O'Shaughnessy Hall is not eligible for national historic designation. The athletic facility, which was built in 1939, is slated for demolition in March 2010 as work continues on the Anderson Athletic and Recreation Center.

1 ST. THOMAS E.A.W.

for intergovernmental relations.

"I don't think this is fair," said St. Thomas neighborhood liaison John Hershey. "This feels like a power play." If St. Thomas had presented a similar document in a similar time frame, Hershey said, the neighborhood representatives would be "up in arms."

Hennes abstained from voting on the neighborhood groups' recommendations. He said some of the ideas on the list are already being considered as part of the EAW, and that the pedestrian and traffic management plans would come out of the EAW process.

Nancy Frick of SRF Consulting concurred. According to her, the EAW will address parking for the new facilities, including ways to create more parking and to direct motorists to existing parking.

The Anderson Athletic and Recreation Center is now under construction just east of O'Shaughnessy Stadium, and it should be

completed by next year. Construction of the Anderson Student Center is scheduled to begin next year at the northeast corner of Cretin and Summit and to be completed in 2012.

The two projects are displacing a total of 470 off-street parking spaces. That concerns the local residents on WSNAC. However, in preparation for the projects, St. Thomas built a 700-space parking ramp near the intersection of Cretin and Grand avenues.

The new athletic complex is not expected to generate more traffic. The proposed student center will have dining, banquet and meeting rooms, offices and programs that are currently housed in Murray-Herrick Hall. It could generate more traffic, although the special events there will generally be held during off-peak periods for parking demand, St. Thomas officials have said.

The neighborhood representatives on WSNAC said they have had difficulty analyzing the piecemeal information they are receiving on the projects. They said they would like

their suggestions incorporated into the EAW rather than tacked on as public comments after the document is released. The residents are also concerned that if the EAW is released in mid-December as scheduled, the holidays will interfere with much of the 30-day public comment period.

The neighbors on WSNAC were hoping for more comprehensive traffic and pedestrian management strategies from the EAW. Their recommendations include more options for encouraging the use of mass transit, using public safety officers to manage pedestrian traffic, building wider sidewalks and adopting new traffic controls for turning vehicles.

The EAW to date has recommended retaining the current Metro Transit and campus bus stops and altering the timing of traffic signals to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety at the intersections of Cretin and Summit and Cretin and Grand. It also suggests encouraging students to take advantage of the buttons that activate the "walk" signals, reconfiguring

the sidewalks at Cretin and Summit to accommodate larger groups of pedestrians waiting to cross, and directing more pedestrians to cross the streets at Cretin and Grand. The neighborhood representatives have also suggested adding two levels to the new parking ramp at Cretin and Grand.

Some WSNAC members were unhappy to learn earlier this month that the proposed student center would only have 30 underground parking spaces. They thought 200 underground spaces had been planned, but St. Thomas officials said the number of proposed spaces was never over 150 and that it was reduced to bring the project within budget.

The neighborhood representatives are concerned that visitors to the new student center will not be willing to walk from the ramp at Cretin and Grand, and that motorists who do use the ramp will want to drop passengers off at the student center first and then try to make a left turn onto southbound Cretin, creating a traffic hazard.

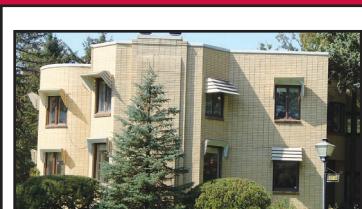
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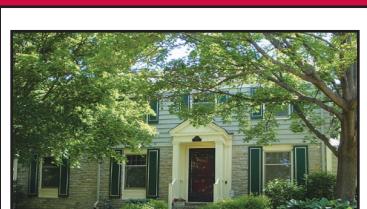
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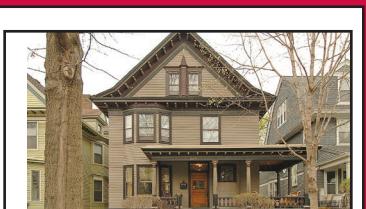
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1 ▶ INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING

in St. Paul will be determined by the City Council. "I think it'll be important to observe how Minneapolis implemented IRV to learn what worked well and where they ran into problems," said City Council president Kathy Lantry.

"There are variants of IRV that are cheaper to implement and will yield faster election results than the system chosen in Minneapolis," said Joe Mansky, manager of the Ramsey County Elections Bureau.

"I don't believe there will be any financial benefits to doing IRV the same way Minneapolis has," Lantry said. "There are no voting machines or software applications compatible with IRV that have been certified by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (a requirement in Minnesota), and according to our elections staff, none of the major manufacturers of election equipment and software is pursuing certification or developing new software for IRV."

Under IRV, every candidate for a particular office advances to the general election, where voters are asked to rank them according to preference—first choice, second choice, third choice, etc. If no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated and

the votes of those who selected that candidate first are redistributed to those voters' second choices. If with first- and second-choice votes, no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the next fewest votes is eliminated and the votes of those who chose that candidate first or second are redistributed to their second or third choices. That process continues until a candidate receives a majority of the votes.

Local election officials have estimated that it would cost approximately \$10,000 per day to hand-count ballots in an IRV election, depending on the design of the ballots, the number of candidates in each race, the size of the voter turnout and how many rounds of counting are needed before a candidate in each race reaches the necessary majority.

Though a primary election will still be required in St. Paul, the city of St. Paul will not be financially responsible for it, according to Lantry. "The school district will now be responsible for the total primary costs, estimated at \$100,000 to \$150,000," she said.

St. Paul will not be using IRV in the more complex multiple-seat at-large races, which Minneapolis had this fall for Park Board and the Board of Estimate and Taxation. And since Ramsey County manages St. Paul's elections, "consistency with the other jurisdictions in Ramsey County is of far greater value to our

office than having the same election process as Minneapolis," Mansky said.

Minneapolis officials are hoping to have federally certified IRV voting machines in place for the 2011 election to avoid the high costs of hand-counting. "But companies can't manufacture those voting machines cost-effectively if it's only for one city," said Patrick O'Conner, Minneapolis' director of elections. "We need to get as many jurisdictions together as possible to lower the costs."

The state could waive the federal certification requirement for the Twin Cities, but even that might not drive down the cost of IRV voting machinery far enough, according to Lantry. "Our elections staff has estimated the cost of replacing voting equipment at approximately \$1.5 million," Lantry said. "That includes the precinct ballot counters, the accessible ballot marking devices, central counting equipment and the hardware and software necessary to program the voting system."

"I don't see a cost-effective technological solution on the horizon," Mansky said. "I assume at this point that (in 2011) we'll be manually counting ballots past the first round of voting."

As for educating voters across the city on IRV, Mansky said, "it's a challenge, no doubt about that, particularly for many Hmong speakers who are politically active but illiter-

ate in both English and their own language."

Minneapolis election officials reported little confusion among voters using IRV for the first time on November 3. The hand-counting of the ballots is also going "very well," O'Conner said. Four of the city's 13 City Council races (Wards 1, 4, 5 and 6) had to go to at least a second round of counting. So too did the races for three at-large seats on the Park and Recreation Board, the District 5 and District 6 seats on the Park and Recreation Board and one of the two at-large seats on the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

The hand-counting started in Minneapolis at 11:45 a.m. on November 4. About 125 people have been employed in the task for eight hours per day, six days per week at a wage of \$10.50 per hour. Because voter turnout in Minneapolis was only 21 percent of registered voters, the counting should not take as long as originally expected and could be done as early as November 25, O'Conner said.

The hand-counting is costing Minneapolis about \$10,500 per day. If the counting is completed by November 25, O'Conner said, it will have cost the city about \$178,500 above the combined costs of a typical primary and general election. Minneapolis' total budget for the 2009 election is \$1.3 million, or about \$337,000 more than the cost of the 2005 primary and general election, O'Conner said.

1 ▶ WALGREENS

code. Nevertheless, the resolution states that the proposed Walgreens "will ultimately be inconsistent with future development...in this particular area as it is one of the premier retail/commercial nodes in the city."

HDC members expressed frustration on November 4 that they did not know until earlier that week that Snyders' parent company, C & H Holdings, had offered the Snyders building on Ford Parkway for sale, not only to Walgreens but to CVS Pharmacy as well. They also questioned Snyders Drug vice president Dave Leonard as to whether Snyders would be able to continue operating in Highland Village even without a Walgreens next door. According to Leonard, Snyders intends to stay in Highland Village. Its lease on its building does not expire until 2023, but that lease could be terminated if the building is sold.

Snyders' employees and their supporters have gathered several thousand signatures in two petitions opposing Walgreens' plan to locate next door. They have also packed neighborhood meetings and inundated City Council offices with phone calls, letters and e-mails in opposition to the plan.

HDC board member Shawn Bartsh told the



The Ford Parkway facade of the proposed Walgreens store in Highland Village.

handful of Snyders employees present on November 4 that while they have neighborhood support, "people way above the pay grade of the people in this room are making decisions way beyond our control." The district council, she added, cannot make recommendations on a site plan based on whether or not people like a particular business. And while she and other HDC board members may support the Snyders workers, "I have no confidence that your corporation supports you," Bartsh said.

The HDC's Community Development Committee worked with Semper Development, local residents and city officials on the Walgreens site plan that was rejected by the City Council, according to Bartsh, and HDC

board members made it clear on November 4 that they liked the site plan that came out of those discussions more than a new site plan that Walgreens is contemplating to address the City Council's concerns.

The site plan rejected by the City Council had the Walgreens building on the eastern end of the property and a parking lot on the Finn Street side. The plan also had a public gathering space at the corner of Ford and Finn that would have been built and maintained by Walgreens.

The alternative site plan unveiled on November 4 retains many of the features of the original site plan, including landscaping, the reconfiguration of Finn Street and driveways

that discourage alley traffic. However, the public gathering space at the corner is gone. Instead, a second, smaller L-shaped building would be placed at the corner. The drugstore itself is also slightly smaller so that no off-street parking is lost.

The reason for adding the 1,000-square-foot structure at the corner was to address the City Council's expressed desire for a building that "holds the corner," according to John Kohler of Semper Development. Also, under the new site plan, Walgreens delivery trucks would unload on the property and not in the alley.

"I thought we had a good site plan," said HDC board member Layne Carver. "This (new plan) is an atrocious plan."

"Our City Council member would not approve this without a building on the corner?" asked HDC board member Rick Hugley. "What reasoning is behind that?"

"That's the multimillion dollar question," Kohler said.

Carver noted that when the developers of Trader Joe's built that new supermarket at Lexington Parkway and Randolph Avenue, they also erected a separate, smaller retail building at the corner of Lexington and Juno Avenue. "And now it's sitting empty," he said.

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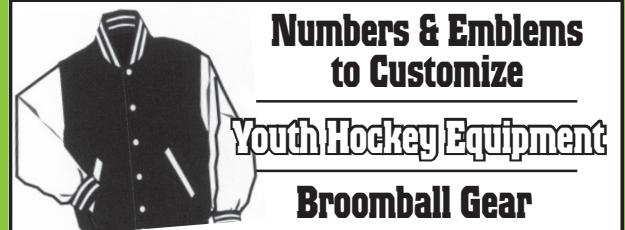
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Redesign aims to remove traffic hazards at W. 7th-Montreal

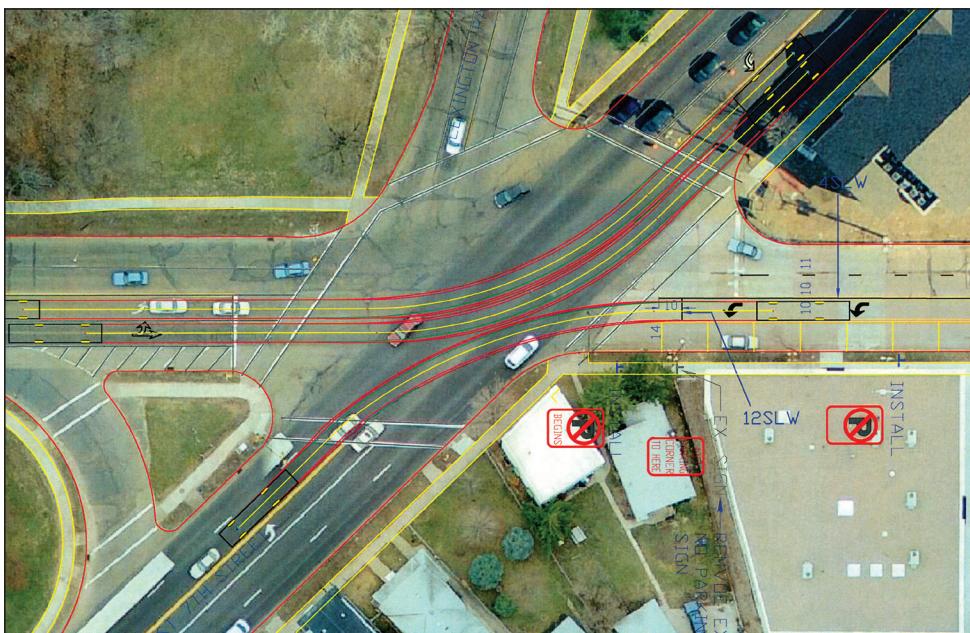
BY JANE MCCLURE

The intersection of West 7th Street, Montreal Avenue and Lexington Parkway ranks among the top 20 intersections in St. Paul for having the most traffic accidents. A plan for improving traffic safety at the three-way intersection has been proposed by the city's Department of Public Works, and it is now being reviewed by the West 7th/Fort Road Federation and the Highland District Council.

Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris is pushing for a redesign of the intersection. The current plan is to eliminate some on-street parking and reconfigure the turn lanes so that cars on westbound Montreal turning left onto West 7th do not cross paths with cars on eastbound Montreal that are going straight or turning left onto West 7th.

Left turns from southbound Lexington to West 7th and Montreal are already banned, but some motorists attempt to make the turns anyway. The short green light for southbound Lexington traffic also causes problems. "There's enough time on that light for four vehicles, but usually at least seven try to get through," said Leonard Schwartz, a member of the West 7th Federation board.

Public Works' plan for the intersection is just preliminary at this point, according to Dennis Rosemark, Harris' legislative aide. It calls for restriping the traffic lanes to provide more room in the center of the intersection, banning parking on Montreal east of West



A preliminary plan for redesigning the intersection of West 7th Street, Montreal and Lexington Avenue would ban parking on Montreal east of West 7th and add a left-turn lane there to provide more space for turning vehicles in the middle of the intersection.

7th and adding a left-turn lane on westbound Montreal.

City officials have talked to local business owners who would lose on-street parking, but have yet to discuss the matter with local residents, according to Rosemark. Most of the business owners have adequate off-street parking, he said.

Another idea is to improve the "no left turn" signs on southbound Lexington and to

add signs directing motorists on southbound Lexington to turn off on Albion Street and take that to West 7th rather than continue on to the three-way intersection.

The Highland District Council's Transportation Committee will discuss the intersection redesign on November 18. The West 7th Federation will discuss it on December 13.

Members of the West 7th Federation who reviewed the plan on November 9 questioned

its effectiveness. "I think the whole intersection needs more than just a facelift," said board member Tonya Johnson.

The Federation board asked city staff to investigate the fate of a four-year-old proposal to reduce traffic on West 7th Street by diverting some of it to Shepard Road. Federation members would like to see any intersection improvements at Montreal and Lexington made in conjunction with a reduction in overall traffic volume on that stretch of West 7th.

"We asked the city several years ago that the I-35E interchange be moved from West 7th to Shepard Road," said Federation executive director Ed Johnson.

A study of the proposed interchange move was at least partially financed by the city in 2005 when the City Council allocated \$300,000 in Municipal-State Aid funds for that purpose as part of the city's 2006-2007 Capital Improvement Budget.

Traffic volume on West 7th between I-35E and Highway 5 is about 30,000 vehicles per day, or about double the volume on other stretches of West 7th, as motorists seek a quicker route to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and I-494.

"If you could get more of the traffic off of that stretch of West 7th, the entire street would be safer," said Federation president Dave Bredemus.

The study was never carried out. As of last week, it was not clear if the money was still available for the study or if it had been reallocated to other Public Works projects.

Preservationists hope to save Victoria Theater from demolition

BY JANE MCCLURE

Will the lights go out for good at the old Victoria Theater? Local historic preservationists hope not. However, the former theater and moviehouse at 825 University Ave. was recently sold and could be torn down to make way for a parking lot.

Model Cities Development Corporation purchased the building in mid-October. The corporation owns other commercial and residential properties just west of the site, and apparently it could use the parking, though it did not return phone calls last week seeking comment.

The non-profit New Victoria Theater Project has been working for more than a year on a plan to purchase the old theater and turn it into a cultural center. The group had

sought a loan and grant through the city of St. Paul's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) Program, but its financing was denied. The group is now looking at other funding options, according to Keith Johnson, one of its leaders.

Johnson is hoping that Model Cities can be persuaded not to raze the theater. Though the Victoria has not been used as a theater for 85 years, "it's still a very solid building," Johnson said. Its exterior and some of the interior detailing remain intact.

To draw attention to the building's plight, the New Victoria Theater Project will hold a concert on Friday, November 20, at the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center, 179 E. Robie St.

More than 300 people have joined a Save the Victoria Theater group on Facebook. The group was planning to hold a media event on

November 17 before submitting an application to the city to designate the building as historic and worthy of saving.

The old Victoria Theater is one of several vacant commercial buildings that are being eyed as part of the redevelopment of University Avenue between Victoria and Grotto streets. Local residents, business owners and members of the Summit-University and Thomas-Dale district councils have held one planning session and will hold another from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 18, at the Model Cities Brownstone, 849 University Ave.

The Victoria Theater opened in 1915 as both a moviehouse and live stage, but before it was 10 years old it had been converted to a nightclub. The new "joy palace," as it was described in an advertisement in the *American Jewish World* newspaper, opened on Christ-

mas Day 1924.

The nightclub was known over the years as Victoria Cafe and Casa Grande. In 1927 the popular song "Moonshiners Dance: Part One" was recorded there by the Victoria Cafe Orchestra. The 78 rpm recording is believed to have been a promotional piece for the nightclub. According to the blog Celestial Monochord, it is the only one of 84 recordings in the *Anthology of American Folk Music* that was not recorded in the South.

The nightclub had various owners over the years, and during the Prohibition era it served as a speakeasy that attracted a criminal clientele. The speakeasy was raided at least twice by federal agents. Newspapers editorialized against its continued existence, and local politicians worked to shut it down.

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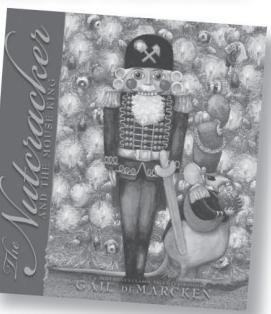
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Viewpoint

The bonds that bind

BY PHIL KRINKIE

As the opening of next year's Minnesota legislative session quickly approaches, discussions regarding the 2010 bonding bill are already ratcheting up. Each even-numbered year, the Legislature shifts its focus from the biennial budget to the wish lists of proposed building projects across Minnesota. Those projects range from state parks to zoos to buildings on college campuses, all of which would be paid for by issuing state bonds.

The number of proposed projects is always three to four times the number that the Legislature ends up approving in the final bill. As a result, the horse trading and political gamesmanship that usually take place in St. Paul are elevated to a higher level. However, the debate next year may not be as much about the overall dollar amount of the bonding bill as it is about whether there should even be a bonding bill. In legislative circles, that last statement is almost considered blasphemy, but there are sound economic reasons for taking that fiscally prudent approach at this time.

For more than three decades, Minnesota has operated under a guideline that debt-service payments should be no more than 3 percent of general fund revenue. Maintaining a low debt-service cost has helped the state maintain a triple-A bond rating, which in turn means the state pays less in interest on its debt.

Last March, the state's Management and Budget Office projected that, for the first time, state debt-service payments would exceed the 3 percent limit. That has led some lawmakers to question whether there should be any bonding bill in 2010. Adding to the state's debt during a period of declining revenue would push debt-payment levels above the 3 percent level for many years into the future and could well jeopardize that triple-A bond rating.

Seldom in the past have lawmakers been able to resist the temptation to place more debt on the state's credit card, and 2010 is likely to be the same.

As a veteran of the process and a former chair of the House Capital Investment Committee, I can attest to the truth of the axiom, "the most dangerous place to be is between the hogs and the trough." With 2010 being an election year for all 201 state legislators, the pressure will be on the incumbents to bring home the bacon, and the result of that pressure may well be to heap more debt on taxpayers.

The last time the Legislature did not pass a bonding bill was in 2004, the second year of my chairmanship of the House Capital Investment Committee. That year, the House passed a bonding bill with more than 100 votes, but the Senate did not. Because bonding incurs debt, it requires a three-fifths majority to pass a bonding bill. In 2004, the DFL-controlled Senate needed at least some Republicans to support the bill. Not one of them did. After the first attempt to pass a bill failed, Senator Keith Langseth, the DFL Capital Investment chairman, refused to bring the bill back for reconsideration. The result was no bonding bill that year. Somehow, business went on as usual without the financing of more state building projects added to our debt load.

Given that DFLers now have the necessary three-fifths majority in both the Senate and the House to pass any bonding bill they wish, in 2010 the impetus for no bonding bill would likely have to originate with Governor Tim Pawlenty. And only Pawlenty's threat of a veto could avert a push to saddle the state with deeper debt.

Not passing a bonding bill in 2010 would certainly be the fiscally responsible thing to do. With a projected shortfall of \$7 billion in the next biennial budget, why would any responsible lawmaker incur even greater debt by voting for a bonding bill in 2010?

The big spenders at the Capitol have already maxed out the state's credit card. It's time to say no to more credit-card spending rather than ask the credit card company—i.e., the state's taxpayers—to increase the spending limit.

Phil Krinkie is a former Republican state representative, president of the Taxpayers League of Minnesota, and president of the Snelling Company in St. Paul. The eight-term lawmaker chaired the House Tax Committee and two other House panels. You can contact him at philk@taxpayersleague.org.



Inbox

Thanks for a pretty parking lot

The stretch of Goodrich Avenue between Cretin Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard can best be described as a commuter student parking lot. What overlooks this stretch of "historic" road is the backsides of the St. Paul Seminary cafeteria, a dumpster and the music building auditorium of the University of St. Thomas.

I am appalled that at the same time the St. Paul Public Schools are cutting music teachers' positions, the city of St. Paul has agreed to nearly double the cost of a project and repave this humble stretch of a parking lot with bricks (Villager, November 4). St. Paul property taxpayers will pick up 75 percent of the project's costs.

I will enjoy the pretty parking place when I arrive for my graduate music courses, but I am appalled by the cost and the lack of priorities shown by the City Council. I don't mind paying taxes to help schools, social services and city improvements, but an extravagance like brick pavers is beyond my generosity.

If council members want to preserve historic St. Paul, they should think about the condemned and foreclosed homes and wilting educational system before a stretch of pavement. This is an outrageous disservice to St. Paul residents, and I hope council members will act more prudently in the future.

Andrea Olson
Summit-University

A nod to past with eye to future

Bravo to the vast majority of Goodrich Avenue dwellers for returning their street to its original brick construction (Villager, November 4). They are about to recoup some of the value they lost decades ago when the city took the fast, cheap and crumbling asphalt route. The true aggrieved parties are all those past and present St. Paul taxpayers whose long-lived bricks have been smothered by constantly disintegrating petro-chemical asphalt.

Assuming that high-quality materials and installation go into the project, the current residents of Goodrich will probably never see a paving bill again. Neighbors unhappy with their future savings and the big picture in general might prefer a neighborhood where throwaway construction and costly short-term thinking is the norm.

Gail Helland
Highland Park

Goodrich is more than a name

What better than an avenue named Goodrich to sidle up to the trough? There is no blame in personally being unaffected by the economic downturn, but there is fault in being unmoved by the less fortunate circumstances of those around you. Even if the bricks that were used to pave Goodrich were pitched as being more durable, which I doubt, this is simply not the time to be spending city revenue on a \$200,000 vanity item (Villager, November 4). At a time when most citizens have to worry about their jobs and carefully examine and justify every aspect of their spending, the St. Paul City Council should do likewise.

Suzanne Steffenson
Highland Park

Walgreens ruling was justified

The Villager's coverage of the Walgreens-Snyders controversy has been deficient from the beginning. You have consistently underreported the large number of area residents opposed to Walgreens' plans. At the first public meeting, most of the several hundred people attending were against those plans, and almost all of them were not Snyders' employees. Thousands of people have signed the petition available at the Snyders store. For many of these thousands, Highland Village is our downtown. We feel that its stores and shops are part of a community that interacts with us and supports our life here. This is particularly true of Snyders. Many people, including large numbers of seniors, depend on this store for essential services.

Living near Highland Village is an amenity that supports the strong property values of this community. The Walgreens corporation assumed that it would be able to take over this customer base and drive Snyders out of business. This is not competition. It is simple aggression.

The former Oasis filling station at Ford Parkway and Finn Street is still owned by Oasis. This was admitted at the November 4 Highland District Council meeting by John Kohler, who has managed Walgreens' attempt to build on Ford Parkway. In fact, Oasis is in the process of reconstructing the building. A notice is posted on the front door to this effect.

At the November 4 meeting of the Highland District Council, Dave Leonard of Snyders' management announced that its building is not for sale. They have a lease for another

Ahh, winter: Weather you like or not

BY NEAL BERNARDS

The sudden transition from summer to winter, with just a passing glance of autumn, has once again tested our resolve. As leaves scatter in the icy wind and unripe tomatoes freeze on the vine, seasonal affective disorder rears its ugly head once again. But dread not, denizens of the Northland, for we are made stronger by our struggles.

There's nobility in fighting the dying of the light, in our desperate attempts to extend a garden's life to retain, if just for a few days, the joyous sight of annuals still clad in their summer colors. As we struggle to maintain the plant life around us, we're made more conscious of the preciousness of sunlight and warmth.

I've basked in the sun's weakening rays on a 45-degree day in a last-ditch effort to nourish my soon to be sun-deprived self. I've hoarded the sun's meager November warmth and been glad for it.

But at some point, we must let go of summer and embrace the change. If we can't find pleasure in the transition to winter, we're doomed to complain about every cold snap, freezing drizzle and snow squall that passes through. Here, where winter stretches to five full months, we've got to face up to the loss of summer or its passing will fill our souls with a dark bile that no tropical vacation can expel.

Those places in the South that don't suffer from the cold, the winter darkness or a deficiency in vitamin D—places like Texas, California and Florida, clement as they might be, they don't have what we have, which is the honor that comes from surviving a hostile environment, the character that is built by battling the elements, the understanding that nature, at its worst, can kill you. It is no accident that Arctic explorers Ann Bancroft and Will Steger grew up in Minnesota, where

they learned to brave biting cold, revel in a frosty morning and push on despite frostbitten toes.

Our intimate knowledge of nature's deadly power has a humbling effect. Thanks to our fickle weather, we've learned to never let our emotions run too high or sink too low. A long-planned wedding day dawns with leaden skies and the threat of rain. So be it. Mundane Monday will arrive two days later with a spectacular crystalline sunrise.

The weather is imbedded in our psyches as well as our skin. Last summer you spent sleepless nights tossing in sweat-soaked sheets. Last night you slept under a pile of thick blankets. When you awoke this morning, you knew exactly where you were and when it was, and if not, the jolt of cold ceramic on your bare feet quickly reminded you.

Minnesota's theater of seasons grounds us. We may not always like it, but it gives us a sense of rhythm. Screen windows are replaced with storm windows. Window air conditioners are returned to winter storage. Rakes give way to snow shovels. Short-sleeve shirts are pushed to the back of the closet and sweaters are moved to the front.

The sadness that is brought on by the gathering darkness of fall is tempered by the knowledge that a joy will soon overtake us. Following the hush of midwinter, the sun's rays will gradually strengthen and bore through the layers of ice on our roof. The steady drips of snowmelt will become the wave that washes those icicles from their perch. Puddles will form from piles of snow and our hearts will leap at the notion that winter is over for another year.

In Minnesota we're blessed with four distinct seasons. Learn to revel in the current one. Go out and crunch some fallen leaves, sharpen those rusty ice skates or buy a hip new winter hat. Don't long for what was. Look forward to what will be.

were unsuccessful, but a check of Ramsey County property records indicates the property is still owned by Oasis.

In support of new design standards

I was quoted in the article about the new St. Paul building design standards (Villager, November 4). Due to the location of the quote, it could be construed as opposition to the establishment of design standards. My statement to the St. Paul Planning Commission was one of cautious support for the idea of design standards. I and other architects feel it is a good idea to implement standards that will protect the community from bad design choices that would have a negative effect on neighboring homes, such as blocking sunlight or placing a noisy air conditioner adjacent to a neighbor's window.

We are cautious in our support of the standards because there is no definition of how the standards would be interpreted or enforced, whether by the Planning Commission, city staff or a new design review board. When this was before the Planning Commission, there were parts that were subjective and open to interpretation. An unclear

INBOX ▶10

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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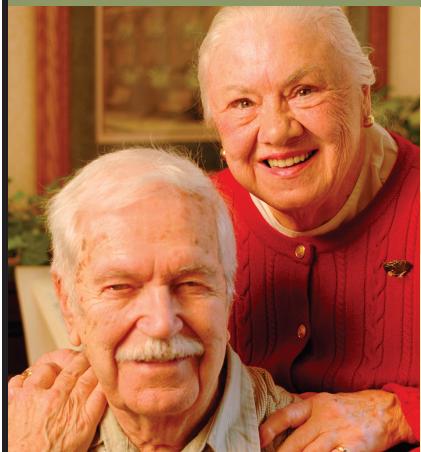
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9 INBOX

standard could easily become burdensome on homeowners, neighbors and the city as personal taste and an attitude of "I know good design when I see it" delay projects and lead to the expense of multiple design reviews and legal fees.

We do not want a standard that restricts creativity and enforces the mimicry of adjacent houses, whether in paint color, roof slope or window treatment, etc. Our neighborhoods are filled with a great diversity of homes built over 100-plus years. Walking down one block in Macalester-Groveland, you can see a bungalow, Tudor, Cape Cod, ranch, salt box, Spanish colonial and so forth. The aesthetics of each decade have changed and so have the homes. We want to protect this rich fabric, but we do not want a standard so restrictive that the entire city is a historical district or tourist village.

As an organization and individuals, we also strongly encouraged the Planning Commission to incorporate into the design standards environmental concepts, such as those found in LEED for Homes and Minnesota GreenStar. Standards that address the use of sustainable materials, environmentally friendly construction practices, and natural light and fresh air within the home or the use of solar power would benefit both the occupant of the home, the community and the environment.

*Eric N. Lagerquist
Macalester-Groveland*

Editor's note: The writer is president of the St. Paul chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

A dog's life, a pet's death

Last week a truck hit and killed my little dog at the corner of Ashland Avenue and Dewey Street. She had run out into the street, and the person driving the truck failed to adequately stop and apparently to look. Madchen had been rescued from a puppy mill. She was a beautiful black and tan, long-haired dachshund. Her beauty made humans greedy, and she was bred until she no longer produced adequate litters, at the age of 2. She would have been euthanized or worse had there not been a rescue organization.

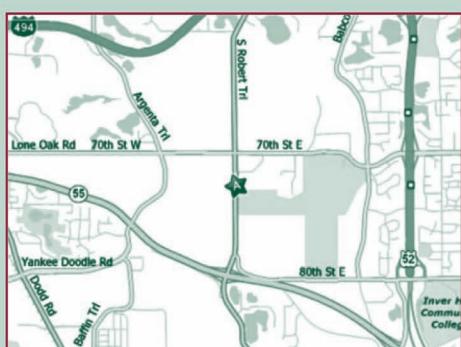
Madchen was lucky in the world of puppy mills. She had a kennel with a heated floor and was let outside a couple of times a day. However, she had no real contact with humans or other dogs other than to be bred and have her puppies taken away. And she was adopted by someone who cared for her. Other dogs aren't so fortunate. They are kept in cages, stacked one upon another and never let out. They are neglected, starved and abused. Is that any way to treat man's best friend?

Madchen and I were the victims of two crimes, inhumane treatment by dog breeders and careless drivers. We can do something to minimize the abuse animals like Madchen suffer by calling on our elected officials to impose care, licensing, limits and inspections on dog breeders and to support the legislative bills SF7 and HF253. We also need to demand the oversight and enforcement of traffic laws in our neighborhoods. Madchen was like my child. My sorrow is deep and unrelenting. Next time it could be someone else's.

*Catherine Zimmer
Merriam Park*

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Back to the USSR

Do we need another Walgreens? Beats me, but now that our St. Paul City Council representatives have rejected a legal site plan for no apparent reason except their own whims (*Villager*, November 4), I can only express my deep regret that by accident of birth they managed to miss their true calling as Soviet central planners.

*Mark Paske
Macalester-Groveland*

Obama, stay home

President Obama recently informed Reuters that if delegates to the December 7-18 Copenhagen climate conference are "on the brink of a meaningful agreement and my presence in Copenhagen will make a difference in tipping us over the edge," he would attend the conference. I suggest that Air Force One stay in the hangar.

At least 170 nations will attend the December 7-18 Copenhagen meeting, which is intended to produce a new climate agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol that expires in 2012. The United States did not sign the Kyoto Protocol because it did not require developing nations to limit their own greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A UN committee has prepared a 181-page draft agreement for discussion at Copenhagen. The draft essentially blames developed countries for past GHG emissions, and it seeks repayment of this "climate debt" to developing nations. The financial resources provided to developing nations ranges from \$70 billion to \$140 billion annually, raised through assessments on developed nations in proportion to their gross domestic product.

Imagine Obama trying to explain to voters why they should give technology and money to countries like China who compete with us for jobs and markets simply because our ancestors put up the most GHGs. That would put the president and his party on the brink of political disaster with no climate agreement in sight.

*Rolf E. Westgard
Macalester-Groveland*

Time to leave Afghanistan?

On the national TV news on October 27, terrorist bombings in Pakistan and Afghanistan were shown. The bombing in Pakistan was aimed at women and children at a bazaar. Many were killed and more were maimed for life.

American generals are disagreeing with their commander in chief, President Barak Obama, as to how to fight the battles in those countries. Doesn't it look like we are engaged in a war we can't win once again? Why should we bleed the U.S. Treasury dry and run up billions in loans from foreign countries to reform the governments of these countries? Why should we sacrifice the youths of this country in a war we can't win? We'll be obligated to care for a multitude of our veterans permanently crippled, both mentally and physically.

Maybe we should bring our troops home now. Let those idiots over there keep killing each other. They sure seem to enjoy blowing each other up.

*N.C. Horton Sr.
St. Anthony Park*

Obama's promise dims

Though his popularity with the American people has dipped only slightly since his election, a possible growing dissatisfaction with President Obama may be seen in how his attempt to energize his core by supporting a variety of candidates was not largely successful. Exit polling revealed the obvious causes for this to be weak economic growth linked with the scope and expense of the president's health care proposals.

Yet, even accepting those causes, I believe the defeat of those candidates also reflected on Obama in a more oblique manner. Specifically, when people want very much to believe in something, and they perceive that someone is not coming through on their promises, they first become anxious, then angry. In this instance, I see Obama exploiting his own afterglow with that glow now beginning to dim and earlier promises becoming more difficult to keep.

Remember the great line from *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, where Paul Newman as Cassidy embarks on one of his plans to steal from a South American bank and Robert Redford as Sundance doubles over in laughter saying, "Keep talking Butch; that's what you're good at it." That has been Obama's strength—the planning and the impassioned delivery of those plans. Though I, too, am transported by his words, I'm often at a loss as to what he said.

*Paul Peter Paulos
Macalester-Groveland*

Charitable spirit on Halloween

A note of Halloween thanks to residents on James Avenue. My 8-year-old daughter and her friends decided to collect donations for UNICEF along with their trick-or-treating in support of a charitable initiative at her school, Sunny Hollow Montessori. I was curious about the reception they would receive from their mantra, "Trick or treat for UNICEF, and candy too if you'd like." It was a real pleasure and an affirmation of our community values that the children met with no trace of negativity. Thank you for your generous donations.

*Tohr Vorvick
Macalester-Groveland*

The best medicine

President Obama has figured out a way to cut costs on health care. Instead of billing the hospital or doctor for their services, he simply bills the janitor. That way the patient receives a clean bill of health.

*Steven Hubbell
Downtown St. Paul*

The Villager welcomes letters to the editor. To be considered for publication, however, letters must be signed and include a telephone number for verification purposes. Please e-mail your letter to letters@myvillager.com, fax it to 651-699-6501 or mail it to or drop it off at the **Villager**, 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116.

An Intergenerational Program

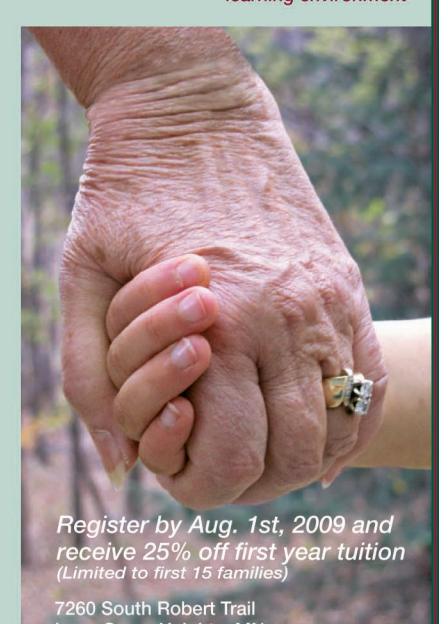


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Troubled Attucks-Brooks Legion Post ordered to close for 20 days

BY JANE MCCLURE

Attucks-Brooks American Legion Post No. 606 has been ordered by the St. Paul City Council to close for 20 days and pay a \$2,000 fine as a result of license violations that occurred in August, just four days after the City Council imposed a \$1,000 fine and a 10-day closing for previous violations.

Representatives of the veterans' club at 976 Concordia Ave. admitted to the August violations at a November 4 hearing before the City Council. However, they said they have been working to improve operations and asked for leniency, given Attucks-Brooks' long record of community service.

"The community depends on the services we provide," said Attucks-Brooks first vice commander Regina Walker.

"We've certainly learned our lesson," said post commander Willie Woodson. "We promise there won't be a reoccurrence."

The situation has frustrated city officials and neighbors. The City Council had warned the club about future violations in August while staying half of the recommended fine and two-thirds of the recommended license suspension.

Attucks-Brooks "is an important and historic institution," said Ward 1 City Council member Melvin Carter III. "It's also an organization in transition, which is why we passed the resolution we did (in August)." But to have violations of license conditions just four days after a City Council public hearing is a blatant disregard for those conditions, Carter said.

Attucks-Brooks is one of the few African-American veterans' posts in the Upper Midwest and the only one in St. Paul. It was known for years for sponsoring youth baseball teams.

However, the club has also drawn its share of complaints over the years for patron behavior that spills into the neighborhood. A man was murdered outside the post last winter by a man who had also been at the club. The murderer, who was recently convicted, was under the age of 21 at the time and had been served alcohol at the club.

Following the murder, additional conditions were placed on Attucks-Brooks' licenses. Police and city licensing officials began monitoring the club and found license violations in May and June. The club had been required to have all members and guests sign in and be checked by a metal detector, but that was not always being done. The club also was offering entertainment without a city license and was

not handing over surveillance videos when requested by police.

On August 19 city licensing staff and the City Attorney's office recommended a \$2,000 fine and a 30-day license suspension. The council imposed a \$1,000 fine and a 10-day suspension on the condition that there be no further license violations in 18 months. On August 23 St. Paul police received a report of a disturbance at the club, and when they arrived they saw people entering without signing the log book and without being checked with the metal detector.

According to Walker, the Legion post has gone above and beyond what the city recommended to improve security, adding new surveillance cameras, hiring new staff and training staff in the additional security procedures. The staff member who committed the violations in August was fired, she said, and the video of his violations is now used for staff training.

At a hearing last month before the Summit-University Planning Council, SUPC board members noted that Attucks-Brooks is an important neighborhood establishment, dating back to the days when African Americans weren't allowed into "white" establishments. Clubs like Attucks-Brooks were formed because the city would not give African Americans liquor licenses, said SUPC board member Gerald Ransom.

According to SUPC board president Steve Wilson, who grew up near Attucks-Brooks, the Legion post has always operated like a nightclub. He said that though he appreciated the changes in operations, the club appears to be allowing people in who are not members or members' guests.

Walker said the club is for members of the American Legion, the Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary. All are required to have membership cards. They can bring guests, but must sign the guests in.

Several license violations were witnessed by St. Paul police in October at Attucks-Brooks. On October 31 the police noted that a DJ was playing music there and that staff failed to check for club membership at the door and failed to investigate when the metal detector was set off by an entering patron.

As of last week, no dates had been set for Attucks-Brooks' 20-day closing. Woodson and Walker asked that the closing be imposed with consideration for the post's upcoming holiday activities, including holiday food and toy drives.

MSP runway reopens on time despite near-record rainfall

The north parallel runway at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) reopened at the end of October, marking completion of a 20-year effort to replace the facility's aging airstrips.

The \$17.5 million upgrade of the north parallel runway began on August 18. The project included reconstructing the 3,800-foot center portion of the 8,200-foot-long runway, which was originally built in 1967. For more than two months, planes were redirected onto the airport's three other runways. The altered flight patterns around the airport resulted in more planes over Highland Park and South Minneapolis and fewer over Mendota Heights.

Following a flight check of the runway's instrument landing system in early November, runway use and flight patterns returned to preconstruction conditions.

Despite near-record rainfall in October, the north parallel runway reopened on schedule, said Jeff Hamiel, executive director of the Metropolitan Airports Commission.

This fall's runway reconstruction was the last significant project in the airport's \$3.1 billion improvement program.



A jet airplane took off over a rooftop in Highland Park during the recent closure of MSP International Airport's north parallel runway.

PHOTO
BY ANNE
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Coleman looks forward to another four years as mayor

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman had seriously considered it for months, but in early October he decided against running for Minnesota governor in 2010. "I don't feel my work for the city is done yet, and I want to concentrate on that," he said last week.

St. Paul voters gave him that chance on November 3, re-electing Coleman to a second four-year term by a 69 to 31 percent margin over challenger Eva Ng.

"It has been and still is the greatest thrill and the highest honor of my professional life to be elected and then re-elected as mayor of my hometown," said Coleman, 48.

Coleman said his decision not to run for governor had nothing to do with the other dozen and a half candidates in the gubernatorial race. "All the information I was getting before my decision was that I was a front runner, or close to it, and could have won," he said.

Instead, Coleman said, he will



Chris Coleman

continue to work to restore fiscal stability to St. Paul, strengthen the city's partnership with the St. Paul Public Schools and see the Central Corridor light-rail transit project through to completion.

Although Coleman said his administration has succeeded in eliminating the structural deficit in the city budget that it "inherited"

in 2005, "we have to be vigilant and stick to our plans," he added. "We've lost \$160 million in local government aid from the state since 2003, and the state's situation isn't looking any better going into next year. So it's going to be an ongoing challenge, especially if we get cut again."

In 2010, "we're still going to have to lay off another 20 to 40 city employees in various departments except police and fire," Coleman said. Along with a reduction in public library hours, eight of the city's recreation centers will likely be closed or reprogrammed in the coming year, he added.

"We're working on more partnerships with neighborhood organizations for programming, but the recession has presented some real challenges with funding for them as well," he said.

On the education front, Coleman wants to expand city-sponsored school readiness and after-school programs. "We have circulator buses on the West and East Sides," he said, transporting children to com-

munity centers after school, "and my goal is to serve the North End and Frogtown in this way as well."

"The school district has been helping us design some of our after-school programs," Coleman said. The School Board, in turn, has consulted with Coleman about the search for a new superintendent, he said. Now, with the November 3 election to the St. Paul School Board of Vallay Varro, the mayor's director of educational policy, "she can help us expand our strong partnership with the district," he said.

Of the Central Corridor and the complaints that have been filed with the federal government by University Avenue business groups and other organizations, Coleman said, "those kinds of things always arise during big projects like this. We'll keep working closely with businesses on access issues and with the University of Minnesota over their noise and vibration concerns." The mayor said he has "full confidence that all issues will be resolved to everyone's satisfaction."

The mayoral race was Ng's first campaign for public office. Though she lost by more than two to one, she said she found the campaign fun and rewarding. "I met friends that I'll keep for a lifetime, and I found hidden gems in every nook and cranny of St. Paul," she said.

"This journey convinced me more than ever that the city cannot continue on this path without growing revenue via promoting enterprise and encouraging job growth in the private sector," Ng said. "Our local government has to adopt my approach very soon or it will face some real pain."

"Holding elective office is still not a top priority for me," Ng said. "However, if the current mayor continues on this path of a downward spiral and the citizens of St. Paul show a genuine will to make a real change for the better and I happen to be available, I will consider rolling up my sleeves again to give City Hall a sound organizational structure and the people of St. Paul a healthy economy."

Voters put two new faces on School Board

O'Connell, Varro are sworn in early to help select superintendent

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

The celebration was short for the four winners in the St. Paul School Board election on November 3. Re-elected board members Elona Street-Stewart and John Brodrick and newly elected board members Vallay Varro and Jean O'Connell all said they have spent much of the past two weeks immersed in the search for a new superintendent of schools for St. Paul.

Varro defeated Ramsey Hill Realtor Pat Igo in a special election to fill the remaining two years in Tom Conlon's term. O'Connell finished second among six candidates vying for three four-year seats on the School Board. Both were sworn in early, on November 11, so that they could fully participate in the selection of the new superintendent, which could come as early as November 23.

Varro and O'Connell had been participating in the School Board's meetings and interviews with the superintendent candidates, although Varro wasn't scheduled to be sworn in until November 17 and O'Connell not until January 5, when outgoing School Board member Tom Goldstein's four-year term ends. However, Goldstein chose to resign early to give O'Connell the chance to vote on the new leader for the St. Paul school district.

"Ms. Varro was elected by the public, and we want to give her the option of participating in the semifinalist process as a full board member, as we plan to do for Ms. O'Connell," said School Board chairwoman Kazoua Kong-Thao. "This will allow us to have the full board participating in the entire superintendent interview and selection process."

O'Connell, 56, who is retired after a 34-year career in management at 3M, is a longtime volunteer in the public schools and chaired former Superintendent Meria Carstarphen's Advisory Committee on Large Scale System Change. "We need to bring in a strong leader to help our schools create success for all of our

children," she said.

Varro, 33, who will continue to serve on St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman's staff as the city's education policy director, said she will take part in the upcoming School Board orientation classes with O'Connell. For the time being, however, her energies are focused on hiring the best candidate as superintendent, she said.

"The superintendent search can't be given short shrift," Street-Stewart said, "though the normal end-of-the-calendar-year issues will also be on the School Board's agenda." Those issues include updates on the implementation of the district's academic support strategies, contract negotiations, student enrollment and a variety of pending grants.

"As we progress through those issues and our work on Large Scale System Change, we must be collaborative, transparent and respectful," Brodrick said. "Budget issues will also not be going away."

The November 3 election has resulted

ST. PAUL SCHOOL BOARD ▶ 13

Board narrows search for new superintendent

The St. Paul School Board's interviews of the top three candidates for superintendent of schools position will continue on November 18 and 19. The public is invited to meet the finalists during receptions from 5:00 to 6:15 on those evenings at the district's administration building, 360 Colborne St. The public may also watch the interviews that follow from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The finalists include Deborah M. Henton, superintendent of schools in the North Branch district and a former chief of staff and executive director of Alternative Learning Programs in the St. Paul school district; Charles L. Hopson, deputy superintendent of schools in the Portland, Oregon, district; and Valeria S. Silva, chief academic officer and the former director of English Language Learner programs in the St. Paul school district. Hopson was interviewed on November 16. Silva will be interviewed on November 18 and Henton on November 19.

The interviews will also be televised live on St. Paul cable Channel 16, streamed on the district's website at www.spps.org and reshow on Channel 16 at 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Friday, November 20.

The public may register their thoughts about the finalists in writing at the receptions and also on the district website. The School Board plans to select a new superintendent the week of November 23.

"What's great about St. Paul?" The Villager reader asks, Any Unusual Facts?

Since 1919, Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota has provided services for people with disabilities (including soldiers) and barriers to employment, education and independence. Located at Fairview on University Ave., it is a recycled bottling factory with eco-friendly features, including flooring manufactured from tires.

The first Goodwill chapter west of the Mississippi River was founded by St. Paul civic leaders and Rev. Herbert Burgstahler. The original site was the Church of the Good Shepard at 12th and Cedar in St. Paul.

Goodwill Industries accepted donations and workers repaired donated merchandise. During the Depression, Goodwill provided jobs and low-cost goods. They ran a Community House for 30 to 50 workers, a home for the elderly and a vocational training program for young people with disabilities. In 1984 they merged with the Easter Seals Society, have now expanded to online sales and have a Second Debut designer art and clothing boutique. Please see www.goodwileasterseals.org



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District 197 voters choose three new members for School Board

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Voters in Mendota Heights, West St. Paul and Eagan elected three new members to the seven-member District 197 School Board on November 3. Toppling the field of eight candidates to win four-year terms on the board were Dewayne Dill, who garnered 22 percent of the vote, Patricia Barnum (19 percent) and David Kozol (17 percent). They will be replacing Elise Jamison, Tim Leslie and Reine Shiffman, all of whom chose not to run again.

Originally an eight-person field, two candidates dropped out, though their names remained on the ballot. Voters apparently got the message as the two were last in the vote tally. There was a large number of write-in votes, but voter turnout was only 7.4 percent.

Dill, 49, of Mendota Heights is president of Dalex Livestock Solutions, an agricultural technology company. He said he wants to revisit some of the fundamentals when he joins the board. "We need to ask again, 'Who are our stakeholders? What market segments do we serve? What are our core competencies? What is our labor force and what do they need to sustain excellence?'" He added that tackling the budget will likely be the first major topic.

Barnum 52, of West St. Paul is the chief financial officer for the Printing Industry of Minnesota and its affiliated educational foundation. She said the district is just beginning some long-term planning and one of her pri-

District 197 School Board Results

Dewayne Dill	1,002	21.6%
Patricia Barnum	874	18.9%
David Kozol	799	17.2%
Jim Cichy	455	9.8%
Joel Stone	425	9.2%
Kelly Gibbons	232	5.0%
Brenda Norman*	160	3.5%
Anne Byer-Rajput*	99	2.1%
Write-ins	589	12.7%

*Withdrew from race

orities will be to ensure that meaningful public involvement is sought as the plan is developed and implemented. She also sees budgetary issues as looming large. "We'll be pressed to address these issues with creative solutions that keep any cuts as far from students as possible," she said.

Kozol 55, of Mendota Heights is an information technology consultant at Ecolab. One of the first things on his to-do list as a new board member is to settle teacher contracts. He also hopes the long-range plan being developed in the district will address immediate concerns like student achievement and long-term concerns like shifting populations and market share. "To reach the initiative's goals, district attendance boundaries may need to be adjusted to achieve balance," said Kozol, who added he wants to ensure that process is open to the public.

12 ST. PAUL SCHOOL BOARD

in a more ethnically diverse School Board, with two Hmong Americans (Varro and Kong-Thao), one American Indian (Street-Stewart), one African American (Keith Hardy) and three Caucasians (Brodrick, O'Connell and Anne Carroll). The election has also shifted the board majority from male to female, with Conlon and Goldstein being replaced by Varro and O'Connell.

Goldstein attributed his narrow defeat in the election to two things. O'Connell "worked harder than I did, getting more bipartisan votes...and she's a woman, and the political atmosphere for women is very strong right now, as it should be," Goldstein said. O'Connell, he said, "will make an excellent addition to the School Board, and I'll do everything I can to help her make the transition."

Also defeated in the election for School Board were Lutheran minister and West Side resident Chris Conner and teacher and High-

St. Paul School Board 4-Year Results

Elona Street-Stewart	16,279	21.9%
Jean O'Connell	13,988	18.8%
John Brodrick	13,906	18.7%
Tom Goldstein	13,512	18.2%
Chris Conner	8,865	11.9%
John Krenik	7,300	9.8%
Write-ins	455	

St. Paul School Board 2-Year Results

Vallay Moua Varro	16,782	58.8%
Pat Igo	11,604	40.7%
Write-ins	146	

land Park resident John Krenik.

Conner, Krenik and Igo were endorsed by the Republican Party. Street-Stewart, Brodrick, Varro and Goldstein were endorsed by the DFL Party. O'Connell was endorsed by the St. Paul Federation of Teachers.

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Cass Gilbert standing before the partially completed state Capitol dome on May 9, 1901. MN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO



Cindy Stephani, a tour guide and member of the Cass Gilbert Society, looks fondly at the bust of the famed architect in anticipation of his 150th birthday celebration on November 21 at the state Capitol. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD



Celebrating Cass

Society marks birthday of architect whose buildings helped form MN's history

Cass Gilbert, the architect who has been credited with changing the face of St. Paul, would have celebrated his 150th birthday this November 24. After moving to the city at age 9, he left to learn his trade, returned to grow his architectural practice, and stayed for 27 years. Then he left again, this time for New York City, where his national reputation was solidified. However, before that he designed dozens of homes, commercial buildings, churches and the Minnesota Capitol in his home city, and in a sense never really left St. Paul at all.

Gilbert decided on his career path early and never strayed from it. Following two years as an apprentice for local architect Abraham Radcliffe, he completed one year of a two-year architecture program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, then went to Europe, where he studied, sketched and painted buildings in England, Italy and France.

Returning from Europe, Gilbert got a job



Close to Home

By Lisa Heinrich

with McKim, Mead and White, a prominent architectural firm in New York City. He moved back to St. Paul in 1882, apparently hoping to get work with the Northern Pacific Railroad. But when the railroad's financial troubles cut off that option, he turned to other sources to garner commissions.

He joined a variety of civic clubs to gain access to prominent St. Paul citizens who might employ him. He helped organize the Minnesota Club and joined boat, tennis and golf clubs as well as a German club, the Nushka Club and the Informal Club.

In 1883 Gilbert opened an office in downtown St. Paul where two other young architects just back from New York—boyhood friends Clarence Johnston and James Knox Taylor—were also employed. St. Paul was undergoing a population boom at the time, growing from 41,000 residents in 1880 to 134,000 in 1890, and architects were arriving in droves to meet the burgeoning demand for their services.

Despite all the competition, Gilbert's firm prospered, producing about 180 designs between 1883 and 1911, of which nearly half were residences. Many of the homes were on or near Summit Avenue, which was then developing into the residential showcase it remains today.

Gilbert started in St. Paul by designing his mother's house, which was built in 1882-83 at 471 Ashland Ave. He lived there until he married Julia Finch in 1887. The couple took an apartment in the Albion Hotel (now the Blair House) at Selby and Western Avenues, and also lived at 550 Portland Ave., part of the five-unit Portland Terrace rowhouses that he designed in 1888. Gilbert also built his own family house at 1 Heather Place in 1890.

Gilbert's residential work in St. Paul also includes the Early American revival Charles P. Noyes house at 89 Virginia St., the Richardsonian Romanesque-style Lightner-Young house at 322-324 Summit, the house next door at 318 Summit; and the McCourt house at 161 Cambridge Ave., which has been called his most exquisite shingle-style design.

His commissions also included many St. Paul churches, including St. Clement's Episco-

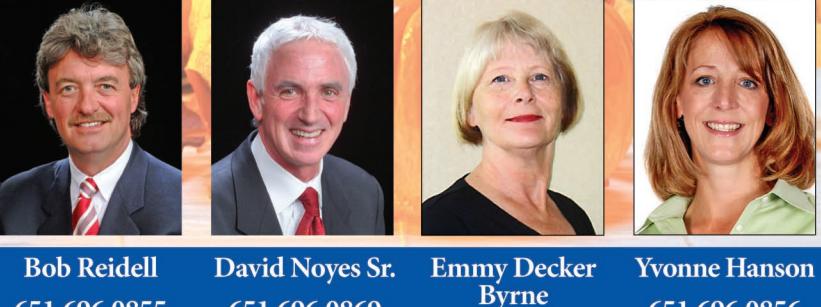
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Names in the News

The CSPS Hall of Sokol Minnesota at 383 Michigan St. will receive \$150,000 in federal funding for safety upgrades, according to Congresswoman Betty McCollum. The funds will come from the Save America's Treasures Account of the National Park Service. The funds will help pay for installing fire sprinklers on the top two floors and enhancing the accessibility of the first floor of Sokol Hall, which serves as a community center for Czech and Slovak immigrants in the West End neighborhood. The 122-year-old building contains the oldest national hall and theater in Minnesota and is the oldest Czech-Slovak cultural center in the United States.

Barbara Kristiansson, a Highland Park resident and estate planning attorney from the Felhaber Larson Fenlon & Vogt law firm, is a recent graduate of Leadership St. Paul, a program of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce that prepares emerging leaders to strengthen the East Metro area. Kristiansson was one of 46 individuals who participated in the 10-month program. She also was part of a four-member community service team whose efforts included getting a farmers' market considered in Highland Park.

St. Paul Assistant Police Chief Matt Bostrom has registered a Bostrom for Sheriff Committee with the Ramsey County Elections Office for a possible run for sheriff in 2010. Bostrom has 27 years of experience in law enforcement. A native of St. Paul, he graduated from Johnson High School and earned degrees at Northwestern College and the universities of St. Thomas and Hamline. He now lives in St.

14 CASS GILBERT

pal (his homage to English churches), Dayton Avenue Presbyterian (a Romanesque building based on 12th-century French influences), Virginia Street Swedenborgian (in the shingle style) and German Bethlehem Presbyterian (a truly site-specific design).

His first major office commission was the Endicott Building on 4th and Robert streets in downtown, where Gilbert moved his office until he moved to New York. The 1889 building was the firm's largest project and became something of a media sensation on its completion.

But it was his selection in 1895 to design the Minnesota Capitol that really launched Gilbert's national career. "The Capitol is the best work I have ever done, or shall ever do, and I am glad to have given it to St. Paul," Gilbert once said.

In 1899, Gilbert won the commission for the U.S. Customs House in New York and moved his family there the following year. He went on to design many buildings in New York, including the Woolworth Building, which was the world's tallest building for over a decade. His last design was for the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C.

Gilbert designed more than 200 buildings in his lifetime. He died in 1934 at age 75 during a vacation in England, with wife Julia at his side. The Gilberts had four children, with Cass Jr. following his father into the architectural profession.

Even when in New York, Gilbert maintained his ties to St. Paul. He kept his St. Paul office until 1911 and continued to work on local projects, including plans for the Capitol Mall that were never fully realized. Between 1906 and 1922, Gilbert worked on the master plan for Northrop Mall at the University of Minnesota, the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis, the Mannheimer Fountain at Como Park, and four Summit Avenue residences, including the Crawford Livingston house at 339 Summit.

The St. Paul-based Cass Gilbert Society, which was founded in 1998, continues to promote the appreciation of Gilbert's contributions to American architecture.

Paul's Lowertown with his wife Cheryl. Together they have three adult children.

The Grand Rounds, a 50-mile scenic byway system in Minneapolis, has been designated by the American Planning Association as one of its 10 Great Public Spaces for 2009. The Grand Rounds was designed in the late 1800s by landscape architect Horace Cleveland and is the country's only urban-based National Scenic Byway. The system currently is 3 miles short of being a complete loop through Minneapolis, but a new comprehensive plan looking to year 2020 recommends construction of the missing link.

The city of St. Paul has been recognized for its cutting-edge after-school initiatives, including its free circulator bus system that transports children and youth to local programs, in the new report "The State of City Leadership for Children and Families in 2009" released by the National League of Cities. Other St. Paul initiatives featured in the report include Blast Off to Kindergarten, Mayor Chris Coleman's partnership with the Youth Community Connections statewide after-school network, and the Wise Kids Outdoors program. To see the report, visit www.nlc.org/iyef.

State Senator Richard Cohen (District 64) has been appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as a member of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Cohen, who chairs the Minnesota Senate Finance Committee, also was honored earlier this year by the Americans for the Arts for his leadership in the advancement of the arts at the state level.



Cass Gilbert circa 1907

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Join the party Nov. 21 at the state Capitol

The Cass Gilbert Society will mark the 150th birthday of the celebrated architect on Saturday, November 21, beginning with tours of the state Capitol at 2:00 p.m. Guides will focus on the life of the man himself as well as the architecture of the Capitol he designed.

Birthday cake will be served in the Capitol's rathskeller at 3:30 p.m. A LEGO model of the Capitol will be on display as well as an exhibit highlighting 50 years of buildings designed by Gilbert. The exhibit will remain on view in the Capitol's north corridor for two weeks following the birthday celebration.

The celebration is free, but reservations are required for the Capitol tour. They may be made by calling 651-296-2881.

"Cass Gilbert, especially with his design of the state Capitol, sent a message to the world that civilization had arrived on the western frontier of America," said the society's Cindy Stephani. "And through his works he helped bring the architecture of the world to Minnesota."

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Don't like lutefisk? Don't worry: Tradition says you may someday

BY JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

Sixty years and counting," say veteran organizers of the Lutefisk dinner they will be serving on Friday, November 20, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. Most of the men and women working on the 60th annual dinner are self-described old-timers. "If we want another 60 years, we have to pass on the traditions and recipes and know-how," said Ralph Thrane, who has worked on the dinner for the past two decades plus.

With that in mind, the old hands have been busy recruiting younger members of the congregation to learn the ins and outs of rolling Swedish meatballs, baking traditional Scandinavian pastries, keeping the cream sauce hot and making the lutefisk, a uniquely Scandinavian preparation of cod presoaked in lye.

The Lutefisk dinner was first served by the Immanuel Lutheran Church Men's Club in 1949 to raise funds and build community spirit. The dinner has been served every year since except 2005, when a church renovation project fell behind schedule and the dinner had to be cancelled.

The event brings together members of the congregation with people from throughout the Twin Cities for a pre-holiday tradition dating back, at least in Scandinavian lore, to the days of the Vikings. Some of Immanuel's guests have been coming for more than 30 years, according to Russ Edhlund, who has worked on the dinner for the past dozen years. Nine hundred lutefisk dinners were served at the event several years ago, but for the past couple of years the diners have numbered between 500 and 600.

Feeding that many in a single evening is a major production, all of it overseen by a small steering committee. Though such modern conveniences as convection ovens and computer-generated spreadsheets now help put the dinners on the table, hungry diners can rest assured

that the same traditional foods will be served, including Swedish meatballs, lefse, boiled potatoes, early peas, Scandinavian desserts and, of course, lutefisk.

The day before the dinner, about 30 volunteers will gather to hand-roll thousands of meatballs from the custom mix that has been used for years. "Lots of people come to the dinner and don't eat the lutefisk but love the meatballs," Edhlund said.

On the day of the dinner, the frozen lutefisk will arrive in barrels from the Day Fish Company in Perham, Minnesota. The cod will have already been soaked and reconstituted, but a two-man crew will have to unpack it, cut it into serving sizes and arrange it in baking pans with a sprinkling of kosher salt.

Swedes like their lutefisk served with cream sauce and Norwegians prefer theirs swimming in melted butter, so volunteers are assigned to keep the cream sauce warm and the butter flowing. Lefse, the soft, round potato-based flatbread, will be served with butter and sugar or cranberry sauce. For dessert, Immanuel will be serving spritz cookies and Scandinavian fruit soup, a rich mixture of dried fruit, tapioca, spices and fruit juice cooked, chilled and served with whipped cream.

The Lutefisk dinner will be served family-style with seatings beginning at 4:00, 5:15 and 6:30 p.m. Waiters



Mabel Pappenuus stirs fruit soup and Mary Larson rolls rum balls in preparation for the 60th Lutefisk Dinner and Bake Sale to be held on November 20 at Immanuel Lutheran Church. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

will bring out the food on big platters. "And if you want more, the waiter brings more," Edhlund said.

"There have only been a few variations in how the dinner has been prepared over the last 60 years," Edhlund said. "It's now down to a science. We have diagrams of where everything goes and who is assigned which task."

Volunteers take charge of everything from publicity to waiting tables to scrubbing the kitchen floor at the end of the evening. One young woman of the congregation has organized a new feature this year, a three-hour bake-a-thon on the Monday before that is intended to appeal to a new generation of Im-

manuel women. Experienced bakers will pass along their know-how in making lefse and such Scandinavian pastries as krumkake, rosettes, fattigman and spritz. The traditional treats will be on sale during the Lutefisk dinner. Immanuel's Boy Scout troop will also be on hand, selling jars of pickled herring. Live entertainment will be provided by the Friday Fiddlers.

Loren Danielson, 36, has pitched in the past couple of years by organizing the dinner volunteers. So complete is his tracking system that with a glance at his spreadsheet, he was able to report that his youngest volunteer a year ago was an 8-year-old kid who helped bus tables and serve desserts.

"I got into this because it's a strong tradition at Immanuel," Danielson said. "I'm comfortable working with computers and, not knowing how to prepare lutefisk, I offered to help out by coordinating the volunteers."

The Lutefisk dinner honors Immanuel Lutheran's largely Norwegian heritage. Many of the congregants enjoy lutefisk, though most admit that it is an acquired taste. Edhlund is one of those who is fond of the dish, but even in his family the tradition got off to a rocky start. When Edhlund was a child, his Swedish-American father persuaded his wife to make lutefisk for dinner one Christmas Eve. She got



out the best china and silverware, wrapped the lutefisk in cheesecloth and boiled it...too long.

"It was overcooked, so it was runny and gelatinous, not like any fish we'd ever seen," Edhlund recalled. "And every time it touched the silverware, the silverware turned black."

"There's no denying that the clientele of our dinner is elderly," Edhlund said. "But we're getting young people more involved in working on the dinner, and more are coming to the dinner. Even if they don't enjoy the lutefisk, we hope they enjoy the dinner. We do a lot of promoting in the church and the local colleges to draw in younger people."

About half the money raised by the Lutefisk dinner is used for church programming. The other half goes to charities, such as emergency foodshelves and Meals on Wheels.

"The main aspects (of the dinner) are fun, fellowship and service," Edhlund said. "We enjoy people outside our church coming in. We like to turn the proceeds around in the community to help worthy organizations. That's been the idea from the start."

Tickets for the Lutefisk dinner are available for \$18, \$5.00 for children under age 15. Reservations are required. Call 651-698-1260.



Dave Lindgren, Stan Anderson and Bob Granrud rolled the Swedish meatballs for one of Immanuel Lutheran's past Lutefisk Dinners.



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Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels turns 40 under new leadership

A big change is taking place this year for the nonprofit organization Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels. An army of volunteers will still be preparing and delivering full-course Thanksgiving Day dinners on November 26. However, after four decades of feeding thousands of Twin Cities families that may have otherwise gone without on Thanksgiving Day, founders Bill Foussard and Barb Aslesen are stepping down.

"Bill and I talked about it for the last few years and decided that if no one took over by our 40th year, Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels would end," Aslesen said. "We were getting a little burnt out."

Aslesen said her son Luke had been asking for years to take over the operation, and this year she and Foussard agreed to give him that chance. "We decided to see what he does and knew we'd be there to catch him if he fell," Aslesen said. "It's a lot of work, but he's very responsible and is doing a great job."

Luke will not be alone. His brother Eric is serving as his wingman, Aslesen said, while sister Hannah will be in charge of delivery and brother Charlie will serve as a gofer for whatever is needed.

They will all be seeking the help of several hundred volunteers to deliver more than 14,700 meals to Twin Cities families on Thanksgiving morning. Anyone with a vehicle is invited to show up at the entrance to Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St., to pick up meals and a routing map. Delivery begins around 7:00 a.m. and is over by around 10:30 a.m., which gives volunteers plenty of time to enjoy their own Thanksgiving feasts.

Two adults are requested per vehicle, and



Bill Foussard and Barb Aslesen, shown here in 1981, are passing the torch after 40 years of meal deliveries.

parents are invited to bring along their kids and make it a family affair. Coffee, rolls and orange juice will be waiting at Cretin-Derham Hall for all the early risers.

Foussard and Aslesen began Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels in 1970 when they were Merriam Park neighbors and high school juniors at St. Thomas Academy and Derham Hall, respectively. That year, they stayed up all night on Thanksgiving eve to prepare ham and scalloped potatoes for 24 adults and children. The next year, they contacted social service agencies in search of others who could use their help. The program snowballed from there.

Higher food costs have driven the bill to about \$80,000 annually for the whole operation, and Foussard and Aslesen are still seeking monetary donations to help defray the purchase of food that has not been donated. Contributions may be sent to Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels in care of Alliance Bank, 55 E. 5th St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

For more information about delivering the Thanksgiving meals, call 651-699-5404.

Volunteers

Operation Minnesota Nice is looking to expand its Merriam Park chapter. The nonprofit group specializes in sending monthly hospitality boxes to soldiers overseas. The group meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. To donate money or items to mail to the soldiers, call 651-644-5716 or bring them to a meeting.

The Walk to End Hunger will take place from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, at the Mall of America. Keystone Community Services and 13 hunger-relief agencies in the Twin Cities Area are sponsoring the second annual walk. The 5K route inside the mall takes less than two hours for the average walker to complete. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided. Visit www.walktoendhunger.org.

St. Paul Planning Commission applicants are being sought by Mayor Chris Coleman. The 12-member advisory body meets at 8:30 a.m. every other Friday and has several subcommittees, including zoning, comprehensive planning and neighborhood planning. Commissioners serve three-year terms and may be reappointed for up to nine years. The members are citizen volunteers who are paid small stipends for their efforts. The application deadline is November 25. Apply online at www.stpaul.gov/mayor. Applications also are being taken for the Board of Zoning Appeals, Neighborhood STAR board (wards 1, 4, 5 and 7) and Capital Improvement Budget Committee. Call Kris Fredson at 651-266-8534.

A new legal clinic is now available for people going through housing or conciliation court in Ramsey County. Volunteer attorneys and law students are available for brief consultations to help prepare litigants to represent themselves. The clinic is located in the Ramsey County Law Library on the 18th floor of the courthouse in downtown St. Paul and is open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. every Tuesday. No appointments are necessary, but early check-in is advised. Call 651-266-8391.

The Summit-University Planning Council, in partnership with the Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf, is running a food drive during the month of November. Donations may be dropped off at the food shelf, 100 N. Oxford St., from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays and until 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Visit www.summit-u.com/pdfs/2009FoodDrive.pdf.

The Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour is looking for homeowners and home improvement professionals who would like to volunteer their homes for next year's tour. Nominations are due by January 21. Green, energy-efficient and historically sensitive remodeling and expansion projects will receive special consideration. The 23rd annual tour will be held on April 24-25. The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program and the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development manage the tour as a celebration of city living. Call Natalie Fedie at 651-266-6549 or Margo Ashmore at 612-673-5103. Applications also may be downloaded at www.MSPHomeTour.com.

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716 Goodrich Ave	442 Summit Ave #4
743 Goodrich Ave	977 Summit Ave
635 Grand Ave #6	1481 Summit Ave
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District Council News

Highland Park

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Carondelet Village—The Highland District Council heard an update on November 4 regarding the proposed Carondelet Village senior housing project. The Sisters of St. Joseph and Presbyterian Homes plan to break ground after the first of the year on construction project at the southwest corner of Randolph and Fairview avenues. The housing complex will include 128 independent living apartments, 52 assisted-living apartments and 40 skilled nursing suites in phase one, and an additional 24 independent living apartments in phase two. The facility will serve both the sisters and neighboring seniors and will include a chapel, wellness center with therapy pool, auditorium, congregate dining room, educational spaces and a landscaped conservatory.

Walgreens—John Kohler of Semper Development presented the HDC on November 4 with the draft of a new site plan for a proposed Walgreens at Ford Parkway and Finn Street. The board passed a motion to initiate contact with the St. Paul City Council to resolve conflicting issues with the new site plan and the one that was turned down by the council last month.

New board member—Rick Hugley was chosen as the new at-large representative on the Highland District Council's board of directors at a special election on November 4.

Breakfast with Santa—The Highland Business Association's annual Breakfast with Santa will run from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays, December 5 and 12, at the Chatterbox Pub, 800 S. Cleveland Ave. The breakfast is free with a donation to Toys for Tots or local food shelves. To register, call 651-699-1154.

Help wanted—The HDC is seeking a part-time crime prevention coordinator. The individual will be responsible for offering support to new block clubs, analyzing crime data, preparing periodic crime updates and coordinating neighborhood responses to crime. To apply, submit a resume and cover letter to hdc@visi.com by November 30.

Mark your calendar—Transportation Committee meeting to discuss the intersections of Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue and West 7th Street and Montreal Avenue, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 18, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978

Ford Pkwy.; and Breakfast with Santa, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 5, Chatterbox Pub. There will be no HDC board meeting in December.

Union Park

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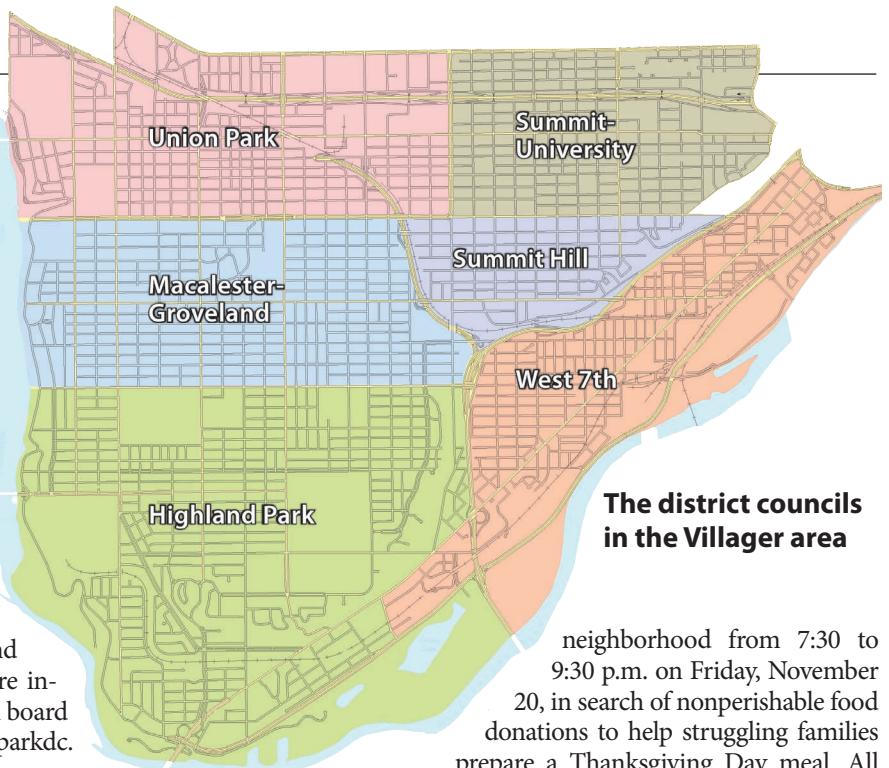
Board members sought—The Union Park District Council is looking for several neighborhood representatives to serve on its 2009-2010 board of directors. Openings are available in grids 13, 15 and 16, as well as for at-large business and at-large nonprofit representatives. A grid map may be found on the district council's website. For more information, call the UPDC office or e-mail board president Glen McCluskey at glen@unionparkdc.org.

Marshall Avenue parking regulations—Beginning this month, parking will be banned on Marshall Avenue from Mississippi River Boulevard to Hamline Avenue from 2:00 to 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays on the south side of the street and during those same hours on Wednesdays on the north side. The year-round ban will allow for city snow removal and other street maintenance. The UPDC has not taken a position on the new parking regulations, but plans to host a meeting next spring to hear comments from residents and to decide whether any changes should be made. To comment, call the UPDC office or e-mail info@unionparkdc.org. For information, contact Paul St. Martin at the St. Paul Department of Public Works at 651-266-6118 or paul.st.martin@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Turkey Trot for cans drive—Students from Macalester College will be trotting across the Macalester-Groveland



The district councils in the Villager area

neighborhood from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, November 20, in search of nonperishable food donations to help struggling families prepare a Thanksgiving Day meal. All donations will go to Keystone Community Services. Residents who are missed but would still like to donate items may call Shelle Shimizu at 1-808-271-7360 on the day of the event.

KidsPark enrollment—KidsPark, the community council's drop-in child-care service, is now accepting enrollment at its new Desnoyer Park location. KidsPark gives children a place to play in a supervised environment while their parents take a class, keep an appointment, have lunch with a friend, volunteer, shop or exercise. The parent cooperative is currently in need of a few items, including a stroller, high chair, child cupboard locks, baby gate, clear packing tape and snacks. To learn more about the program, visit www.kidsparkdropin.org.

Crime notification updates—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council offers e-mailed updates on crime in the neighborhood to all who request them. The information is based on news releases, tips and other information received from the St. Paul Police Department. To be added to the e-mail list, contact Afton Martens at afton@macgrove.org.

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SATURDAY, DEC. 5, 8 P.M.

This trio reinterprets many familiar holiday classics in its distinctive, stripped-down sound. Gary Louris, Jeremy Messersmith, Adam Levy and their extended ensemble of friends join in holiday music made unique and fun.

Christmas with The Steeles
FRIDAY, DEC. 11 AND SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 8 P.M.

The Steeles—Billy, Fred, J.D., Jearlyn and Jevetta—forge soulful melodies that ring in the holidays with foot-tapping, hip-swaying spirit.

Presented on two consecutive nights.

Peter Ostroushko Heartland Holiday Concert
SATURDAY, DEC. 19, 8 P.M.

Ostroushko and his musical friends celebrate the holidays with music that's international in its range and traditional in its feel.

For ticket info call 651-290-1221
or visit FITZGERALDTHEATER.ORG

Crime Report

The following calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. For weekly crime reports by neighborhood from the St. Paul Police Department, visit <http://stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=2399>.

Highland Park

Burglary—Cash was stolen from Grampa Tony's, 631 S. Snelling Ave., between 10:00 p.m. Wednesday and 9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 4-5. The glass in the front door was smashed.

—Fisico, 617 S. Snelling Ave., was burglarized at 6:00 a.m. Thursday, November 5.

—Pull tab vending machines were broken into at Casa Vieja, 2176 W. 7th St., between 3:00 and 8:00 a.m. Saturday, November 7.

Theft—A wallet and iPod were stolen from a student's bag in the boys' locker room at Cretin-Derham Hall at 11:00 a.m. Friday, October 30.

Miscellaneous—Suspected narcotics were recovered when a search warrant was executed at an apartment on the 600 block of South Snelling Avenue at 10:00 p.m. Monday, November 2.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A garage burglary-in-progress was reported at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, November 1, on the 2200 block of Sargent Avenue. The suspects were gone when police arrived.

—The cash register was stolen from Sweeney's Cleaners, 252 S. Snelling Ave., at 6:30 a.m. Monday, November 2. Property also was taken from nearby Lund & Lange Flowers, 272 S. Snelling Ave., between 7:30 a.m. Sunday and 6:30 a.m. Monday, November 1-2.

—A deposit bag was stolen from the office at Trotter's Cafe, 232 S. Cleveland Ave., between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 3.

—Ristorante Luci, 470 S. Cleveland, was broken into between 10:00 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Saturday, November 6-7.

Theft—A woman was pickpocketed at the University of St. Thomas' development office, 30 S. Finn Ave., between 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Friday, October 30.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A pizza delivery driver was maced and robbed of three pizzas at 1:15 a.m. Wednesday, November 4 on the 1900 block of Carroll Avenue.

Burglary—A blue Denali road bicycle was stolen from an unlocked garage on the 1600 block of Selby Avenue between 4:00 p.m. Monday and 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 2-3. A suspect was found and taken to detox.

Theft—A woman's purse was stolen at Spruce Tree Center, 1600 University Ave., between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 3. The suspect is described as a black, 18-year-old male. He was wearing a white T-shirt and black jacket with an American flag on the side and carrying a guitar.

—An attempted theft occurred at Fairview and Selby avenues at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, November 7. A female driver was sitting in her car when a man approached and opened her passenger door. As he talked with her, he reached in her purse and tried to take her wallet. After she confronted him he dropped the wallet and fled on foot.

Snelling-Hamline

Theft—A B-tank used in plumbing was stolen at Higher Ground Academy, 1381 Marshall Ave., between 3:30 p.m. Friday, October 30, and 7:00 a.m. Monday, November 2.

Summit-University

Burglary—Several guns and other items were stolen from a home on the 900 block of Marshall Avenue between 9:45 a.m. and noon Monday, November 2.

—Nina's Cafe, 165 N. Western Ave., was bro-

ken into at 6:30 a.m. Friday, November 6.

Theft—A car was stolen on the 700 block of Marshall Avenue between 1:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, November 1. More than 100 people attended a house party there on Halloween night. When the resident awoke the next morning, his car keys and his black 2005 BMW were gone.

Weapons—A vehicle and several homes were damaged by gunshots that were fired at Marshall Avenue and Milton Street at 4:00 p.m. Friday, November 6.

—Shots were fired on the 900 block of Selby Avenue about 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 8.

Miscellaneous—Police arrested a juvenile on warrants for drug possession and fleeing police on the 900 block of Concordia Avenue at 11:30 p.m. Saturday, November 7.

West End

Robbery—The Holiday Station, 1445 W. 7th St., was robbed at gunpoint at 11:00 p.m. Saturday, October 31.

—West 7th Pharmacy, 1106 W. 7th St., was robbed at gunpoint at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 4. The suspect gave an employee a note asking for drugs and the employee gave him a bottle of pills. The suspect fled, but police found the man, a 33-year-old downtown resident, on the 700 block of Butternut Street and arrested him.

Burglary—An attempted burglary occurred at the Downtowner Woodfire Grill, 253 W. 7th St., at 3:30 a.m. Friday, November 6. There was more than \$1,000 in property damage.

—JR Mac's Bar & Grill, 1420 W. 7th St., was burglarized at 4:30 a.m. Saturday, November 7.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred at Famous Dave's, 1930 W. 7th St., at 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 2.

—Tools were stolen from the roof of a building on the 400 block of West 7th Street between 5:00 p.m. Thursday and 10:30 a.m. Friday, November 5-6.

Sex crime—Sex offender registration violations were investigated at Monroe School, 810 Palace Ave., on Monday, November 2. The principal called police after receiving notification of a Level II sex offender moving to the neighborhood. According to the principal, the man had been seen in the school without proper identification.

Fire Calls

The following calls were gathered from recent reports by the St. Paul Fire Department.

Highland Park—A 73-year-old woman was struck by a motor vehicle at 3:32 p.m. Monday, November 9, at Cleveland Avenue and Ford Parkway. She was transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

—Inattentive barbecuing led to a two-alarm fire on the 2000 block of Field Avenue at around 10:00 p.m. Monday, November 9. Damage to the home and its contents was estimated at \$90,000.

Macalester-Groveland—A resident called 911 when her carbon monoxide detector went off on the 1600 block of Wellesley Avenue on Sunday, November 8. Carbon monoxide and methane were detected. Gas to the house was shut off, windows were opened and Xcel Energy was notified. The resident did not require medical treatment.

Summit-University—A fire was reported at a construction site's portable bathroom on the 200 block of Marshall Avenue on Sunday, November 8.

West End—Workers struck a gas line while digging a trench outside a construction site on the 1000 block of West 7th Street at 9:00 a.m. Friday, November 6. Workers had a makeshift clamp controlling most of the leak upon the arrival of the rescue squad.

Happy Thanksgiving

A time to pause, reflect, and give thanks to the community I've proudly served for over 19 years.



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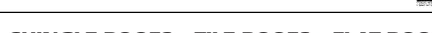


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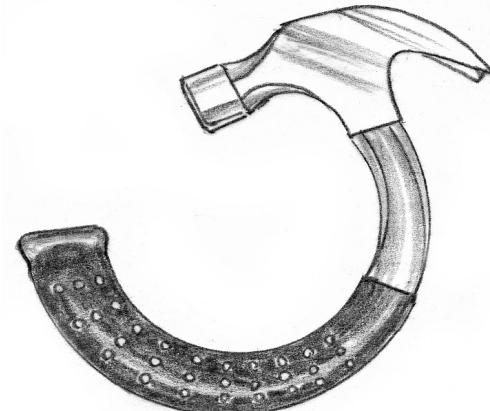
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Business Briefs

Financial Management of Your Business is the topic of a seminar that will be offered by SCORE small business counselors from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 18, at University Bank, 200 University Ave. The seminar will cover financing and loan alternatives, financial accounting and cash flow management. The fee is \$40, which includes materials. Call 651-261-1429.

The Highland Business Association will hold a membership luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, November 19, at Buca di Beppo, 2728 Gannon Road. Merritt Clapp-Smith of the St. Paul planning department will speak about proposed changes to the city's off-street parking rules and regulations. The cost is \$15-\$20. To register, call 651-699-9042 or e-mail sharris@highlandba.com.

The University Avenue Business Association will meet on Thursday, November 19, to discuss the steps small businesses can take now to promote their survival through the four-year Central Corridor light-rail transit project. Rob Routhieaux of the Hamline University School of Business and Eddy Kaiser of the William Mitchell Community Development Clinic will speak. The meeting will begin at 7:45 a.m. in the meeting room of Model Cities, 849 University Ave. Coffee and a light breakfast will be served. Admission is free and open to all.

Cadenza Music, 149 N. Snelling Ave., raised more than \$3,000 for the St. Paul Public Schools' instrumental music program during its 35th anniversary party on October 25. The anniversary party was attended by an estimated 400 people.



Dr. John Piatkowski



Shari Jeziorski

Dr. John Piatkowski has been named vice president and executive medical director of HealthEast Clinics. A former pediatrician at the HealthEast Woodbury Clinic, Piatkowski served as the physician representative to the HealthEast board of directors from 2004 to 2007, chaired the HealthEast Clinics Leadership Group from 2003 to 2006 and served as Woodbury Clinic site medical director from 2003 to 2006. A graduate of Albany Medical College, he earned an MBA from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business.

Shari Jeziorski has joined HealthPoint Oriental Medicine, 232 S. Snelling Ave., as a licensed acupuncturist in traditional Chinese medicine. A graduate of the American

Academy of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, Jeziorski specializes in the treatment of depression and anxiety, insomnia, women's health, pain syndromes, gastrointestinal disorders and cosmetic applications.

Energy Smart, a program of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, is now available to help small- to mid-sized businesses identify ways to save money through energy-efficiency improvements. Representatives from Energy Smart visit a business, conduct a free assessment and then work with the company's local utility to put together a recommended plan. Energy Smart also works with the business to secure financing and contractors. Visit www.mnenergysmart.com.

Terrace Horticultural Books, 503 St. Clair Ave., will host its annual fall open house from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday November 21. Call 651-222-5536.

Grand Hand Gallery, 619 Grand Ave., will hold a holiday open house from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, November 21. The event will include wine, hors d'oeuvres, and live jazz and blues by potter/pianist Chuck Solberg.

Buck Brothers Construction has been awarded Gold Level certification from Minnesota GreenStar for a residential remodeling project on West River Road in Minneapolis that met GreenStar's standards for durable, energy-efficient, high-performance design and construction.

Laurel Street Flowers has relocated from Grand Avenue to 488 S. Hamline Ave. Owner Paula Flom's 12-year-old European-style flower shop now includes handcrafted gifts by local artists and vintage goods. A grand opening is planned for December.

Euphoria Salon, 256 S. Cleveland Ave., is holding a coat drive throughout the month of November. Those who bring in a gently worn coat will receive complimentary hair products. One gift will be offered per household. The coats will benefit Mary Queen of Peace Friary, 1289 Lafond Ave. Call 651-698-6385.

The St. Paul Association of Realtors and the Southern Twin Cities Association of Realtors have merged into a combined group serving more than 5,900 members in the metro area. The merger will take effect at the start

BUSINESS BRIEFS ▶21

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Sweet front porch, hardwood floors and fabulous 2½-car garage. Walk to St. Kates, shopping, walking and biking paths along the river, movies and restaurants! 2094 Palace Ave. www.AtHomeWithSue.com

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This fully updated Eagan home is tucked into a quiet wooded area where wildlife abounds! 4 bedrooms, spacious and updated kitchen, open floor plan! So close to nature yet so convenient to the airport, downtowns and shopping. www.AtHomeWithSue.com

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NEW LISTING - RAMBLER IN HIGHLAND
Fabulous all-brick 3-BR, 2-bath only available due to transfer. Super main floor family room leads to deck & huge, private landscaped backyard. Open & airy eat-in kitchen. Natural woodwork & gorgeous hardwood floors throughout.

GARY FABEL
651-282-9613 • \$319,900

KAT BOURQUE
651-695-3495

NEW LIST!
Amazing woodwork, curved archways, and stunning, spacious kitchen. 1st floor family room and library, wrap-around deck, screened front porch, 2nd floor summer porch, finished 3rd floor. 4+ BRs, 4 baths and a wonderful yard. 1411 Summit.

JANE AUSTIN McGRATH
651-282-9625 • \$975,000

1ST TIME BUYER HOME
117 Mackubin: 3 BRs, 2 full remodeled baths, 1,700 sq. ft. of great living space in beautiful building with all the woodwork, leaded glass, hardwood floors and charm you could want. Great location. A steal!

JOHN JOHNSON
651-334-7916 • \$230,000

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Set high on a corner lot, this light-filled home has it all. Maintenance-free, one level living, new kitchen, 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths.

JOAN JOHNSON
651-282-9626 • \$239,900

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556

RAMSEY HILL TOWNHOME
Recipient of the 2007 Heritage Preservation Award for excellence in the total renovation category! Fabulous kitchen, 3 BRs, 3 baths, fireplace and double garage. This home features all of the modern conveniences, yet preserves its historical significance. 417 Holly.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$495,000

MAJESTIC 1889 ROW HOUSE
This Ramsey Hill home combines original character w/modern amenities. Antique fixtures, 3 fireplaces, ornate wdwk, AC, hi-tech audio wiring, updated mech., deck & 1-car garage plus 2 extra parking spaces. True 4-level New York-style townhome. No assoc. fee. 552 Dayton.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$645,000

WHAT A RARE FIND!
This sun-drenched home combines vintage architectural detail with amenities not normally found in a Victorian-era home, including central air, 2 newer baths and first floor laundry. Nestled on one of Crocus Hill's finer streets.

KATHRYN KENNEDY & KATE BECKMAN
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Pat McGill

20 □ BUSINESS BRIEFS

of 2010. Services will be provided at both the St. Paul and Eagan offices. A new board of directors, led by president Tony Maurer, has been charged with establishing a new identity and name for the organization.

Salon Ori has opened at 1166 Selby Ave., across from Pizza Luce. The salon is owned by Jen Hunt and Amberjean Hegge. Visit www.salonori.com.

HealthEast hospitals are now implementing visitor restrictions to help prevent the spread of flu viruses. The temporary rules apply at Bethesda, St. John's, St. Joseph's and Woodwinds hospitals. The public is asked not to visit patients if they are sick or have flu-like symptoms, including a fever greater than 100.4 degrees, a cough, a cold, runny nose, a sore throat or diarrhea. No visitors will be admitted under age 5, visiting hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., visitors must receive a wellness screening and a visitors badge at the information desks, and no more than three visitors will be allowed at a time. The restrictions will remain in effect throughout the flu season. Visit www.healtheast.org.

Fisico, a personal training facility, has opened at 617 S. Snelling Ave. The gym, which is open by appointment only, is owned and operated by Gena Balsimo, formerly the co-owner of Flex Appeal personal training center in Macalester-Groveland.

Dance-N-Magic studio has opened at 913 Selby Ave. Owner Anna Tilsen-Mogeni is offering classes in hip-hop, tap, jazz, ballet, kids Dancercise and adult Dancerobics. Those who volunteer at the studio are offered free dance lessons.

WellBody-WellBeing, a nutrition counseling and consulting practice, has opened at 232 S. Snelling Ave. Owner Rebecca Schauer promotes plant-based diets for preventing disease, managing weight and treating health conditions. WellBody-WellBody also provides individualized diet counseling and

weight-loss coaching as well as nutrition consulting for businesses and organizations.

The West 7th Business Association is conducting a donation drive for Joseph's Coat, 1107 W. 7th St., from now through December 15. New and gently used or handmade winter coats, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for adults and children may be dropped off at Cooper's SuperValu, Shamrock's Irish Nook, Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union, Seventh Street Storage and American Bank.

Ricardo Levins Morales Art Studio, 3745 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis, will hold its grand opening from noon to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, December 5, and from noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 6. Morales is known for his political art and involvement in the U.S. labor movement. Music and spoken word performances will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. The grand opening also celebrates the launch of his website rlmarts.com, which will distribute the artist's posters and note cards.

Life Time Fitness Highland Park, 2145 Ford Pkwy., will hold a member preview party from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, November 20, to show off its new look. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony, refreshments, yoga marathon mixer, group fitness class, balloon artist, face painter and prizes. The club will reopen for workouts on November 21.

"Export Essentials: Finding and Motivating The Right Foreign Business Partner" will be offered from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 3, at the Minnesota Trade Office, 332 Minnesota St. The seminar will include market-entry strategies, legal definitions, elements of a distributor agreement, and how to motivate and cultivate distributor loyalty. The cost is \$55 in advance and \$75 at the door, and includes light breakfast, refreshments, lunch and materials. Call Mary Jo Stangl at 651-259-7495.

School Notes

The Dodge Nature Preschool will hold informational sessions from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, December 9 (also from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.) and January 14. The preschool offers students a chance to discover prairies, ponds, woodland trails and a 40-acre model farm. Call Natalie Olsen at 651-455-4555 or visit www.dodgenaturecenter.org/preschool.

St. Catherine University has been awarded a \$126,000 grant from the Public Benefit Grant Program of TG, a Texas-based nonprofit corporation, to help develop its student financial literacy program. Now in its third year, the program was created in response to the rising costs for higher education and focuses on first-generation college students. The program initially offered a series of lectures and discussions, a two-credit course on financial fitness and on-campus financial counseling. The grant will enable St. Kate's to now add a full-time director of financial literacy and create a student money-mentor program. The university also is continuing its plans to develop a comprehensive financial management center for students.

The University of St. Thomas will present its 22nd annual Christmas concert, "Tis Love That's Born Tonight," at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 6, at Orchestra Hall in downtown Minneapolis. The concert will feature nearly 300 student performers in seven of the

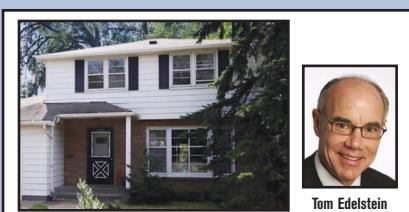
university's vocal and instrumental ensembles. Tickets are \$15, plus a nominal transaction fee, and are available at www.minnesotaorchestra.org or 612-371-5656.

Admission Possible students from 19 high schools, including 33 from Highland Park and 102 from Central, gathered 10,263 pounds of food and other donations for Minnesota's Emergency Foodshelf Network by going trick-or-treating for canned goods in 13 metro neighborhoods during Halloween. The Highland students alone gathered 708 items, while Central students collected 1,032. Community service is a key component of Admission Possible's free, two-year programming to help promising low-income high school students earn admission into college. Visit www.admissionpossible.org.

St. Thomas Academy honored four alumni veterans at a special Veterans' Day assembly on November 11. Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Ken Deans, 97, a 1930 STA graduate and Pearl Harbor survivor, received the academy's Fleming Alumni Veteran Award. Other alumni recognized with the award for their honorable service included: retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Jack Clarke (class of '48), First Lieutenant Robert E. Lee ('43), who was killed during World War II at the age of 19; and U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General George Monahan Jr. ('49) who died in 1993.



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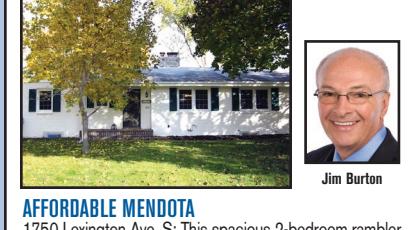


Jim Burton

PRIVATE POND SETTING

1883 Warrior Drive: This quality built 4-BR walkout rambler is in impeccable condition and situated on a very private wooded pond lot. It features an entertainment-sized great room and updated family-sized kitchen with center island, and delightful screen porch.

JIM BURTON
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Jim Burton

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1750 Lexington Ave. S: This spacious 2-bedroom rambler features a large "country" kitchen with a handsome brick fireplace in the eating area, king-sized master bedroom, 2 baths, and the lower level finished as well with amusement room and office.

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Jim Burton

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1652 James Road: Immaculate 3-BR rambler with all-new hardwood floors, large main floor family room with a delightful deck off it, 2 fireplaces, eat-in kitchen, and a king-sized master bedroom and deluxe bath.

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Pat McGill

COMING SOON

1837 Minnehaha Ave. is the home you've been waiting for. It offers 3 BRs, two baths, a cozy living room with a gas fireplace, a delightful front porch and a detached garage. This home has been totally redone. Every surface sparkles.

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Pat McGill

JUST LISTED!

2179 Berkeley Ave. is a spectacular 3-BR, 2-story stucco home with a cozy living room, fireplace, formal dining room, first floor sun room, wonderful eat-in kitchen, spacious lower-level family room, and a 2-car garage.

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Rosemary McNeely & Lolly McNeely Salmen

UNBELIEVABLE VIEWS!

For this tree-top condo corner unit overlooking the river at 291 7th St. W #1401, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths for \$159,900. Light and bright; close before November 30th.

LOLLY SALMEN CRS • **ROSEMARY McNEELY** CRS
651-690-8582 • \$159,900



Rosemary McNeely & Lolly McNeely Salmen

NEW MENDOTA HEIGHTS LIST!

717 Marie Ave. is a lovely 3-BR, 4-bath, sun-drenched modified 2-story with all the upgrades: granite, stainless, main floor family room plus finished lower level. Wrap-around porch & gazebo, great lot.

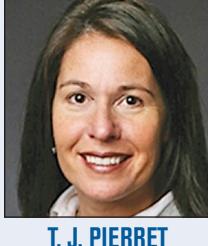
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BETTY RUNYON
651-690-8575



ROSEMARY & LOLLY
651-690-8582



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KATHERINE LUND
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NANCY MAAS
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Rachel Littles, 9, is joined by mom Cristal Bunch at the Ford plant on November 11 as UAW volunteer Kari Altema explains the food package options offered by Fare for All, a cooperative food-purchasing program. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Come and get it! Fare For All helps stretch holiday food budget

BY BOB GILBERT

One Wednesday a month for the past year, a truck arrives at the Ford plant in Highland Park not filled with auto parts, but with packages of meat, fruit and other food items. The truck is unloaded by volunteers from the United Auto Workers, who set up a cash register and help customers carry their purchases to their cars.

It's all part of Fare For All, a nonprofit program that offers food for 30 to 50 percent less than what one would expect to spend at a grocery store. Sponsored by the Emergency Food Network, Fare For All buys food in bulk at wholesale prices. Volunteers supply much of the labor to keep the overhead low. And the program is open to everyone, regardless of income.

The UAW did a test run of the program in the summer of 2008 and it was so well-received that it has been a monthly event since shortly after that, according to Tracy Ausen, a UAW apprenticeship coordinator at the plant.

"We thought it would be a great program for our employees, especially with the plant closings and the layoffs," Ausen said. "But we soon opened it up to the community, since we have the perfect place to host it."

Denny Dickhausen, a Highland Park resident who worked at the plant for more than 36 years before he retired, shows up each month to help Fare For All shoppers carry their groceries to their cars.

"For Thanksgiving they have this nice holiday package and everything you need is included," he said. "It's a neat deal. The people who come to buy food are happy to get the bargains. I often see many of the same people each month and they say it helps a lot."

The Ford plant is one of 18 Fare For All Express locations around the Twin Cities where people can stop by once a month. Special holiday food packages are currently being offered for \$25. The November package includes a turkey, peach pie, loaf of bread, vegetables, pork tenderloin and chicken breasts. In December, a ham will be substituted for the turkey, along with other foods for



Heather Jacobson is assisted by UAW volunteer Stanley Kasal with her Fare for All purchases at the Ford plant.

holiday meals.

Other packages containing meat, fruit and vegetables, as well as meat-only and vegetarian packages, are offered for between \$10 and \$17. Checks are not accepted, but participants may pay with cash and credit cards. Food stamps are accepted, too.

Upcoming distributions will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays, November 17 and December 15, at the St. Paul Labor Centre, 411 Main St.; from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 9, at the Ford plant, 966 S. Mississippi River Blvd.; and from 10:00 a.m. to noon Friday, December 4, at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St.

There is also the traditional Fare For All program, which involves placing a food order by phone and picking it up a week later at one of 70 pre-pay sites. Local pickup sites include St. Luke Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Hamline United Methodist Church and Trinity Church of God and Christ.

Around 17,000 people take advantage of the Fare For All programs each month throughout the state. The goal, according to organizers, is to get nutritious food into the hands of people who need it.

Lynne Larkin-Wright, community services liaison for the St. Paul AFL-CIO, promotes the program to her

union members, but she also sends out flyers to local church groups and to high-rise apartments near the Ford plant.

"Times are tough for a lot of folks," she said. "The whole country is hurting, and if you can save a little with Fare For All and put that money toward Thanksgiving or paying utilities or credit card bills, it can really help."

"Fare For All is not charity," Larkin-Wright continued. "You don't have to fill out forms or verify your income. The program is for everybody."

The organization, which was previously called Fair Share, once operated out of a warehouse at Raymond and University avenues. Its new location is a 55,000-square-foot warehouse in New Hope, where food is collected and sorted into boxes.

"People get sticker shock when they see how much things cost and they're looking for ways to save money," said Fare For All outreach coordinator Sophia Lenarz-Coy. "Some clip coupons, some consider joining Costco. Fare For All is another alternative. It's a good fit for people trying to stretch their food dollars."

The program recently got a boost from the St. Paul Foundation, which gave it a \$176,000 grant to expand into east metro locations into Lakeland, Stillwater, South St. Paul, Roseville and North St. Paul.

Church groups, retiree groups and individual volunteers supply the manpower at the Fare For All warehouse. Corporations like Target, Medtronic and Cargill also supply up to 50 employees monthly to pack boxes of food and deliver them out to the distribution points in refrigerated trucks.

"Even if you aren't on a tight budget, you help increase Fare For All's buying power by your participation and keep prices low for everyone," Ausen said. "It's a win-win situation."

Fare For All needs additional volunteers. For information, call 763-450-3880 or visit www.fareforall.org.

Food

A dipper's delight

Robust oils & vinegars from around the world are on tap at Olive Grove

BY NANCY CROTTI

Natalie Jaeger knew it wouldn't be easy to land a new job when her husband was transferred to St. Paul from Chicago last year. Jaeger had been managing the conversion of old buildings to condominiums in downtown Chicago. Because the real estate market had soured, she decided to play off her love of cooking and tried to get a sales job with a food distributor. With no prior food business experience, her attempts fizzled.

She was still unemployed in January of this year when a visit to an Appleton, Wisconsin, store that sells imported olive oil and balsamic vinegar in bulk sparked a new idea.

"The wheels were spinning. I'm like, 'I can do this,'" she thought during the drive home to her West End condo. "I spent that 4½ hours thinking, 'How can I set up my store?' and 'How can I pitch it to my husband, who's really conservative?'"

Her husband, Drew, a vice president with a local insurance company, challenged her to come up with a business plan. Jaeger spent

"I don't know that I've ever had a balsamic that was that flavorful. The truffle oils were particularly amazing. The porcini oil tastes like straight mushroom oil. The flavors are so strong."

the next six weeks researching similar stores around the country and figuring out a strategy. With a solid business plan finally in place, Drew advised her to start looking for financing.

"Every bank I talked to was on board," she said. "The hardest part was finding a location."

Jaeger scouted for sites in Stillwater, White Bear Lake, Woodbury and on Grand Avenue in St. Paul. When the latter site fell through, she considered giving up, but the owner of that space offered to show her a spot in the Village at Mendota Heights on Highway 110 and Dodd Road. With some plumbing work to comply with food safety regulations, the space was a good fit.

Jaeger's experience selecting flooring, fixtures and appliances for Chicago condos is evident in the decor of the Olive Grove Olive Oil Company, a specialty food store that she opened last month at 720 Main St. The 1,100 square feet of retail area has warm wood-finished floors and walls painted to evoke sunny Tuscan olive groves. Stainless steel casks (called *fusti* in Italian) filled with extra virgin olive oils, flavored oils and aged balsamic vinegars are lined up along two islands and a counter. Customers may sip samples from tiny cups or dip bread cubes into them.

The olive oils come from Spain, Italy,



Jaeger draws olive oil from a cannister for tasting at the Olive Grove.



Natalie Jaeger stands by containers of extra virgin olive oils and balsamic vinegars in her new Olive Grove specialty store in the Village at Mendota Heights. PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

France, Greece, Australia, Chile, Tunisia and California, and vary in availability depending upon the season. Flavors also vary based on when the olives were picked and whether they were pressed with fruits or vegetables, such as garlic, lemons, blood oranges or Persian limes. With the exception of one 18-year-old specimen, the balsamic vinegars are 12 years old and come in flavors such as red apple and black cherry.

The store also carries gourmet mustards, stuffed olives, spice mixes, olive oil-based soaps and lotions, fresh baked bread, imported Italian pasta and cooking accessories. (A full list of products and recipes may be found at www.theolivegroveoliveoil.com.)

Jaeger compared olives to grapes in terms of variety and the timing of their harvest. "Early harvest always will be green and have a very pungent, robust flavor," she said. "It could be grassy or it could be peppery. If you do a late harvest, it gives you a milder, mellower taste. It could be buttery or fruity."

Customer Jim Thoreson of Inver Grove Heights was prompted to visit the Olive Grove after sampling its wares at the nearby Wine Market. "(Jaeger) gave me a sample of garlic olive oil, and I could almost drink it, it was so

good," he said. "My kids love it. I'm totally impressed with the market there."

Customer Travis Anderson of Minneapolis said he also appreciated the quality. "The one that I was blown away by was the pomegranate balsamic," he said. "I don't know that I've ever had a balsamic that was that flavorful. The truffle oils were particularly amazing. The porcini oil tastes like straight mushroom oil. The flavors are so strong."

Because Jaeger buys in bulk, the extra virgin olive oils sell for \$14.50-\$15.50 per 12.7-ounce bottle. Vinegars are priced from \$13-\$18 per bottle. Though the prices are comparable, she said, the difference between her olive oil and supermarket brands is freshness.

"Olive oil has a relatively short shelf life," she said. "As soon as it's exposed to heat, light and air, it starts becoming rancid. More important, as it breaks down, it loses all of its health benefits as well."

Those health benefits include antioxidants that benefit the heart, reduce cholesterol levels and may prevent cancer. "We bottle it in these green bottles so there's no direct exposure to light," Jaeger said. "You've got a good nine months to use it before it'll be completely void of its flavor and its health benefits."

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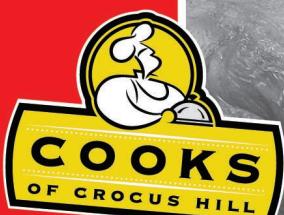
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Hot Dish
By Morgan Smith

Coming home to Grand's Huong Sen

My dining partner handed me her fortune at the end of our meal at Huong Sen, a Vietnamese restaurant located at 1702 Grand Ave. The slip of paper cautioned that quality was more important than quantity—a peculiar admonition coming from a restaurant that has well over 100 entrées on its menu, not counting the specials posted on a sign near the door.

Granted, many of the items on Huong Sen's menu are variations on a theme, e.g., the imperial chicken, imperial shrimp, imperial beef and imperial pork. However, the breadth of the menu is still impressive. Even more remarkable is the quality of the offerings. The kitchen at Huong Sen serves up consistently good food.

Huong Sen opened in 1990, the same year I moved within three blocks of its front door. Almost immediately, it became my favorite dining spot when I didn't care to cook. Once or twice a month, I'd split a couple of spring rolls with shrimp (\$4.75) with a friend and then feast on the imperial chicken (\$9.95).

The spring rolls, which are stuffed with rice noodles and served with fish sauce for dipping, are as good as any I've had. The imperial chicken is a generous serving of chicken, onions, lemon grass, garlic and ginger mixed with a hot sauce. It comes with white rice and has just the right kick—a little on the spicy side but without the nose-watering burn.

One day I was feeling adventurous and asked if the hot and sour shrimp soup (\$8.65) was big enough for two. Dung Nguyen, who runs the restaurant with her sister, said it was, and brought out a bowl that was big enough to bathe a small child. I had had hot and sour soup at any number of Asian buffets, but this soup was different. It wasn't the usual lumps of tofu, slices of water chestnuts and bamboo shoots in a brownish broth, but a steaming cornucopia of crunchy vegetables and giant shrimp served with rice noodles on the side. One sip



The chicken lo mein at Huong Sen, a favorite of owner Dung Nguyen.

PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

and it became my new favorite.

Another time, a friend of mine ordered the chicken and potato (\$9.45), which comes with onions and tomatoes in an oyster sauce. I tried it and was immediately hooked. The potato is reminiscent of potato chips and may especially appeal to people who, like me, love the crunchy part of casseroles.

Over the years, I've also tried Huong Sen's traditional Vietnamese salad with chicken (\$8.65), which is a bowl of rice noodles and lettuce topped with chicken; the Vietnamese barbecue chicken with steamed rice (\$9.45); the curried chicken Vietnamese style (\$10.65); and the spicy mustard chicken (\$10.95), which is similar to the imperial chicken but with a spicy mustard sauce instead of the hot sauce. I liked them all, especially the spicy mustard chicken, though it's a little spicier than the imperial chicken.

Admittedly, I don't know a lot about traditional Vietnamese cuisine, but Nguyen, 61, certainly does. She and her sister lived in Saigon during the Vietnam War, and after the war they opened a restaurant in what by then had been rechristened Ho Chi Minh City. In 1983 they immigrated to the U.S.

Vegan bloggers have given high marks to Huong Sen for having plenty of tofu and mock duck dishes. Not a big fan of either, I'll rely on the word of my semi-vegetarian girlfriend, who loves the tofu at Huong Sen (which translates as "lotus blossom") and gets mad at me whenever she learns that I've eaten at the restaurant without her. In fact, every person I've ever brought to Huong Sen has praised the food.

I stopped in at 4:00 p.m. on a recent Saturday and ordered

something I'd never tried before, the beef and mushrooms in black bean sauce (\$10.95) and the sweet and sour soup (\$9.95), a gargantuan bowl of chicken, shrimp and vegetables in a sweet and sour broth with rice noodles on the side. The sweet and sour soup was nearly as good as the hot and sour soup. And the beef dish, served with fresh white mushrooms, onions, peapods and ginger in a hearty black bean sauce, was scrumptious. It's now one of my top three entrées at Huong Sen.

The last time I ate at Huong Sen, Nguyen talked me into having her favorite dish, the chicken lo mein (\$9.95), which comes with egg noodles, onions, bean sprouts and carrots. I wouldn't order it again and again as I would many of the other dishes at Huong Sen, but it too was tasty.

Nguyen's restaurant is decorated with the obligatory paper lanterns, Chinese dragons and Asian art—nothing fancy. There's also a bar in the back that serves beer (mostly foreign) and wine (mostly domestic).

On my last visit to Huong Sen, the mood seemed a bit somber. Nguyen recently cut back on her hours, and the restaurant is now closed from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. As I was waiting to pay my bill, one of a fairly steady stream of take-out customers chatted with Nguyen about the economy. It was a slow night at the restaurant, and Nguyen told the customer that business was down, but then moved on to other topics.

As I paid my bill, I told Nguyen that I was sure the rain was the reason business was slow that night. At least I hoped it was true. I'd hate to lose a restaurant that has become so familiar, it feels like home.

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Wednesday/November 18

A PRESENTATION on preparing for the flu will be offered from 10:30 to 11:30 this morning at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. The presentation will include the basics of seasonal, avian and pandemic influenza, when to see the doctor and more. The suggested donation is \$3.00. Call 651-298-5493 to register.

A "SHOP WITH COPS" fundraising breakfast will be held at 7:30 this morning at Fabulous Fern's, 400 Selby Ave. Police Chief John Harrington will talk about building relationships between youths and police officers. The cost is \$40. Visit www.shopwithcops.com or call 651-225-9414.

Thursday/November 19

A SPAGHETTI DINNER will be served at 6:00 this evening at the SonShine Learning Center, 680 Highway 110, Mendota Heights. Tickets are \$5.00. An auction of art by SonShine students will follow dinner. Call 651-454-1945.

THE ST. PAUL METRO LA LECHE League will meet at 7:00 this evening. All expectant and nursing mothers and their babies are welcome. Call 651-645-8516.

"MOVING ST. PAUL FORWARD," a Smart Trips Union Park program, will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 this evening at A Fine Grind, 2038 Marshall Ave. The discussion will center on making St. Paul a more walkable and bikeable city. Free drinks, appetizers and door prizes are included. Call 651-224-8555.

THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY of the Archaeological Institute of America will offer a free lecture at 6:00 this evening in the campus center at Macalester College. Edward Fleming of the Science Museum of Minnesota will discuss archaeological remains from Minnesota in "Rendezvous at Red Wing: Community and Aggregation at the Red Wing Locality, AD 1100-1400." Visit aiamn.blogspot.com/.

Friday/November 20

A CHRISTMAS ART SALE will be held from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. today and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. tomorrow at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. The sale will include pottery, jewelry, homemade cards, photography and more. There also will be refreshments and a door prize. Call 651-696-2751.

A NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUSE will be open for refreshments, live music, board games and conversation from 7:00 to 9:30 this evening at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Call 651-698-9443.

A HUNGER BANQUET will be held at 5:00 this evening in Kagan Commons at Macalester College. Participants will be assigned a specific country and served a meal depending on their country's income bracket. The minimum donation is \$5.00, with proceeds benefitting the Jeremiah Program for low-income single mothers and Heifer International, which provides livestock to families threatened by hunger.

Saturday/November 21

A HOLIDAY SHOPPING BOUTIQUE will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Ana Bustos Corona, 9, examines Democracy Speaks, the newest addition to Western Sculpture Park in Summit-University. The megaphone-shaped sculpture faces the state Capitol, shown lit up in the background. It was created by John Hock and Andrew MacGuffie and commissioned by Public Art St. Paul. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

today at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The boutique will feature gifts and decorations, including handcrafted items and baked goods, as well as a Grandma's Attic. Lunch and refreshments will be sold. Call 612-722-0232.

A GREEK BAKE SALE will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today and from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. tomorrow at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Ave. The sale will feature holiday breads and Greek pastries, including baklava and dips. Lunch will feature popular spinach pie, feta cheese pie and pastitsio. There also will be a holiday boutique.

CREATE A VICTORIAN BOXWOOD tree during a workshop from 10:00 a.m. to noon and repeated from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. today at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 Exchange St. Participants will use boxwood greens, ornaments and ribbons to create a 12-inch tree for the holidays. The cost is \$45-\$55, and includes refreshments and a short tour. To register, call 651-643-3601.

A BUCKTHORN COOKOUT for families with young children will be offered from 1:00 to 2:30 this afternoon at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Participants will pull some buckthorn and cut it into

walking sticks as well as firewood for a cookout in the woods. The cost is \$5.00-\$7.00 per person, or \$15-\$20 per family. Call 651-455-4531.

NATURE BEADING will be offered at 1:00 this afternoon at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. The class will focus on making a nature-themed bracelet and a set of earrings. Supplies will be provided. Those with beading tools are encouraged to bring them along. The cost is \$15-\$20. Call 651-455-4531.

THE BULLFROG BASH will take place at 5:30 this evening at the Depot in Minneapolis to raise money for the Jeremiah Project, which serves young mothers and their children. The evening will include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, fine dining, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the music of the Casablanca Orchestra. Tickets start at \$200. There also will be a Late Night Leap, where people may join the party after dinner for dancing, cocktails and late-night bites for \$40 a ticket. Call 612-259-3011.

Sunday/November 22

A PANCAKE BREAKFAST with craft and bake sale will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today at the Czech and Slovak Sokol

Minnesota, 383 Michigan St. The cost is \$4.50-\$6.50, or \$18 for a family of four. Call 651-290-0542 or visit www.sokolmn.org.

"SHOLOM FOR THE HOLIDAYS," a holiday craft fair, will be held from noon to 4:00 p.m. today at the Shaller Family Sholom East Campus on Otto Avenue and West 7th Street. Local vendors and craftspeople will be featured, complimentary gift wrapping will be available and hot knishes will be for sale, along with other treats. Call 651-328-2063.

Monday/November 23

A WOMEN'S ROUND TABLE will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. today at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Financial guru Ruth Hayden will lead a discussion about women and money. Call Beth Friend at 651-255-4735 to register.

Tuesday/November 24

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening in the parking lot of Nova Classical Academy, 1668 Montreal Ave., for a residential hike. Call 651-455-0052 or visit stpaulhike.org.

Wednesday/November 25

A PANEL DISCUSSION sponsored by the Somali Justice Advocacy Center will be held at 5:30 this evening in the Hillcrest Recreation Center auditorium, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The forum will address the issue of young Twin Cities Somali men allegedly going back to their homeland to fight. The panel will include legal professionals, a parent of one of the young men, and others from the Somali community.

Thursday/November 26

A FREE THANKSGIVING MEAL will be served at noon today by congregation members at Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church, 435 S. Hamline Ave. Reservations are not required, but are helpful. Non-perishable items also will be collected for the church's Walter Wilson Food Drive. Call 651-698-3889.

Saturday/November 28

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES will be offered from 1:00 to 5:00 this afternoon at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. The rides leave every 15 minutes and take in scenic Irvine Park. The cost is \$10-\$12. Call 651-296-8760.

A TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY will take place at 6:00 this evening at Rice Park in downtown St. Paul. The 75-foot-tall tree will be festooned with 30,000 colored lights and the park will be decorated with classic nutcrackers and gingerbread men. The evening will also include a visit from Santa Claus and entertainment. Call 651-265-4900.

Tuesday/December 1

A CONVERSATIONAL SALON will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. Evelyn Klein will read from *Once Upon a Neighborhood*, her new book of poetry, prose and art. The salon is free, but donations are requested for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

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Religious Notes

The Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., is offering the following: the Hazak group will learn to make and bake challah and sufganiyot (jelly donuts) from local expert Berta Shapiro at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 19 (\$7.00, bring a cookie sheet and apron); "Coffee with Rashi" at 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays with Rabbi Alan Shavit-Lonstein; a Hebrew class at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays; and a Talmud class at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Bible class at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Call 651-698-8874.

Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, 1890 Randolph Ave., is offering the following: a men's workshop on "Writing as a Form of Self-Awareness" with Jim Rogers of the Center for Irish Studies from 7:15 to 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 2 (\$25, includes continental breakfast); "Coming Forth as Elders—Heartening Community with the Vision of Elderhood" with Kaia Svenn and Eric Utne of the *Utne Reader* and the University of Minnesota Center for Spirituality from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday, December 4 (\$40, includes lunch); and a Winter Light family event with artist and poet Marie Olofsdotter from 10:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, December 12 (\$10). Call 651-696-2788.

"Christian Realism and Public Life: Catholic and Protestant Perspectives" is the topic of a conference sponsored by the University of St. Thomas' Institute for Catholic Thought, Law, and Public Policy. The conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, November 20-21, at the university's School of Law, located on Harmon Place between 11th and 12th streets in down-

town Minneapolis. Admission is free. To register, visit www.stthomas.edu/law/rsvp or call 651-962-4842.

"The Apocrypha," a series of classes covering the ancient Jewish texts that were not accepted as scripture, will be conducted at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, December 1, 8 and 15, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St.

Paul Ave. The classes will be taught by Raysh Weiss, a doctoral student in comparative literature and cultural studies at the University of Minnesota. The cost is \$60-\$90. To register, call 651-698-0751.

"Any Given Sunday: Spiritual Combat and the Mass" will be addressed by the Reverend John Paul Erickson during the Saturday Breakfast for Men on November 21 at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St. in Minneapolis. Mass will open the morning at 8:00, followed at 8:30 by breakfast and Erickson's talk in the parish's Rowan Hall. An optional question-and-answer session will follow from 9:30 to 10:00. The cost is \$5.00. For reservations, call 612-729-7321 by noon on November 20.

An ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service will be celebrated by Olivet Congregational and Pilgrim Lutheran churches, in partnership with Good Shepherd Methodist and Immanuel Lutheran churches, at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 25, at Olivet, 1850 Iglehart Ave.



Raysh Weiss

An adult choir, open to all, will help lead the service, with a rehearsal beginning at 6:15 p.m. A pie and dessert social will follow. Call 651-646-1478.

The Gregorian Singers will perform during an Advent procession at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, November 29, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on the Hill, 1524 Summit Ave. The candlelit program will include singing, prayer and movement.

An Advent retreat will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, December 5, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 4537 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch. To register, call 612-823-8205.

"Stories Work," a workshop on the sacred art of story gathering, will be offered from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, December 5, at the Sacred Ground Center for Spirituality, 1890 Randolph Ave. The workshop will be led by author and storyteller Ted Bowman. The cost is \$75, which includes lunch. Bring a friend and the cost drops to \$45 each. Register by November 23 by calling 651-696-2798.

Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 38th Ave. S., Minneapolis, will host a Joyous Jazz and Scrumptious Singing Christmas Concert at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, December 6. Jazz of the season will be performed by the Bryan Nichols Trio. The combined choir of Minnehaha and Spirit of the Lakes UCC churches will also perform. Tickets for the concert are \$15, \$8.00 for children under age 12. Donations of canned food for Minnehaha United's food shelf will also be welcome.

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On the Town

Bird's-eye view

West offers look into colorful career of television host kids knew as Axel

BY JOEL THINGVALL

"Away out in the forest, high in a big tree house, lives our old friend Axel. Let's climb up the tree house and see what's happening today."

Like many youngsters growing up in the 1950s and '60s, Julian West was led by those words up the tree house steps to a cardboard kingdom inhabited by an old coot wearing a striped T-shirt and railroad cap with the bill turned up. The bug-eyed, mustachioed host would greet TV viewers in a Swedish accent, "Hi, kids! Diss iss Axel."

Little could West imagine how long his quest to discover the secrets of Axel (aka Clellan Card) would take him. Born in Manhattan, West's family relocated in the mid-'50s to South Minneapolis during the beginning of the golden (if black and white) age of local kids' television shows. "In 1958, we moved to Little Falls," West said, "close enough to still get the signal from WCCO-TV. 'Axel and His Dog' was there every day after school and on Saturdays."

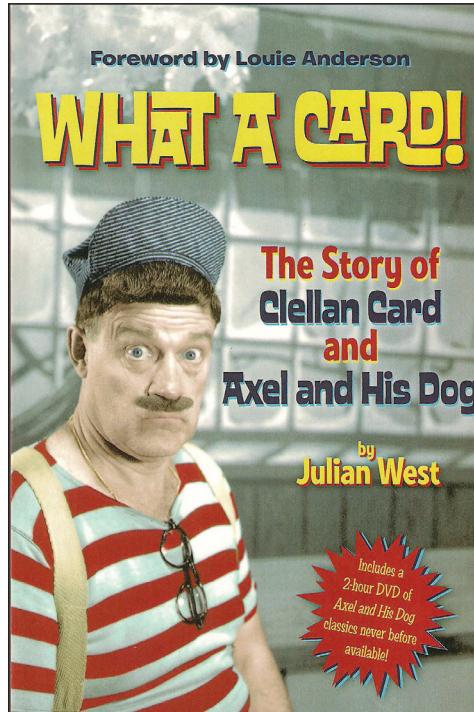
West describes the formula for the show's success in his book *What A Card! The Story of Clellan Card and Axel and His Dog* (Beaver's Pond Press): "Besides a generous helping of jokes and riddles, a typical episode might include insults, arguments, physical violence, drinking, mood-altering drugs—wait a minute! This is a children's show?"

But it was all playtime. There were tongue-in-cheek arguments, a bop on the noggin or a pie in the face. Drinks were shots of milk or Bosco. And there was lots of catnip.

"Even in the mid-'60s, approaching high school, my friends and I would tune into Axel and laugh," said West, who is now 59. "There was a reality to his character that others of that era didn't have. Other children's show hosts were trying to be funny. Axel really was."

Axel disappeared from the airwaves in 1966 and West went on to major in ancient history at the University of Minnesota before settling back in South Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood. In 1990, a friend gave him a compilation of Axel clips, "and I became a fan all over again," he said.

That was the beginning of a two-decade quest to learn more about the man who played Axel. West quickly discovered that Card was a local radio superstar in the 1930s.



"He worked for all the big stations—WDGY, WCCO and KSTP," he said.

Card became the host of the WCCO Radio program "Almanac of the Air" in 1936. It was only supposed to run one season, but his "ethnic humor and corny jokes with a screwball cast of characters" proved popular with listeners, West said. Card's portrayal of the mad Swede named Axel first popped up in 1937 on "Axel the Newscaster." Though that show only lasted a few months, "Almanac of the Air" remained a listener favorite. In 1939 more than 1,800 fans showed up in downtown Minneapolis at 7:00 a.m. to watch Card's show and take part in a doughnut dunking jamboree.

Then in 1944, after "a seven-year reign as king jokester of the a.m. airwaves," Card's show was cancelled after WCCO added a CBS News program to its morning lineup.

KSTP quickly grabbed Card for its noon news hour. He also hosted that station's morning show "Dunking at the Card Table," which allowed him to resume to his hijinks.

Card later returned to WCCO with a late-night show, but listeners apparently found his routines stale. "He literally was telling the same jokes," West said.

Shortly after the tragic deaths of two of his three sons, Card created "Axel and His Dog" in 1954. He dusted off his main



Julian West clutches an Axel doll and peers through a spyglass like Clellan Card did half a century ago as host of the popular kids' show "Axel and His Dog." PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Scandihoovian character, local director/actor Don Stoltz created a hand puppet named Towser the Dog, and history was made.

"It was slow going at first," West said. "Cartoons were part of the show and Axel's were really bad." But when "The Little Rascals" were added to Axel's half-hour, West said the show "quickly became the king of late-afternoon kid-vid."

The show ran for 12 years. Stoltz later added Tallulah the Cat and the puppets would fuss with Axel between clips from "The Little Rascals," "The Bowery Boys" and, later, "Rocky and Bullwinkle." When Stoltz left the show, Mary Davies became Axel's full-time sidekick as Carmen the Nurse.

West said it was Carmen who had to tell viewers that Axel would not be back in 1966 after Card succumbed to a year-long battle with cancer at age 62. "It was a very moving moment in live television that few would forget," he said.

What A Card! was a labor of love for West, who interviewed more than 60 people for the book. "One of the original Axel Fan Club presidents still had all her memorabilia, even some audio tapes of his shows, which were quite helpful," he said.

West does book signings around town, often with Stoltz and Davies. "Mary had a successful career after Axel with her own kids' show, as well as appearing on 'Clancy and Company' into the 1970s," he said. "Stoltz is a Twin Cities institution. He's now working on his own memoirs that I'm sure will be packed with lots of humorous anecdotes about his days with Axel."

What A Card! contains a two-hour DVD of 18 "Axel and His Dog" classics, plus Axel's parody of "The Night Before Christmas," and more than 300 photos. A book signing is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 6, at Borders Bookstore on University Ave. Call 651-641-0026.

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On the Town Briefly

Theater

The Disney musical *Beauty and the Beast* will be performed by the Morris Park Players at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21, in the auditorium of Folwell Middle School, 3611 20th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$15 and \$12. Call 612-724-8373.

A high school student takes the guise of a comic-book villain and attempts to take over the world in Dominic Orlando's *The Sense of What Should Be*. The new play will be performed by the Workhaus Collective at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, November 19-21, at the Playwrights' Center, 2301 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$8.00 to \$15. Call 612-332-7481, extension 20.

Two Bowls of Cereal and Some Bacon, Mahmoud Hakima's humorous and heart-rending one-man show about growing up in a family ruled by an abusive stepfather, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, November 19-21, at Dreamland Arts, 677 N. Hamline Ave. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for students and seniors. For reservations, call 651-645-5506.

Tartuffe, Moliere's classic drama about a religious con man in 17th-century Paris, will be staged by the Macalester College Theatre and Dance Department at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, November 19-21, on the Main Stage of Macalester's Fine Arts Center. Call 651-696-6359.

Casanova's Homecoming, the opera by Dominick Argento based on the memoirs of the quintessential lover, is being performed through November 22 by the Minnesota Opera. Co-produced by the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, it stars John Fanning, Jennifer Casey Cabot and Matt Boehler. The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra accompanies. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, November 17, 19 and 21, and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 22. Tickets are \$20-\$150. Call 612-333-6669.

Of Mice and Men, an adaptation of the novel by John Steinbeck about two migrant workers who dream of someday escaping their harsh existence, will open a month-long run on November 17 at the Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. Terry Happleman plays George, and Zach Curtis is Lennie.



Stephen Yoakam (left) and Phil Kilbourne star in *The Seafarer*. The play by Conor McPherson about a collection of Irish misfits who lay their cards and their souls on the table is being performed Tuesdays through Sundays through December 20 at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$28-\$36 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-822-7063.

Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, November 19 and 21; 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 5; and on more than 20 weekday mornings. Tickets are \$15-\$36. For reservations, call 651-291-7005.

Sister's Christmas Catechism is playing from November 18 through December 27 in the Ordway's McKnight Theatre. The sequel to *Late Nite Catechism* stars Kimberly Richards as the irrepressible nun who employs methods she learned from the TV show "Forensic Files" to discover the whereabouts of the Magi's gold. Tickets are priced at \$40.50. For reservations, call 651-224-4222.

On the Verge, or the Geography of Yearning, Eric Overmeyer's absurdist comedy about three Victorian women who stumble on 20th-century America, will be performed November 19-22 by the Concordia University Theater Department. Ovaltine, Burma Shave, TV dinners, pantsuits—each new curiosity is confronted by the time travelers with undimmed optimism. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in Pearson Theatre, 312 N. Hamline Ave. Tickets are

\$12, \$10 for seniors and students, \$8.00 for children. Call 1-866-811-4111.

Code 21: A Semi-Fiction of the Hospital Psychiatric Ward, a new play by Russell Schneider that questions the definitions and treatment of mental illness in the U.S., will be performed on November 20-22 on Owen Stage of the Macalester College Campus Center. Show times are 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9:00 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free, but donations will be taken for the nonprofit Neighborhood Involvement Program in Minneapolis. Call 612-708-4945.

Corleone, a new play by David Mann that imagines the *Godfather* story as if Shakespeare had adapted it for the stage, will open November 20 at the Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave. Directed by Mann, it stars Bruce Hyde, Ryan Lindberg, Katie Guentzel and Peter Christian Hansen. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 4:00 p.m. Sunday through December 13. Tickets are \$20, half your age for those under 30, or whatever you can pay for the added show at 8:00 p.m. Monday, November 30. Call 651-228-7008.

A.R. Gurney's Indian Blood, A witty, heart-warming comedy by the author of *The Dining Room* and *Sylvia*, will open on Friday, November 20, at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Ben Stasny stars as Eddie, a 16-year-old Buffalo boy who rebels against the stuffy values of his upper-middle-class family. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Sundays through December 13. A discussion with director Lynn Musgrave and the cast will follow the matinee on December 6. Tickets are \$20, with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010.

Books

A tribute to early 20th-century Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 18, in the auditorium of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Actress Mim Solberg will recite verses by Lorca to the accompaniment of flamenco guitarist Michael Hauser, saxophonist Chuck Armstrong and flamenco dancer Deborah Elias Morse. Admission is free.

Minnesota Book Award winner Kao Kalia Yang will discuss her memoir *The Latehomecomer* at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 18, at Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. Admission is free. Call 651-222-3242.

Central Library's History Book Club will discuss Eric Larson's *Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America* on Thursday, November 19. The meeting begins at noon in the 4th floor meeting room of the library, 90 W. 4th St. Admission is free. Call 651-266-7000, extension 5.

The St. Paul JCC Book Group will discuss Temple Grandin's book, *Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior*, on Thursday, November 19. Grandin, an expert in animal behavior, is autistic, and she believes that animals, like autistic people, think visually rather than linguistically and perceive the world as a jumble of details rather than a coherent whole. The free program will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Call 651-255-4735.

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delivered by St. Paul poets Deborah Keenan and Georgia Greeley and flutist Linda Chatterton on Sunday, November 22. The free program begins at 2:00 p.m. in the third floor Magazine Room at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Call 651-266-7000.

St. Paul Almanac writers Rich Broderick, Frank Brown, Joyce Garcia, Andrew Hall, Evan Hall, Rose McGee and Deborah Torraine will read from their contributions to the 2010 edition at 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 23, at Golden Thyme Cafe, 921 Selby Ave.

Our Neck of the Woods, an anthology about Minnesota's wild places, will be read by contributing writers Greg Breining, Susan Maas and Jason Abraham and editor Dan Philippon on Monday, November 30. The free program begins at 7:00 p.m. at Micawber's Books, 2238 Carter Ave.

Dance

Uri and Toni Pierce Sands and their troupe TU Dance will present their fall concert November 20-22 in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at St. Catherine University. The program includes Shapiro & Smith's "Dance with Army Blankets," Uri Sands' duet with Marciano Silva dos Santos, his "Sense(ability) Sketch III: Earth" and the company favorite "Tones of Adney." Show times are 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets at \$27, \$16 for students, are available at 651-690-6700. A free performance for students in grades 4-12 will be offered at 11:00 a.m. Friday, November 20. For reservations, call 651-690-6481.

Exhibits

"Hungry Planet: What the World Eats," a provocative exhibit based on the best-selling book by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Alusio, is on view through May 9 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. The show combines mesmerizing photos with hands-on displays about the origins of food around the world. Folklorist Peter Harle will explore food's often surprising roles in communication, culture and identity at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 3. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16. Call 612-624-7083.

"Hold Push," large woodcut prints of nature and the female figure by local artist Susan Andre, are on view through November 28 at FrameWorks Gallery, 2022 Ford Pkwy.

The Textile Center, 3000 University Ave. SE, in Minneapolis, is showing and selling the work of more than 150 fiber artists now through December 30. Call 612-436-0464.

"ReGroup," new paintings by St. Paul artist Shana Kaplow exploring the tension between interconnectedness and individualism, are on view through December 6 in the gallery of Macalester College's Fine Arts Center. Call 651-696-6416.

"Realism and Stylization: Six Views," jewelry, paintings, drawings and collage by Janet Donaldson, Pat Williams, Michaelynn McCarron, Anita White, and Ed and Marge Bohlander, are on view through January 9 at Bohlander Arts Gallery, 3011 36th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Call 612-721-6438.

"Sky Beauty," more than 40 skylines by local artists Cheryl Anderson

and Jody Stadler, are being displayed through January 2 at the Minnesota Women's Building, 550 N. Rice St. Anderson works in mosaic and mixed media with images inspired by the Hubble Space Telescope. Stadler's pastel paintings were inspired by 40 years under the majestic skies of Iceland. An opening reception will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, November 20. Admission is free.

"Talking Suitcases," suitcases filled with handmade objects that tell the stories of a diverse group of Minnesotans, are on view through December 17 in the Katherine E. Nash Gallery at the Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. An artists reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, November 20. The participating artists will also tell their stories in person from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, November 21. Admission is free.

A Victorian mansion decorated for the holidays is yours to tour between now and January 3. The Minnesota Historical Society has spruced up the Alexander Ramsey House as original owners Anna and Alexander Ramsey themselves might have for Christmas back in 1875. A costumed guide will lead visitors through the house, telling holiday tales from the Ramsey's own journals and letters. The parlour will be lit by a 12-foot Christmas tree trimmed with blown-glass ornaments. The dining room table will be set for Christmas dinner with Mrs. Ramsey's Haviland china, and period music will be playing on the 1875 Steinway piano. Hot cider and cookies fresh from the wood-burning stove will be served. The tours begin regularly between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and between noon and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. The cost is \$9.00, \$7.00 for seniors and college students, \$6.00 for children ages 4-17 and free for children age 5 and under. Call 651-259-3000.

"Cliche," an exhibit of art by Rick Love that explores whether words, symbols and language can be emulsified into something else, will open with a public reception from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 19, in the Concordia University Art Gallery, 1301 Marshall Ave. The exhibit will remain on view from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays through December 18. Admission is free.

Seven artists will open their studios to the public for a show and sale on November 21-22 and December 5-6 at Carleton Place Lofts, 2285 University Ave. Works by landscape designer Thea Peltier, jeweler Angel Teske, ceramicists Pat Garrahy and Natasha Poppe, painter Eric Pearson, illustrator Matt Wells and photographer Joshua W. Murray will be featured from noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday. The Jana Nyberg Group, a Twin Cities jazz band, will perform on the two Saturday evenings.

More than 65 ceramic artists will be featured in the Northern Clay Center's 19th annual holiday show. The six-week sale will open with a holiday open house from noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, November 22, at 2424 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. Cake and coffee will be served. Artists will lead tours and give demonstration. Visitors may shop the galleries or make their own colorful ornaments and tiles for a \$5.00 materials and firing fee. For information, call 612-339-8007.

"Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," a 5,000-square-foot exhibit on the 17th century American

VILLAGER

printer, scientist and statesman and his journey from teenage runaway to founding father, will open with three days of special events on November 27-29 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Featured on opening weekend will be scientific demonstrations, hands-on activities, lessons in colonial dances and a costume actor playing the part of Franklin. The one-man show "Ben Franklin: Still, Healthy Wealthy and Wise" will be presented at 3:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, experimental music will be played by Douglas R. Ewart and the Inventions at 2:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and a period music jam featuring Judith Eisner and the Moving History Ensemble will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday. The exhibit will remain on view through July 4, 2010. Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and college students, \$5.00 for children ages 6-17 and free for children age 5 and under. Call 651-259-3000.

"Warm Pots for Cold Times," clay works by Minnesota potters Lisa Buck and Guillermo Cuellar, will be displayed from November 28 through December 19 at the Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave. An opening reception will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, November 28. Admission is free. Call 651-644-9200.

Film

The documentaries King Corn and *Big River* will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 18, at the Riverview Theater, 3800 42nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A benefit for the Friends of the Mississippi River's Gorge Stewards Program, the program will explore the environmental impacts of farming an acre of corn. A discussion with filmmaker Curt Ellis will follow. Tickets are \$10.

New and recent features and documentaries on Jewish themes will be screened this week at Oak Street Cinema, 309 Oak St. SE, in Minneapolis. The schedule includes *Inside Hana's Suitcase* at 7:15 p.m. November 17 and 5:00 p.m. November 22; *Schmatta* at 7:15 p.m. November 19; *The Dybbuk* at 7:15 p.m. November 20 and 5:00 p.m. November 21; *Jewish Luck* at 3:00 p.m. November 21 and 22; and *His Wife's Lover* at 7:15 p.m. November 21 and 22. Tickets are \$7.00, \$6.00 for students. For information, call 612-331-3134.

A "Doctor Who" television episode will be shown and discussed from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, November 21, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Admission is free.

Music

A Concert for Peace in memory of the late cellist and peace activist Pablo Casals will be presented November 21 and 22 by Women Against Military Madness. New York City composer and cellist James David Jacobs and Minnesota violinist Bill Panks will perform. The music begins at 7:00 p.m. Saturday and 4:00 p.m. Sunday at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Admission is by donation with \$10-\$25 suggested. Call 612-827-5364.

The Bach Society of Minnesota will present a cantata workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, November 21, at University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave. SE, in Minneapolis. Participants will practice

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and perform Bach's Cantata 12 ("Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen." The fee, which includes lunch, is \$40. For more information or to register, visit www.bachsocietymn.org.

Highland Park singer and guitarist Sasha Mercedes will present a solo show of her own compositions from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, November 21, at Trotter's Cafe, 232 N. Cleveland Ave. Admission is free.

The Lute Summit, a concert of Renaissance and Baroque music by Minnesota lutenists Paul Berget, Richard Griffith, Rockford Mjos, Phil Rukavina and Thomas Walker Jr., will be presented on Saturday, November 21, by the Minnesota Guitar Society. The program will include quartets by Nicolas Vallet, trios by John Dowland, duets by William Lawes and Sylvius Leopold Weiss and works by Purcell and Vivaldi. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$22, \$17 for students and seniors. Call 612-677-1151 or stop by Cadenza Music on Snelling and Selby avenues.

Gospel, blues, classical and folk music will be performed by baritone Bill Strom and tenor Gordon Gathright at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, November 22, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St. Admission is free, but donations will be taken for the Lutheran ministry Daily Work. Call 651-227-8295.

Pianist Christian Zacharias will make his first appearance with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra as a conductor on November 27 and 28. The program includes rarely heard music from the original production of Bizet's *L'Arlésienne*, Arthur Honegger's *Pastorale d'ete*, and Francis Poulenc's *Sinfonietta* and *Sextet for Piano and Wind Quintet* with Zacharias on piano. The music begins at 10:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Friday and 8:00 p.m. Saturday at the Ordway. Tickets are \$11-\$59, \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

The Gregorian Singers will perform songs by Vaughan Williams, Distler, Ferko and Monte Mason in a candlelit Advent Procession at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, November 29, at St. Paul's Church on the Hill, 1524 Summit Ave. Admission is free, but donations will be taken.

The Red Gallagher Group will present its annual foodshelf benefit concert on Sunday, November 29, at O'Gara's, 164 N. Snelling Ave. Everything from blues to polka, old standards to contemporary rock will be played from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Admission is by donation with \$10 suggested or \$5.00 with a non-perishable food item.

Family

A half-hour storytime for preschoolers and their families will be offered at 10:30 a.m. Fridays, November 20 and 27, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-695-3700.

"**The Youngster Parade**," the House of Mercy Community's new children's album featuring such musicians as the Waifs, Dan Newton, Adam Levy and the Bunny Clogs, Dan Israel, Dana Thompson, Cam Waters and Erik Brandt, will be released with a concert at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 21, at Ginkgo Coffee, 721 N. Snelling Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-645-2647.

"**Winter Birds and What They Eat**" will be introduced to toddlers and their families at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 3, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Participants will also make a pinecone bird feeder to take home. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16. Call 612-624-7083.

Et cetera

Friends of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra will present their annual holiday auction on Sunday, November 29. The benefit will run from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Summit Hill mansion of David Duddington and Clay Halunen. Tickets at \$60 include appetizers, wine, live music and the chance to bid on an array of items. For reservations, call Andrea McCue at 651-451-9964.

"**Sample Night Live**," a cross-section of entertainment that can be found across the Twin Cities, will return at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. The evening will feature the bands Capitol Sons and Marvells, the Christine Rosholt jazz quartet, a preview of the film Resonance: Odyssey of the Bells and the Ordway musical Beauty and the Beast, wunderkind Marcus Woodard, "A Life of Serious Nonsense" by the clowns in Theatre of Fools, the improvisational Huge Theater's Drum Machine and visual artist Linnea Doyle in G-rated Act One. Unrated Act Two will present "MNTV 2009" by TPT and IFP, the jazz duo Maud Hixson and Rick Carlson, the improvisational comedy of Lounge-asaurus Rex, Bedlam Theatre, slam poet Moira Pirsch and the band The Smarts. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for students and seniors, \$5.00 for children ages 5-12. For reservations, call 651-788-5992.

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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Mac coach not quite ready to move on

The winningest football coach in Macalester College history hasn't turned the page on a new career just yet.

When you've been doing the same job for more than two decades, change doesn't come easy. But London native John Leaney is fairly sure this is the right time for him. "I never wanted to be that guy who hangs onto the job longer than he should," he said. "I want to be able to go out and have people say he's still pretty sharp."

It might not take much to convince folks. The Scots, who were the MIAC runners-up, earned an at-large berth in the NCAA Division III playoffs. When they opened the playoffs on their home pitch on November 14, it marked the 16th time in 21 years that they were playing so late in the season.

What's that you say? Macalester College playing in the football playoffs? Did I forget to mention I was talking English football, known to most of us as soccer?

"We've had some good teams and made the playoffs in several different sports," said Macalester sports information director Andy Johnson, who has been at the college for two decades. "But the only conference titles we've had in that time have been in soccer."

The women's team (13-5-2) was set to host St. Scholastica last weekend. However, the Macalester men's team (12-7-1), which won the MIAC postseason title and got an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, had to travel to Dubuque to play Grinnell on November 14. Go figure.

Leaney, 61, who coached both Macalester teams for more than two decades before cutting back to just the women's team in 2008, is hardly headed to the rocking chair. So with a winning percentage well over .700 and perennially contending teams, why step away now?

The answer, it turns out, is fairly simple. "My son Jack turns 5 soon and I want to be there for him," Leaney said. "Right now he's not a big soccer fan, but he loves golf. Why? Because golf is where he gets to spend time in the cart with Dad."

Leaney got married later in life than most people.

Tragically, his wife Carrie passed away from cancer three years ago. In October, he decided coaching full time took too many hours away from his family. Fortunately for Macalester, he plans to stay on to assist athletic director Kim Chandler.

"I'm going to help with recruiting, do presentations to high schools, read transcripts and help in development," Leaney said. "My only requirement is that I get to leave at 3:30 to be with my son."

The guy who used to bring videos of games home to study after he put his son to bed is now going to be working banker's hours. Times are changing. But for now, an appreciation of what Leaney has done seems appropriate.

"He's a remarkable coach," said John Hershey, who coached women's basketball at Macalester for more than a decade and now is the neighborhood liaison at the University of St.

WRIGHT CALL ▶ 35

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Girls' hockey preview

Goal for local coaches is to be strong in the nets

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

What's the most important position in team sports? Quarterbacks, pitchers and point guards all come to mind. But perhaps no position is more vital to victory in any team sport than the hockey goalie.

"If your goalie plays well you give yourself a chance," said Henry Sibley girls' hockey coach Mike Haedrich. "It's pretty hard to argue—they can single-handedly win games for you."

Minneapolis Novas head coach John Wareham recalled a heartbreaking section playoff game a couple of years ago. The Novas stormed the opposing net with 50 shots on goal, but lost 2-1 due to the other team's hot goaltending. "In this game you can do a lot of things right, control the play, keep it in their zone, get all kinds of chances, but if the goalie is thwarting you, that can make all the difference," he said.

St. Paul Blades coach Sarma Pone agreed. "It affects the whole team if your goalie is good or not," she said. "A good goalie can energize the team."

Visitation/St. Paul Academy coach Ted Cheesebrough described goaltending as the linchpin of any successful hockey team. "You can run and gun and score goals, but if you can't keep them out it doesn't matter," he said. "You can play good team defense, but if the goaltender is having an off night, it changes the tone of the game."

Conversely, if a goalie is on fire, there's no limit to what a team can accomplish.

"It's like pitching in softball," said Cretin-Derham Hall coach Steve Williams. "If you don't have a good pitcher in softball or a good goalie in hockey, you're going to struggle. There's no way around it."

Minnehaha Academy coach Evan Ziegler agreed. "A strong goalie or hot goalie can change the complete complexion of a game," he said. "It's the one sport and one position wherein a player can almost single handedly win a game."

Here's a look at the girls' hockey teams in the Villager area and what their coaches have to say about their goals for the season:

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East Conference

Last year's record: 5-21

Coaches: Steve Williams and Jeff Keys



Visitation/St. Paul Academy freshman goalie Cory Russell clears the puck during girls' hockey practice. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Key players and their strengths:

- Michelle Fischer, senior center. A skilled skater who led the team in scoring last year.

- Maddy Schneeman, senior forward. A hard worker and team leader who contributes on both ends of the ice.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Raiders have some good young talent, and five seasoned defensemen return. Decent depth, good balance and fundamental goaltending will help. Still, with only two seniors and two juniors, the team is short on experience.

Outlook: CDH hopes to progress as the season moves along and continue to build with a solid corps of talented young players. "We had over 20 freshmen try out, which is the most ever for our team," Williams said. "This was the first time we've had to cut kids from the team." Stillwater and Roseville are the class of the Suburban East this year.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: Classic Suburban Conference

Last year's record: 11-12-3

Coach: Mike Haedrich

Key players and their strengths:

- Alex Cosgrove, senior forward. Has a great stride, good speed and good

stickhandling.

- Tara Baago, junior forward. Has good hockey sense and is tricky with the puck.

- Krista Kizlik, senior defenseman. Can shoot and play solid D.

- Emily Usset, junior defenseman. A steady player on offense and defense.

- Shannon Cunningham, junior goalie. Played every game last year and was solid in most. Has good size and athleticism.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sibley should be especially strong on the defensive end. However, the Warriors' numbers—23 players on the varsity and junior varsity—are pretty thin, so depth is a concern. Scoring will also be a challenge.

Outlook: Sibley hopes to be competitive with most of the teams in the Classic Suburban. Hill-Murray stands out as the favorite.

MINNEAPOLIS NOVAS

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 9-15-2

Coach: John Wareham

Key players and their strengths:

GIRLS' HOCKEY ▶ 34

Raiders survive Lightning flash

CDH capitalizes on Eastview errors to advance to state football semifinals in Dome

By BILL WAGNER

The Cretin-Derham Hall Raiders gave up a 75-yard touchdown run on their opponents' first play on offense. They were victimized by back-to-back gimmick plays that led to two scores against them. And they did not get the ball on offense in the second half until there was only 1:21 left to go in the third quarter.

And the Raiders still won.

CDH defeated Eastview 27-24 in the state Class AAAA quarterfinals on November 14 at Griffin Stadium in St. Paul. The victory propelled the Raiders (10-1) into the semifinals, where they will face Brainerd (8-3) at 8:15 p.m. Friday, November 20, in the Metrodome.

CDH coach Mike Scanlan rode a roller coaster of emotions in the win over Eastview. The Lightning scored 10 unanswered points in the third quarter to take a 24-21 lead—first with a long pass on a fake punt that led to a touchdown, and then with a successful on-side kick that led to a 32-yard field goal. Scanlan was more than chagrined that his special teams were fooled not once, but twice in that span.

"The first one was bad enough," he said, "but when it happens again,

just like that, it's enough to make you crazy."

Still, Scanlan was pleased by the way the Raiders' defense stiffened in the fourth quarter after CDH retook the lead. "We won and that's the biggest thing," Scanlan said, "but we just can't allow those things to happen. Fortunately, we were able to make the plays when we needed to."

The Lightning struck first when Alex Suker took a handoff on Eastview's first play from scrimmage, bounced to his right and outran all defenders en route to a 75-yard touchdown. The Raiders tied it up when Tommy Crosby snagged a 4-yard touchdown pass from Mark Alt to cap off an 80-yard, 13-play march with 2:59 left in the first quarter.

Eastview went ahead 14-7 with 2:16 to play in the first half when Rex Sanders raced to pay dirt from 8 yards out. But the Raiders capitalized on two turnovers—one on a fumbled punt and one on a fumble on a running play—that resulted in 14 quick points.

After the Raiders recovered the fumbled punt, Alt hit Clay Horne for a 35-yard touchdown strike that made it 14-13 (the extra-point kick was no good). Then, after the Raiders recovered a fumble on the Eastview 36, Alt hit Elliot Owusu in the



Cretin-Derham Hall quarterback Mark Alt, shown re-injuring his collarbone in the section final against Sibley, threw for 217 yards and three touchdowns in the Raiders' 27-24 win over Eastview in their state Class AAAA quarterfinal matchup on November 14. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

"We won and that's the biggest thing," Scanlan said.

"Fortunately, we were able to make the plays when we needed to."

left corner of the end zone to make it 19-14 with only 50 seconds left in the half. Alt connected with Brooks Hitchcock for a two-point conversion to carry an unexpected 21-14 advantage into intermission.

Scanlan acknowledged that without those turnovers, the Raiders could've been in deep trouble. "We were on the ropes," he said.

The Lightning went ahead 24-21 in the third quarter, but the Raiders' Cameron Clarkson broke off a 51-yard scamper that gave CDH the lead back on the first play of the fourth quarter. The conversion

failed, but the Raiders led 27-24.

CDH's defense endured one more scare late in the game. Eastview drove the ball from its own 25 with 3:21 to play and got as far as the Raider 37 before the defense stiffened. A penalty for too many men on the field nullified a Lightning pass that had gone to the Raider 22, setting up what at first appeared to be a field goal attempt. The contest ended with quarterback Jack McDevitt getting sacked by a host of Raiders.

The game was so exciting that it caused some to lose track of the score. CDH lineman Seantrel Henderson, who is being heavily recruited by several big-time colleges, admitted as much to an interviewer afterward. "I thought we were down (24-27)," said a grinning Henderson.

Scanlan handed out kudos for several defensive players after the game, including cornerback Tyler

Hamblin, defensive tackles Jonathan Harden and Shea Walker, and defensive end Henderson, for jobs well done.

Lightning coach Kelly Sherwin, meanwhile, was left lamenting the two turnovers late in the first half that led to the pair of CDH touchdowns. "Our kids were just deflated at halftime," he said. "Giving up those two late scores took a lot out of us, but we have nothing to hang our heads over. We lost to a very good team that plays with poise."

CDH entered the state tournament after surviving a 21-20 squeaker against Eagan in the Section 4AAAAA semifinals on Halloween and then shutting out Henry Sibley 30-0 for the section championship title on November 6.

If the Raiders defeat Brainerd this week, they will face either Mounds View or Eden Prairie for the state championship at 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 27, at the Metrodome.

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Minnehaha makes first state volleyball trip

Redhawks go two-and-out at state to end season

By BILL WAGNER

Natalie Liffrig stood in the middle of the Minnehaha Academy volleyball court, soaking wet from head to toe. But the first-year coach didn't mind the dousing she had received courtesy of several players toting water bottles after the Redhawks defeated St. Paul Central in three straight games to win the Section 4AA title on November 7 and the school's first trip to the state tournament.

Minnehaha played a nearly flawless game to turn back the Minutemen, who had toppled a strong Visitation team in a five-game thriller in the semifinals to advance to the championship round.

The celebration was short-lived as the Redhawks fell to third-seeded LeSueur-Henderson in three straight games in the quarterfinal of the Class AA state volleyball tournament on November 12 at the Xcel Energy Center. Minnehaha then lost to Byron in the consolation round the following day to end its tournament hopes and finish the year at 23-10. Junior outside hitter Sarah Winter led the Redhawks with nine kills and nine digs against LeSueur-Henderson, and had another nine kills against Byron.

For Minnehaha, getting to state soothed much of the team's frustration over the previous two seasons when the Redhawks lost in the section finals.

In the first game against Central, the outcome was never in doubt. Minnehaha got six service aces from Winter to jump off to a 13-3 lead. And when Winter was not serving up aces, junior middle hitter Katelyn Adams was proving unstoppable with her dead-eye tips and spikes. The 6-foot-4 Adams got five kills to pace the Redhawks in the first game.

Central played better in games two and three, but it still was not enough. Winter and Adams both had 10 kills in the match and the rest of the Redhawks filled their roles to seal the three-game sweep at 25-12, 25-15, 25-18.

"It's our teamwork that makes us so successful," Liffrig said. "We thought at the start of the season that we had some good potential. This is an enjoyable team to coach. We have very highly motivated girls."

Redhawks take 4th in state cross country

By DAVE WRIGHT

The Minnehaha Academy boys' cross country team had high hopes entering the state Class A meet on November 7 at St. Olaf. With four seniors on a squad that had run well all season, including beating several Class AA schools in a meet in October at the University of Minnesota, the Redhawks expected to match or surpass the school's 2006 second-place finish.

"We started well, but began to fall back with about a mile and a half to go," said coach Christian Zimmerman of the 3.1-mile race. "The course is kind of flat toward the finish and we've been better hill runners all year. The guys said it was spongy. That worked against us a bit, but we hung in there and finished strong."

Minnehaha finished in fourth place with 147 points, the second-best team result in school history. "It was a good end to the season," Zimmerman said. "We came out ahead of a lot of teams and I'm proud of that. The irony is the team that finished first (Plainview-El-



Minnehaha's Emilia Kronschnabel (8) battles Central's Laura Pearce and Rachel O'Brien in the Redhawks' win over the Minutemen in the Section 4AA championship match on November 7. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

"This was such a fun game," Winter said. "We had a mindset going into the game today. We were determined to play well and get the job done."

"I was a little nervous going in," Adams said, "but once the game started, I was fine. We wanted to show what we were capable of."

Central got within two points early in the second game before a cross-court smash by Winter opened Minnehaha's lead. A nifty spike down the middle by senior hitter Emilia Kronschnabel and a serving ace by senior setter Sara Smith put an exclamation point on the win.

In game three, Central got off to a 2-0 lead, but the Redhawks reeled off 15 of the next 20 points. The Minutemen put together a mini-run while senior middle hitter Ellen Senf was serving that the gap to 17-14. However, the Redhawks held

again.

Central coach Connie Kiedrowski was pragmatic in defeat. She said her squad never recovered from Winter's awesome serving performance in game one.

"Minnehaha was a hot team playing at a very high level," Kiedrowski said. "We expended a lot of energy when we beat Visitation (two days earlier). But I couldn't be prouder of my team. I told the girls that I don't want this one match to define our season."

Central, which finished the season with a 23-8 record, got to the section title game by defeating both Johnson and Concordia in three straight and then besting Visitation in the semis. The Minutemen won the St. Paul City Conference title for the seventh straight year, with Senf considered a close contender for all-state honors.

gin-Melville) is one that we beat earlier in the year."

Redhawk senior Jake Brown finished first among the team competitors with a time of 16:26.2, 40 seconds better than he ran the year before. Also scoring for the Redhawks were seniors Eric Lubar (14th) and Phil White (34th) and juniors Brandon Wiersma (35th) and Matt Ferris (63rd).

The fourth-place finish was still better than a year ago when the Redhawks failed to qualify for state. "You have to look at seasons as a whole," said Zimmerman, a 1994 Minnehaha grad now in his eighth year as head coach at the school. "We had a very good season. As the (second-place) Perham coach told me, 'The state meet is special, but it's just one race.' It was a very crowded field."

There was one special witness to Brown's stellar finish at state. Earlier in the year, he broke a school record that was set by Patrick Pelham and had stood for nearly two decades. In Northfield he got a chance to meet Pelham. "That was neat," said Zimmerman, who was a prep

teammate of Pelham.

Although the Redhawks lose four seniors to graduation, Zimmerman feels good about next season. "It'll be tough to replace the guys who are leaving, but we pride ourselves on reloading instead of rebuilding," he said. "We can be a strong team again next year."

Class AA boys

St. Thomas Academy finished fourth overall in the state Class AA boys' cross country meet on November 7 at St. Olaf with 139 points. The Cadets' top finisher was senior Dan Fitzpatrick, who finished 16th overall.

Central High School senior Kemal Jarso took third place individually in the boys' meet with a time of 16:02.4. He was ranked ninth in the state in the final coaches poll.

Class A girls

In the girls' Class A race on November 7 at St. Olaf, senior Anne Hart of St. Paul Academy finished ninth overall.

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31 ▶ GIRLS' HOCKEY

• Cecilia Hardacker, senior forward. Fast on her skates. Had more than 30 points last year to lead the team in scoring.

• Sondra Ciesielski, senior forward. Has a great shot, is good around the net and can put the puck in the goal.

• Jill Oxborough, senior defenseman. An anchor on defense and four-year starter who is great with the puck.

• Lilia Morris-Holzman, senior goalie. Has solid experience in goal.

• Hannah Hilden-Reid, sophomore goalie. A good all-around athlete who also plays soccer and lacrosse.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Novas, which are made up of players from the Minneapolis Public Schools, bring back some strong talent, with more than half of last year's team returning. The squad is solid on defense, with a couple of proven scorers. goalie who played the bulk of the games last year also returns. Wareham would like to see more consistency throughout the lineup.

Outlook: The Novas finished fourth in a seven-team Tri-Metro last year. This winter they have a decent shot at third place behind Breck and Blake. Visitation/SPA also looks strong in the conference.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY/SAINTS

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 13-11-1

Coach: Evan Ziegler

Key players and their strengths:

• Alana Patrick, senior defender. One of the fastest players on the ice. She is tough to get around, is strong on the blue line and can also play forward.

• Christina Monsour, senior forward. Last year's leading scorer. A hard-nosed player who does well in front of the net and has a good shot.



Highland Park resident Sonja Knudson also is competing to start in nets for Visitation/SPA.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

• Christine Teasdale, junior defender. One of the team's top goal scorers. Will anchor the blue line and play both defense and forward.

• Sara Lind, sophomore center. A fast skater and good stick-handler who can score and is maturing as a player.

• Andrea Vancura, senior goalie. Will anchor the net and is strong and athletic.

Team strengths/weaknesses: With 12 skaters back from last year, Minnehaha has a lot of experience. Good defense, skating and goal-tending will be the hallmarks of this year's squad. "We'll be able to compete night in and night out with most teams," Ziegler said. The team, which also includes players from St. Agnes, St. Bernard's and St. Croix Lutheran, lost its top two scorers from last season, so some girls will have to emerge to fill those skates.

Outlook: Breck and Blake are the teams to beat in the Tri-Metro. Minnehaha believes it

can skate stride for stride with the rest of the pack. Finding new offense will be key.

ST. PAUL BLADES

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 4-23-1

Coach: Sarma Pone

Key players and their strengths:

• Melanie Dubay, senior defenseman. A strong defender and leader on the ice who is coming off knee surgery.

• Kelsey Vandergrist, junior forward. A talented wing with a nose for the net.

• Samantha Berger, junior forward. A capable goal scorer who has improved since last year.

• Mikayla Rogers, 8th-grade defender. A small, but a good skater smart player.

• Meghan Reilly, 8th-grade forward. A good passer who skates ably and sees the ice well.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Good skating, speed and puck movement are the biggest assets for the Blades, which are made up players from the St. Paul Public Schools. Dubay will miss part of the season as she recovers from her injury.

Outlook: The Blades aim to improve on last season's win total and build off the enthusiasm of a young, energetic team. Breck and Blake set the standard in the Tri-Metro.

VISITATION/ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 12-10-3

Coach: Ted Cheesebrough

Key players and their strengths:

• Bre Herzog, senior forward. The team's leading scorer last year. A powerful skater with good hands.

• Delany Middlebrook, junior defender. Averaged a point per game last year. A "difference-maker" in all three zones, Cheesebrough said.

• Maggie Blaisdell, sophomore forward. Led the team in plus-minus rating and was second in scoring last year. "She's a locomotive," her coach said.

• Kathleen LeFevour, junior defender. A heady player and team leader.

• Alev Baysoy, 8th-grade forward. A dynamic skater with terrific hands.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Visitation/SPA has experience with 14 players back. The United have dizzying team speed and should be strong in their own end. Four key players, special team stalwarts, were lost to graduation. Some girls will have to seize the opportunity to fill those skates.

Outlook: Visitation/SPA expects to be competitive every night. The goal is to mount a strong run in the playoffs and take the ice at the Xcel Energy Center in the state tournament in February.

Sports Shorts

The St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation is now accepting registration for snowboarding, cross country skiing and downhill skiing lessons at the Como Park Ski Center, which will open on December 26, weather permitting. The center features four tow ropes, a chalet with food service, 1.7 kilometers of lighted cross country ski trails for beginners and 5 kilometers of groomed classic and skate-style trails for intermediate and advanced skiers. The center also offers ski and snowboard rentals and lessons. Groomed cross country ski trails are also available at the Highland 9-Hole and Phalen golf courses (cross country skiing is not allowed on the Highland

National Golf Course). For information, visit www.stpaul.gov/parks and click on winter activities or contact Eric Thompson at 651-266-6143.

The Minnesota RollerGirls All-Stars will do battle with the Hammer City Roller Girls of Ontario, Canada, on Saturday, November 21, in a Women's Flat Track Derby Association exhibition bout at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in downtown St. Paul. Dubbed "Cops vs. Robbers," the evening's competition will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a league mixer featuring skaters from all four Minnesota RollerGirls' teams. Half of the women will be dressed as cops and half as robbers. Doors will open at

6:30 p.m. with pre-bout entertainment provided by the St. Paul Bouncing Team. The Minnesota RollerGirls' house band and polka meisters The Bratwurst Brothers will perform at half-time. Tickets are \$11 and \$13 in advance at the Roy Wilkins box office or by calling Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000 or visiting www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets will be sold for \$13 and \$15 at the door, with a \$2.00 discount for all of those who bring a donation of canned food for the Emergency Food Shelf Network. Children age 9 and under will be admitted free with an adult. Students with a valid ID will also receive a \$2.00 discount at the door.

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Cadets take the wind out of Zephyrs' sails

STA defense turns back Mahtomedi's 2nd-half surge to earn a berth in the state semifinals

By DAVE WRIGHT

Augie Braddock's fourth-quarter touchdown may be the most obvious reason St. Thomas Academy is advancing to the semifinals of the State High School Football Tournament. The junior running back's 14-yard run around right end with 9:20 to play was the difference in the Cadets' 20-15 victory over Mahtomedi in the Class AAAA quarterfinal game last Friday.

However, it took a stout defensive effort, including big plays by two of St. Thomas' smallish defensive backs, to push the Cadets' record to 11-0 and earn a date with Sartell-St. Stephen (12-0) at 12:45 p.m. Friday, November 20, in the Metrodome.

Patrick Krieger, STA's 5-foot-9 senior defensive back, set up the winning drive with an interception. And in the game's final minute, sophomore Paddy Clancy—all 5 feet, 9 inches, and 130 pounds of him—sealed the deal by batting away a pass intended for the Zephyr's 6-foot-2 wide receiver Charlie Adams.

"Those guys may be small, but they have huge hearts," said STA defensive coordinator Bill Owens. "They played their rear ends off tonight."

The same could be said for the

Cadets' entire defense, according to head coach Dave Ziebarth. "We scored so many points this year that our defense has flown a bit under the radar," he said. "But they'd been tested before and did well. They came up big-time tonight and kept a good offensive team in check."

Mahtomedi (10-2) averaged well over 200 yards on the ground per game this fall. Against STA, the Zephyrs gained just 91 yards on the ground and were forced to pass 32 times.

The state quarterfinal was a matchup between the co-champions of the Classic Suburban Conference. By a fluke of the schedule, the teams didn't play each other during the regular season. The Zephyrs, whose only previous loss came in a non-conference game at Edina, entered the tournament averaging 30 points per contest. But they ran into a wall in the early going against St. Thomas. The Cadets' defensive line, led by 6-foot-3, 295-pound junior Anthony Hayes, gave little ground.

St. Thomas senior quarterback John Garry's touchdown pass to senior wide receiver Kyle Rohde was the only score of the first half. However, the game turned suddenly in the third quarter when Mahtomedi scored a pair of touchdowns within four minutes of each other. Following the two-point conversion after their second TD, the Zephyrs led St. Thomas 15-6.

Early in the fourth quarter, STA senior running back Danny Abbott capped a 71-yard scoring drive with a 19-yard dash to draw the Cadets within three

points at 15-12. "I saw a huge gap on the right and ran at it," Abbott said after the game. Braddock then ran in the two-point conversion and the Cadets trailed 15-14.

It was at this juncture that Krieger jumped in front of Adams for the interception and returned the ball to the Mahtomedi 26-yard line. Two plays later, Braddock staggered into the end zone to put St. Thomas back in the lead.

With the score 20-15, the Zephyrs got the ball back on their own 11-yard line with 4:33 to play. They moved the ball slowly but resolutely from there, converting on third down and on fourth down to keep the drive alive.

Mahtomedi eventually reached the Cadets' 19-yard line, where on the 20th play of the drive, Zephyr QB Dan Ferrazzo tried one more time to find Adams. Clancy anticipated the pass and knocked the ball to the ground, clinching the victory.

The Cadets will be returning to the Metrodome this week for the first time since 2006, when they fell to Totino-Grace, 40-25, in the state Class AAAA title game. Their opponent on Friday, the Sabres of Sartell-St. Stephen, defeated Bemidji, 27-6, in their state quarterfinal game. The other semifinalists in Class AAAA are defending state champion Mankato West (11-0) and Totino-Grace (11-0).

"We don't have a lot of stars on our team, but we work very well together," Ziebarth said. "We have a chance to go all the way."

31 ▶ WRIGHT CALL

Thomas. "John is very good at diagnosing the strengths and weaknesses of his team. He'll watch an opponent, but I never saw him take any notes. He was just trying to get a feel for them. It's his team that he's always thinking about."

Leaney took the Macalester men's job in 1986 after spending time at the University of California-San Diego. "I had actually been hired to work for the old Northwest soccer club," he recalled. "The current coach at Mac wanted to leave and I took the job. I knew nothing about the school, but I fell in love with it quickly."

So much so that Leaney added coaching men's golf to his workload almost immediately. Two years later, he also took over coaching the women's soccer team. That required some juggling of schedules, but the energetic Englishman said it wasn't as hard as it sounds.

"I always had good assistants to help when needed," he said. "I tried to make it as even-handed as possible, but if I had to go one way or the other, I'd lean to the team that seemed more dedicated to the sport."

During the regular season, that worked fine. Game starting times, particularly at home when the Scots used their lighted football field, could be jiggered. But the postseason, where Leaney has guided 23 teams into the NCAA tournament, was another story. He laughs now at the thought of flying from one site to the other to be with his teams. "There were quite a few redeye flights over the years," he admitted.

The arrangement sufficed, for the most part. Macalester won the NCAA Division III women's title in 1998 with a 21-1-1 record. However, as time wore on, the demands of the postseason became too great and it was virtually impossible to be with both teams. Combined with his family situation, Leaney cut back to coaching the women only last year. Assistant Ian Barker took over as head coach of the men.

Macalester's high academic standards and its tradition of attracting students from across the country and around the world leads to interesting mixes on its soccer rosters. "The nature of our school is that we don't do a lot of recruiting," Leaney said. "Every kid we currently have inquired of us first. It's been that way for about 10 years now."

The current women's team includes players from 14 different states. It's safe to say Macalester is the only school that has the same number of soccer players (three) from California, Colorado, Washington and Minnesota. For example, Emily Bardwell, who has scored 14 of the team's 30 goals, is from Denver. Starting goalie Tressa Versteeg is from Pella, Iowa.

This type of atmosphere doesn't always lead to athletic success. "Mac is different, but we're not snotty," Leaney said. "I don't care where you played before. I only care about what you're doing here. It's how you lead a team that's important. The problem with this is we sometimes lack leadership. People here sometimes dress down to make sure everybody feels the same way."

"The nature of our school is that we don't do a lot of recruiting," Leaney said. "Every kid we currently have inquired of us first."

Hershey noted that Leaney "is very good at getting players to understand what he wants them to do. They don't always like their roles, but they end up accepting it."

All that will be ending. "We all have our routines," Leaney said. "Mine is going to be changing soon. I've been coaching a long time and it's probably going to be hard to stay away. But I'm looking forward to being with my son as he gets older. I'm looking forward to seeing him as a ball boy for a team here. I'm excited to be able to go with him to games in the future."

Chandler is pleased to be getting Leaney's help in the athletic department. "He's made it his responsibility to understand the school," she said. "Many of our programs don't have full-time assistants to help recruit. John knows the school better than anyone and can help coaches find somebody who's the right fit."

Though she is only in her second year at Macalester, Chandler seems to understand Leaney well. "He's a character," she said. "He lives life to the fullest and is a very active guy."

One of Leaney's passions is to convert films and VCR tapes of old Macalester soccer games onto DVDs. "I want the former players to be able to see what they did when they were here," he said. "My big regret is we don't have film of Kofi Annan (the former UN secretary general and 1961 Mac grad who played soccer there). We only have still pictures of him."

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

Editor's note: The Macalester women's soccer team won its first-round NCAA playoff game, but fell to Concordia 3-1 in the second round and was eliminated. The upset-minded men's team also advanced to the second round, but lost to Loras 2-0 to end its season.

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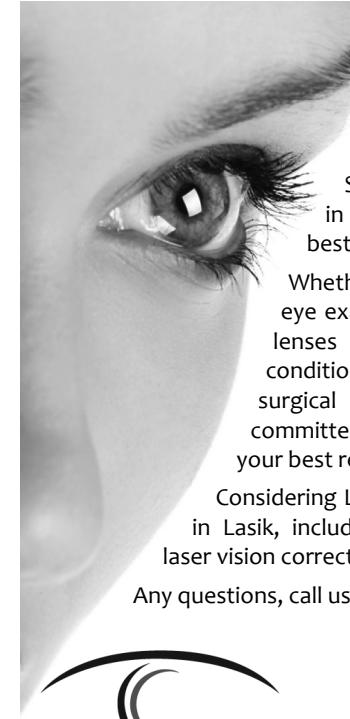


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SUMMIT AVE./Cathedral Hill Snow Removal. For property bid call Joel, 651-602-3208.

SNOW REMOVAL starting at \$10. Contact Roy, 651-855-8099; anytimeoss.com.

ROOF SNOW & Ice Removal; sidewalks/drives shoveled. **GUTTER CLEANING.** Licensed. Insured. #20126373. Burton's Rain Gutter Service, 651-699-8900.

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SNOW REMOVAL, residential sidewalks, drives, per time only; on vacation; 651-698-0840.

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Dr. R.J. Fischbach: the Leading Edge in Local Dentistry

You'll have reason to smile more radiantly than ever with the advanced dentistry techniques now being employed in Highland Park by Dr. R.J. Fischbach and his staff.

Dr. Fischbach's is one of only 3% of all dental offices in the nation that are using the latest CEREC CAD/CAM technology. The dental restorations Dr. Fischbach and his staff perform can now be done in a single appointment.

CEREC stands for Chairside Economical Restorations of Esthetic Ceramics. CAD/CAM stands for Computer Aided Design/Computer Assisted Modeling. CAD/CAM dentistry is the process by which the dentist first takes an infrared picture of your teeth. The picture is transmitted directly to a computer where the teeth are designed right in front of your eyes, eliminating entirely the need for uncomfortable impressions and temporary restorations. The computer then sends the designed teeth by wireless technology to a milling machine, which grinds the fillings, crowns or veneers.

The finished restorations are widely regarded by dentists nationwide as the most aesthetic, comfortable and long-lasting, and they are far superior to composite, silver or gold restorations.

Dental patients today are increasingly asking for metal-free restorations. Dr. Fischbach and his staff employ many alternative materials in CAD/CAM technology, including Leucite, Ceramic, Zirconia, Glass Ceramic, Feldspar Ceramic, Fine Grain Translucent Porcelain, and Yttrium-Stabilized Zirconium. The wide range of materials allows Dr. Fischbach's staff to select the one that is best suited for you. Most other dentists use a technique that fits all patients with just one material.

CAD/CAM dentistry was originally developed for making single crowns. This technology can now be used to make bridges, inlays and onlays (fillings), veneers and even gold crowns. These all can be done without impressions and if not fabricated at the appointment, can be



Staff member Tammy explains CEREC

fabricated in a day or two. CAD/CAM technology also allows Dr. Fischbach's staff to save teeth that most other dentists would extract.

Dr. Fischbach and his staff are in the business of saving teeth, re-establishing function and perfecting glowing smiles. They are also in the business of educating their patients. Dr. Fischbach's office has movies of almost every dental treatment available. The short movies can be burned to a CD and given to you to take home and review with family members before any decision is made. The explanations of the various treatments are also available on Dr. Fischbach's website at

www.fischbachdentistry.com.

Dr. Fischbach, Dr. Susan Olson and their staff of 10 participate in almost all insurance Preferred Provider Organizations in order to help you control the cost of dentistry.

To learn more about what the leading edge in local dentistry can offer you, Dr. Fischbach and his staff invite your inquiries anytime.



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