



VILLAGER

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Highland Park gets its first sex offender in era of notification

New Field Avenue resident has history of assaulting young boys

by Chris Smith

The first sex offender released in Highland Park since the state's community notification law went into effect will be the subject of a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, in the auditorium of Highland Park Senior High School.

The offender, Lesley Jean Weeks, 25, is already living in the 1700 block of Field Avenue, just south of the Jewish Community Center and east of Homecroft School.

"We only found out about her release the day it oc-

curred," said Sylvia Burgos, spokesperson for the St. Paul Police Department. "That's why we took the unusual steps of identifying her in press releases and why we put her photo on our Web site right away."

Burgos said information about Weeks was first circulated in November, when plans for her move to Highland Park became known. However, for the next five months Weeks lived elsewhere in a facility supervised by the Minnesota Depart-

Sex offender/see page 4



Rain on their parade. A smile may have been hard to find among the rain-drenched members of the Heather Beat Ladies of Winnipeg, but their bagpipes sounded no less joyous to folks attending the Scottish Country Fair at Macalester College last Saturday. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Task force seeks larger role for mass transit in Ayd Mill study

by Jane McClure

Ayd Mill Road Task Force members approved a resolution on April 20 calling for a renewed focus on bus service, dedicated transit lanes, commuter rail and even light-rail transit as part of an environmental impact statement (EIS) being conducted on the roadway.

The task force is studying various options for reconstructing Ayd Mill Road, including connecting it to the freeway system. Public hearings on the EIS will be held this fall.

"I think we need to look at ways to make the EIS a more thorough and balanced study of the alternatives," said Chip Welling, one of the Merriam Park neighborhood's represen-

tatives on the task force and an active member of Transit for Livable Communities. "And that includes transit."

"I don't think we should exclude anything," said fellow Merriam Park representative Mat Hollinshead.

No one on the task force spoke against studying mass transit at the April 20 meeting, though consultant Charlene Zimmer of the engineering firm Strgar-Roscoe-Fausch said it could mean delaying completion

of the EIS by up to two months. Transit advocates said it would be worth the wait.

"For an additional month or two, this is certainly worth doing," said Summit Hill Association representative John Siekmeier. "Some of you have been sitting here for the past decade."

Studying mass transit could mean delaying completion of the Ayd Mill Road Environmental Impact Statement by up to two months.

The task force has been studying Ayd Mill Road since the mid-1980s. The roadway was originally intended as a link between I-35E and I-94, but its completion was blocked years ago by residents who were concerned that the

connection would destroy the neighborhoods at the north end of the road.

The following transit options were discussed at the meeting:

- Use of Lexington Parkway as an additional north-south bus route. North-south bus service is currently offered on Cretin, Snelling and Dale avenue in the western half of St. Paul. "There's a gap in our north-south service between Snelling and Dale" said Metro Transit planner John Levin.

According to him, the Lexington Parkway route could be tied to plans for constructing a transit corridor linking downtown St. Paul with Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. None of the area's current north-south bus routes has a di-

Ayd Mill Road/see page 5

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Hotel, ramp planned for old Unisys site

Large-scale proposal sends a shudder through Small Area Plan Task Force

by Jane McClure

St. Paul real estate developer Jerry Trooien, who last year bought the former Unisys building on Shepard Road and Davern Street and transformed it into the RiverBank Business Center, has unveiled plans to construct a hotel, service station and three-story, 1,300-space parking ramp on part of the property.

Trooien is hoping to start construction on the ramp as soon as possible to meet U.S. Bancorp's parking needs. U.S.

Bancorp, the parent company of U.S. Bank (formerly First Bank), exercised its option this spring to lease the entire 325,000-square-foot RiverBank Business Center. The company plans to move nearly 2,000 employees to the site from administrative and operating offices in downtown Minneapolis.

"This is a big, big deal for St. Paul and for Highland Park," said Trooien, who owns and leases about 3 million square feet of commercial real estate in the Twin Cities. "These are very good-pay-

ing jobs. Other businesses will benefit because there will be more money spent in the area."

U.S. Bancorp officials did not return phone calls for this story.

Trooien's plans were reviewed by neighbors and members of the Shepard-Davern Small Area Plan Task Force on April 21. At that meeting, some neighbors expressed concern that the new development could bring traffic

Shepard-Davern/see page 9

Meeting set to discuss plans to restripe Fairview Avenue

A recommendation to restripe Fairview Avenue for only two lanes of traffic between Randolph Avenue and Highland Parkway will be considered by the Highland District Council at its meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

The district council's Transportation Committee has recommended the change to match the restriping planned for this summer between Randolph and Summit avenues. Complaints about increased traffic and speeding motorists on Fairview Avenue prompted the Macalester-Groveland Community Council to recommend the restriping north of Randolph.

The Macalester-Groveland portion of Fairview will be reduced from four to two lanes of traffic. Most on-street parking will be banned, and a bicycle lane will be striped on both sides of the street.

Parking would be allowed on both sides of Fairview between Randolph and Highland Parkway. The roadway would have a center lane for vehicles turning left and a bicycle lane on both sides.

Fairview Avenue south of Highland Parkway has already been restriped for two lanes. Rick Dagenais of the Highland District Council's Transportation Committee said it only makes sense for the remaining portion of Fairview to have two lanes too.

Not everyone agrees, however. Highland resident Bob Siegel opposes the restriping plan. "I think you're just going to create more traffic congestion problems," he said.

Commission grants permit for Mac-Groveland gallery

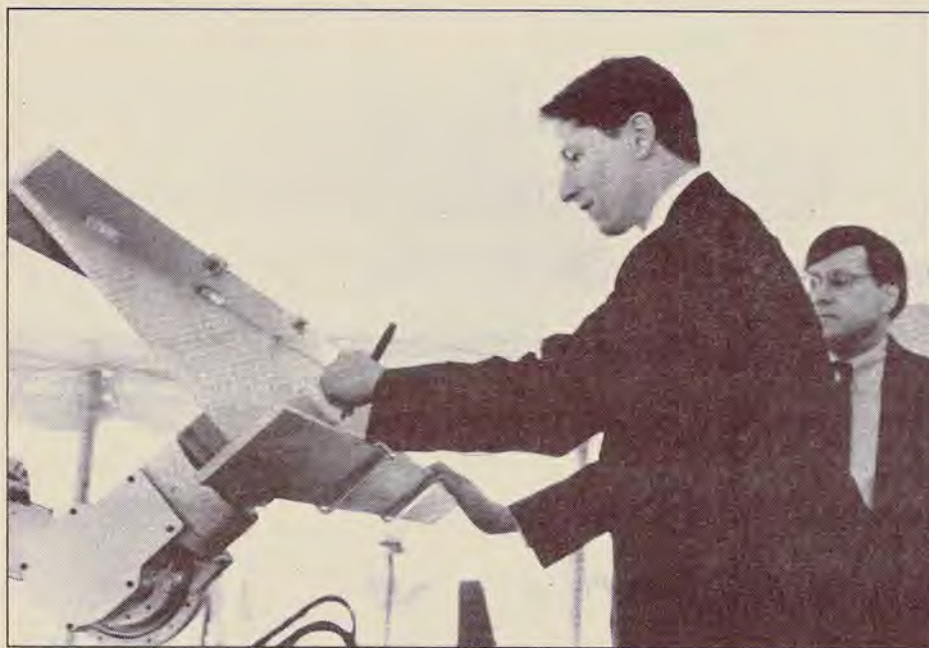
The Nomad Gallery will be allowed to continue operating at 244 S. Albert St. as the result of a similar-use permit issued on April 24 by the St. Paul Planning Commission.

The permit was approved on the condition that the property only be used for purposes related to the art gallery. Owner Habib Amini agreed that he would limit special gatherings at the gallery to art show openings, occasional art classes and workshops.

The gallery is located in a building zoned B-1 for general business use. An art gallery is not one of the permitted uses for B-1 property. However, commission members decided that the gallery was similar to such permitted uses as grocery, floral and hardware stores. City staff recommended approval of the permit. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council took no position.

At an April 16 meeting of the Planning

NEWS BRIEFLY



The next best thing to wet cement?

While District 64 Senator Richard Cohen (right) waits his turn, former District 64B Representative Howard Orenstein places his signature on an I-beam that will be used in the construction of the automotive manufacturing training center now rising at the Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant in Highland Park. The \$6.7 million project is a cooperative venture on the part of Ford, the state of Minnesota and the United Auto Workers. Photo by Mike Long.

Commission's Zoning Committee, neighbors Carl Schmitz and Frank Paduano spoke against the permit. They argued that the gallery was adding to the area's already tight parking situation. Though the gallery may draw more cars to the neighborhood when it hosts a special event, city staff said that traffic most of the time will be comparable to what other businesses create in the area.

Highland residents sound off over increase in airport noise

Residents made plenty of noise about airplane flyovers during the Highland District Council's annual meeting on April 23. The council had invited the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to discuss the increasing levels of noise over St. Paul and the impact that pending reconstruction of Runway 4-22 could have on the area.

More than 200 people filled the Hillcrest Recreation Center auditorium. They voiced familiar complaints of jet noise during late evening and early morning hours, including Sundays. A number of speakers called for

bans on nighttime flights. Others questioned why planes appear to be flying at lower altitudes over Highland. MAC officials said that was due to Northwest Airlines' flights to Asia, which need to make a more gradual ascent because of the distance they travel.

Crosswind Runway 4-22 is carrying more traffic during airport construction work, said MAC deputy director Nigel Finney. This year and next, St. Paul will experience more airport noise, he said. However, that is expected to change. According to Finney, when 4-22 is lengthened by 1,000 feet in 2000, Highland Park will not have any overhead flights.

John Dowdle, a MAC commissioner and Highland resident, said the outlook for St. Paul is good. "Over the long term, there'll be less air traffic over Highland," he said. That is because of increased use of other existing runways at the airport and plans for a new north-south runway.

Use of quieter planes also should reduce air traffic noise, Finney said. Federal regulations call for louder Stage II aircraft to be retrofitted or retired by the end of 1999.

Not all of those who were at the meeting

were comforted by the comments from MAC officials. "We may have only 1 percent of the air traffic," one man said, "but it's the worst 1 percent."

City approves sign variance for Talmud Torah of St. Paul

The St. Paul Planning Commission approved a variance on April 24 that will allow the Talmud Torah of St. Paul to erect a new sign for its school at 768 S. Hamline Ave.

School officials had hoped to fasten a 115-square-foot sign to the Hamline Avenue side of the building. City code limits institutional signs in residential areas to 30 square feet. City planning staff and the Highland Area Community Council recommended denial of the school's request because of the size. School officials later agreed to a sign that is 38.5 square feet. A similar, smaller sign will be placed on the Pinehurst Avenue side of the building.

Talmud Torah is housed in the former Edgumbe Elementary School. The old school building, which has been extensively remodeled, and a large addition now house the Gayle Johnson Cohen Preschool, the George Kaplan Afternoon Talmud Torah and the Annette Newman Day School.

City grants loans to assist in Montessori school's move

Children's House Montessori School is moving to a new home this spring with help from the city of St. Paul. The City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, approved two loans on April 22 that will be used to remodel and equip the former Artke's Market at 1194 Randolph Ave.

The Montessori school has leased space from Mount Zion Temple on Summit Avenue ever since it was founded by Mary Holisak in 1981. The school is being forced to relocate at the end of this month because of renovation work taking place at the synagogue. Holisak has a \$200,000 loan and \$121,000 in equity to pay for the former convenience store and renovation work. The city is chipping in a \$101,000 loan to assist with the renovation and a \$47,500 loan to help pay for equipment.

Work at the Randolph Avenue site began in late April. In addition to remodeling, an outdoor play area, new landscaping and fencing are planned. An addition also is being built to house a new program for up to 12 infants. Four new jobs will be created by the move, bringing the Children's House staff to 14. At least 22 toddlers and 30 preschoolers also will be served by the new facility.

News briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.

CHIROPRACTIC HEALTH CARE

Back Pain Affects Most Americans

Low back pain is a very common health problem (80 percent of Americans will be troubled by low back pain at some point in their lives) and is responsible for the largest amount of disability and work loss among people of all age groups. At chiropractic clinics, back and neck pain are the most frequently treated conditions. Major attention is given to identifying the causes of each patient's problems so that the most effective treatment approach can be applied.

What are the most common causes of back pain?

- TEARING OF FIBERS within muscles or ligaments.
- MISALIGNED SPINAL VERTEBRAE produced back pain or pain radiating to the leg by irritating nerves within the structures which surround spinal joints.

- PROTRUDING or RUPTURED SPINAL DISC can exert pressure on the sciatic nerve and cause intense pain to radiate down the leg.
- SPINAL ARTHRITIS of the wear and tear variety (osteoarthritis or degenerative arthritis) develops as part of the aging process, but can also occur with poor posture, scoliosis, misalignment of vertebrae or continued improper use of the back.
- POOR POSTURE, which can have a number of causes, results in a spinal joint strain and abnormal muscle tension, and is usually accompanied by misalignment of vertebrae.

Fortunately there is help for most back pain problems once your chiropractic physician identifies the cause and appropriate remedial measures are undertaken.



Jeff Ewald, D.C.
Faculty Clinician



Kevin Kalb, D.C.
Faculty Clinician

What are the measures generally taken?

- Corrective spinal manipulation along with improving posture and the way the back is used;
- Stretching and strengthening exercises;
- Back supports may be appropriate;
- Physiotherapy;
- Traction therapy.

Additionally, doctors of chiropractic refer to and work in cooperation with all other health care providers when indicated for patients' conditions.



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Don Peterson 690-8444 \$89,900 Norm Geiger



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Jim Burton 690-8440 \$82,900



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1606 Juno: Charming 2-BR home in impeccable condition! Recently re-modeled ceramic bath, hardwood floors, oak woodwork, brand new roof and gutters. LL amusement room.

Jim Burton 690-8440 \$126,500



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1943 Summit Ave.: Exquisite detailing! Gracious living room and dining room, fabulous gourmet kitchen and family room, 5 BRs, 5 new baths. Beautiful landscaping!

Mary Gallivan 225-3921 \$675,000



Highland Beauty!
1940 Eleanor: Master suite plus 3 more BRs. Fabulous family room open to private patio and yard. Formal living room with fireplace, formal dining room. Mint condition!

Mary Gallivan 225-3921 \$289,000



New York City Style!
Unique 1887 Victorian condo with 3 floors, rich woodwork, ornate fireplace, huge pocket doors and views of the Cathedral! Vintage bathroom and cozy spaces...

Brad Palecek 225-3923 \$117,950



Ideal Renovation!
This 2-story has been completely updated with new bathrooms, new ceramic tile kitchen and lots of vaulted ceilings on the upper level. 1305 Marion Street.

Brad Palecek 225-3923 \$72,950



Vintage — 2 Bedrooms!
617 Dayton Avenue, #2. Wonderful condo built in 1918 features beautiful hardwood floors, front porch, single garage and many built-ins! New ceramic bath, too!

Brad Palecek 225-3923 \$121,950

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698-2434

Edina Realty

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Grand Avenue Office
1050 Grand Ave.
224-4321



Inver Grove Luxury!
8360 Carew Court: Warm, spacious 4-BR 2-story in Arbor Pointe overlooks wooded valley. Vaulted ceilings, MBR suite, main floor den and family room. Outstanding value!

Allen Short 690-8428 \$274,900



Gorgeous Woodwork!
237 Vernon: Spacious 4-BR, 2-bath bungalow with brilliant hardwood floors and buffet. Offers room for a growing family! Fireplace in living room, full baths on both levels.

Allen Short 690-8428



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1896 Park Ridge: Matchless construction and appearance! 4-BR, 4-bath 2-story boasts a sauna, deck, 2 fireplaces. 1988 "Parade" winner is surrounded by Battle Creek Park preserve.

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Gorgeous Wooded Lot!
Privacy and beauty in Ivy Falls! Classic 5-BR, 5-bath home. Quality and comfort abound. Large rooms for entertaining. Light kitchen, white-washed cabinetry. 681 Ivy Falls Ct.

Becky Mickelberg 690-8417 \$575,000



3-BR Beauty!
And in Mac/Groveland! Hardwood, fireplace, terrific kitchen, French doors to rear yard, spacious front porch, delightful decor, new ceramic bath. 2096 Goodrich.

Becky Mickelberg 690-8417 \$171,900



Cheaper Than Rent!
One bedroom bungalow on oversized lot is waiting for your cosmetic touches. Move right in — already has new roof, furnace and carpet.

Rachel Nelson 225-3909 \$49,900



Perfect Starter!
This 2-BR, 2-story, low-maintenance home is the perfect place to start. Many updates include kitchen and newer windows throughout. Walk to Cherokee Park.

Rachel Nelson 225-3909 \$64,900



Great Opportunity!
Huge Merriam Park side-by-side duplex. Each side has 3 BRs on 2nd floor and large unfinished walk-up attic w/newer roof and skylights, new garage, hardwood floors, big kitchens.

Mary Hardy 225-3903 \$170,000



Gracious Staircase!
Entertain your guests in elegance at 720 Goodrich Ave. Grand entry foyer leading to formal living and dining rooms. New cherry kitchen. Mint condition throughout.

Jim Gilbert 718-3721 \$349,900



Ideal Location! 3+ BRs.
1277 Bayard (at Syndicate) offers many features simply not available at this price, such as a new roof, stucco siding, 2 fireplaces, C/A, and family room.

Steve Townley 698-0487 \$138,900



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with this wonderful 3-BR rambler that is nestled on the hillside. Large 3-season porch. Finished lower level. Fireplace, 2 baths. 1072 So. Prior off St. Paul Ave.

Lindsay & Lindsay 690-8450 \$124,900



It's A Big Surprise!
Very well-cared-for 3-BR rambler with a main floor family fun room. Newly refinished hardwood floors. Wonderful large back yard and more! 1744 Montreal.

Lindsay & Lindsay 730-2444 \$129,900



Adjusted To \$259,900!
957 Grand offers a great business opportunity: 4 large BRs, beautiful woodwork, 2 baths, great signage plus off-street parking!

Debbie Sherman 690-8404



Cozy 3-BR Ranch.
Living room charmed by fireplace, large dining L, bodacious lower level, 2 baths, fenced yard. Nicely located, close to park, church and schools; challenges comparisons!

Debbie Sherman 690-8404 \$119,900



Eye-ful Of Aahs!
Just listed: 1952 Field, TLC throughout! 2-BR ranch featuring new decor, carpet, wood floor in dining room. Bonus breakfast room addition off updated kitchen. New lower level!

Debbie Sherman 690-8404 \$118,999



Premier Offering!
Built in 1990 with 3,200 sq. ft. of spectacular space, top-of-the-line throughout! Bright south-facing sun-filled rooms. 4 BRs, 3 baths, 2+ car garage!

Mary Ann Buelow 690-8418 \$335,000



Crocus Hill Charmer.
5-BR home with stucco exterior and newly painted trim. Double garage and fenced yard. Oak floors newly finished on main floor. Laundry room on second floor.

Mary Ann Buelow 690-8418 \$139,900



Great Family Home!
Spacious living room, dining room with built-in buffet, main floor family room with fireplace. Eat-in kitchen, large sun porch. Bedrooms on second and third floors. A must see!

Mary Ann Buelow 690-8418 \$238,000



Heart Of Highland!
Pretty 1-1/2 story home with maintenance-free ext., fenced yard, double garage. 3 BRs, updated kit., fireplace with oak mantel, storage! \$139,900

Mary Ann Buelow 690-8418 690-8471 Scott Buelow



Mac/Groveland Duplex!
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Linda J. Alter 690-8472 \$139,900



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Rory Anderson/ Andrea Burmeister 690-8433 \$119,000



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Lesley Weeks



Sex offender/ from page 1

ment of Corrections. She moved to Highland on April 23.

Burgos said that May 12 was the earliest that police could line up a space large enough to accommodate the anticipated crowd. The meeting will include an overview of the notification law and the rights and responsibilities of both the offender and the public before getting into the specifics of the offender and her offenses. A panel of experts will answer questions and offer ideas on how to deal with the information provided. That panel will include representatives from the St. Paul Police Department's Sex Crimes Unit, the Minnesota Department of Corrections, and the Ramsey and St. Paul attorneys offices.

"It will also provide an opportunity for parents to understand how to discuss this topic with their children" Burgos said.

Weeks has a history of sexually assaulting "known male children," Burgos said. The offense for which she served time in prison was assaulting a 6-year-old who was in her care in the bathroom of a shopping mall. She is subject to the community notification law because she has been classified as a Level 3 sex offender, which is reserved for those most likely

to repeat their offenses.

Weeks is described as a 5-foot-9, 329-pound white woman with brown hair, hazel eyes and a fair complexion. She is the first woman to be subject to the Level 3 notification law in St. Paul.

The community notification law was passed by the Minnesota Legislature and went into effect on January 1, 1997. It provides a broad framework for police agencies to follow in notifying the neighbors of the presence of a Level 3 sex offender in their midst. The St. Paul Police Department opted to handle formal notification through neighborhood meetings. Over the past year, St. Paul has held four such meetings. There have been more than 30 statewide.

St. Paul's first community notification meeting was held at Central High School last May. It drew a crowd of about 700 people who gathered to learn about two convicted male sex offenders who planned to take up residence in the 600 block of Hague Avenue. One of the men was later reincarcerated for violating his probation and the other moved to Minneapolis.

"It's important to remember that the (community no-

Sex/see next page

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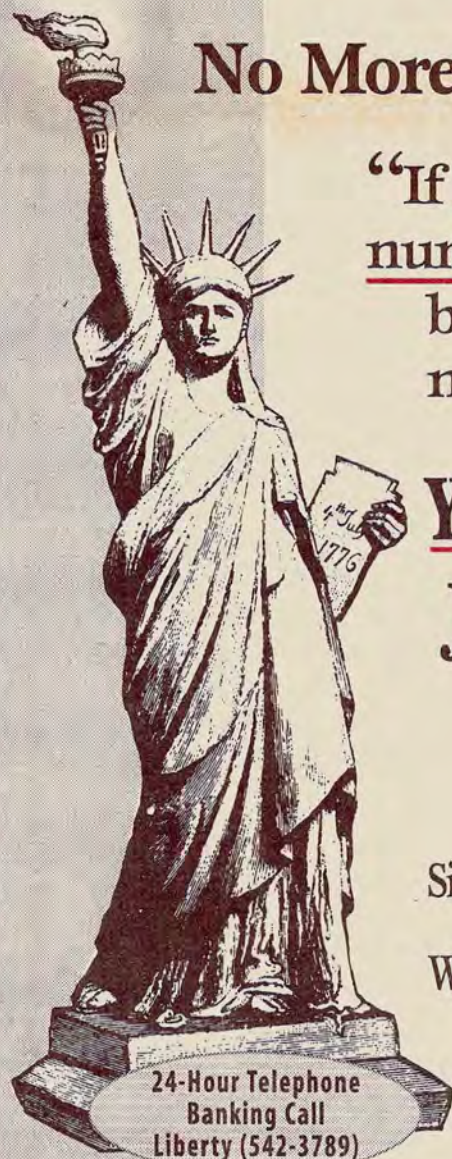
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Group pushes plan for turning Ayd Mill Road into linear park

by Jane McClure

A neighborhood group has been formed to push plans for the replacement of Ayd Mill Road with a linear park. Called Neighborhoods First! the group has enlisted more than 100 members in its first few weeks of operation.

"Neighborhoods First! wants to protect and strengthen the neighborhoods along the Ayd Mill Road corridor," said Michael Cline of Merriam Park, one of the organizers.

More than 50 people attended the first meeting of the group at Concordia University. The group is setting up committees to recruit members, generate publicity, monitor Ayd Mill Road Task Force deliberations and design the layout for the park. The group plans to meet again on June 2, operate a booth at Grand Old Day and host a series of block parties on the subject this fall.

Replacing the four-lane road with a linear park is one of six alternatives that are being studied by the Ayd Mill Road Task Force. The other five are:

1. Leaving the roadway as is, with four lanes, a 45 mph speed limit and no connection to either I-35E or I-94.
2. Making Ayd Mill Road a two-lane street with a 35 mph speed limit, a direct connection to 35E and an indirect connection to 94 between Pascal Street and Hamline Avenue via the frontage roads of Concordia and St. Anthony.
3. Making Ayd Mill a four-lane roadway with a 40 mph speed limit, a direct connection to 35E and an indirect connection to 94.
4. Making Ayd Mill a four-lane roadway

Neighborhoods First! plans to challenge the Ayd Mill Road Task Force's EIS when it is released this summer.

with a 40 mph speed limit, a direct connection to 35E, a direct connection to westbound 94 via entrance and exit ramps near Pascal Street, and an indirect connection to eastbound 94.

5. Making Ayd Mill a freeway with direct connections to both 35E and 94 via entrance and exit ramps. Neighborhoods First! plans to challenge the Ayd Mill Road Task Force's environmental impact statement (EIS) when it is released this summer. The EIS is a detailed examination of the alternatives for the roadway's reconstruction.

The Merriam Park Community Council will hold two meetings on Ayd Mill Road in the coming week, both at the Merriam Park

Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The Community Issues Committee will discuss the issue at 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 11, and the full council will discuss it at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 13.

After the EIS is released, the Ayd Mill Road Task Force will review it at a public meeting. The report and the task force's recommendations will then be sent to the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

Once those reviews are completed, the City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint public hearing before sending all the information back to the task force for its review. The task force will then recommend a preferred alternative for the future of Ayd Mill Road to the Planning Commission and City Council. The entire process is not expected to be wrapped up until next year.

Ayd Mill Road task force seeks greater emphasis on mass transit/

from page 1

rect tie with I-35E, West 7th Street or Shepard Road—three of the routes being studied for the Riverview Corridor.

Task force members questioned whether a bus route on Lexington would reduce rush-hour traffic there. Levin said that adding bus service on Lexington would be tricky since the street is designated as a city parkway. Buses are not allowed on parkways without the permission of the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation.

Such permission has yet to be granted on any parkway in St. Paul. Parks and Recreation superintendent Robert Piram said he is opposed to making an exception for Lexington. "Buses would destroy the character of the

parkway," he said.

• Ways to tie the area's existing bus service to the planned Hiawatha Corridor. The light-rail route, which is expected to be built after the turn of the century, will connect downtown Minneapolis to the airport and Mall of America. Zimmer said it is not clear how many commuters will be diverted from Ayd Mill Road when the route is completed.

• Provide bus service or another dedicated transit route along Ayd Mill Road. Levin and Zimmer questioned whether that would be practical. Riders would have to walk long distances to get to the stations since Ayd Mill Road was constructed in a valley. "If you had a bus route along Ayd Mill Road, it would re-

quire the ability to turn around or go up and down at the cross streets," Levin said.

Macalester-Groveland representative Doug Zangs recalled plans for grade-separated transit stations along I-94 and I-35W that included ways for pedestrians to get from an overpass down to a freeway-level bus station. He asked why that could not be used along Ayd Mill Road.

"You can do anything if you throw money at it," Zimmer said. She doubted whether an Ayd Mill Road transit route would have enough riders to justify the cost.

• Use of the Canadian Pacific Railroad tracks along Ayd Mill Road for high-speed commuter trains. The Minnesota Depart-

ment of Transportation (MnDOT) has been studying commuter rail options in the Twin Cities for more than a year, but the Ayd Mill corridor has not been identified as a priority due to anticipated low ridership. Still, Al Vogel, who is overseeing the MnDOT study, said he did not think any commuter rail alternative should be eliminated from consideration.

Zimmer said light-rail currently is not an alternative for Ayd Mill Road. The Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority briefly considered Ayd Mill Road as a light-rail route during the 1980s, but low ridership projections curtailed any further consideration.

Sex offender moves onto the 1700 block of Field Avenue/

from previous page

tification) law has only been around for about a year and a half," Burgos said. "There are many, many offenders living in our community who the public knows nothing about. Up until this law took effect, offenders benefited by their anonymity. We need to continue to be vigilant about ourselves and our children."

Burgos said police know the whereabouts of previously released sex offenders, since they are required to register their addresses with local law enforcement agencies. The only difference is that now the public also is privy

to the information, she said.

Gayle Summers, community organizer for the Highland District Council, said she has received numerous calls from neighbors who are concerned about having a Level 3 sex offender moving into the area. "I've had probably 50 so far," she said five days after the news of Weeks' release came out. "Some people are very frightened. I have to explain that she has done her time and has the right to try to live a law-abiding life. All I can give them is the information and let them know that at least we

know who and where these people are now."

Summers passed out a flier on the notification meeting at the council's annual meeting, which was held the same night that Weeks was released. Volunteers are expected to distribute fliers this week to residents in the southern end of Highland. The fliers were printed in several languages for the benefit of the large immigrant population that resides in that part of the city.

"I'm concerned because we have a large number of new Americans living in that area,"

Summers said. "There are some language barriers and because of what happened to many of them in their home countries, there is some understandable distrust of police and government. I'm worried that they will be especially vulnerable."

Summers urged anyone with questions or concerns to come to the meeting. "I especially hope that this will give parents the opportunity to have the 'good-touch, bad-touch' kinds of conversations with their children," she said.

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VIEWPOINT

MISCH-MASCH

MICHAEL MISCHKE

When a sex offender moves onto the block

So now it's Highland Park's turn to deal with the insecurity, fear and anger of having a known convicted sex offender living on the block. That certainly was the reaction last year in the Summit-University neighborhood at the first community notification meeting to be held in St. Paul. A state law that took effect on January 1, 1997, requires local police to notify neighbors whenever a released Level 3 sex offender moves in.

(Level 3 is a designation that corrections officials reserve for those who are deemed most likely to offend again. Just how likely has never been stated.)

About 700 neighbors turned out last May at that first meeting at Central High School to vent their anger that not one, but two sex offenders would soon be living at the same address on Hague Avenue. One of the men has since been reincarcerated for violating parole. The other moved to Minneapolis last February. Before the Minneapolis Police Department could hold its own community notification meeting, he was arrested again and charged with rape. He is now in jail awaiting trial.

If the meeting on May 12 at Highland Park Senior High is anything like that first one, police and corrections officials will have their hands full trying to calm an anxious audience while explaining the state law and its ramifications for the offender and the neighbors. The bad news, they'll say, is that Lesley Weeks, the 25-year-old sex offender who is already living on Field Avenue in Highland Park, was deemed to be of the most dangerous variety while she was serving time. The good news, they'll say, is that at least her new neighbors now know who and where she is, even while the county's corrections staff monitor her behavior.

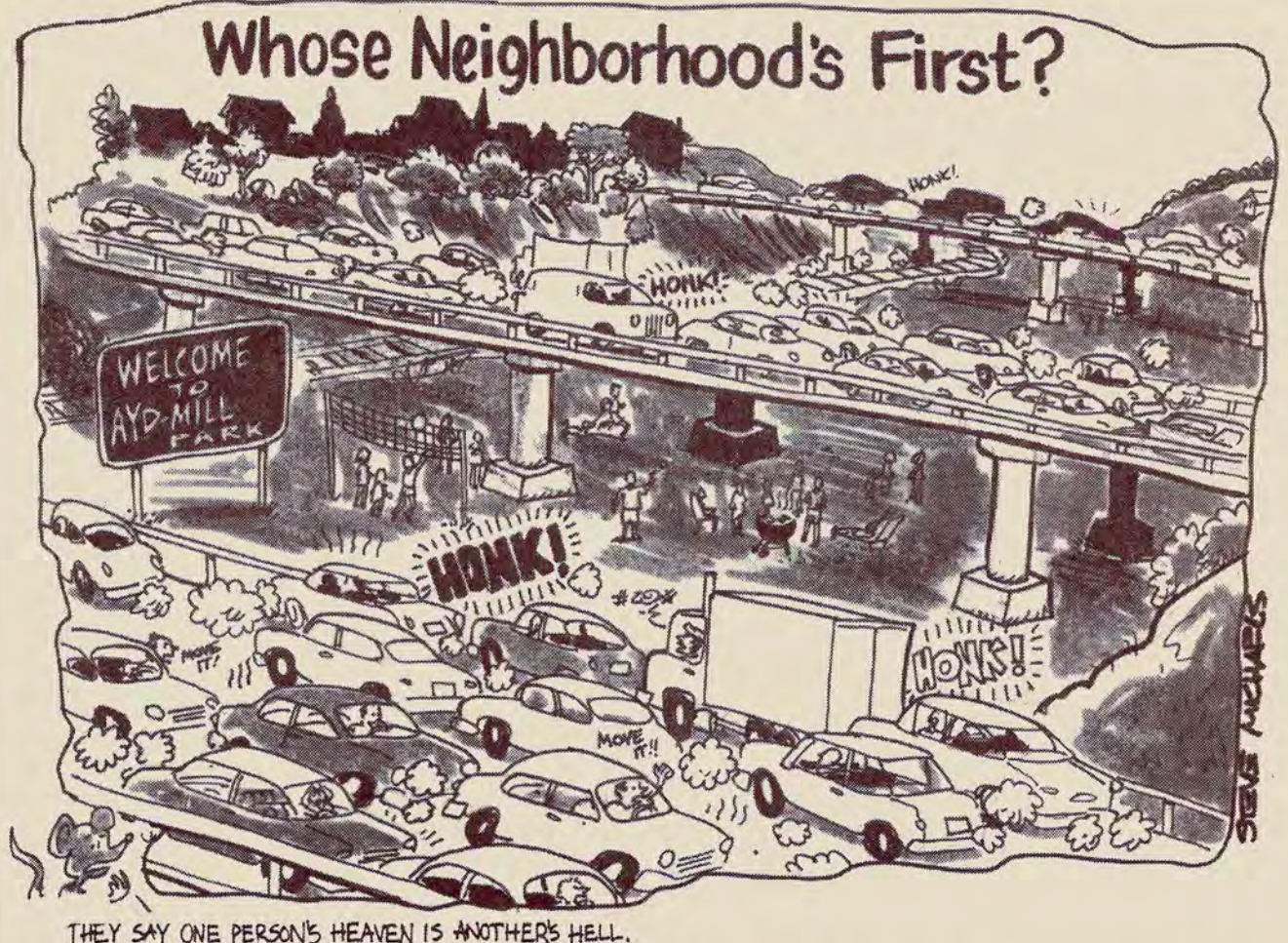
Just like last year, that's likely to be small consolation, but the fact is, there were more than 500 convicted sex offenders living in St. Paul neighborhoods when the community notification law took effect. Until then, neighbors of newly released sex offenders enjoyed the blissful ignorance of not knowing who they were, where they were or what they'd done. Now the neighbors know, but it's knowledge that comes with a price: an eroded sense of security.

In addition to the rights of the neighbors, police and corrections officials are likely to dwell on the rights of the offender now that she has served her time. Indeed, it gives me some pause to publish the story and photos of Field Avenue's newest neighbor. Even if Weeks no longer enjoys the right to anonymity—an extension of her punishment that the U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld as constitutional—she is entitled to a chance to make a new life for herself and demonstrate that she deserves to be out among the rest of us.

I realize that by publishing the story and photos in this edition, the *Villager* has increased the likelihood that Weeks' life will be a living hell. But when one balances that concern with a concern for the safety of the children who live in the neighborhood and the children who attend Homecroft Elementary School up the block and the children who visit the Jewish Community Center around the corner, it's no contest. Then too, that information is already available on flyers that are being distributed in the neighborhood and on the St. Paul Police Department's Web site.

By May 12, anyone who cares will have learned all they need to know about Lesley Weeks.

A postscript on the community notification process: It can only be described as a gross bureaucratic blunder that a Level 3 sex offender like Weeks will have been living in Highland for nearly a month before the neighbors formally learn of her presence. Like so many laws that are passed down by the Legislature, community notification is an unfunded state mandate that requires cities and counties to come up with the wherewithal to manage what has proven to be a time-consuming and costly process. Last year the St. Paul Police conducted three notification meetings. The St. Paul City Council and Ramsey County Board voted late last year to spend an additional \$190,000 this year to hire more staff to coordinate the process. Four months into 1998, it's not at all clear that the public's safety is being served any better. We all have a right to demand to know why.



An arena where stupidity reigns supreme

Dear editors,

It seems we just can't build anything and keep it for long. We tore down a good hockey arena in Bloomington and now we want another one in St. Paul. We've had nine—that's NINE—stadiums and arenas since 1900 and now we want another one. We tore out our streetcar tracks that went just about everywhere and now we want a light-rail transit route that only goes a short distance and costs an arm and a leg.

The light-rail tickets will have to be subsidized or they'll cost so much that few will be able to ride. I sure don't want to help pay for the few who will ride. If I weren't so old, I might live long enough to say I told you it would be another failure. If only we had a way to harness stupidity, we could pay for a lot of the stupid projects we seem to think we need.

Eugene R. Reiner
Highland Park

Connect Ayd Mill Road to I-35E

Dear editor,

Your April 22 issue had another letter to the editor fearing that Ayd Mill Road will be opened to traffic off I-35E. I see these letters regularly, but I never see one seeking to have it opened. Well, here is one.

The traffic through the neighborhood because cars cannot go directly from I-35E to Ayd Mill Road is terrible. Check the corner of Lexington Parkway and Randolph Avenue most anytime of the day. Ayd Mill Road would be an ideal alternative, and it is already there and ready to do the job. It is absolutely crazy not to use it. Get the traffic through the neighborhood on an ideal thoroughfare. City streets will only get worse without this alternative.

Ray Boyens
West 7th

Questioning Gaertner's motives

To the editor:

This past New Year's Eve, my precious 16-year-old nephew, Kevin Brockway, was killed in an alcohol-related auto accident. His friend in the car was critically injured. They had just left a party hosted by a 51-year-old father and his 16-year-old daughter. In all, three adults either provided or sold liquor to the minors in attendance.

After investigating, the St. Paul police gave the case to Ramsey County attorney Susan Gaertner, who claimed there was no basis for felony charges and passed the case on to the

VILLAGE POST

City Attorney's Office for possible lesser charges.

There has been an enormous amount of support from family, friends and the community. For that we are very thankful. But we feel let down by the justice system. I still have my doubts about the felony charges. We wonder why in 3½ months my sister's family never heard from the Ramsey County Attorney's Office with either condolences or information. Why did it take so long? Why was nothing mentioned about the passenger? The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* quoted Gaertner as saying that Kevin Brockway did not purchase the liquor and that he crashed the party. We were told that Kevin was invited to the party by the hostess.

Kevin was not faultless that night, and he paid the ultimate price. But the adults who knew the laws and consequences made the decision to serve alcohol to the teen-agers. We will not let those responsible for his death go unpunished.

The added pain caused by Gaertner's uncaring attitude is unacceptable from an elected official. I'm curious who she represents. Would pursuing felony charges hurt her political future? Did she drag her feet on this one, hoping in time the public would forget? Does the victim's family have any rights?

Too many questions, not enough answers.

Colleen Mazzitello
Macalester-Groveland

Murder is not entertainment

To the editor:

The Lexington-Hamline Community Theater's production of *Bullets and Beauties* (*Villager*, April 22) is offensive to those who have had a child or other loved one murdered. Murder is not and can never be entertaining. It is final and it means dead. We have heard the argument that this sort of production has been around for years and years. This does not make it right, and it is way past time that it be stopped. With so much murder going on—murder that is for real—do you honestly believe that it can ever, ever be entertaining? If you advertise this in your paper and advertise it for free, you also have become insensitive to murder and desensitized to such violence and brutality. I ask you to stop this so-called generosity.

Village Post/see next page

Village Post

/from previous page

We invite you to attend a meeting of Parents of Murdered Children. It will give you an opportunity to listen to parents, their sadness, their devastation, their deep heartache concerning the violent, brutal death of their child, how their child suffered such a horrible, painful death. Meetings are held at Holy Spirit Grade School at 7:00 p.m. on the second Friday of the month. If you cannot attend a meeting, go to a murder trial, sit next to one of the parents or relatives of a murdered victim, take it all in and then tell me that murder is entertaining.

We do not want your sympathy. We just want your support and certainly your understanding and perhaps you can be thankful that you are not in our shoes.

Margie Mayer, Member
Parents of Murdered Children
Watertown

Kudos to Kufus

To the editor:

The board of directors of the Highland-Groveland Recreation Association would like to thank outgoing board president Steven R. Kufus for his tireless energy and devotion to the HGRA.

For the past 18 years, the last six as president, Steve has been an enthusiastic promotor of youth sports in the Highland-Groveland area. Under his guidance, the HGRA has flourished and now provides recreational opportunities

to more than 1,600 children from our neighborhood. Steve's commitment to the HGRA and to the youth of the Highland-Groveland area has improved our quality of life and has made this area a better place for all of us.

Peter Pitman, President
Highland-Groveland Recreation Association

Aw, shucks

Dear editors:

Who could ask for a better newspaper?

The *Villager* seems to be more informative with each issue we receive. The whole *Villager* staff is doing an excellent job of covering all phases of the news. Thank you for giving the Interclub Council space and also the Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics and Cultural Society.

Lou N. Pavlicek
Highland Park

Do write, won't you?

The *Villager* always welcomes letters to the editors. In fact, the more the merrier. However, to be considered for publication, letters must be signed and must include a phone number for verification. You may send your letter to the *Villager* at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116, or fax it to 699-1462. We reserve the right to edit for length, so please keep your letter brief and to the point.



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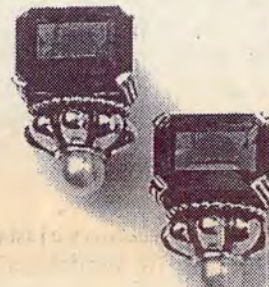
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Bridgeman's closing clears way for new cafe and gift store, larger guild

by Celeste Riley

This spring the corner of Snelling and Randolph avenues witnessed the closing of a neighborhood mainstay, Bridgeman's Soda Fountain. However, its departure has made way for the expansion of another local institution, St. Patrick's Guild, which is located just down the block.

Mike Doran, owner of the religious gift store, recently signed a lease for the entire Randolph Avenue wing of the L-shaped building adjacent to his own building at 1554 Randolph Ave.

St. Patrick's Guild will expand into the space formerly occupied by Amiga Computer and the Wooden Cove. Opening in the former Bridgeman's space will be a second location for the Gaelic gift store Irish Indeed. Opening in the space between the Guild and Irish Indeed will be a new cafe, Doran's Deli.

The cafe, gift shop and expanded Guild are separate projects but will be connected both physically and financially. Doran is a partner with Scott Wilhelmy in Irish Indeed. The cafe is a cooperative venture for Doran and two of his brothers—Tim, manager of the Guild's Randolph Avenue shop, and John, who will leave his job at Pronto Ristorante in Minneapolis to run the lunch and breakfast spot.

The businesses will have separate outside entrances on Randolph, but customers will be able to move between them on the inside.

The Guild's expansion should be completed in August, according to Mike Doran. Doran's Deli and Irish Indeed are scheduled to open in September. Together, the three businesses will employ about 70 people, he said.

St. Patrick's Guild was founded in 1949 by Doran's father, Bob Doran, who operated out of his Macalester-Groveland home in the early years. In 1951 he moved the business into a storefront on the eastern end of St. Patrick's Guild's present building.

Bob Doran died in 1972 and Mike took over the business. The Guild now employs about 40 people. Its catalog and retail sales cater to the members of most denominations, Doran said, and its institutional clients include about 5,000 churches nationwide.

The present expansion—the fourth in the Guild's 49 years—will increase its floor space from 4,000 to 6,000 square feet, allowing for a larger bookstore and retail area and expanded institutional services.

The success of St. Patrick's Guild led to the opening of three other metro area locations and the founding of Irish Indeed.

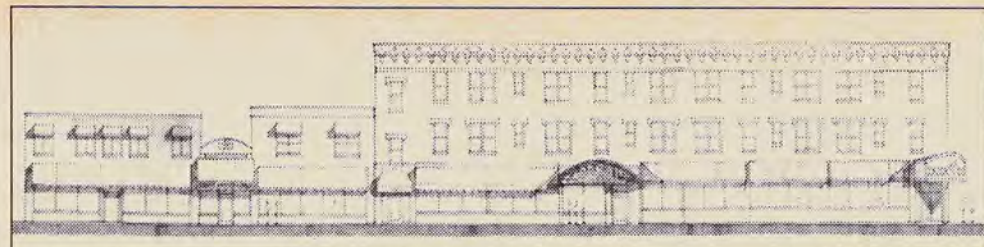
Doran said that for years the "St. Patrick's" name attracted customers looking for Irish goods, which the Guild did not sell. The trend intensified when Doran opened a Guild outlet at the Mall of America. That's when he and Wilhelmy heard opportunity knocking.

"We finally got the message," Doran said. In

Though Bridgeman's will no longer be part of the corner's retail mix, its former owner will. Jim Weinberg is already working at St. Patrick's Guild, a few yards from the restaurant that he ran for 19 years.



Planning the transformation of the retail strip on Snelling and Randolph avenues are (from left) John Doran, Jim Weinberg, Mike Doran, Tim Doran and Scott Wilhelmy. Photo by Mike Long.



An artist's rendering of what's in store for Randolph and Snelling avenues.

1992 he and Wilhelmy opened Irish Indeed to a ready customer base at the megamall.

Though Bridgeman's will no longer be part of the retail mix at Randolph and Snelling, its former owner will. Jim Weinberg is already working at St. Patrick's Guild, a few yards from the restaurant that he ran for 19 years. Weinberg's father, Arlyn, who worked for his son at the restaurant, is now working at the Irish Indeed in Bloomington.

Weinberg said he closed Bridgeman's when he was faced with the need to make costly renovations. That and gradually diminishing sales, he said, led him to cut his losses and find a new vocation.

The decision was not easy for Weinberg, es-

pecially because of the obligation he felt to his customers and employees. "Some of them were there 19 years," he said. Even now people stop him on the street each week to tell him how much they miss Bridgeman's.

"If I could say one thing, I'd want to thank all the people who supported us over the years," Weinberg said. "This is a big switch, but it's the right decision."

Weinberg said he was glad to see the renovation work begin on the new businesses. It enables him to look ahead, he said.

According to Mike Doran, the interior of the building is now undergoing major renovation and the exterior will be given cosmetic changes, all at a cost of about \$650,000.

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Shepard-Davern project /from page 1

problems to a neighborhood already trying to cope the additional traffic that three large airport-related businesses have brought to the area.

The task force, which began meeting last fall, is now studying a wide range of land-use issues in the area. A small area plan and 40-acre zoning study is expected to be completed this summer before it is sent to the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council for approval. Many neighbors had hoped to see more housing developed or at least less intensive commercial uses in the area. Now they are wondering if the entire study should be shelved. A few people said that they are now thinking about selling their homes and moving elsewhere.

"We have to take a serious look at how much this neighborhood can bear," said Highland community organizer Gayle Summers.

Hertz and Alamo now operate lots in the Shepard-Davern area as part of their car rental businesses based at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Trooien owns and operates Park 'N' Jet, a park-and-ride facility for airport travelers. Together, the three businesses have more than 1,000 parking spaces. Since Hertz opened late last year, residents all along Davern Street said they have noted an increase in traffic, especially taxis taking airport travelers to and from the car rental operation.

"We have to ask what can be done to protect the neighborhood," said Stewart Avenue resident Chris Berg. He has pushed for the construction of a cul-de-sac on Stewart east of Davern Street, but he admitted that it would not help neighbors who live west of Davern.

"I think it's time the city said 'No' to some of this development," said Benson Avenue resident Veronica Koschak. She and Berg represent the area as members of the board of the Highland District Council (HDC).

"The city will be looking very carefully at these plans," said Ken Ford, a planner with the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development. Trooien's property is zoned for industrial use, which means that the parking ramp, hotel and service station will not require any zoning changes or special city permits, Ford said. Only a site plan review

is required.

Site plan reviews are handled strictly by city staff unless a citizen or community council requests a public hearing. Summers said the HDC will be requesting that a public hearing be held on Trooien's plans.

City Council member Mike Harris, whose Ward 3 encompasses Trooien's property, said his enthusiasm for the added U.S. Bank jobs and the increased tax base the new developments will bring are balanced by a concern about the potential traffic burden that the developments could impose on the neighborhood. Harris met with Trooien and toured the RiverBank Business Center last month.

"Jerry has done an excellent job improving what had been a vacant, blighted industrial property," Harris said. "Most communities would love to have this kind of redevelopment. It could mean as many as 2,000 jobs—almost twice as many jobs as the Lawson Software building is bringing downtown—and this project has no public subsidies."

Harris said he will work with neighbors on the traffic issues. "We're going to have to take a reasonable approach to this and see what can be done," he said.

Trooien, who bought the former Unisys property in December 1996 for \$4.375 million, said he has been following the Shepard-Davern small area plan process and has had some of his staff members attend the task force meetings. He said he is aware of the traffic and parking concerns, but he noted that the neighborhood also had considerable traffic years ago when Unisys was running three shifts at the plant. He added that most of the traffic to and from the RiverBank Business Center, the hotel and the service station will use Highway 5 and Shepard Road.

According to Trooien, the parking ramp will be designed in a way that complements the business center. The building has a new limestone facade, new windows and a redesigned entrance since Trooien bought it. Its interior also has been extensively remodeled.

Because the parking ramp is in the Mississippi River corridor, it can be no more than 40 feet high. Trooien also has plans to work with the city to landscape his 22 acres with berms, trees and planters.



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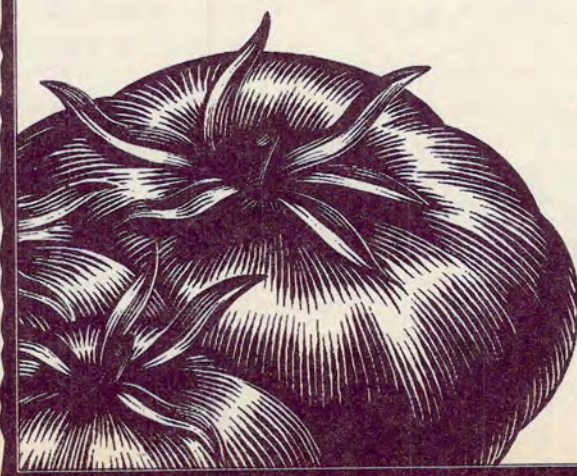
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Builder Frank Greczyna (left) and developers John and Erin Mathern are halfway to completing their eight-unit Pineview Homes in Ramsey Hill. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

Population gain with no pain City seeks an easier way to fit new housing into its old neighborhoods

by Dave Page

Meet Diane. Her children are two years away from moving out of her single-family home in the suburbs. She winces every time she sees a lawn mower or a snow blower. Her dream is to live in a townhouse on Summit Avenue.

Diane is just the kind of person who Metropolitan Council planners want to attract to the core cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. They are hoping that two-thirds of the metropolitan area's projected 650,000 population growth in the next two decades will be in the central cities.

For St. Paul, that would mean adding about 500 new households each year. Which won't be easy, considering that the number of households demolished in St. Paul over the past eight years almost equals the number that were built.

"If we don't do it, we can't expect to limit growth on the fringes of the metro area or rejuvenate our central cities," said Susan Kimberly, southwest team leader for the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development.

The problem is, St. Paul does not have 20 large tracts to drop 500 housing units on, Kimberly said, and building single-family homes alone will not meet the demand. "We need to find ways to expedite the building of 10- to 15-unit projects," she said.

The building of multi-unit housing has been somewhat less than expeditious in recent years. New projects are going up, but not without long, drawn-out battles over design.

Part of the problem is what developer Michael Lander calls the "not-in-my-backyard syndrome." Though some of the appeal of city living is the mix of single-family homes, condominiums, and rental and commercial properties, "zoning ordinances often prohibit anything but single-family homes," Lander said, "and neighborhood groups frequently oppose any kind of rezoning."

To ease the process for prospective developers, the city has begun drafting a comprehensive plan for neighborhood development that will include design guidelines. In the meantime, John Hardwick, a staff member for the city's Board of Zoning Appeals, advises developers to involve the community early in the process, "meaning before they even request a variance," he said. The process usually goes very smoothly then, he said.

Lander recently built six upscale condominiums at 280 Summit Ave. on a lot that had been vacant since 1930. The property was zoned for row houses but, as Lander discovered, adjacent property owners did not want a new block of townhouses there.

Lander told the neighbors from the start

that he wanted them involved in the design, and the neighbors, though initially skeptical, eventually helped him get the zoning changed. "At the last neighborhood meeting, I actually got a standing ovation," he said.

To realize a profit, a developer must have "an appropriate density, one that offsets building and land costs," said Erin Mathern, who with her father, John Mathern, operates Mendota Homes.

In April the St. Paul Planning Commission approved Mendota Homes' permit to build 10 townhouses on a 3.3 acre site off Ayd Mill Road and St. Clair Avenue—eight months and umpteen public meetings after Mendota Homes initially proposed a 15-unit development for the site. (See story on page 11.)

Though it was time-consuming, Erin Mathern said the many meetings between Mendota Homes and Summit Hill neighbors actually improved the project. Along with scaling back the density, the Matherns agreed to alter the pitch on the roofs and change the siding. "We even allowed for a stucco option to be consistent with the various exteriors in the neighborhood," she said.

However, some of the changes were not made before a group of Summit Hill neighbors successfully lobbied the City Council to overturn the Planning Commission's initial approval of the Lexington Commons permit.

John Mathern praised city staff for being "very helpful." However, he maintains that the appeal process in St. Paul is too easy. "Anyone with \$250 can hold up a multi-million dollar project by appealing," he said. "There are enough steps along the way for everyone involved to make his or her concerns known."

The Matherns also are involved in the Pineview Homes development at Laurel Avenue and Mackubin Street, where neighbors were also instrumental in the final design. "It's not exactly what we had in mind when we first proposed the project," John Mathern said, "but it's going to be a beautiful corner when it's finished."

The low interest rates of recent years have encouraged the development of otherwise marginal land in the Summit Hill and Ramsey Hill areas. Lander is currently building six townhomes on Irvine Avenue directly below his Summit Avenue condominiums, and Cy Brezil of Maui Pacific recently completed 11 townhomes on Ramsey Street below the University Club.

"Building on a hillside obviously increases costs," Brezil said, but good interest rates alone did not make his project possible. "Getting the appropriate number of units onto the property was the most important element," he said.

New housing/see next page

Traffic safety concerns waylay Walgreen-Mendakota plan

by Bill Wagner

A proposal to build a Walgreen drugstore on a 2-acre parcel of land owned by Mendakota Country Club was set to go before the Mendota Heights City Council on May 5, but not with the momentum proponents hoped it would have.

Mendakota's proposal to lease to Walgreen a triangular piece of the golf course on the southwest corner of Dodd Road and Highway 110 was shot down 6-1 by the city's Planning Commission during a public hearing last week. Walgreen and Mendakota had hoped to obtain the necessary changes in zoning and the city's comprehensive plan to allow the construction of a 14,000-square-

foot store. However, Planning Commission chair Michael Dwyer said there were "no compelling reasons" to make such changes.

Dwyer cited safety concerns as the main reason the commission recommended against amending the city's comprehensive plan. He said the drugstore would sit directly across Dodd Road from Mendota Plaza, and that the ramifications of traffic going back and forth between the two was not adequately addressed.

"It wasn't even taken into consideration," Dwyer said. "The traffic study submitted to us didn't take that into account."

Area residents also have raised traffic concerns about the proposal. In addition, they noted that the Walgreen store would be di-

rectly across the street from an existing Snyder's drugstore.

Mendakota president Darrell Mullerleile said he knows that trying to change a comprehensive plan from "green acre to commercial space" can be a tough sell. Still, he said he believes the project has a lot to offer. "We have the opportunity to lease the land to a national chain," he said. "The club is 100 percent supportive of this."

Mullerleile said Mendakota does not need the 2 acres and would have little trouble reconfiguring two holes on the course to make room for Walgreen. However, he admitted that the safety concerns raised by the Planning Commission need to be addressed. Representatives from Walgreen and the city were

expected to meet this week to work on that issue.

Mendakota's proposal calls for Walgreen to lease the golf course property for \$80,000 a year for 20 years, with the options to renew the lease for another 40 years. Mendakota would receive \$300,000 up front from Walgreen to pay for relocating the greens on the second and third holes, redoing the fairway on the second hole and erecting a new maintenance facility. Mullerleile said the two greens would be moved 30 to 50 yards to the south.

Assuming ratification by the City Council, Mullerleile said work on the course could be completed this fall and the new holes could be ready to play by next spring.

New housing for an old city /from previous page

Brezil, who moved to Minnesota from Hawaii in 1981, said he fears that the city still has "a mindset for low-density housing." He, too, faced neighborhood opposition and had to alter his plans, but he is "very happy" with the way things turned out. Eight of the townhomes have been sold and the sale of a ninth is being negotiated.

"People are looking for a large kitchen with an attached eating area, a comfortable living space, a master bedroom suite with bath, and plenty of closet space," Brezil said. "If you give them that, they're happy."

Housing that allows people to remain in their neighborhood should be the city's goal, according to Kimberly. "If maturing St. Paul residents cannot find the type of housing they want in their neighborhood, they're forced to move to Mendota Heights," she said.

Last year John Kratz attempted to develop a dozen townhomes on a 38,000-square-foot site overlooking the I-35E Parkway near Palace Avenue. "The land was just right for empty-nesters who wouldn't necessarily be home much, people who didn't spend much time in the yard," he said.

After meeting with the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, Kratz reduced the number of townhomes to eight, met the city's development guidelines and gained the approval of city staff. Nevertheless, the City Council turned him down.

"It was clear to me that the neighborhood group only wanted single-family homes, but that wouldn't have been appropriate for the site," Kratz said.

Kratz has nothing against single-family homes. In fact, he is building one now on Summit Avenue just

east of Snelling. "I think the City Council sometimes politicizes development a little too much," he said. "If the city has professional staff to deal with these issues, the council should trust their judgment."

As Lander sees it, the job of the urban architect is to provide "seams" rather than barriers between different types of developments. As for neighborhood groups, they may find it in their interest to learn new ways to say "yes" to a development rather than searching for reasons to say "no," he said.

"If we're serious about winning the battle of unlimited urban sprawl, we need to find ways to accommodate higher-density developments," Kimberly said. "But we must do it with sensitivity. Everyone involved in the process has to give a little."

Neighbors appeal permit for Lex Commons townhomes

More than a dozen families living in the neighborhood near St. Clair Avenue and Lexington Parkway have filed an appeal of a special condition use permit that was granted to the Lexington Commons townhouse project. The appeal will be heard by the St. Paul City Council sometime in the next six weeks.

The council upheld a similar appeal of the townhouse project in January. At that time, the St. Paul Planning Commission had approved a permit for a 12-unit development with vehicle access off of Lexington Parkway. Last month, the commission approved a permit for five two-unit townhouses with vehicle access from Lexington and the Lexington-St. Clair alley.

For nearly 10 months, neighborhood residents and townhouse developers John and Erin Mathern of Mendota Homes have wrangled over the project, which is being proposed for a vacant 3-acre tract southwest of Lexington Parkway and St. Clair Avenue.

City staff had recommended denial of the permit earlier this spring because of concerns about traffic to and from the townhouses and the narrow width of the alley at St. Clair. The alley and a new private street off of Lexington would be used for motor vehicle access to the townhouses. The alley and street would be connected, which has prompted some concern that motorists will use the alley to avoid the stoplight at Lexington and St. Clair.

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These old houses

Biennial house tour opens the door to the opulent interiors of Summit Hill

by Molly McBeath

Living in the Burbank-Livingston-Griggs House seems to have been fated for Scott Bayless. He was awestruck by the Summit Avenue mansion when he first saw it three years ago. Then last July, Bayless brought his wife to see the house. To their surprise, they found a "For Rent" sign in the front yard and the owner, John Rupp, working in the back.

They struck up a conversation that led to Bayless and his wife renting the main living area of the house. "He (Rupp) understood that we appreciate antiques and art, and that we would take care of the house," Bayless said.

The mansion, which is listed on state and national historic registers, is the second oldest house on Summit Avenue. The Italianate-style mansion, which was built by St. Paul pioneer James Crawford Burbank in 1862, is known for its carved woodwork, parquet floors, painted scenic panels and walls lined with mercury-backed mirrors.

"It really is like a dream house," said Bayless, whose family occupies the entire main floor and most of the second. The electrical and heating systems have been updated, but much of the house, including whole rooms that were imported from Europe, remains unchanged.

"The thing that I've enjoyed about this home is the very high ceilings and very high windows," Bayless said. "A lot of light comes through at all times of the day, and with the mirrors it reflects a different atmosphere every day. Even though the house has its own character, the character seems to change with the weather and the seasons."

Bayless' home is one of 13 that will be open for viewing as part of the Summit Hill House Tour from noon to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17. This year's tour will serve as a showcase for the wide range of living spaces in the Summit Hill neighborhood, including Bayless' home, a duplex, a new townhouse, many turn-of-the-century single-family homes and the

James J. Hill House. More than 4,000 tour-goers are expected.

The Summit Hill House Tour was started in 1972 by a group of real estate agents as a way to promote the neighborhood as a place to live. There was a perception at the time that the neighborhood was on the decline. People were abandoning the big, old homes of the central city for the big, new homes of the suburbs. On Grand Avenue there were almost as many vacant commercial spaces as occupied spaces.

"A lot of light comes through at all times of the day, and with the mirrors it reflects a different atmosphere every day.... The character (of the house) seems to change with the weather and the seasons."

The Ramsey Hill Association started a similar house tour the following year, and the two neighborhoods now present their tours in alternate years.

Public reaction to the Summit Hill House Tour has been overwhelmingly positive over the years. "I don't think in the first few years they knew what the response was going to be like," said Ellen Biales, executive director of the Summit Hill Association (SHA), which now organizes the tour. Revenue from the tour

supports several neighborhood projects, including the block nurse program, recycling, crime prevention and a Salvation Army food-shelf.

Restoration and remodeling are the perennial themes of the tour as well as a way of life for the participating homeowners.

Daniel and Judy Titcomb, for instance, have retained the traditional exterior of their Goodrich Avenue Victorian, but the 1891 home has been transformed inside by a series of remodeling projects. A fire in 1966 destroyed some of the woodwork and stained glass in the home. The loss, while painful, gave the Titcombs the freedom to redecorate as they pleased. "The house doesn't have these perfect architectural details anymore," Judy said, "but what it has is incredibly livable spaces. It's a great house for a big family."

Also on the tour is the Crocus Hill home of Janet Leach. Her Victorian was formerly owned by Clarence Johnston, a noted architect and contemporary of Cass Gilbert. The



Judy Titcomb relaxes on the front steps of her Goodrich Avenue home with her children (from left) Callie, 11; Madeline, 8; Dillon, 6; and Daniel, 12. Their 1891 house is among the 13 Summit Hill homes that will be open for touring on May 17. Photo by Mike Long.

home was built in 1886 as a four-square, and the Leaches were anxious to preserve its historic character.

However, the home had undergone substantial renovation before Leach bought it. The front entrance had been moved, several bays were added, rooms were expanded and the third floor was converted to an apartment. "I still haven't figured out exactly which part of the house was the 40-by-40 square," Leach said.

Leach remodeled the main floor two years ago, stripping the kitchen down to the studs and rebuilding it using oak woodwork and a free-standing hutch in keeping with the style and age of the home. The second floor is currently being remodeled. The roof is next on the list.

Leach said she was not sure if she would characterize the maintenance of her 112-year-old home as a labor of love. "It's that or insanity," she laughed. "But it's not a pit. Pits are something that you have to keep driving money in and you never really see anything from it. This—this is worth it."

Tickets for the Summit Hill House Tour are \$10 in advance and may be purchased at Bober Drug, Grand Old House, Kowalski's Market, the Hungry Mind, the Squire House, Tobak & News and Traditions. They may also be bought by calling the Summit Hill Association at 223-9866.

The past two tours have sold out, but if there are tickets remaining on May 17, they will be available for \$15 at the Linwood Community Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.

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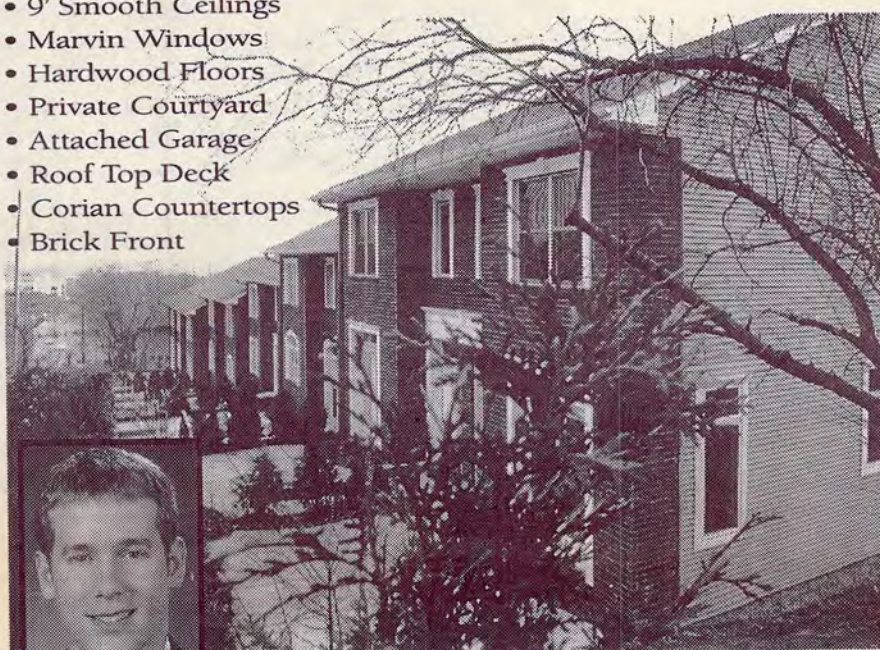
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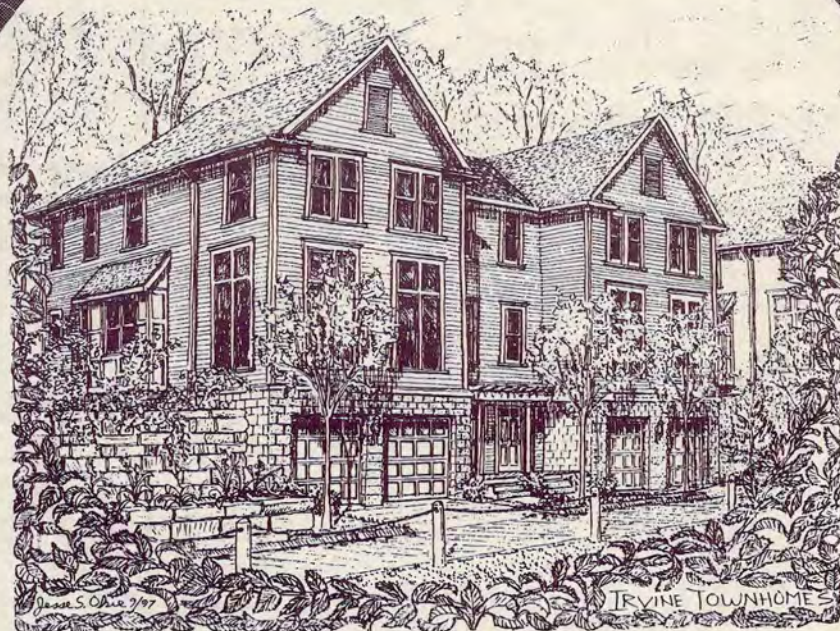
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Gopher go-getter retires, but his workdays are far from over

by Dick Gordon

When Tom Swain retired on May 1 as vice president of institutional relations at the University of Minnesota, he didn't exercise a long-deferred itch to travel. The 76-year-old Lilydale resident just moved from the university's Morrill Hall to an office at Landmark Center where he continues to carry a workload comparable to several full-time positions.

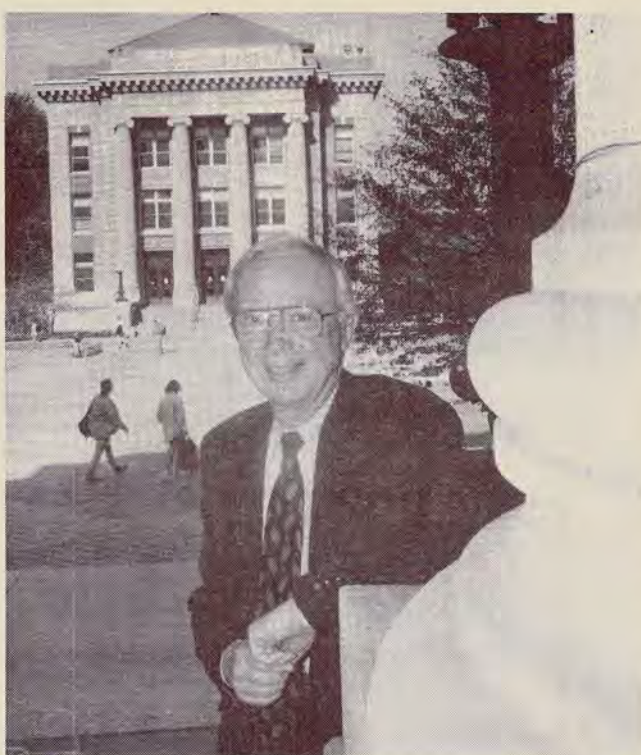
Swain has long been accustomed to rising at 5:15 a.m. each day to fulfill his various duties at his alma mater. Monday, he planned to push back the reveille until 6:00. He only had three meetings scheduled that day, along with a get-together at lunch. "I'm cutting back a little," he said with a smile.

Swain's civic involvement includes serving as chair of the Lilydale Planning Commission, which oversees development in the community

where he and Arlene, his wife of 51 years, live. The commission pays him a monthly stipend of \$100.

His other activities are strictly voluntary. They include serving as director and chair of development for the Schubert Club, St. Paul's oldest musical organization; chair of the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library fundraising drive; director of Common Bond Communities, a nonprofit organization that is currently involved in developing the Selby-Dayton Apartments in St. Paul; president of the Elder Learning Institute, a U of M affiliate that offers enrichment classes to senior citizens; and member of the board of the University of Minnesota Foundation, which raised \$140 million last year.

It figured that Swain would never completely sever connections with the U of M. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in business from the



Tom Swain, captured at the U of M during a rare moment that he wasn't in motion. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

university in 1942. After a tour of duty with the Air Corps during World War II,

he was hired in 1946 as the university's first athletic scholastic adviser. Half a cen-

tury later, he became its first vice president of institutional relations.

"I have great passion and admiration for the University of Minnesota," Swain said. "It has the most impact of any institution in the state. It's the engine that fuels the economy. It's important to keep it nurtured. I'll always keep in touch."

His attachment to the university and his respect for Nils Hasselmo prompted Swain to return to his original place of employment in 1996. He stayed on by request to work for current president Mark Yudof, whom he describes as an exciting new leader. "You couldn't find two better men," he said of the pair of presidents.

For his part, Yudof said the advice he has received from Swain on university issues "worked 100 percent of the time." Yudof joked that Swain's departure from Morrill Hall actually marks his

fifth retirement. That may be exaggerating a bit, but for the record, Swain did accept mandatory retirement at age 65 as executive vice president of St. Paul Companies. Prior to that, he served as chief of staff for former Governor Elmer Andersen and executive director of the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission, when it put the popular Showboat afloat on the Mississippi River.

When he left St. Paul Companies, the insurance giant rewarded Swain with an office at Landmark Center. Because of his commitments across the river, he used that space infrequently. Now it's his daily headquarters.

In his spare time, Swain enjoys golf and walking around his Lilydale neighborhood. Was he planning any extended trip this summer now that he is officially retired? He didn't hesitate in replying with an emphatic, "No, I've got too much to do."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

A free seminar on "The Year 2000" will be offered to business owners and managers on at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 7, at the Midway Sheraton Hotel, I-94 and Hamline Avenue. Presented by Liberty State Bank, the seminar will be led by Dean Schumann of the National Industries and Technologies Consulting Group. He will discuss how computer systems can be protected from

the problems that will plague systems that are not programmed to handle a year ending in two zeroes. The seminar will include a complimentary continental breakfast. Bill Robertson, vice president of communications for the Minnesota Wild hockey team, also will give a presentation on the progress of the new NHL franchise. For reservations, call Joan Peper at 646-8681.

Wuollet Bakery Inc. has been named the 1998 Retail Bakery of the Year by the national trade magazine *Bakery Production and Marketing*. The award honors the nation's top retail baker as measured by business performance, product

quality, innovative merchandising and customer and community service. Wuollet Bakery is located at 1080 Grand Ave., with an additional shop in Wayzata and two more in Minneapolis on Hennepin Avenue and on 50th Street. The 54-year-old

company is run by brothers Jim and Dan Wuollet. Sharing in the day-to-day operation of the stores are their nephews Doug Wuollet and Mike and Jim Jurmu.

The Roastery, 769 S. Cleveland Ave., will hold its second annual Roast-a-thon from 8:00 a.m. Saturday until 8:00 a.m. Sunday, May 9-10. Coffee shop owner Jeremy Rath will be roasting fresh coffee

for 24 hours straight during that period. Proceeds from coffee sales during the event will benefit Clare House, a Macalester-Groveland home for people who are living with HIV/AIDS. The Roast-a-thon also will include a flower sale, live music and a chance to try a cup of "kopi luwak" coffee. The Roastery has been providing complimentary coffee to Clare House from its inception.

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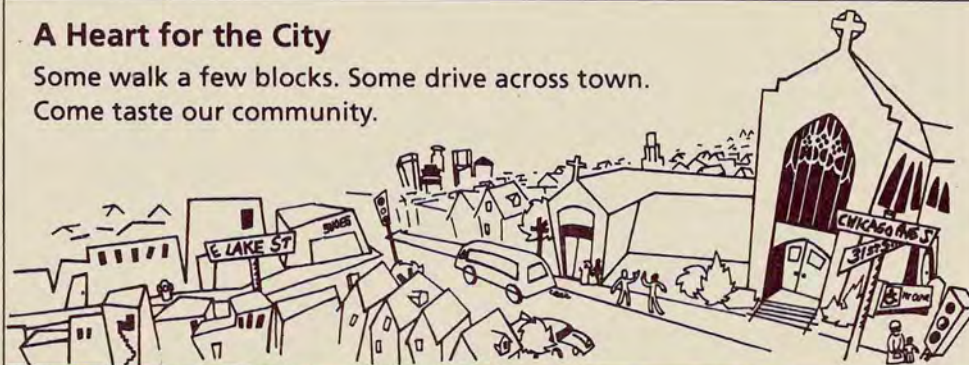
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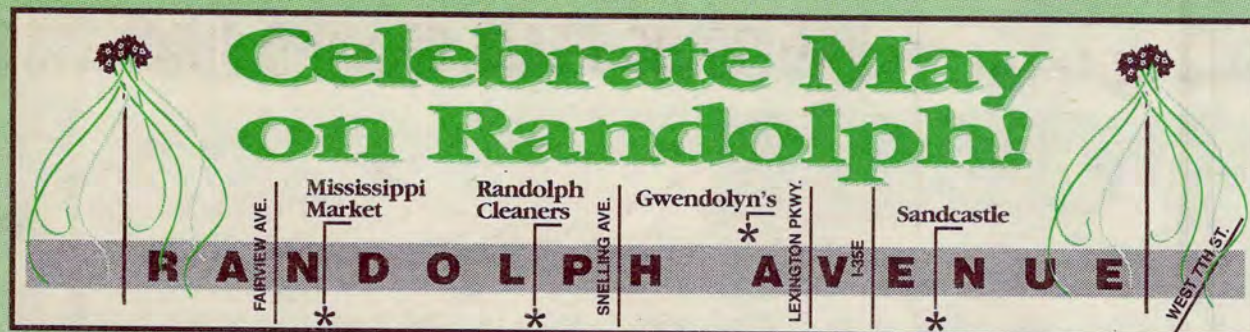
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We have perennials and annuals to beautify your surroundings. From roses to wildflowers, we have the perfect assortment to satisfy everyone's landscaping needs.

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Macalester-Groveland COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD MEETING SET

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The agenda will include the election of officers for the coming year, acceptance of a \$8,800 grant from the University of St. Thomas to support the council's home improvement efforts, traffic calming around Nativity and Groveland elementary schools, the creation of a special sign district throughout Mac-Groveland, and an update by the Environment Committee on its efforts to change the city's lawn chemical ordinance.

In addition, residents of Grid 16 (see map) will have an opportunity to elect a representative to the council's board of directors. For more information, call Kathie Tarnowski at 698-7973.



Macalester-Groveland neighborhood by grids

GETTING THE LEAD OUT

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is trying to gauge the community's interest in organizing a group plumbing contract to replace the lead water pipes that lead from the street to residents' homes. By replacing the pipes, homeowners can remove a major source of lead in their drinking water and improve water pressure. To find out if your home is one of the more than 2,000 in Mac-Groveland that have lead water service, call the St. Paul Water Utility at 266-6350. For information on getting a reduced rate for lead service replacement or home water testing, call the community council office at 698-7973.

PLANT SHARE

The community council's annual Plant Share will be held on Saturday, May 9. This event gives area gardeners a chance to share their extra plants with neighbors who could use them. A \$1.00 donation will be requested of those not bringing plants to share.

Plant Share sites will be open from 10:00 a.m. to noon at 1148 Edgumbe Road, 1953 Berkeley Ave., 2031 Goodrich Ave. and at Haas Auto Body at 1400 St. Clair Ave.; and from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 395 S. Pascal St. and 1295 Fairmount Ave. For information, call the Mac-Grove office at 698-7973.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Transportation Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The committee will discuss issues and concerns related to the Ayd Mill Road environmental impact statement and traffic calming measures around Groveland Elementary School. The committee's recommendations will be considered by the community council's board of directors at its May 21 meeting.

RECYCLE FOR DOLLARS

The community council is continuing to offer a "Recycle for Dollars" incentive program. Recycling is picked up four days a week in Mac-Groveland. On each recycling day, an address in the area where recycling is taking place is being picked at random. If recycling has been set out at that address, the household will win a \$10 gift certificate to a local restaurant. Since the program began last November, more than half of the addresses picked have won. For information on how recycling works in Mac-Groveland, call Scott Foss at 698-7973.

YOUNG ART FAIR

It is not too soon to sign up for the community council's Young Art Fair that will be held during this summer's Grand Old Day on Sunday, June 7. Area youngsters ages 12-19 are invited to exhibit and sell their arts and crafts at this event, and to compete in a "Battle of the Bands." For information, call Lee Wallace at 698-7973.

BOULEVARD STUMPS

Area residents can rid their boulevards of unsightly tree stumps through a cost-sharing program offered by the community council and the city of St. Paul. To participate, send a check for \$20 made payable to the Macalester-Groveland Community Council to the council office at 320 S. Griggs St., St. Paul, MN 55105. For details, call the Mac-Grove office at 698-7973.

Neighbors appeal permit for new Highland Park home for the elderly

A proposal to convert the former Lubavitch House at 15 Montcalm Court into a board-and-care facility for elderly people is facing a challenge from three neighbors.

The St. Paul City Council will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, on a special condition use permit for the building. The St. Paul Planning Commission approved the permit in March, but neighbors Michael Prichard and Scott and Elisa Knudson are appealing the decision. They contend the facility is an inappropriate use in a residential neighborhood.

Built as a single-family home, the house was owned by the Catholic Order of Oblate Fathers for eight years before the Upper Midwest Markos Jewish Educational Association converted it to the Lubavitch House in 1970. The building has been vacant now for more than a year.

Developer Peter Keely wants to convert the 14,000-square-foot building into a facility for

elderly people who are frail or suffer from dementia or Alzheimer's disease. The plans call for the building to have 16 bedrooms and house up to 21 residents. The facility would be staffed around the clock by employees of Franciscan Health Care, which owns and operates St. Mary's Home for the elderly in Highland Park.

A special condition use permit is required before the facility could be used as a health care and boarding facility. The permit allows the city to regulate the number of people living at the residence and other conditions.

The permit approved by the Planning Commission outlines conditions concerning the home's operation, landscaping, fencing, exterior lighting, signage and placement of air-conditioning equipment. The permit also stipulates that the facility must provide seven off-street parking spaces in the rear. Thirteen spaces are required under the city's zoning code.

SENIOR NEWS

The Senior Options Expo will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, May 15-16, at RiverCentre. The Kingston Trio and actress Rita Moreno will headline the entertainment lineup for the expo, which will showcase more than 200 exhibits and 40 seminars on travel, Elderhostel adventures, retirement and other issues geared to those 50 and older. For information, call 645-0261.

A 55 Alive senior driver refresher class will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, at the Jewish Community Cen-

ter, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The fee is \$8.00. To register, call 698-0751.

"Doing Research on the Internet," a class for persons 62 and older, will be offered from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 21, by the community education program at Sanford School, 3524 S. 42nd Ave., Minneapolis. Participants will learn how to trace their family genealogy, plan a vacation, start a business or research any of a hundred other subjects. They should have a basic knowledge of the Internet. The cost is \$6.50. For information on how to register, call 627-7192.

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The Winning Essay:

"If my Mom were a flower,
I'd pick her because:

She's beautiful! She smells

good! She's cute! She's nice! She

looks nicer than you think!"

Name Joel Leeman

Age 7



Beth & Joel

Winners of Breakfast & Movie Tickets from
Highland Grill and Highland Theater:

Age 1-5 Jessie Schwartz

Age 6 Chloe Keprios

Age 7 Joel Leeman

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Age 9 Hannah Greschner

Age 10 Jenna Peterson

Age 11 Lee Beltrand

Age 12 Danica Heichert



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Highland Theater - Movie Passes

Langford Chiropractic - Massage
Lifetime - One Day Club Pass
Liquor Village - 2 Bottles of Wine
R.F. Moeller Jeweler - 14 karat Gold Flower Pendant
Roastery - 1 lb. of Coffee
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Tires Plus - Gift Certificate
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Villager & Grand Gazette - Circus Tickets

***All entries are posted in the Village Kiosk
Congratulations to the winners and
"Thank You" to all who entered.**

All winning entries will be published in the next issue of the Villager.

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The Highland District COUNCIL CAPSULE

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Highland Area Community Council made two changes to its bylaws at its annual meeting last month. The council voted to create a seat on the board of directors for a member of the West End Business Association. It also voted to change its name to the Highland District Council.

The residents of the district's even-numbered grids also held elections for representatives to the board. Elected to serve two-year terms were Lori Angus of Grid 2, Kristine Thompson of Grid 4, Mitchell Gordon of Grid 6, Ken Jefferson of Grid 8 and Shawn Bartsh of Grid 10. An election for a representative from Grid 12 will be held at the council's meeting on May 7.

Paul Heinerscheid and Greg McGee also were elected to two-year terms representing the neighborhood at-large.

FAIRVIEW RESTRIPIING DISCUSSED

The Highland District Council will hold its regular monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Topping the agenda will be a proposal to restripe Fairview Avenue between Highland Parkway and Randolph Avenue for only two lanes of motor vehicle traffic. The new alignment would include a bike lane and parking lane on both sides of Fairview and a left-turn lane down the center. The restriping has been recommended by the council's Transportation Committee. The full council will vote on whether to recommend the change to the St. Paul City Council.

The council's new board of directors will appoint officers for the coming year at the May 7 meeting. An election also will be held for new representatives from Grids 1, 5 and 12. The Grid 12 election is for a two-year term. The new board members from grids 1 and 5 will serve out the unexpired terms of Kurt Schreck and Hanna Cooper, who have resigned.

Any resident of those grids may run for election, but at least



Highland by grids

three residents from a grid must be in attendance for an election to be held. If an election cannot be held, new representatives will be appointed by the board at its June meeting.

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS OFFERED

The Highland District Council and the HighlandBank are working together to provide low-interest home improvement loans to residents of the neighborhood. For more information, call Deb or Leah at the bank at 698-2471.

VOLUNTEERS TO SPRUCE UP GARDENS

Highland area residents who have a few hours to spare on Monday, May 18, are being asked to help spruce up the gardens outside the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. People will be gathering at the center at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers are asked to bring some clippers and a pair of gloves.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 7: The Highland District Council board meeting, 7:00 p.m., Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

May 11: Curbside recycling pickup, 6:00 a.m.

May 12: Sex Offender Notification Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Highland Park Senior High School, 1015 S. Snelling Ave.

May 18: Hillcrest Rec Center garden cleanup, 9:00 a.m.

Wellington Care Suite gives seniors a new option

The Wellington, an assisted-living residence located at 2235 Rockwood Ave. in Highland Park, recently announced the opening of a facility designed to give elderly residents an alternative to moving to a nursing home when they experience a change in health care needs.

The Wellington Care Suite was formed by knocking out the wall between two apartments at the 108-unit building. The resulting 1,300-square-foot, four-bed unit comes complete

with 24-hour supervised care, three meals a day, housekeeping, laundry services, social activities and more.

According to Wellington assistant manager Michelle Mihail, the Care Suite caters to elderly residents who are already living at the Wellington, but experience a change in health that requires them to receive more care than they had been getting in their apartments. It is especially desirable, she said, for elderly couples when one spouse needs more care than the hus-

band or wife can give. Instead of moving to a nursing home, a spouse can now check into the Care Suite. "That way they can remain in the same building and even eat meals together," Mihail said, "but still receive the level of care to meet their needs."

The Care Suite has already proven to be extremely popular with Wellington residents, who on average are about 81 years old. Manager Vicki Berg said all four beds are now filled and a waiting list has been started.

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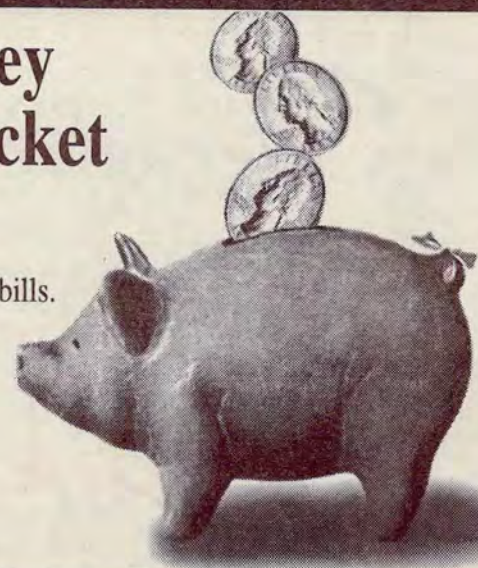
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 Each valued at up to \$350.

Simply register at any location participating with an ad on these pages by Mother's Day, May 10th, and you could win!



Drawing Rules.

1. The drawing is open to anyone 18 or older EXCEPT for the owners and employees of all businesses participating in the Day Spa for Ma Giveaway.
2. No purchase necessary to enter the drawing at any participating business.

3. All entries must be completed by close of business Mothers Day, May 10, 1998.

See participating stores for details.



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8:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

8:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

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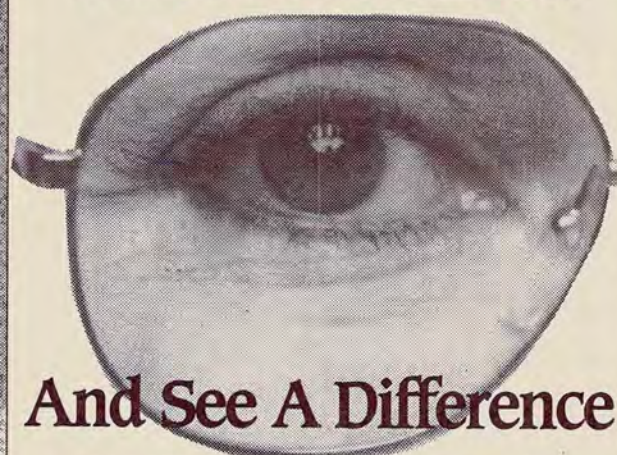
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Snelling-Hamline COUNCIL CAPSULE

UNIVERSITY AVENUE DEVELOPMENT

The board of directors of the Snelling-Hamline Community Council will meet on Thursday, May 7, to review the draft statement of development principles designed to encourage reinvestment on University Avenue. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Liberty State Bank, 176 N. Snelling Ave.

A final inter-neighborhood meeting to ratify the development principles will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 12, at the Hubbs Center, 1030 University Ave. Residents from all neighborhoods adjacent to University Avenue are being invited to discuss the draft document. For information, call the Snelling-Hamline office at 644-1085.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP

A neighborhood cleanup will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 13, in the parking lot at the Midway Shopping Center. District 13 residents are welcome to bring construction materials, scrap metal, reusable clothing, household goods, old bicycles and furniture to the site. For information, call the Snelling-Hamline office at 644-1085.

COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETING

The next joint planning meeting of the Snelling-Hamline and Merriam Park community councils will be held at 7:00

p.m. Wednesday, May 6, at St. Mark's Catholic Church. Topics for discussion will include health, education, social services, organization and communications, recreation, public safety and community facilities. For information, call the Snelling-Hamline office at 644-1085.

BIKE SAFETY RODEO

The 14th annual Bike Safety Rodeo and Clinic will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, May 16, in the parking lot of Liberty State Bank, 176 N. Snelling Ave. The event is being cosponsored by the Snelling-Hamline, Lexington-Hamline and Merriam Park community councils and Youth Express. The afternoon will include bike inspections and registration, a bicycle riding course, prizes and refreshments. In case of rain, the rodeo will be held on May 30.



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Darling of Minnehaha

Little Princess depot is still a popular whistle stop for those visiting the falls

by Dave Page

"I wear a lot of hats around here," says stationmaster Corbin Kidder as he taps out Morse Code on the telegraph at the Minnehaha Depot in Minneapolis' Minnehaha Park.

The 440-square-foot depot is operated by the Minnesota Transportation Museum from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Sundays and holidays during the summer. However, a century ago it was a year-round stop for tourists from near and far who came to see the Minnehaha Falls immortalized by poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his 1855 "Song of Hiawatha."

By 1910, eight passenger trains a day stopped at the depot, dubbed "the Little Princess" because of its size and gingerbread canopy. At one point, as many as 13 passenger trains made the 16-minute trip from downtown Minneapolis to Minnehaha Park each day.

Kidder explains that before wireless communication, the Minnehaha Depot would relay to passing trains the messages that were sent by telegraph wire from a dispatcher's tower at 24th Street and Hiawatha Avenue. The messages concerned routing changes, track repairs and such, and were passed by hand to the engineers chugging by.

Kidder dons another hat, takes a telegram and attaches it to a message hoop—a bam-

boo-like stick with a loop at one end. A depot employee, he says, would hold the hoop up toward the moving train and the engineer would thrust his arm through the loop, retrieve the message, then throw the stick back toward the depot.

For the children watching Kidder's demonstration, their favorite part comes when he places an engineer's hat on his head and blows train signals from a wooden whistle. Kidder then stamps the date on tickets and hands them out to his audience, sending them on to "All Points West."

At one point, as many as 13 passenger trains made the 16-minute trip from downtown Minneapolis to the Little Princess depot in Minnehaha Park each day.

The Minnehaha Depot will open for the season with an open house from 6:15 to 9:00 p.m. on Monday, May 18. The event will include hands-on telegraphy demonstrations and free rides on an old Twin City Rapid Transit Company motor bus, one of the fleet of 525 buses that replaced the last streetcars in 1953.

Museum volunteers will serve free refreshments and will exhibit a two-page color advertisement that appeared in 1949 to announce the delivery of Pullman sleeping cars for the Milwaukee Road's premier train, the Olympian Hiawatha, which used to operate between Chicago and the Twin Cities.

Those who attend the open house will notice the line of surveyor flags that now lie a few feet west of the depot. They mark the eastern edge of the proposed Hiawatha Corridor.

Though the Minnehaha Depot lies along



Stationmaster Corbin Kidder teaches the finer points of telegraph operation to Laura Beth and Spencer Moore at the historic depot in Minnehaha Park. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

the planned light-rail transit route, there are no plans to reopen it as a passenger station, Kidder says. According to him, Minnesota Department of Transportation officials say it would cost too much to build a walkway over the four lanes of Hiawatha Avenue traffic that will run adjacent to the light-rail line. Light-rail passengers will board at the 46th Street station several blocks to the north.

The Minnehaha Depot has not been used as a passenger station since 1920 when the Twin City Rapid Transit Company's electric streetcars replaced the Milwaukee Road's passenger service. However, the depot remained in use as a freight agency until 1963 when the Milwaukee Road donated the building to the Minnesota Historical Society. Today, just one train a year stops at the depot.

"Canadian Pacific, the company that owns the tracks, brings in the Strathcona, a 1920s rail car named after a lake in Scotland, I believe," Kidder says. CP hires a couple of French

chefs and parks the train beside the depot. There, elegant meals are served to its customers, mostly executives from the grain elevators along Hiawatha Avenue.

Of course, the demise of rail traffic did nothing to quell the popularity of Minnehaha Park. Tens of thousands of visitors ride their bikes, take a bus, or drive their cars to the park every year. The Little Princess itself attracts about 1,000 visitors each summer, says Kidder, who has a special affection for the depot. He was married there several years ago.

Kidder still believes that a fully operational station there along the proposed light-rail line "makes a lot of sense." He serves on several local transportation advisory committees and has not given up convincing government officials of that.

If Kidder succeeds, the Minnehaha Depot will be more than a museum. After 80 years, it will once again be a regular stop on a Twin Cities rail line.

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Lilydale supports plan for wider replacement of aging 35E bridge

by Jane McClure

The Lilydale City Council has joined the Mendota Heights City Council in calling for doubling the width of the I-35E bridge over the Mississippi River.

Of the six options being considered for replacing the four-lane span, the two suburban cities are now on record in favor of a 139.4-foot-wide bridge with four through lanes and two auxiliary lanes for traffic entering and exiting at Highway 13 and at Shepard Road.

This \$27 million bridge would be constructed in stages, with the northbound lanes built on the existing bridge piers once the southbound lanes were completed. The bridge would include a bicycle lane and pedestrian walkway and reinforced shoulders wide enough to carry buses.

"I think that people want good, safe transportation," said Lilydale Mayor Ed Mullarkey. According to him, traffic congestion on the bridge is a growing concern for Lilydale residents.

Other suburban officials wondered whether a four-lane bridge, even with auxiliary lanes, would be wide enough. "It doesn't make any sense to build a bridge that we're going to have to expand again someday," said Lilydale Planning Commission chair Tom Swain.

High traffic volume has taken a toll on the existing I-35E bridge, a 33-year-old span that carries about 72,000 vehicles a day. That number is expected to increase to 115,000 vehicles a day by 2015 and to 131,000 by 2024, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

The St. Paul City Council has come out in favor of a four-lane bridge that is as narrow as possible. The City Council supports rebuilding the bridge in its existing location.

According to Dan Smith, legislative aide to Ward 3 City Council member Mike Harris, St. Paul residents are con-

cerned about the impact that a wider bridge would have on Crosby Farm Park below the span and the pressure it may create for widening the four-lane I-35E Parkway to the north.

"When you talk about building to meet future demand, you might be building to create future demand," Smith said.

St. Paul's ultimate position on the bridge may be affected by the recommendations of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Norm Coleman. Neither has yet taken a formal position.

"The mayor is still gathering information on the various proposals," said Chuck Armstrong of Coleman's staff. "He wants to hear from as many people as possible and to hear all of the opinions that are out there."

Armstrong said that because St. Paul works jointly with communities in Ramsey and Dakota counties on transportation issues, Coleman feels it is important to look at both local and regional issues when considering a new bridge.

The final decision on the I-35E bridge rests with MnDOT, whose staff will review public testimony before making a recommendation sometime this summer, according to Muktar Thakur, MnDOT's principal engineer for the project.

Before making a final decision, MnDOT will send its recommendation back to the St. Paul, Lilydale and Mendota Heights city councils for review. If the three cities disagree on the design, the Metropolitan Council could be called in to help settle the matter.

State officials hope to have a bridge option selected by September. Final design work would then get under way, with construction tentatively scheduled for 2001-2003.

Bridge options on the table range from 81.1 to 139.4 feet wide (the current bridge is 67 feet wide). Construction costs range from \$16 million to \$27 million.

Summit Hill neighborhood holds cleanup on Saturday

The annual Summit Hill neighborhood cleanup will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, near the county compost site on Pleasant Avenue and Victoria Street.

Items such as concrete, construction debris, scrap metal, fluorescent light bulbs and reusable household goods can be dropped off for

free. Brush, tree trimmings, small electronic products and tires will be accepted for fees ranging from \$5.00 to \$15. Donations to defray the cost of the cleanup also will be accepted.

Proof of residency in Summit Hill is required for all drop-offs except brush. For information, call the SHA office at 222-1222.

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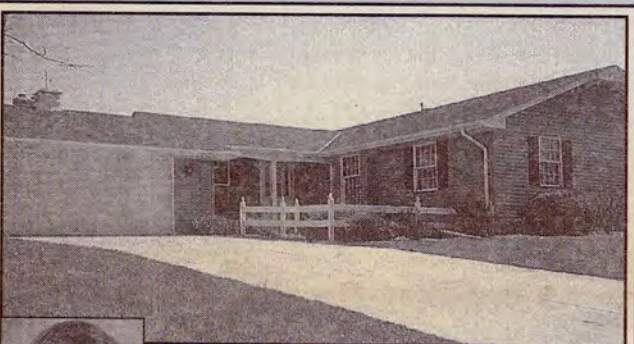
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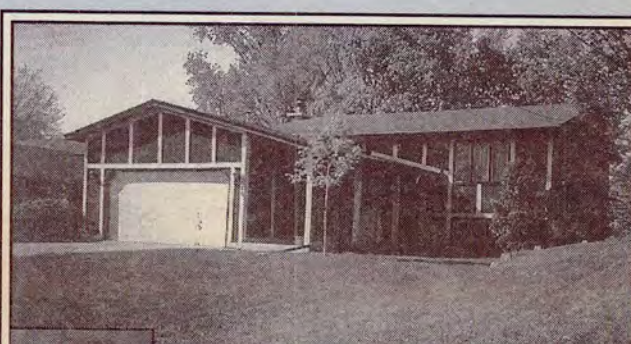
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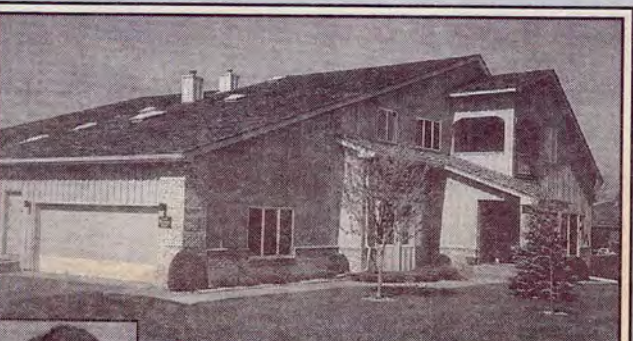
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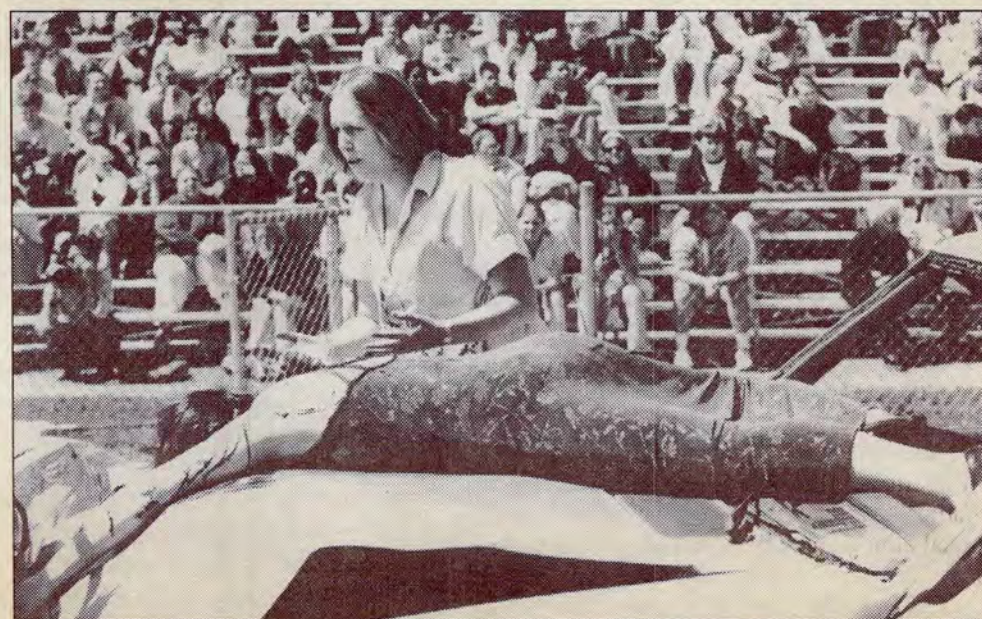
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'Death' in the spring. With their May 8 prom just a week away, Highland Park High School's junior and senior class were given a graphic reminder of their mortality. A mock two-car accident was staged on the school's track to demonstrate the dangers of drinking and driving. Seniors Lori Spahn and Tami Ellis (top left) watch as senior Jennifer Jones (above) seeks help for dying classmate Katy Doctor, thrown through the windshield in the "crash." Jackie Kafka (top right), injured in the crash that killed her young son, is comforted by Lieutenant Kim Klawiter of the state Highway Patrol. *Photos by Mike Long.*

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SCHOOL NOTES

William Larson has been named interim superintendent for St. Paul Public Schools. He will succeed Curman Gaines when he leaves the post July 1. Larson, currently the school district's assistant superintendent of fiscal affairs and operations, will serve until a new superintendent is named, which is expected to be late this summer. Larson worked as a teacher, curriculum supervisor and administrative assistant for the school district before becoming assistant superintendent in 1991. He also has taught at the University of Minnesota and has worked in the private sector as a planning and program analyst, industrial training administrator and facilities planning consultant.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan will be the featured speaker at Macalester College's 109th commencement exercises at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17. Annan, a 1961 Macalester graduate, will receive an honorary degree from the college. The ceremony will be held on the lawn in front of Old Main.

The Highland Park Senior High School speech and debate team will hold a car wash fund-raiser from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Total station, 1351 Randolph Ave.

Rich Enderton, a math and technology teacher at Minnehaha Academy, has been named a Tandy Technology Scholar for 1998. Enderton is a regional coordinator and board member of Math Masters, an annual math competition for Minnesota students in grades 5-6. He has been a member of the National Education SuperComputer Program since its inception and was an instructor in the University of Minnesota Talented Youth Mathematics Program for 10 years.

Webster Elementary School placed first in the Math Masters of Minnesota competition on April 18. The team, which was coached by Colleen Fridlund, included Elizabeth Aistrup, Ben Albers, Jenna Laffin, Nathan Wells and Graham Higgins. Laffin also won the individual title in the fact drill category. Approximately 3,200 students in grades 5-6 competed individually and as teams on eight sets of math problems.

Judith Dwyer, academic dean and professor of theology at St. John's University in New York, has been named executive vice president of the University of St. Thomas, effective July 1. She succeeds Charles Keffer, who is re-



Claire Joseph, a 12-year-old student from Highland Catholic School, poses with former Twins slugger Kirby Puckett and a plate of "Grand Slam Gorgonzola Ravioli." Joseph beat out nearly 2,000 entrants in an essay contest sponsored by Olive Garden restaurants that asked students to name a dish after their favorite person. She won the grand prize of a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond and a trip to New York City for her and her family. Fellow Highland Catholic students Katie Osborne, 13, and Joanna Salmen, 14, also were winners in their age divisions. Each received a \$250 Savings Bond and a dinner at the Olive Garden. Osborne won for naming the "Copeland Carbonara" after Sharing and Caring Hands founder Mary Jo Copeland of Minneapolis. Salmen won for naming the "Kathleen Rotini" after her friend Kathleen. Photo by Craig Lassig.

tiring as provost. Dwyer will be stepping into a new position that incorporates many of the responsibilities that Keffer had. She will oversee the academic, business and student affairs divisions as well as enrollment management, institutional research, information technology and community partnership. A native of Philadelphia, Dwyer holds a master's degree in theology from Duquesne University, a doctorate in theology from the Catholic University of America and a licentiate in sacred theology from the Weston Jesuit School.

Tests show improvement in UST fan noise

The latest tests measuring noise levels around the University of St. Thomas' new Frey Science and Engineering Center show that efforts being made to muffle the noise emitted from exhaust fans on top of the building appear to be working.

"The noise level with the fans on at two test sites was only one decibel higher than with the fans off," wrote Doug Hennes, vice president of university and government relations, in an April 29 letter to area residents.

According to Hennes, sound tests conducted last month indicate a significant improvement from last December when noise levels around the science center were six or seven decibels higher when the fans were running. The latest tests recorded 44 to 46 decibels with the fans on and 41 to 45 decibels with the fans off. State and federal laws prohibit noise above 50 decibels between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in residential areas.

Hennes said the university has spent nearly \$60,000 to quiet the five exhaust fans atop its \$37 million science center, which opened last fall at the southwest corner of Summit and Cretin avenues. The fans vent potentially hazardous air from science labs within the 210,000-square-foot center.

Because of the center's roof lines and location of the fans, most of the noise drifts south toward homes on Goodrich Avenue. St. Thomas placed metal shrouds around the fans and rotated the units so the discharged air would be directed away from the homes. This spring, workers encased the fans with 5-foot-high soundproofing panels to absorb and break up the noise.

St. Thomas uses all five fans during peak classroom hours, but switches off two of the fans in the evening. Nearby residents say the fan noise has been particularly bothersome in the evening and early morning when there is little traffic or other noise to mask it.

Meg Grove, 2198 Goodrich Ave., scoffed at the university's claim that the noise has diminished. "My neighbors and I all agree that there's no change," she said. "The sound is still there. It's omnipresent. It's loud."

Grove said she and other area neighbors plan to make some noise of their own when the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee discusses the fans at its meeting at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center.

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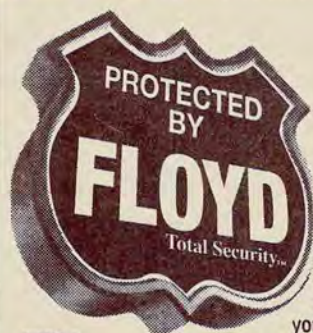
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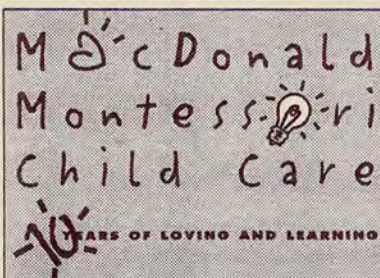
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St. Catherine names its 10th president

Sister Andrea Lee has been named the 10th president of the College of St. Catherine. She will succeed Anita Pamusch, who left in 1997 after 27 years with the college to become president of the Bush Foundation. Mary Broderick has served as interim president since last June.

Lee, 49, a member of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, has been the executive vice president and chief operating officer of Marygrove College in Detroit since 1984, managing a budget of more than \$20 million. This year, she also took on the duties as the college's interim president.

Lee has served Marygrove in a variety of capacities since 1979, including dean of



Sister Andrea Lee

continuing education, director of the grants resource center and co-director of the learning skills center. Prior to that, she worked for Pennsylvania State University, the Archdiocese of Chicago Schools and the U.S. Embassy School in Bonn, Germany.

Lee holds master's and doctoral degrees in educational administration from Pennsylvania State University, and attended the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard. A liturgical musician, she also holds a bachelor's degree in music/elementary education from Northeastern Illinois University.

Her appointment at St. Catherine, which takes effect in mid-August, signals a return to having a nun serve as president of the 93-year-old college. St. Catherine broke with that tradition for the first time in 1984 when Pamusch was hired. The previous eight presidents had all been members of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Gas release forces UST to evacuate buildings

Five employees were sent to the hospital and the University of St. Thomas was forced to cancel classes in two of its buildings on the south side of Summit Avenue last week following an accidental release of bromine gas.

The accident happened shortly after 8:00 a.m. on May 1. According to St. Paul Assistant Fire Chief Al Bataglia, a St. Thomas maintenance engineer placed bromine tablets into a container in the air cooling system at Christ Child Hall. The tablets are routinely used to purify air and kill bacteria in the building's ventilation system.

A cloud of bromine gas was released when the tablets were placed in the container. The cloud set off the building's fire alarm and students, staff and faculty were evacuated. While helping to evacuate the building, three

of the university's public safety officers were exposed to the gas. They and the maintenance engineer were taken to Regions Hospital where they were treated and released. A fourth public safety officer twisted an ankle while assisting the fire department.

McNeely Hall, which is adjacent to Christ Child Hall, also was evacuated for the remainder of the day because it uses air supplied by the same cooling system.

A total of 14 fire crews responded to the alarm. Fire officials barricaded most of the block surrounding the buildings, halting traffic on Summit, Cleveland and Grand avenues for about two hours. St. Thomas has hired a decontamination crew to clean the area of Christ Child Hall where the gas was released.

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TRA



Classical program announcer Mindy Ratner commands the board on one of her last days at Minnesota Public Radio before leaving for China. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

MPR's Ratner packs her bags and a few CDs for a radio stint in China

by Janet Lunder Hanafin

When Mindy Ratner boarded a flight to Beijing last week, she left behind everything but her vocation.

Ratner, the morning classical music host of Minnesota Public Radio, will become the classical music announcer for the English Language Service of China Radio International. She will be heard by a potential audience of more than 15 million people for two hours each day.

Ratner will be exchanging her cozy Macalester-Groveland home for a modest flat in Beijing's Friendship Hotel, a complex that was built by the Russians in the 1950s and is now home to a veritable UN of foreign nationals who speak more than 40 different languages or dialects.

The turn of events that led to Ratner's Chinese sojourn began last October when Li Ping, deputy director of the English Language Service, toured MPR and chatted with her in the control room.

"She heard me doing my work," Ratner recalled, "and she said, 'It would be lovely if you could come and work for us.'"

"There's a concept—go to China and be on the radio," Ratner recalled thinking at the time. Though she found the idea intriguing, she was not ready to jump at the chance just then. But when the offer was made again in January, she realized: "This is an opportunity that doesn't come to most people even once, and here it has come to me twice."

Ratner was granted a leave of absence from MPR and has since been taking care of a myriad of details in preparation for her departure, including securing medical evacuation insurance in case "God forbid, I should become ill and need to be airlifted out." She has also been inoculated for diseases that most Westerners have never heard of. A house-sitter will move in to care for her cat, Toscanini, whose temperament, according to Ratner, rivals the maestro after whom she is named.

On April 17, Ratner's last day at MPR, goodwill messages and bouquets of flowers poured into the station. In her 15 years there, she was heard on all of MPR's affiliate stations. She produced "Artists in Concert," a weekly series featuring local and regional performances. She hosted a program of highlights from the Minnesota Music Educators Association, and produced and hosted the broadcast of the annual "Welcome Christmas!" concert by the chorus and orchestra of the Plymouth Music Series.

Ratner also has appeared as a narrator with several community orchestras, was a member of the Minnesota Chorale and participated in the chorale's mentoring program for high school students.

"This kind of opportunity usually comes to people when they're younger than I am," said Ratner, 48. "The thing that's so great about having this happen at this time is that I have tons of experience. I'm so jazzed about this."

Raised in New York City, Ratner attended its High School of Music and Art where she studied violin, music theory and music history, sang in the chorus and played in the orchestra. Her job at MPR was a synthesis of that early education and her communications major at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Ratner said her studies gave her a good ear for music and "the ability to throw languages around. I have a tremendous amount of linguistic curiosity. I need that in my work because I have to pronounce foreign words a lot."

She has been told that the broadcasting facilities in Beijing are state of the art and that she will be working in a control room with compact disk and digital tape players similar to those at MPR. The biggest difference is that she will be doing all of her own programming and instead of having MPR's library of 35,000 CDs from which to choose, she will be limited to the 400 owned by China Radio International.

"That's going to be a challenge," Ratner said. "I'm hoping to bring stuff with me to help build their collection."

"This will be more than being a tourist," she said. "I think it's going to be an enormous learning experience. It means keeping my eyes and ears and heart and brain open. It means new friends. It means frustrations. Everybody has said to me, 'You have to be flexible.'"

Ratner's first lesson in flexibility came when her visa was delayed and all her travel plans had to be changed. That gave her a few extra days to say good-bye to friends. "I've been trying to dash off quick notes, letting people know I'll have e-mail, which I think is wonderful," she said. "I think it'll do a lot for me in terms of not feeling so isolated."

During her China stay, Ratner also will keep in touch by sending an occasional "Postcard from China" via the pages of *Minnesota Monthly* magazine and the airwaves of MPR. She is scheduled to return as an MPR classical music host in May 1999.

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SPECIAL SECTION

How Your Garden Grows

A guide to gardening, landscaping and other tips aimed at keeping you in the green this year.

Garden safari

New varieties of plants are available for those game to try something new

by Janet Lunder Hanafin

Rows of vegetables surrounded by an edging of marigolds to repel rabbits will still do the trick, but a tour of local nurseries can quickly make such a garden layout appear passé. The new varieties of plants and new methods of cultivation can make gardening an adventure this summer for even the most seasoned green thumbs.

Gardeners are now choosing their vegetables for color, texture, fragrance and shape as well as nutrition, and more and more are mixing flowers and vegetables in the same beds for additional visual appeal.

Bright Lights, a new variety of Swiss chard, for example, lends as much color to the garden as it does to the taste of a salad, according to Tracy Tomforde of Minnehaha Falls

Nursery and Garden Store, 4461 S. Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis.

The leaves of new golden beets, Tomforde said, can be used as a substitute for spinach. The yellow-gold roots, slightly sweeter than the traditional red beet, also make dandy pickles. A stubby variety of carrot called Sweet Sunshine comes in an unusual shade of yellow and is sweeter than the traditional carrot. And the new 18-inch-long asparagus beans are delicious sauteed or stir fried.

This year, gardeners have a greater variety of bedding plants from which to choose, according to Martin Stern of Squire House Gardens, 1129 Grand Ave. Stern selects his plants for their aromas, and the first of the season—woodland phlox—should be blooming any

Variety/see next page



Russell Bunch, 4, of Minneapolis eyes the wagonload of flowers he selected while shopping with his mom last week at Minnehaha Falls Nursery. Photos by Mike Long.

Local plant sales, exchanges continue to grow in popularity

Gardeners who are impatient for new impatiens or daydreaming about day lilies will find the following area plant sales, swaps and other events popping up during the next few weeks:

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will hold its annual Plant Share on Saturday, May 9. Gardeners are invited to share their extra plants from 10:00 a.m. to noon at 1148 Edgcombe Road, 1953 Berkeley Ave., 2031 Goodrich Ave. and at Haas Auto Body, 1400 St. Clair Ave.; and from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 395 S. Pascal St. and 1295 Fairmount Ave. A \$1.00 donation will be requested of those who receive plants but do not bring plants to share. For information, call

the council office at 698-7973.

Minnehaha Academy, 4200 W. River Road, Minneapolis, will host its annual plant sale from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 7. For information, call 729-8324.

The St. Paul Open School, 90 S. Western Ave., will hold a plant sale from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 8-9. Annuals, perennials and vegetable plants will be sold. For information, call 293-8670.

The Garden Club of Ramsey County is expected to bring out more than 2,000 perennials for its annual plant sale from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 16, at Highland Catholic School, 2017 Bohland Ave. For infor-

mation, call 646-8854.

The Mendota Heights Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at 1295 Dodd Road. The sale will feature perennials, herbs and garden supplies. For information, call 454-3337.

Mississippi Market Food Co-op, 1810 Randolph Ave., will hold its annual plant sale from May 16 through June 14. A large selection of vegetables, herbs, flowering annuals, perennials, hanging baskets and more will be offered. For details, call 690-0507.

Friends School of Minnesota, 1365 Englewood Ave., will hold its annual plant sale from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday,

May 9-10. More than 800 species of plants will be available, along with bird feeders and other decorative yard items. For information, call 917-0636.

Como Park Conservatory will conduct a perennial and bulb sale from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 16. The perennials are being grown by conservatory gardeners and the bulbs will be pulled directly from the spring flower show in the sunken garden. Admission is free. For details, call 487-8260.

The Longfellow Garden Club will host a plant swap of perennials, annuals and seedlings at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, in the Longfellow Community Center, East 35th and South 36th Ave., Minneapolis.



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Variety makes gardening an adventure

day now. "It grows as a ground cover and is fantastically fragrant in spring," he said.

Also available this year as a bedding plant is one of Tomforde's favorites, the fragrant and dazzling white moonflower, a vining annual that "resembles a morning glory, but is a little larger and blooms in the evening," she said. "Some people plant them along with morning glories."

Since their introduction several years ago, the hardier varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas have become increasingly popular. Azaleas show off a profusion of blossoms before their leaves come out, and rhododendrons hold their shiny dark leaves all winter. New colors appear in the nurseries each spring, and this year a bright pink rhododendron called Aglo is available.

The hardy, low-maintenance shrub roses that were introduced a few years ago are finally becoming plentiful, freeing gardeners from the time-consuming and back-breaking care required of their more delicate cousins. Many of the varieties were developed in Canada and will withstand the nastiest Twin Cities winter.

Stern is enthusiastic about a group of shrub roses called the Pavement Series, which come in a variety of colors and are "happy to grow along sidewalks and driveways," he said. He also likes a new shrub called hydrangea paniculata, which needs a somewhat protected area but can tolerate some shade. It grows from 5 to 10 feet tall and rewards its gardener with large flowers that start out ivory white and age to a bronze pink.

More and more gardeners are discov-



Purple alpine asters reach for the sun at the Minnehaha Falls Nursery.

ering that native plants can decorate a garden as well as a prairie setting. "Native plants are tough, hardy and long-lived," Stern said. For a sunny location, he recommends pasque flowers. Other favorites are large-flowered beards tongue (Penstemon grandiflora) and great blue lobelia.

For people who do their gardening in containers, a window box of the new Mosaic Lilac impatiens—pastel pink with purple splotches—can dress up their house. A giant pot of husky gold tomatoes on the patio will keep those delicious summer delicacies handy. A collection of potted herbs near the kitchen door can be a cook's inspiration. And for those who need a pick-me-up on a rainy day, a tub of dwarf sunflowers

on the deck does nicely.

Among annuals, gardeners may want to try Crystal White Zinnias, a new variety that looks a lot like a daisy and flowers from June until frost. Million Bells resemble petunias but are hardier and ever-blooming. This showy plant needs full, hot sun and is a knockout in pots or boxes.

Another natural for containers is a new variety of verbena called Temari. This trailing plant is very hardy and has flamboyant blossoms that come in pink, purple and red. Even the petunia has been updated. The Fantasy Series features smaller blossoms in all the same dazzling petunia colors, but without having to be deadheaded or pinched back as much as older varieties.

Herb gardening for culinary, medicinal or ornamental purposes is another hot trend. Many varieties are not hardy in Minnesota and must be grown as annuals. Leitner's at 945 Randolph Ave. carries more than 100 varieties of herbs and yet has difficulty keeping enough stock on hand.

According to Tomforde, basil is the most popular herb. It comes in a dozen or more varieties, including Sweet Dani, new for 1998, and African Blue.

Gardeners with a discerning palate may want to check out the assortment of rosemary, sage and thyme now available at local nurseries. Chocolate Cosmos, an herb with a reddish brown flower that smells like chocolate, is the perfect complement for a salad of beet greens and tomatoes. And lovely Lady Lavender, bred to begin blooming early and last all summer, can be stirred into homemade ice cream for a wonderful summer treat.

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Workshops can help residents get the most from compost

Area residents can learn the finer points of using their grass clippings, leaves and plant debris to improve garden soil by attending any of three composting workshops that will be offered in the coming weeks.

The sessions will be held at the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium's composting demonstration site located in the parking lot of the Highland Park Pavilion on Montreal Avenue.

Master gardeners from the Univer-

sity of Minnesota Extension Service will demonstrate how to create and maintain a backyard composting system in hour-long programs at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, and 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 30. Wire mesh composting bins will be available there for \$5.00. The workshops are free, but reservations are required by calling 644-7678.

A class on "Choosing and Using a Composting System" will be offered by the Sustainable Resources Center at

7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14. Judy Purman of the Biodegradable, Composting Materials Division of the Linden Group, will discuss the relative merits of several different homemade and commercial composting systems.

Participants who attend the May 14 session will be given detailed plans for building their own compost bins or they will receive information on how to purchase prefabricated ones. Admission is free. To register for the May 14 class, call 872-3291.



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Jane Dohrmann and her 6-month-old daughter, Hope, enjoy a gentle spring rain amid a bed of tulips at their Mendota Heights home. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

More gardeners are discovering the lasting pleasures of perennials

by Catherine Condon

Clusters of red, pink and yellow tulips brighten the yard of Mendota Heights resident Jane Dohrmann. In the coming months, day lilies, black-eyed Susans, tums, phlox and other perennials will take turns blooming in the gardens she maintains.

"I have flowers that come up from April until the first frost," said Dohrmann, a wife, mother and part-time social worker. "It's wonderful to have them blooming throughout the growing season."

According to representatives of local nurseries, gardening with perennials has become more popular than ever. "It's easy," said Cheryl Caumiant of the Lilydale Garden Center, which stocks 15,000 potted perennials. "Once you start it, you're talking a little weeding and maybe some dividing when your plants need it. Otherwise, it's pretty low-maintenance."

"A perennial garden is something you can enjoy for years to come," said Tracy Tomforde of Minnehaha Falls Nursery and Garden Store, which stocks around 200 varieties of perennials. "You can watch it grow. You can constantly add new things."

Planting perennials also is economical. "That's the main reason people tell me they're switching to perennials," Tomforde said. "They don't want to keep buying plants every year."

Since perennials blossom at various times, gardeners usually plant diverse plants to ensure season-long color. And, like furniture, perennials can be shifted around. "The beauty of these is that they're not set in concrete," Caumiant said. "If you don't like it where it is, move it."

"People are wild about wildflowers right now," said Joan Westby, manager of Leitner's Garden Center on Randolph Avenue. "Part of it is that they've done so well this year. Everything is up. I think it's really encouraging when we have an early spring. People see these flowers growing and they come in and buy a couple of flats." According to her, the hot sellers this spring include bleeding hearts, double-flowered blood root, ginger and trillium.

Sue Hastings of Highland Nursery said one of the most popular selections among her 20,000 pots of perennials is prairie grass. She attributes the plant's appeal to its longevity. "During the winter, the grass will stay above the snow and adds to the landscape," said Hastings, who recently completed a major makeover of her West 7th Street nursery. "They're becoming very, very popular. The plumes on them look like caterpillars."

Hastings said prairie flowers, such as pur-

ple, white and pink coneflowers and the daisy-like ratbida, also are trendy. "It's like a Mexican hat," Hastings said of ratbida. "The crown is the center of it, and the blossoms hang down, almost like a hat."

Hostas also are big. Like many perennials, the leafy, variegated, low-lying border plant multiplies rapidly, calling for it to be divided. "In the fall, once the leaves die back, you can dig up the roots and break them into however many smaller plants you want and put them back in the ground," Tomforde said.

The use of perennials in garden and landscape design varies. Some gardeners will plant single specimens in plots throughout their yards, while others will mix varieties in gardens or use them as accents. Generally, perfection is not the goal.

"Some people want a row of this and a row of that," Caumiant said, "and that's fine for a big, formal yard. But if you're just going to have one garden, try planting a specimen garden—one of this and two of that. They all blend as long as you remember to keep the taller plants in back and the shorter ones in front."

"Gardeners are becoming more educated and are realizing that perennials are not all impatiens and geraniums," Westby said. "I think people like the idea that perennials get better every year and multiply. They perceive that as a value and it is."

Professional gardeners offer the following steps for enjoying success with perennial gardens:

1. Research. "Get a perennial book," Caumiant said. "See what plants you like and what plants work in your garden, whether it's sun or shade."

2. Plan. Hastings recommended experimenting with different plants when laying out a garden. "Don't be afraid to try something new," she said.

3. Soil preparation. Soil should drain well and be organically rich. Tomforde suggested adding compost, cow manure or fertilizer to boost the richness of the soil.

4. Plant. It's best to plant perennials in early spring, though they can be planted from spring to fall," Caumiant said. "If your soil's decent, chances are you'll get flowers the first year," Caumiant said. "Those who plant their perennial gardens in the fall should mulch them well with leaves, straw, hay or shredded bark."

5. Maintain. Perennial gardening is less time-consuming, but gardeners still need to water, weed and trim spent flowers. They also should make sure they don't skimp on fertilizer. "You think you can plant a perennial and it will grow forever, but you need to replenish the nutrients that they use," Tomforde said.

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Wednesday/May 6

A CLASS on "Parenting a child with Attention Deficit Disorder" will meet at 6:30 this evening and each Wednesday through May at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4100 S. 28th Ave., Minneapolis. The cost is \$40. To register, call 729-7397.

LT. COLONEL JACK RABINOWICZ will speak on "The Jewish Community of Sarajevo" at 7:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. He will talk about his recent experiences in Bosnia where he was a part of the UN peacekeeping efforts. For reservations, call Trina at 451-3032.

Thursday/May 7

AN OPEN HOUSE honoring Minnesota mothers will be hosted by Governor Arne and Susan Carlson from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today at the Governor's residence, 1006 Summit Ave. A prize will be given to the oldest mother in attendance.

DAVID MONTGOMERY, a history professor at Yale University, will present the 1998 David Noble Lecture at 7:00 this evening at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. He will discuss "The Mission and Methods of Labor History." Admission is free. For information, call 296-6126.

"THE SEWING AND STYLE EXPO" will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. today and tomorrow and from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday in Exhibit Hall A at RiverCentre. Admission is \$6.00, seminars are \$7.00 and workshops are \$30 plus a kit fee. A three-day admission pass costs \$12.

"TASTE OF CHINA," featuring Eleanor Ostman, author of the new cookbook *Always on Sunday*, and restaurateur Leeann Chin, will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 this evening at Leeann Chin Chinese Cuisine, at Union Depot Place. The two women will talk about their travels in China and samples from Leeann Chin and recipes in Ostman's book will be served.

A CARNIVAL will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 this evening at Horace Mann Elementary School, 2001 Eleanor Ave.

Friday/May 8

A RUMMAGE SALE will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. tomorrow at Cleveland Avenue United



Little Big League. Jack Delaney, 8, shows his fastball grip to former Twins assistant coach Wayne Terwilliger prior to the start of the Highland Little League parade last Sunday. Terwilliger was chosen as the parade grand marshal in honor of his 50th year in professional baseball, which included helping coach the Twins to two World Series titles before joining the St. Paul Saints. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

Methodist Church, 225 S. Cleveland Ave.

Saturday/May 9

A RUMMAGE SALE will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 Kent St. There also will be a bag sale from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Monday, May 11.

"KIDS' DAY AMERICA '98," a special event dedicated to children's health, safety and environmental awareness, will be held from noon to 3:00 p.m. today at Langford Chiropractic Clinic, 730 S. Cleveland Ave. There will be free spinal screenings and dental screenings, brochures on bike safety and crime prevention, a visit by The Count from "Sesame Street," prize drawings for the latest release beanie babies, fun, food and more. Proceeds will benefit the Children's Crisis Nursery. For details, call 699-8610.

"BLAST-OFF TO SUMMER," a celebration for school-age children marking the end of the school year, will be held from noon to 2:00 p.m. today at Concordia University. There will be free carnival rides, games, prizes and a barbecue. For information, call 641-8220.

OPEN SCHOOL, 1023 Osceola Ave., will hold a garage sale and flea market from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at 90 S. Western Ave.

A CELEBRATION of the state's 140th birthday will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at the state Capitol. Costumed characters will explain how the statehood process worked and tours will be given. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG for children will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today and from noon to 5:00 p.m. tomorrow at Historic Fort Snelling. Children and their parents can work in simulated archaeological excavations. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. For information, call 726-1171.

Sunday/May 10

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 1727 Pinehurst Ave. for a 5-mile walk around the neighborhood at 2:30 this afternoon. For information, call 644-7502.

Tuesday/May 12

A NEW MOTHERS AND BABIES group will meet from 9:30 to 10:30 this morning at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The meeting will feature "Music for Creepers," a special presentation by Beth Nelson from MacPhail Center for the Arts.

Admission is free. To register, call 698-0751.

A TRAVEL TALK AND SLIDE SHOW will be given at 7:30 this evening at Books for Travel Etc., 857 Grand Ave. Jim Gilbert will talk about Kenya. For reservations, call 225-8006.

A FREE POETRY WORKSHOP will be conducted by Cindra Halm at 7:00 this evening at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. For information, call 690-9443.

Wednesday/May 13

"GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS" will be offered at 7:00 this evening at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. The free program will be conducted by in-store gardeners Tracey Dingel and Trudie Ellsworth, who will cover plant selection, container gardening and how-to books.

LARRY MILLET will speak on "Continuity and Change in St. Paul: How Will Our Cityscape Be Shaped?" at 7:00 this evening in Landmark Center. Admission is free. For information, call 292-3285.

Thursday/May 14

A FREE SEMINAR on a new cataract procedure that takes less than 30 minutes with no stitches, no shot and no patch for most patients will be given by Progressive Eye-Care Associates from 2:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at the Heart and Lung Center at United Hospital. To register, call 645-3997.

A WORLD WAR II ROUNDTABLE discussion will be held at 7:00 this evening at Historic Fort Snelling. Former pilots and crew members of the Flying Tigers will discuss their memories of fighting the Japanese from China. Admission is free. For information, call 726-1171.

Friday/May 15

THE HIGHLAND PARK SENIOR HIGH Student Council will hold a spring carnival from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. today in the courtyard of the school, 1015 S. Snelling Ave. The event will feature performances by instrumental and choral groups, a battle of the bands, miniature golf, a dunk tank and refreshments.

A COUNTRY FOLK ART and Craft Show will be held from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. today,

The Kiosk/see next page

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/from previous page

from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. tomorrow and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Admission is \$6.00 on Friday and \$5.00 on Saturday and Sunday. Children under 10 will be admitted for \$2.00.

"FUNFEST," a fund-raising carnival, will be held from 5:00 to 9:00 this evening at Bridge View School, 360 Colborne St. There will be carnival rides and games, a plant sale, music, live animals, a rummage sale and food.

A GOURMET DINNER and variety show will be presented at 6:00 this evening at

IHM-St. Luke's School, 1065 Summit Ave. A group of 25 students from 3rd to 8th grade, with the help of professional chefs, will prepare the meal. The cost is \$20, and proceeds will benefit the Dave Staeheli Family Fund. For information, call 224-4836.

Saturday/May 16

A BIKE SAFETY RODEO will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at Liberty State Bank, 176 N. Snelling Ave. In case of rain, the rodeo will be held on May 30. For information, call 646-8681.

A GARAGE SALE will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today in the Desnoyer Park area. A map of the sale locations can be picked up at the Desnoyer Recreation Center, 525 Pelham Blvd. If you would like to participate in the sale, call Dagmar at 645-5933. The registration fee is \$3.00.

Sunday/May 17

"BEYOND BARBIE," a workshop for pre-teen girls and the adult women in their lives, will be held from 1:00 to 3:30 this afternoon at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The workshop will focus on identity, body image and who girls admire and

why. The cost is \$7.00 for adult and child. To register, call 698-0751.

THE TEMPLE OF AARON Sisterhood will hold its annual Las Vegas Night from 5:00 to 10:00 this evening at the temple, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. Admission is \$18 and includes a light supper and beverages. For information, call Jill at 688-7840.

A SLIDE LECTURE will be given by Margot Fortunato Galt, co-author of *Turning the Feather Around: My Life in Art*, about George Morrison's life at 3:00 this afternoon at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is free. For information, call 296-6126.

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ON THE TOWN

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by Bob Gilbert

Jan Mandel is a firm believer in the healing power of art. As a drama teacher at Central High School for the past 19 years, she has helped a generation of students find their voice and tell their story.

And she has seen it make them feel whole. Telling their stories on stage gives teen-agers a new sense of who they are and how they can contribute to society, Mandel said. But getting to that point often means getting past many obstacles. First and foremost is feeling comfortable enough to let down their guard.

On stage or with pen in hand, "the students reveal a part of their inner selves," Mandel said. "Creating a safe space where nobody is going to pass judgment, laugh at them or accuse them of anything is essential because initially it's very scary."

"For a lot of these teens, believing that their story is important enough to be written down requires that they be confident of their feelings and confident that they have something to say," she said. "Once they believe in themselves, they open up to their stories. They feel OK about themselves and

they start respecting others."

Nine of Mandel's students will tell their stories during the school's ninth annual playwriting festival, "Voices Have Power," on Thursday and Friday, May 21 and 22. The festival will feature short plays by Mandel's advanced students and scenes from plays written by intermediate students. Included will be new works by Alfred Harris, Leigh Brown, Sasha Cotton, Vanessa Graddick, Brent Foster, Michaela Day, Aubrey Rahn, Dionne King and Jaraux Knighton. The stories dramatize many of the issues that teen-agers confront, including racial discrimination, finding one's way in a violent world and the search for one's identity.

Mandel instructs her students to approach playwriting by developing a character and then figuring out the character's goals, the obstacles standing in the way of those goals and what the character is willing to do to overcome those obstacles.

Last week Rebecca Mayberg, a sophomore from Mendota Heights, was putting the finishing touches to her first play, *Two Faces*. The play is about an adopted girl trying to find her birth mother. Jaraux Knighton, a junior, will present *Sunny Day*, which she calls a "rapical," or musical in rap. It is a story

about toys that plot their revenge against a sadistic child who mutilates them. Junior Larry Fuller's offering, *And the Music Played*, tells the tale of a 26-year-old musician trying to overcome alcoholism.

"Writing plays helps you get disciplined and helps you with your life," Fuller said. "I used to be really shy, but once I get on stage the shyness is put away and I'm put into a different character. It's really good for introverts because it challenges them to open up more."

There are no textbooks in Mandel's classroom. Rather, her students are taught the basics of acting, writing and directing by doing it. With the aid of grant money, Mandel brings in other theater professionals to teach those aspects of the dramatic arts that are outside her own specialty, which is improvisational acting. This spring she has tapped the talents of director and playwright Dawn Renee Jones, theater consultant Dudley Voigt, and director and actor James Williams, who has been working in the Twin Cities for 20 years, including four years at the Guthrie Theater and 15 years at Penumbra Theater.

Williams said his talent is helping the teen-agers find their talent. "Finding one's own

voice as a teen-ager is so important because at that age so many things are going through your head and you have no experience to back any of it up," he said. "You start to think that you might be the only person in the world who questions the bigger issues about community, man's inhumanity to man and relationships. One of the great things about theater is that you discover that people's opinions might be different, but that we're all basically the same. And the earlier you find that out, the better."

Getting her students to tap their feelings has become more difficult over the years, Mandel said, in part because life is more complicated and society is not as idealistic as it once was. "Many of these kids live in a world that is dangerous and volatile and that causes them to feel powerless," she said. "The healing part comes when through their writing they try to do something constructive with their feelings. Instead of punching somebody down the street, they put those feelings on stage."

The curtain will rise on "Voices Have Power" at 7:30 p.m. on May 21 and 22 in the Black Box Theater at Central, 275 N. Lexington Pkwy. Admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students and seniors.



James Williams of Penumbra Theater directs Olivia Hoskins, Danielle Lewis and Rebecca Mayberg during a rehearsal for Central High School's ninth annual playwriting festival that will be presented May 21-22. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

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Music

"Swing Night in the Caves" will take place from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. every Thursday night at the Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St. The line-up will include the following: The Moonlight Serenaders on May 7; and The Minnesota Jazz Orchestra on May 14. Admission is \$6.00. For information, call 224-1191.

Central High School's varsity band, concert band, concert orchestra and jazz band will perform at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 7, in the auditorium of the school, 275 N. Lexington Pkwy. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. For information, call 293-8700.

The University of St. Thomas' 47-voice Concert Choir will perform a free concert at 8:15 p.m. Thursday, May 7, in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Ensemble Polaris will perform a concert featuring the 20th-century premieres of three cantatas for solo alto or countertenor voice by Samuel de Sumaya, as well as alto arias and cantatas by Vivaldi, Bach and Purcell, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 8, at Unity Unitarian Church, 732 Holly Ave.

Riverview Cafe, 3753 S. 42nd Ave., Minneapolis, is now offering live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Longfellow resident Bill Giese and his string band the Occasionals will perform rock 'n' roll and bluegrass every Friday from 7:30 to 10:30. Saturday's program, which runs from 8:00 to 10:30, will feature 4 Stories on May 9, eight-string guitarist David Hale on May 16, the bluegrass and blues of the Jones Tones on May 23 and singer and guitarist Laura Grman on May 30. For information, call 722-7234.

The Singer's Voice, an autobiographical music series hosted by Dan Chouinard, will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Sundays at the

Dakota Bar & Grill in Bandana Square. The line-up will include the following: Cyndi Scheffler on May 10; and Jennifer Edwards on May 17. For information, call 642-1442.

The St. Paul Civic Symphony will perform their season finale at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 10, at Landmark Center. Admission is free.

The Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir will perform a special Mother's Day concert at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 10, in the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. For tickets, priced at \$12.50 for adults and \$8.00 for children, call 690-6700.

Organists James and Marilyn Biery will perform at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 10, at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 239 Selby Ave. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. For information, call 228-1766.

The Music in the Park Series will present Mark O'Connor at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, May 10, at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. For tickets, priced at \$20, call 644-4234.

"A Vocal Collage" will be performed by the College of St. Catherine Women's Choir at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, in the Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Admission is free. For information, call 690-6690.

The University of St. Thomas' jazz ensemble and singers will perform a free concert at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, in the Brady Educational Center.

Habrera Hativ'it, will perform their unique blend of music from India, Africa and the Middle East at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14, at the Minneapolis Jewish Community Center, 4330 S. Cedar Lake Road. For tickets, priced at \$18, or \$15 for seniors and students, call 377-8330.

Dean Magraw, in celebration of his new CD "Seventh One," will perform at 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, at the Cedar Cultural

ON THE TOWN briefly



The Twin Cities zydeco band ZoloGo! will provide music for a dance party on Saturday, May 16, at the St. Paul Curling Club, 470 Selby Ave. Lessons will be given at 8:00 p.m. and the dance will be held from 8:30 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$7.00.

Center, 416 S. Cedar Ave., Minneapolis. Special guests will include Anthony Cox, Dave King, Peter Ostroushko, Jim Anton and Marc Anderson. Admission is \$12, or \$10 in advance by calling 338-2674.

CitySongs, a culturally diverse group of youths in grades 3-8, will perform "Erase Racism," its sixth annual spring concert, at 7:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, at Metro State University, 700 E. 7th St. Admission is free. For information, call 626-1241.

Melissa Manchester will perform with the Minnesota Orchestra at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$22.75 to \$38.75, call 371-5656.

David Simmons, composer at Joyful Church in Highland Park, will perform from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 23, at the Roastery, 769 S. Cleveland Ave.

Pianist Joseph Zins, a resident of Highland Park, will perform

at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, May 17, in Sateren Auditorium at Augsburg College. Admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and seniors.

Sara Lipsett-Allison will perform with the JCC Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. For information, call 698-0751.

"A Mandolin Mania" concert, featuring Joan Griffith of the St. Thomas music faculty and special guest Peter Ostroushko, will perform at 8:00 p.m. Monday, May 18, in the Brady Educational Center auditorium at the University of St. Thomas.

Books

Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St., will host the following activities: Ken Wilber will discuss his book *The Col-*

lected Works of Ken Wilber: Volume I at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 6; and Gloria Naylor will read from her new novel *The Men of Brewster Place* at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 7. Admission is free. For details, call 699-0587.

Robert Stone will read from his new novel *Damascus Gate* at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at Macalester-Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave. Admission is free. For information, call 699-0587.

The Hungry Mind Bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave., will host the following readings at 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted): Jon Lee Anderson will read from his book *Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life* at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 9; Lisa Palac will read from her new book *The Edge of the Bed: How Dirty Pictures Changed My Life* on Tuesday, May 12; Peter Balakian will read from his memoir *Black Dog of Fate: An American Son Uncovers His Armenian Past* on

Monday, May 11; and Molly Peacock will read from her new book *Paradise, Piece by Piece* on Tuesday, May 19. Admission is free. For details, call 699-0587.

"Poetry in the Afternoon" will be held at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. The featured poet for May is Richard Broderick. Admission is free. For information, call 690-9443.

Family

Schoolhouse Rock Live!, an original adaptation of the Emmy Award-winning TV cartoon series which combined math, history, grammar and science with a raucous sing-along score and snappy animation, is running through May 24 at the Music Box Theatre, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis. For tickets, call 989-5151.

SteppingStone Theatre For Youth Development has opened *Anansi* in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. Anansi, the legendary trickster spider with a heart of gold, takes a group of young people on a magical quest filled with masks, spirit winds, talking animals and enchanted statues in order to preserve the island forest from developers. Performances will continue at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays until May 21 (there also will be a 2:00 p.m. performance on Sunday, May 17). For tickets, priced at \$6.00, call 225-9265.

Bedtime storytime for toddlers will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays through May 13 at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Children may wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed animal and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register, call 292-6624.

The Youth Performance Company is performing *Robin Hood*

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through May 17 in the Howard Conn Fine Arts Center, 1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis. For tickets, priced at \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 14 and under, call 623-9080.

Rachael Coyne will read from and autograph her new picture book *Daughter Have I Told You?* at 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 8, at the Hungry Mind bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave. For information, call 699-0587.

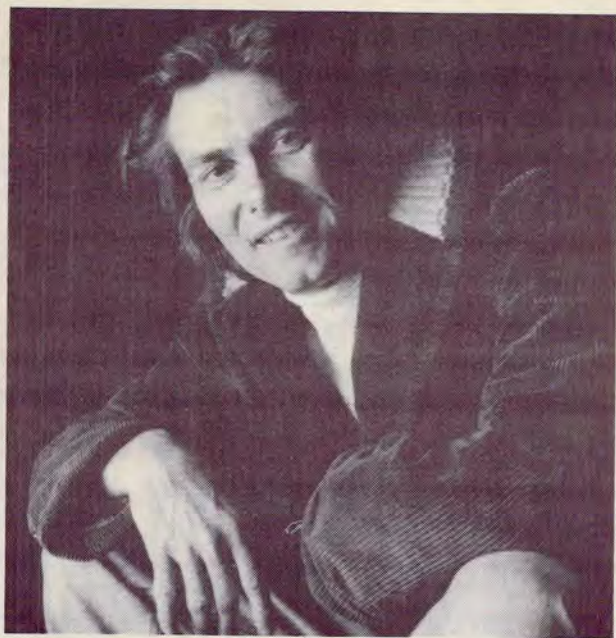
The Hungry Mind bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave., will offer the following authors and storytellers for children at 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays: Bridget Levin on May 9; and Sarah Langworthy on May 16. Admission is free. For information, call 699-0587.

ArtScraps, 1459 St. Clair Ave., will offer the following Super Scrapper Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.: Krista Pearson will help make garden angels on May 9. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. For information, call 698-2787.

The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will offer the following storytime activities at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays: Lauren Stringer will read from the newest book she has illustrated, *Scarecrow* by Cynthia Rylant, on Saturday, May 9; and stories about mothers will be read on Saturday, May 16. Admission is free. For information, call 224-8320.

History Hijinx programs for children ages 3-11 will be offered from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The line-up includes the following: children can view Trygg survey maps and make their own surveyor's notebook with flip covers and graph paper on May 10; and children can view artist George Morrison's works and then make their own collage on May 17. Admission is free. For information, call 296-6126.

"Sundays at Landmark," a family-oriented event series, continues with the following



Kevin Kling will host "Spring Ahead" at the Fitzgerald.

Mom's Day variety show set

Minnesota Public Radio's week-long series "Beyond Affliction: The Disability History Project" will culminate on Sunday, May 10, in downtown St. Paul with a live variety show featuring professional entertainers who have overcome disabilities.

"Spring Ahead" will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. The program will have a Mother's Day theme. Tiaras will be given to the first 100 mothers to arrive.

The variety show will be hosted by MPR commentator Kevin Kling and local performer Leslye Orr. Performers include singers Joseph Baird and Stephanie Dawn, actress Jaehn Clare, comedian and juggler Scott Burton, and Chris Aiken of DanceAbility. Admission is \$8.00. For tickets, call 290-1221.

programs at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays at Landmark Center: the St. Paul Civic Symphony will perform a Mother's Day Concert on May 10; and Tyheesha Collins & Crew will present an afternoon of tap dancing fun for the whole family on May 17. For information, call 292-3225.

Dance

The O'Shaughnessy Dance! Series will continue with Shapiro and Smith Dance at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, May 7-9 in the O'Shaughnessy at the College of

St. Catherine. For tickets, priced from \$13 to \$18, call 690-6700.

The TGIS Singles Social Club will hold a smoke-free singles dance at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the Thunderbird Hotel in Bloomington. Dancer will perform the music for the dance. Admission is \$10, with a \$2.00 discount for those arriving before 9:00 p.m. For information, call 644-3443.

A celebration of National Tap Dance Day will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 17, in Landmark Center, downtown St. Paul. Local dancers and musicians will provide lively demonstrations with

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Free Lecture:
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Dr. Robert Ellwood, Bashford Professor of Oriental Studies, School of Religion, USC will speak at the public meeting of the St. Paul Theosophical Society on Tuesday, May 12, 1998, 7:15pm, Merriam Park Library, Meeting Room A/B Fairview and Marshall, on the subject of "The Cross and The Grail" based on his book of the same name.

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styles ranging from 1920s rag-time to improvised hip-hop styles popularized by the hit musical *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*. There also will be film clips of famous tap performances and a performance by youth musicians from the Walker-West Academy. Admission is free. For information, call 488-8881.

Exhibits



"Anatomy of a Class," an exhibit of the work of over 30 graduating seniors in painting, printmaking, drawing, sculpture, photography, illustration and graphic design, has gone on display at the College of Visual Arts, 173 Western Ave. A reception will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, May 8. For information, call 224-3416.

"Abstraction," an exhibit of paintings by Wrayge, Laing, Hart, Hilmo, Arnett and Sherzad, will open with a reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at Beauxmage Fine Art, 684 S. Smith Ave. The exhibit will run until June 13. For information, call 221-9869.



The Minneapolis Shrine Circus at Target Center May 13-17 will feature two aerial acts—the Roman and Russian rings (pictured) and the Spanish web—performed by the Highland-based Circus of the Star. Tickets are priced at \$7.00-\$19 and can be charged by phone at 989-5151.

For tickets, priced at \$12 and \$15, call 690-5879.

The Cabinet Meeting, a play exploring how U.S. history might have been different if women had governed, will be performed at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 8, at the UAW Local 879 Ray Busch Union Hall, 2191 Ford Pkwy. A reception will take place before the performance at 5:30 p.m. Admission is a donation to the Merriam Park Food Shelf. For information, call 738-6766.

The Lyric Theatre will open *Old Man Brunner Country*, a production adapted from the

poetry of Leo Dangel, at 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 8, at the Hennepin Center for the Arts, at 6th and Hennepin in Minneapolis. Performances will run until May 24. For tickets, priced from \$10 to \$16, call 824-9717.

Park Square Theatre, 408 St. Peter St., will open David Mamet's *The Cryptogram* at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9. The play takes the audience on a harrowing journey into the minefield of a crumbling marriage as seen through the eyes of a child. Performances will run through May 24. For tickets, priced from \$8.00 to \$18, call 291-7005.

The Penumbra Theatre Company will open August Wilson's *Seven Guitars* on Wednesday, May 13, in the Martin Luther King Center, 270 N. Kent St. The play revolves around a small group of friends who gather following the untimely death of Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton, a local blues guitarist on the edge of stardom. Performances will run until July 5. For tickets, call 224-3180.

Etc.



"Rhythms of the River," the annual gala to benefit the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, will be held at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at RiverCentre. The evening will include dinner, live and silent auctions and a performance by the SPCO. For tickets, call 292-3248.

Theater



The Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company is presenting the area premiere of *Dividends* through May 17 at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

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SPORTS

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Playoffs prove that Wolves have got game

The Timberwolves' loss at Seattle last Saturday in Game 5 of the NBA playoffs was tough to swallow, but the first-round performance for coach Flip Saunders and Company was an important step in the franchise's development. The Wolves are on the NBA map now, after a decade of frustration. Saunders guided this beat-up, overmatched team through an outstanding final month of the regular season. What he did in the Seattle series was even more magnificent.

In Game 1, the Supersonics were focused, fresh, deep and talented; the Wolves looked confused, selfish and disoriented. After the opening game blowout, the only suspense remaining involved the Wolves' May tee times.

Vin Baker versus Sam Mitchell inside? C'mon. Flip had to use Bill Curley at center. I kept waiting for Larry and Moe to come off the bench next. Michael Williams guarding Gary Payton? Mitchell playing for 40 minutes? Terry Porter at small forward against Detlef Schremp? Reggie Jordan in the line-up for Game 5?

The absence of Tom Gugliotta was never more apparent in Games 4 and 5. The Wolves were able to win a few regular season games without him, but playoff basketball is a completely different story. Without him, the Big Three became the Frustrated Two. Stephon Marbury and Kevin Garnett just couldn't generate enough offense on their own. They went a combined 7-for-21 in the deciding game. All-Star guard Gary Payton's stellar playoff performance overshadowed the Young Guns.

Besides missing Gugliotta, the Wolves had to play the series without Cris Carr, Cherokee Parks and Stanley Roberts. The series pointed out the obvious: the team has to get Googs' name on a long-term contract. Signing Marbury is a no-brainer. Anthony Peeler answered the bell at shooting guard. With Peeler and Carr, the Wolves are set at two-guard. A free agent center would be the frosting on the cake.

I predicted in November that the Wolves would win 50 games (48 regular season, then two in the playoffs). My forecast fell short by three and would have been right on the mark if Gugliotta would have still been in the mix.

THERE'S HOPE FOR WNBA HOOPS

The Timberwolvettes are coming—and I think it just might work. First, the NBA is involved, which gives the new product instant credibility. Then there's the league's promotional genius, which is without peer. Finally, there's the solid base of women's basketball fans in the Twin Cities, many of whom were players in their youth. Assuming ticket prices will be reasonable, the new WNBA team should appeal to a broader socio-economic class than the Timberwolves.

Cody's Corner/see page 41

Former CDH star lines up with Vikings

by Tom Cody

Last fall, Matt Birk slipped on the red and gold for Harvard University thinking it would be his last season of football. This fall, he will be donning Viking purple.

"My mindset was to go out and enjoy my senior year and be done with it," said Birk, a Nativity Grade School and Cretin-Derham Hall grad. "I never expected to get a chance to play in the NFL, especially for my hometown team."

Birk was selected by the Minnesota Vikings in the sixth round of last month's NFL college draft.

Surprisingly enough, the 6-foot-6, 310-pound offensive lineman never played organized football before his 16th birthday. "I played soccer until 10th grade," Birk said. "Then I transferred from St. Thomas Academy to Cretin. (Former CDH football coach) Mal Scanlan persuaded me to go out for the B-squad. I was pretty big, but I didn't even know the difference between a three-point and four-point stance."

Birk developed rapidly and soon was starting on both offense and defense for CDH's varsity, which made it to state in his junior and senior years.

"I knew he'd be a great player," said Raider football coach Rich Kallok. "When he came over from St. Thomas he was the biggest soccer player I'd ever seen. Playing basketball also helped his football game."

Birk had many offers from colleges, including West Point, the Air Force and Northwestern. "When he chose Harvard, it seemed like the right place for him, but I never thought he'd make it to the NFL playing for them," Kallok said. "They



Matt Birk posed last fall in his Harvard red and gold.

were bad when he got there."

"We were terrible," Birk said. "Harvard went 10-20 in my first three seasons, 2-8 my sophomore year. But last season we turned it around. We beat Penn State 33-0 to clinch the (Ivy League) championship." Harvard finished the regular season with a 9-1 conference record.

"Teams started calling me after the season," Birk said, "but my big break came just before Christmas. A guy from USC got hurt at the last minute and the officials from the All-Star Game called me to fill in. I got the call at noon and was on a plane to Alabama five hours later. I played pretty well and got invited to the NFL scouting combine."

Birk was flown to Indianapolis for the three-day workout in front of 30 NFL

scouts. "It was a meat market," he said. "I walked around in my underwear for two days, being poked and prodded, x-rayed and drug-tested. On the third day, we ran 40-yard dashes and lifted some weights. I did OK."

Birk said it was a little intimidating to be surrounded by all the talented players there. "On media day, there were swarms of reporters," he said. "(Michigan All-American) Charles Woodson had a slightly bigger following than I did."

"At the combine I started to realize that I had a chance to make it in the NFL," he said. "The guys from Nebraska and Penn State were huge and talented, but I thought I was just as good. I started thinking to myself, 'Hey, I can do this.'"

A dozen NFL teams flew

in to see Birk at Harvard. The Vikings opted to fly him back to the Twin Cities for a private workout with offensive line coach Mike Tice. "We brought him in because we liked his lower body strength and his lateral quickness," said Tice, a former tight end for the Vikings. "Birk is really good from the bellybutton down. He's an athlete. I pushed for him in the draft, but I didn't have to push that hard. Scott Studwell (another former Viking) saw Birk's workout and he liked him a lot. Birk was the lineman we wanted."

Birk watched every second of the NFL draft. He said he began to get concerned once it went past the fifth round. "I started to worry that maybe the Ivy League stigma would hurt me, that they didn't think the league was tough enough to produce talented players," he said.

"Then my phone started ringing. The Packers called, then the Chiefs. Finally, Dennis Green called. He asked me, 'Do you want to play some football?' I was shaking. He told me to watch my name come up next as the Vikings' sixth pick. The whole room erupted. I had quite a little party going by that time. It was a great moment because I got to share it with a bunch of good friends and teammates. A chance to play for the Vikings? It doesn't get any better."

The Vikings flew Birk into town for a press conference and get-acquainted session three days after the draft. "I met with coach Green," Birk said. "He told me they didn't draft any other offensive linemen. He made it clear that I'll get a chance to make the team. I watched film with coach Tice, then we all went

Matt Birk/see page 41

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Lindsay Holmes



Duretti Fufa



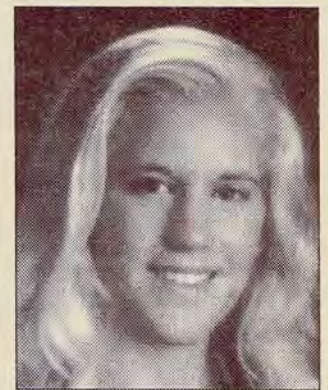
Sara Conrad



Katie Bernabei



Courtney Norman



Sonja Bostrom

Doing their gender proud

Athena Awards pay homage to how far female athletes have come

by John Wadell

Thirty of the St. Paul area's top female athletes were honored for their accomplishments on and off the field when the fourth annual Athena Awards were presented last week at the Radisson Inn.

The Athena Award was started by the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce 26 years ago as a way to support girls athletics in the Mill City. In 1995, those who were involved in girls sports in St. Paul decided it was about time to honor the best and brightest female athletes east of the river.

"I graduated from high school the same year that Minneapolis started its Athena program," said Barb Hoekstra, vice chair of the St. Paul Area Athena Awards Committee. "When I asked the athletic director at my high school why we couldn't have a program like that, he said it was because 'girls can't be athletes.' We've come a long way since then."

Winners of the St. Paul area Athena Awards for 1998 from schools in the Villager area include the following:

Lindsay Holmes of Henry Sibley High School. Holmes, a West St. Paul resident, has been involved in soccer for four years (captain, all-state, all-tournament), basketball for four years (captain, all-conference honorable mention, academic all-state) and track for four years (captain, all-conference) for the Warriors. She has participated on her school's math team, student council, yearbook staff and leadership group. She has volunteered at Children's Hospital, Naomi Shelter, her church's nursery, Hospitality House and a local nursing home, and has been a youth basketball coach and referee for four years. She plans to attend college, but is still undecided on which one.

Minneapolis winners to be honored May 15

The 26th annual Minneapolis Athena Awards will be presented to the top 53 female athletes in the city during a ceremony that begins at 11:45 a.m. Friday, May 15, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Local young women who will be receiving the awards include the following:

Kettie Widdifield of Minnehaha Academy. Widdifield, a Minneapolis resident, has participated in soccer for five years (captain, all-state, team MVP), track for four years (all-conference honorable mention, state participant in the 4x200 relay) and nordic skiing for one year for the Red Hawks. She has been involved in the National Honor Society and choir, and has served as a peer helper. She plans to major

in elementary education at Wheaton College.

Erika Skiba of Roosevelt High School. Skiba, a Minneapolis resident, has been involved in swimming for five years (captain, MVP), gymnastics for five years (captain, all-city), softball for four years (captain, all-conference honorable mention) and was a hockey cheerleader for one year for the Teddies. She has been a member of the student council, student royalty, medical magnet program, Operation Holiday Basket and National Honor Society. She plans to study pre-med at St. Cloud State University.

Admission to the Athena Award luncheon is \$19. For more information, call 559-7279.

Duretti Fufa of St. Paul Academy and Summit School. Fufa, a Minneapolis resident, has participated in volleyball for two years, cross country for two years (captain, all-state, academic all-state, school record holder in the 3200, 4000 and 5000 meters), basketball for four years (captain, all-metro honorable mention, school scoring leader) and track and field for four years (captain, all-conference, school record holder in the 4x200 and 4x400 relays and the 800-meter run) for the Spartans. She served as president of SPA's student body and was a member of a student facilities planning task force. She has volunteered as an HIV/AIDS peer educator through the American Red Cross and with Habitat for Humanity. She plans to attend Harvard University.

Sara Conrad of Highland Park Senior

High School. Conrad, a Macalester-Groveland resident, participated in tennis for one year (all-conference honorable mention), cross country for three years (all-state), nordic skiing for two years (all-region) and track for four years (all-conference honorable mention) for the Scots. She is a member of the National Honor Society, academic honor roll, school band and student council. She has volunteered with Gillette Hospital, Fresh Force, Meals on Wheels and as an assistant ski instructor, and is involved in her church choir and Girl Scouts. She plans to major in biology at either Augsburg College or St. Mary's University.

Katie Bernabei of Convent of the Visitation School. Bernabei, a Macalester-Groveland resident, has played basketball for four years (captain, conference MVP, all-state,

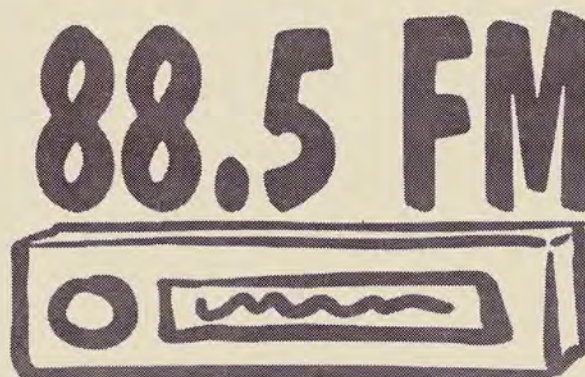
state Miss Basketball nominee, school record holder with 1,458 career points), soccer for four years (all-state), track for one year (all-conference, school record holder in the triple jump) and diving for four years (three-time state participant, school and pool record holder) for the Blazers. She has been class treasurer and a blood mobile coordinator, and has volunteered for Meals on Wheels. Bernabei, who earned the academic all-state award, is considering attending the University of St. Thomas, Marquette University or North Dakota State.

Courtney Norman of Cretin-Derham Hall. Norman, a Minneapolis resident, has been involved in gymnastics for four years (captain, three-time state vault champion, state record holder with a 9.95 in the vault), soccer for one year and track for three years (all-state, school record holder in the 4x200 relay) for the Raiders. She is a member of the student council and Pride group, and was the Pearl Park teen volunteer of the year. Norman plans to remain involved with gymnastics in college, but is still undecided about which one she will attend.

Sonja Bostrom of Central High School. Bostrom, an East Side resident, has been involved in gymnastics for one year, softball for one year, cross country for three years (captain, all-conference), track for three years (captain) and nordic skiing for three years (captain, all-state, Junior Olympic team) for the Minutemaids. She has been a member of the student council, school choir and Soar program. She has volunteered at the American Swedish Institute, Hamline Dining Hall, Minneapolis Children's Hospital and the Dorothy Day Center. Bostrom plans to attend St. Olaf College or Northern Michigan University.

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Cody's Corner /from page 39

Crucial to the team's success when it starts play a year from now will be the venue. If the WNBA plays at Target Center, it's going to be embarrassing. There's nothing more depressing than an arena three-quarters empty. When the Gopher women played in front of a couple of thousand in Williams Arena, it was a sorry sight. Once they moved over to the smaller Sports Pavilion it was a whole new ball game. The Pavilion, which sits empty in the summer, would be a perfect fit for the new WNBA franchise.

The team also will need some local angles. Bringing in 12 out-of-towners will not draw the fans. Drafting Minnesotans shouldn't be a problem, however, with all the homegrown talent now playing at colleges across the country. The Miller sisters—formerly of Rochester Mayo and now at Georgia—come to mind. I'd pay to watch them play.

I've seen 'em all come and go—the Fighting Pike, the Pipers, the Muskies, the Monarchs, the Norsemen, the Kicks and let's not forget the worst professional sports franchise in Twin Cities history, the Minnesota Bucks/kins tennis team. If the women hoopsters hope to avoid a similar fate, they'd better listen up.

THE TWINS AT 30-SOMETHING

The most surprising thing about the Minnesota Twins after 30 games? That there are virtually no surprises. This team is just as bad as everybody thought they'd be. A few casual observations from a more-than-casual fan:

- 1) Steinbach's done. Take him off the grill.
- 2) Molitor's not. It's sad when your best player is 42.
- 3) Otis Nixon's career ended shortly after Richard Nixon's. Neither has been much of a factor in the '90s.
- 4) David Ortiz's swing brings back memories of a young Kent Hrbek. This guy can hit. He'll put a few butts in Metrodome seats before he's done.
- 5) Eric Milton is another reason to head indoors for baseball every once in a while. He seems to possess a natural ability to get hitters out.
- 6) Marty Cordova is the Twins' Big Toe. If he doesn't drive in his usual 100 runs, the team will finish even further below .500 than expected.
- 7) Pat Meares' torrid start should not be misinterpreted. Water always seeks its own level, and Meares will fall below .280 by October.

NOT THE SAPPS WE USED TO BE

I like the pick. Randy Moss is exactly the kind of player the Minnesota Vikings have been afraid to choose in the past. The big-time wide-out from Marshall has had plenty of off-field troubles, but on the field he's got a huge upside. He may not be the next Jerry Rice, but he comes into the NFL with identical credentials.

When the Purple passed on Warren Sapp, they learned their lesson: the NFL is not Boy Scout camp. Moss may not be a model citizen, but he'll add some excitement to the team's offense. Now if the Vikings could just solve their biggest problems—the hole in the

defensive secondary and the kink in Brad Johnson's neck.

TOMMIE NINE IN THE RUNNING

Despite winning 27 of the first 34 games, coach Dennis Denning's University of St. Thomas baseball team faces an uphill battle. Entering the final week of MIAC play, the Toms may be on the bubble when Division III playoff bids are announced next week.

"You have to win your conference title to get strong consideration," Denning said. "If you finish second, it's pretty tough to claim a playoff spot. Sometimes, they'll take two teams from the MIAC, but you can never be sure."

The Tommies fell out of first place when St. John's swept them in a late-April doubleheader. "Nothing went right for us on offense that day," Denning said. "That's why the good teams always rely on pitching and defense. You can't count on offense to win games day after day."

The UST line-up benefits from the talents of several former local prep standouts. Outfielder Matt Faulken, a Central grad, bats cleanup and leads the team in home runs and RBIs. Second baseman Buzz Hannahan (Cretin-Derham Hall), the team's captain, is batting over .400. Shortstop Jon Guion (CDH), left-fielder Brad Shepherd (Sibley) and third baseman Jake Mauer (CDH) have all hit well for the Toms. Pitcher Mike Wilfahrt (Sibley) won his first six decisions with a 1.09 ERA, and pitcher Mike Honsa (CDH) leads the team in saves.

"We only lose four seniors this year," Denning said, "so we'll be pretty solid next year as well."

PREPS BY THE NUMBERS

The top high school hitters after the first month of baseball include Luke Vogel (CDH, .650 average, 5 HR, 18 RBIs, 13 runs); Jack Hannahan (CDH, .529, 6 HR, 14 RBIs, 14 runs); Nick Birk (CDH, .600); and Jon Brody (St. Paul Academy, .571).

The top pitchers include T.J. Prunty (SPA, 5-0, 55 K, 0.39 ERA); Brian Whinnery (CDH, 1.40); Keith Arnold (CDH, 1.86); Adam Hunkins (Central, 32 K, 2.00).

Among the top local softball players are Kate Townley (CDH, .555); Heather Murphy (SPA, .523); Jenny McCall (Visitation, .440, 12 SB); Sarah Borner (Minnehaha Academy, .391); Cara Jones (Minnehaha, .381); Ellie Roscher (CDH, 9 runs); Molly Sutherland (Visitation, 11 SB); and Katie Otis (Sibley, 9 SB).

At the top of the heap of softball pitchers are Julie Berthiaume (CDH, 4-1, 0.44 ERA); Jenny Leslie (SPA, 1.49); Jennifer Finell (Minnehaha, 2.77).

Among the top high school golfers locally are Mollie Shearen of Visitation, a medalist in four of the first five dual meets this season, and Brian Geraty of St. Thomas Academy, who was ranked sixth in the metro area in a St. Paul Pioneer Press poll. Jerry Burch (CDH) ranks among the top boys track athletes in the 100-meter dash. Central's Langan Dee (200 meters) and Danielle Simmons (100-meter hurdles) rank among the top girls tracksters.

Matt Birk drafted by the Vikes /from page 39

out to dinner. There were 12 of us at Campanella's. The bill was \$550."

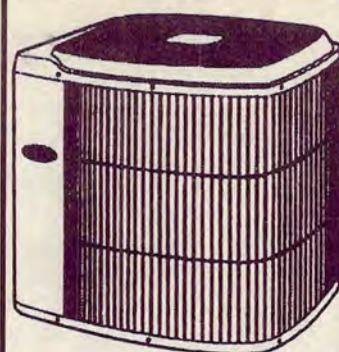
"He's going to be a good guard down the road, but we don't need him there next year," Tice said. "We want him to learn three positions as the backup center, tackle and guard."

Birk will graduate this spring with a degree in economics. He plans to put other job offers on hold in order to concentrate on football.

"They want me to play at about 320 pounds," Birk said. "They don't think that I can do much in the weight room, but I think I'll surprise them. I'm only 21 years old. Most

draftees are fifth-year 23-year-olds. I've been working with Roger Erickson (at Positive Health on St. Clair Avenue) since I was 14. He made me the athlete I am today. His philosophies on weight training have made a world of difference for me."

Tice said a few teams probably shied away from Birk because he was from Harvard, but that didn't bother him at all. "I played with two of the toughest guys in the NFL," Tice said. "John Spagnola (Yale) and Steve Jordan (Brown) both played in the Ivy League. That was good enough for me."



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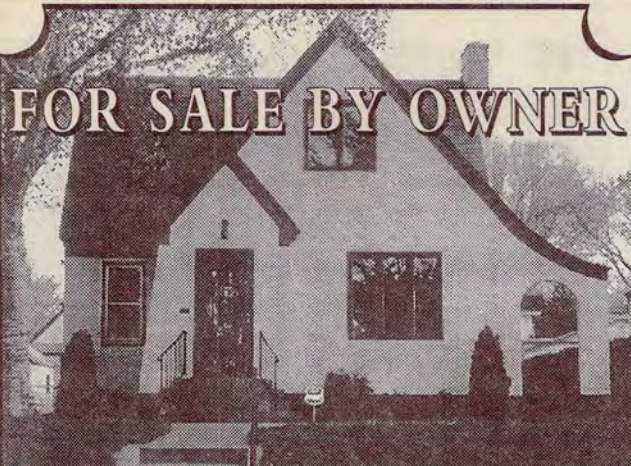
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Dan Welch, an NCAA Division III All-American goalkeeper on the Macalester College soccer team last fall, has signed a one-year contract with the Minnesota Thunder professional soccer team. Welch, 22, will graduate this May. He had planned to pursue an advanced degree in education, but "graduate school will always be there," he said. "I had nothing to lose."

St. Paul Parks and Recreation needs volunteers for its junior golf program to be held at the Highland and Phalen golf courses this summer. Volunteers will assist PGA and LPGA professionals with various duties, including monitoring the play of youths and encouraging proper etiquette on the links. Volunteers must be committed to helping out once a week for four hours for the duration of the eight-week program, which will run from mid-June to mid-August. For information, call 266-6400.

A Youth Education Through Sports clinic will be offered for youngsters ages 10-18 from 7:00 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 23, at Macalester College. Sessions will include skill instruction, conditioning and life skills, and will be led by college coaches and athletes. The clinic is being held in conjunction with the 1998 NCAA Division III track and field championships taking place at the college that day. For information or to register, call Jordan Cushing at 696-6648 by May 9.

Becca Clauson, 14, of Highland Park qualified for nationals in the Junior A division at the USA Gymnastics Region 4 championships on April 16-19 in Minot, North Dakota. Clauson, an 8th-grader at Nativity School and a member of the Thompson Academy of Gymnastics South, earned the silver medal on the beam with a score of 9.475, was fifth on bars (8.95) and sixth on

floor (9.35). Her all-around score of 36.725 earned her the bronze medal and a trip to the National Junior Olympic championships on May 6-11 in Seattle, Washington.

The St. Paul Blackhawks will run a soccer camp on June 8-12 at St. Paul Academy and Summit School. Players ages 8-11 will meet from 9:00 a.m. to noon, while those ages 12-14 will gather from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$90. For information, call Tom Bedard at 646-8899 or Bo Conroy at 482-6115.

Basketball camps will once again be conducted this summer by former University of St. Thomas and Cretin-Derham Hall standout Johnny Tauer. Six sessions will be offered at either St. Thomas or Nativity School. A total of five week-long sessions will be offered for boys and girls in grades 4-9. In addition, a two-week session is being offered this year to boys in grades 9-12. For more information, call 698-3524.

"The Changing World of Women and Sport" will be presented by the College of St. Catherine from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14, at the Radisson Hotel-St. Paul, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd. Donna Lopiano, executive director of the Women's Sports Foundation, will lead the forum. She was a nine-time All-American in softball, a member of the National Sports Hall of Fame and considered one of the 50 most influential people in college sports. Admission is \$40. To register, call 690-6831.

Registration for T-ball continues at Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The league is open to children ages 5 to 8. Games will be played at 10:00 a.m. Tuesdays from June 16 to July 21. The \$30 fee includes a hat, T-shirt and the end-of-season barbecue. For more information, call 298-5779.

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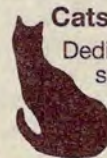
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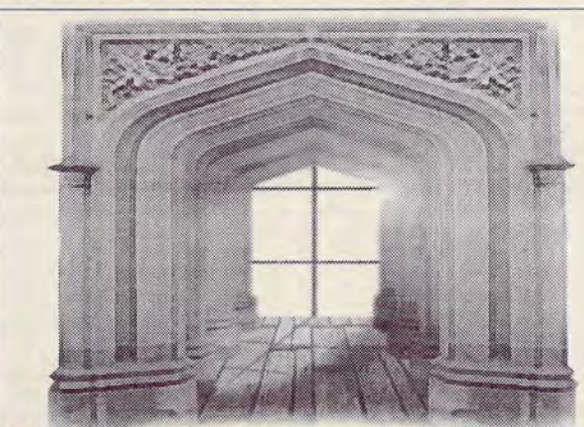
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SALES WOMAN, PT, in unique retail shop catering to pregnant, lactating women. Need reliable, hardworking, breastfeeding advocate with strong interpersonal skills, 3-4 6/hour shifts/week; Noble Birth, 715 Grand Ave., 292-0907. **gv**
SITTER SERVICE needs adults, days, evenings & vacations; \$350/week and up. Car necessary. 429-2963. **v**
PRODUCTION JOB. Press shirts on machines; \$7 starting; Jeff, 690-2388. **v**
SERVICE COORDINATOR. PT position with benefits involving case management, volunteer coordination, community outreach. Good organizational, communication skills required. Prefer resident of greater Nokomis community. Send resume by May 18: Elana Gravit, Nokomis Healthy Seniors, 4553-34th Ave. So., Mpls., MN 55406-3834. **v**

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PT-FT CUSTOMER SERVICE. Midway area woman's catalog co. is looking for experienced customer service reps. Duties include data entry, order entry, order inquiries, billing questions. Days, eves., weekends available. Call Sue, 647-9234, ext. 173. **v**
CRIME PREVENTION Coordinator to work with neighborhood block clubs, communicate with St. Paul Police and neighborhood organizations; 10 hours per week. Send Resume to the Highland District Council, 1978 Ford Pkwy., 55116. **v**
For additional job openings, turn to the Employment Opportunities ad section. For advertising information, call 699-1462.

Situation Wanted

EXPERIENCED RECEPTIONIST seeks employment in Highland area; 699-4880, leave message. **v**

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NETWORKERS, subground floor opportunity! Prepaid grocery card 20-50% off your monthly grocery bill, weekly pay checks; Frank, 715-273-3494. **v**

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CHILD CARE needed in our home this summer; 4 days a week; 7- & 10-year-olds; reliable and engaging; car preferred; Hamline/Grand neighborhood; 699-2897. **v**
MENDOTA HEIGHTS family looking for FT, live-out nanny for 1+ years; ages: infant, 2 & 5, infant experience, references, transportation required; 905-9334. **v**
BABY SITTER WANTED 5-10 hours/week, \$7/hour, Cretin H.S. area; experience with small children; Ellen, 690-5310. **v**
WANTED: ENTHUSIASTIC, experienced day care in our Crocus Hill home; 3 children, 11, 6, 4; approx. 30 hours/week, good wage; call evenings, 224-7771. **v**
MENDOTA HEIGHTS. L/O Nanny for 9- & 5-year-old; needed July-Aug., possibly extended; M-F, 7:30-4:30. Must have own car, NS, references required; 454-9681. **v**

Child Care

Parents are urged to exercise caution in arranging child care. Be sure to investigate references. To obtain a list of licensed day care providers in the area, call 641-0332. **gv**
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UPPER DUPLEX, 482 Michigan, nice 2-bedroom, garage; \$595; avail. July 1; 456-9157. **v**

LOVELY TANGLETOWN 2-bedroom duplex, first floor with garage, \$800 plus, NS, no pets, July 1; 690-9126. **v**

ONE-BEDROOM sunny apartment, Grand Ave. (near Cleveland). Lower unit, 4-plex facing street. Large living room, dining room, built-in buffet, wood floors; \$425/mo. Includes water/heat. Some caretaking. No dogs. Avail. June 1. 644-3050. **v**

HAMLIN & SELBY, large 2+ bedroom, lower duplex, laundry, heat paid; \$800/mo.; 224-5336. **v**

AVAIL. JUNE 1. Lower level. Newly remodeled 2-bedroom duplex; sunny eat-in kitchen; wood floors and new carpet, back deck. Near Randolph/Victoria. Quiet neighborhood. Includes: heat, water, trash, laundry; \$675; 292-8596. **v**

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SPACIOUS two-bedroom apartment, Midway location, \$550 plus electricity, near buslines, no pets; 644-7440; avail. June 1. **v**

BEAUTIFUL TANGLETOWN 3 bedroom upper duplex; kids OK, no pets/smokers; \$750+; June 1; 699-4286. **v**

For Rent Residential

FOR RENT May 28. 3-bedroom, 2-story on large fenced lot, all appliances and garage; call 724-1526. **v**

For Rent Commercial

RETAIL, OFFICE, warehouse, 4,000 sq. ft., 1086 W. 7th St.; \$2,000/mo.; Patrick Donohue, 224-4050. **v**

Garage/Storage

GARAGE SPACE for rent; 698-2879, Snelling-St. Clair. **v**

GARAGE RENTAL, 1659 Grand, \$50 per month; avail. now; 699-3003. **v**

Wanted to Rent

PROFESSIONAL MARRIED couple want to rent or lease-to-own 2-3 BR house, garage preferred; Mac/Grove, Highland (or as close to Univ. St. Thomas as possible). Start June or July. 765-0109 day & evening. **gv**

FINANCIALLY SECURE female with mini-poodle seeks 2-bedroom apartment for June 1; excellent references; Lynnea, 769-0949. **v**

PROFESSIONAL WOMAN seeks QUIET one-bedroom apartment for July 1 occupancy. Must have cross ventilation and reserved off-street parking for one car. Call Sharon at 699-7873 or 347-4203. **v**

SEEKING ONE-BEDROOM apartment. Gentleman, with older, small dog, seeking light-filled and pleasant one-bedroom apartment in the Cathedral Hill, Crocus Hill areas, or adjacent/comparable location. Must have space for computer and bookcases and reasonably quiet environment as I am both a college instructor and university student. I have time to complete a studied search; would move between college/university quarters. Full references. Leave message, 293-9377. **v**

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FEMALE SUMMER housemate. Share comfortable, furnished home near Macalester College, nice yard, library, quiet neighborhood, private bedroom, Express Bus, biking distance U of M, \$290+; nonsmoker, no pets; 698-1546; 474-4389. **gv**

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MALE TO SHARE house with male and dog for summer, possibly longer; near Summit/Snelling. Deck, hardwood floors; \$332.50 + utilities; 642-9258. **v**

M/F TO SHARE comfortable 2-story house blocks from river. Large bedroom, laundry, hardwood floors, fireplace, June 15/July 1; \$350+; Diane, 724-3890. **v**

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Your Experienced Real Estate Professionals



Located in the Highland Bank Building

2100 Ford Pkwy.



Historic Condo \$72,000

French doors, Murphy bed + 1 BR, built-in desk, walk-up loft, closet with built-ins and organizers. All new appliances, carpet, paint, sinks and fixtures. South light and charm.

696-0856



Prospect Park!

1915 East River Terrace. Classic 1930's 1-1/2 story. Filled with sunshine, detailing, hardwood floors, fireplace. Sweet kitchen, 2 baths, 3 bedrooms. Mint!

646-2100 \$149,900



Blackhawk Lake!

Beautiful 1+ acre lot, in-ground pool, beautiful deck, very open floor plan. 1690 Blackhawk Cove.

696-0874 \$299,900



Just Listed

Charming 4-BR Highland Park home with hardwood floors, built-in buffet, brick fireplace, 2-car garage — just waiting for you! remax-crossroads-mn.com/lizflynn

696-0857



Inver Grove

Quality custom built 3-BR, 3-bath home on large lot. Many amenities including big brick fireplace, whirlpool, view and 3+ car garage. Great location at end of cul-de-sac.

696-0895 \$194,900



Brownstone Condo

2-BR, 1-bath, hardwood floors, 10' ceilings, washer/dryer in unit, garage, eat-in kitchen + formal DR, 3rd floor — great views/balcony, nat. oak woodwork. 290 Dayton.

696-0845 \$95,000



Great Yard and Deck

3-BR, 2-bath, 2-story. Fireplace, beautiful floors, double garage, porch and only...

699-4269 \$149,900



Como Cottage...

on great "country" lot. Screened porch, deck, central air, 2+ bedrooms, tons of potential, very private setting. 1295 Kent Street. Only...

696-0846 \$59,900



Rent or Buy E-Z Terms

Adorable 2-story. Great lake and parkway location! Private fenced yard. Very clean, freshly painted, 3-BR, all appliances & a lot of charm. Perfect first home. Move in 6-1.

696-0850 \$114,900



Brownstone Condo

2-BR, 1-bath condo on the Hill! Hardwood floors, fireplace, 10' ceilings, large deck, parking, 860 square feet plus basement. Major updates already done on building. Hurry!

696-0845



New on the Market!

271 Pascal. Sparkling home in Macalester/Groveland, loads of charm, natural woodwork and hardwood floors, 3-season porch, 1-BR, gorgeous landscaped lot.

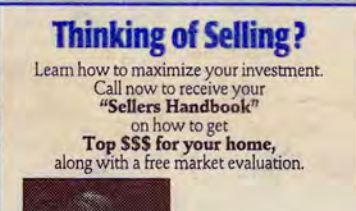
696-0854



Coming Attraction!

Big and spacious 4-BR Merriam Park home featuring 2 new baths, enormous new kitchen, main floor den/family room, porch, deck, fenced back yard. Hurry!

696-0855 \$149,900



Thinking of Selling?

Learn how to maximize your investment. Call now to receive your "Sellers Handbook" on how to get Top \$\$\$ for your home, along with a free market evaluation.



Gloria Smith, C.R.S.
Marketing Consultant
699-4269



Just Listed!!

Macalester/Groveland bungalow. Large unfinished expansion in generous room sizes, 2 BRs, large bright kitchen with white cabinetry. Call to see 1124 James today!

696-0855 \$114,900



West Bloomington

New offering — spacious, light-filled 4-BR Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac. Hardwood floors, fireplace, large yard, over 2,000 square feet plus a huge basement level!

696-0855 \$219,900



5 Acres Whispering Pines

250 Tanglewood Lane, 5 minutes from Marine. 4-BR, 3-bath, 2-story, like new, built in 1990, huge kit, main floor fam. rm. w/fireplace, master suite w/fireplace, whirlpool tub.

225-5541 \$379,000



Shorten Your Commute

Fabulous 1-1/2 story home in St. Louis Park. Gleaming hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, dining room, 3 BRs, 2 baths, large deck, lower level family room, and central air.

696-0872 \$137,000



South St. Paul Charming

3-BR, 2-bath rambler, 2-car garage, hardwood floors, mother-in-law walkout downstairs.

696-0842 \$119,900



Summit Hill Victorian

Outstanding home across from Nathan Hale Park, river bluff views, sunroom, library, master suite with bath and dressing room, 5 fireplaces, 3-car carriage house.

696-0849 \$495,000



Great Duplex

584 Western Ave. No. You have to see this wonderful duplex. 1st floor has 3 BRs, bath, LR, DR, kitchen, fireplace, built-in buffet. 2nd floor has 2 BRs, LR, kitchen, bath. 2 gar.

696-0851 \$94,900



Down-size in Style

2 BRs, 2 baths, LR, DR, eat-in kit, 4-season porch, 2-car insul. garage, 1,568 sq. ft. of one-floor living, maint.-free exterior, gas, fireplace, Assn. fees \$33.50/mo. Woodbury.

696-0851 \$154,900



Highland Park Duplex

958-960 Wilder. Well-maintained side-by-side duplex. 2-BR units, private separate basements, separate utilities, ceramic baths, great rental history.

696-0855 \$159,900



Coming Soon!

2092 Iglehart available May 11. Stunning 4+ BR, 2-1/2 story filled with gorgeous woodwork, leaded and stained glass windows, huge 3rd floor, new kit. Location, location!

696-0855 \$259,900



Condos Now Available!

455 Dayton Ave. Fabulous condos in Cathedral Hill. 1 and 2 bedroom units range from \$69,900 to \$99,900. Underground parking.

696-0874



Happy Mother's Day

Ray Hoffman and Kate McGuire

696-0899

Can I Buy a Home?

Should you even THINK about buying a home? Our FREE SEMINAR on Home Buying & Financing can help! Monday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m., RE/MAX & Prime Mortgage, 2550 University Ave. (at 280), Room 150S.



696-0846



Lynn O'Hara Ritter



Wedgewood of Woodbury

Price Reduction! You can't build new on a lot like this in Wedgewood any more! On 1st tee of Prestwick Golf Course. Cul-de-sac, w/o home with many amenities.

578-2225 \$379,900



New England Styling!

Stunning home on fantastic water's edge lot in Wedgewood of Woodbury. 5 BRs, 3 baths, and finished to perfection. There is a "wow" in every room! 2957 Edgewater Dr.

578-2225 \$419,900



Space for Everyone!

Do you need private space for a live-in nanny or relative? You'll find it here — this unique and bright floor plan has endless possibilities! 5 BRs, 4 baths. Woodbury.

578-2225 \$499,900



Your Home on the Internet

When you list your home with me your home will be on the RE/MAX Grand Tour which provides 6 photos of your home as well as property info. Call for a FREE MARKET ANALYSIS.

remax-crossroads-mn.com/lizflynn



Liz Flynn
696-0857