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VILLAGER

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City eyes sales-tax shift to fund projects in '98

Some say one-year allocation of
\$8.15 million tarnishes STAR process

by Jane McClure

Due to a shift in how the proceeds from the city of St. Paul's half-percent sales tax are allocated, it appears that \$8.15 million will be distributed in 1998 without undergoing the usual competitive process.

The \$8.15 million is the neighborhood portion of the half-percent sales tax that was collected in 1997. Under the city's Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) process that has been in place for the past three years, those funds would have been distributed in 1998 only after a lengthy citizen review, which was intended to award grants and loans to the most deserving applicants.

The City Council is now expected to bypass that

process and allocate the \$8.15 million to pre-identified neighborhood projects and programs when it adopts the 1998 city budget on December 17. The usual STAR process would then resume this spring for sales tax proceeds collected in 1998, currently estimated at \$5.6 million.

The proposed one-year end run of the STAR process was proposed by Mayor Norm Coleman and the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED). It appears to have the support of the City Council, though some council members have misgivings.

"I'd rather see us open up the STAR process again in-

STAR/see page 5



Follow the bouncing candy cane. Brian Heilig, 1, uses a peppermint baton to orchestrate the picture taking during Breakfast with Santa on December 13 at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. The fun was part of Holiday in Highland, the Highland Business Association's annual salute to the season. Photo by Mike Long.

Volunteers open hearts, homes to children of families in crisis

by Bob Gilbert

Raising healthy children can be a daunting task for parents. Having extended family or a network of reliable friends nearby can make it easier, but moms and dads without such support can sometimes feel overwhelmed. And that is exactly where the Ramsey County Crisis Nursery can help.

For the past 10 years, the Crisis Nursery has been offering free child care for parents who have nowhere else to turn. Many of its clients are single mothers who earn under \$12,000 a year. Some are involved in cases of domestic

abuse. Others may get sick, need time away to finish their education or job training, or simply need a respite from their children.

Sponsored by the Children's Home Society, the Crisis Nursery offers child care services during the week at one of 25 centers it is affiliated with or, in special situations, a volunteer shelter where children can spend the weekend. In November alone, the Crisis Nursery handled more than 100 calls for assistance.

"Most of those who take advantage of this program are excellent parents," said director Carol Densmore. "They wouldn't be utilizing our services if they didn't care about their

children. For many, it's a struggle to call us and admit that they need help. What we deal with is ordinary families in extraordinary situations."

Ann Bolger, a Macalester-Groveland resident, has been welcoming youngsters into her home one weekend a month for the past two years as a Crisis Nursery volunteer. She typically cares for two children at once, ranging in age from infants to pre-teens. Generally, she picks the youngsters up from their parents on Friday afternoon and returns them on Sunday evening.

"The decision to use the program can be

tough for a family because they're letting their kids go with a stranger," Bolger said. "But I have respect for parents who can say that they're stressed out and need a break. Those are parents who understand their limitations instead of those who end up being abusive and disrespectful to their child. Being a good parent is difficult even if your child is fabulous."

Bolger said she tries to make the weekend a vacation for the kids. She bakes cookies with them, plays with them and their toys, and

Crisis Nursery/see page 4

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CDH plans major upgrade of Carondelet field

by Jane McClure

A \$1 million project scheduled to get under way next spring will bring new soccer, baseball and softball fields to the large open tract of land just west of Cretin-Derham Hall. The property, which is owned by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, is being developed jointly by Cretin-Derham Hall and the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation. If all goes as planned, the sodded fields should be ready for use by next August.

School and city officials reviewed

plans for the Carondelet field project with the Highland Area Community Council on December 4. According to Mike Huber of the Rafferty, Rafferty and Tollefson architectural firm, three soccer fields will be laid out on the property, with the baseball and softball fields overlapping them.

New tennis courts will be built on the south side of the property, replacing the courts now located just south of the school building. The site of the existing courts will be used for parking.

A small hill on the Carondelet property will be leveled and retaining walls

will be built, Huber said. Changes also will be made to address drainage problems and an underground sprinkler system will be installed. A small brick storage building with a water fountain also will be erected on the site.

School officials hope to award a contract for the construction project soon.

"We recognize the need for soccer fields in the community," said CDH principal Richard Engler. "We also have a tremendous need for baseball and softball fields."

Cretin-Derham/see page 4

Hertz turns down HACC's request to rezone its lot

The Highland Area Community Council (HACC) recently agreed to amend its operating agreement with Hertz Corporation and to accept the rental car company's decision not to rezone its property at 1370 Davenport St. from industrial to general business use.

Hertz purchased the former MSP Park Air Express property this fall and plans to open a light-maintenance and 1,300-car storage facility there by next spring when Hertz and the five other car rental companies at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport will lose a portion of their space due to parking ramp reconstruction.

HACC had asked Hertz to agree to several conditions regarding the layout of the site, the appearance of the building, the access by motor vehicles, and the lighting and landscaping of the property. Most of the points were agreed to by Hertz in November. However, on December 4 Hertz attorney Win Borden said the company would not agree to rezoning.

Rezoning had been suggested by HACC to assure a less intensive use of the property once Hertz moves back to the airport. Hertz did agree to notify HACC six months before it intends to sell the property. The agreement gives the city the right of first refusal to purchase the land when and if it is sold.

Discussion set on plans for thinning Highland deer herd

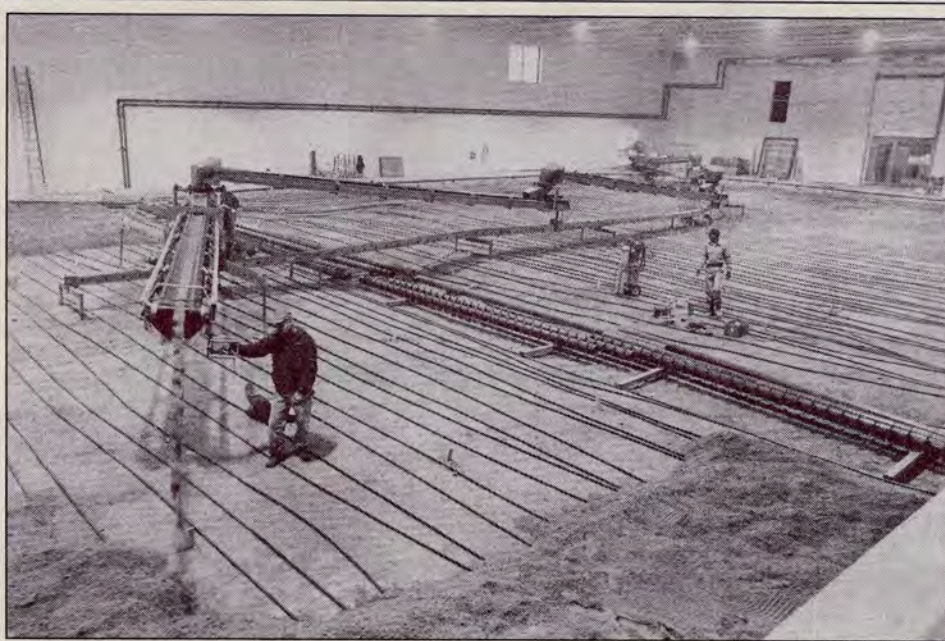
A meeting to discuss reducing Highland Park's deer population will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 17, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

The meeting will be conducted by the Community Service Committee of the Highland Area Community Council. Ed Olson of the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation and Michelle Doerr of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have been asked to attend.

Four years ago, the community council supported a plan to thin Highland's deer herd by trapping and shooting the animals. Flooding at Crosby and Hidden Falls parks in 1993 had forced as many as two dozen deer to move from the riverbank to the wooded bluffs of Highland Park. Residents complained of deer damaging trees and destroying gardens. Several deer were hit by cars on West 7th Street.

The city received a permit from the DNR to trap up to 28 deer in Highland during the winter of 1995-96. According to committee chair John Grzybek, only a handful of deer were actually caught and killed. Still, he said,

NEWS BRIEFLY



High-tech hockey. Work continued last week on the new rink at the Highland Ice Arena in preparation for its opening January 15 at Ford Parkway and Snelling Avenue. Because the rink will be used year-round, 2 miles of heating coils were laid to prevent the ground from freezing too deeply and causing the floor to heave. Workers (above) used a series of conveyor belts to deposit a layer of sand above the coils. A sheet of insulation will be laid atop the sand, followed by 10 miles of coolant pipes, another layer of sand and then the ice. Photo by Mike Long.

an aerial survey showed that the deer population at the time had been reduced to nine.

This year, Highland homeowners again complained about deer invading their yards, possibly as the result of this spring's floods. The city recently set out traps to begin removing the deer, but Grzybek said he would like another survey conducted before steps are taken to thin the herd.

Megard proposes banning all new billboards as of Jan. 1

An ongoing battle over billboards returns to City Hall on December 17 when the St. Paul City Council holds a public hearing on a proposal to ban all new billboards within the city limits after January 1, 1998.

The proposal, which was introduced by Bobbi Megard, the outgoing City Council member from Ward 4, is the latest in a 20-year history of efforts to reduce the number of billboards or ban the signs outright.

Megard said that during her tenure on the Council she has fielded numerous complaints about the number, size, content and appearance of billboards. She said she also was in-

spired by Scenic Minnesota, a coalition of environmental groups that have been working to restrict billboards statewide.

The city's current sign ordinance calls for non-conforming billboards to eventually be taken down. However, the ordinance allows companies that lose billboards to accumulate "sign credits" that can be used to erect new billboards elsewhere in town.

The billboard industry has lobbied vigorously against any further city restrictions.

Local, state officials disagree over best Ford Bridge repair

A disagreement between Hennepin County and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) officials over how to reconstruct the Ford Bridge postponed a presentation before the Highland Area Community Council planned for December 4.

Hennepin County favors an \$8.7 million rehabilitation of the 70-year-old bridge. Under that plan, the original bridge deck framing would be retained and the deteriorated concrete below would be repaired. The work would be good for 20 to 30 years.

MnDOT favors a \$14.2 million plan that would replace in stages the entire bridge superstructure above the spandrel columns. That work would last 40 to 50 years.

Ramsey County officials have said they can go with either option.

Both plans call for four traffic lanes, two bike lanes and two sidewalks, although the more expensive plan makes the lanes and sidewalks slightly wider. Reconstruction is expected to take anywhere from 12 to 30 months to complete, but the bridge will remain open to traffic throughout. The project could start as early as 2000.

The Ford Bridge is still structurally sound, but its 28 expansion joints are showing significant wear. Leaks around the joints have damaged some spandrel columns, the deck framing, the original deck and the bridge deck laid in 1973.

Officials from Hennepin and Ramsey counties and MnDOT will meet again in December to review their options, according to Jim Tolaas of the Ramsey County Department of Public Works. When an agreement is reached, a public meeting will be held to present the plans.

Though the bridge comes under the jurisdiction of the two counties, state and county funds will pay for the reconstruction.

City Council to vote Dec. 17 on campaign finance reform

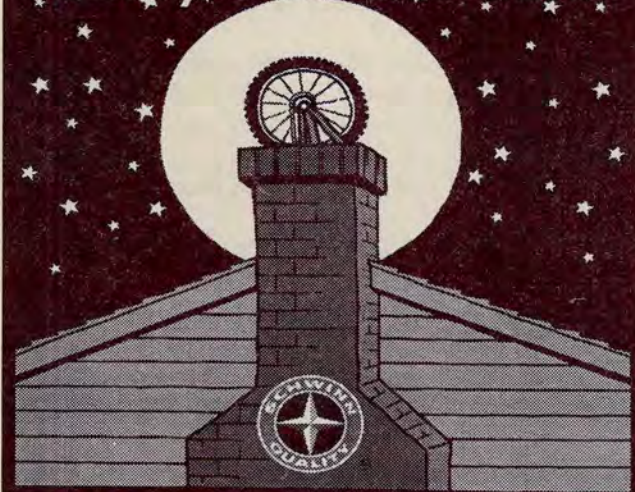
A move to restrict donations to St. Paul political campaigns to avoid conflicts of interest is causing conflicts of its own among City Council members. The measure, which is sponsored by City Council president Dave Thune, is up for a final vote at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 17, at City Hall.

The proposal would ban campaign contributions from individuals or groups having a financial interest in matters under consideration by the City Council. That would include a property owner with a pending zoning case or a developer who is seeking a city loan or grant. It would not include city employees as a group, though it would affect an employee who has an individual matter before the council. The donations would be banned from the time an item appears on an agenda to the date of final City Council action.

While debating the proposal, City Council members questioned the definition of conflict of interest and the difficulty of monitoring campaign finance reports for compliance. Ward 3 City Council member Mike Harris, who has made it a practice in his three campaigns for office not to accept money from

News briefs/see next page

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News briefs

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political action committees (PACs), said he would also like to see PACs regulated.

Groups that advocate campaign finance reform also do not think Thune's measure goes far enough. "There are enough loopholes in this to drive a truck through it," said David Buckley of All Communities Organized for Reform Now (ACORN). According to him, several groups are now putting together a campaign finance reform plan that will be presented to elected officials in the future. The plan calls for a ban on private campaign contributions and the institution of public financing.

Property dispute delays sale of Ramsey Hill Townhomes

Questions about property access continue to tie up plans for selling the new townhomes at 356-376 Ramsey St.

For the second time in two months, the St. Paul City Council postponed action on the final plat for Ramsey Hill Townhomes until the developer and nearby homeowners can reach agreements on shared parking and vehicle access.

One neighbor has reached an agreement with the developer on property access, but half a dozen other neighbors still have questions, council members were told on December 10. The issue will return to the Council at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 23.

City Council president Dave Thune, whose Ward 2 includes the properties involved, said the council will not act until all issues are sorted out. "I would urge you to get together with your neighbors and settle this," Thune told Gupitil.

Gupitil wants to have the plats approved before the end of the year so the 11 townhomes can be sold and assessed separately for property taxes. Otherwise, the property will be taxed as one large residence.

St. Paul's new deputy mayor to commute from Arden Hills

Tom Fabel, St. Paul's new deputy mayor and Mayor Norm Coleman's new chief of staff, calls Arden Hills home. City Council members Bobbi Megard and Jerry Blakey said they found that troubling, but the City Council approved his appointment anyway on December 10. The vote was 6-1, with Blakey the lone dissenter.

Fabel, who will succeed Tim Marx of Highland Park on January 1, has up to 12 months to move into the city, which Fabel said he will

do. As deputy mayor, he will act as mayor when Coleman is absent. "I'm assuming there will be a lot of those absences in the next year," Megard said, referring to the possibility of a Coleman campaign for governor in 1998.

"It's inappropriate to have the person who is second in command in the city not be a resident of St. Paul," said Blakey, who in 1994 unsuccessfully opposed the appointment of another Arden Hills resident, Larry Buegler, as director of the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development. Buegler, who never did move to St. Paul, resigned two years ago for health reasons and was replaced by Pam Wheelock.

Fabel, who once worked with Mayor Norm Coleman in the state Attorney General's office, is leaving a private law firm to return to the public sector. Fabel was born and raised in St. Paul and, according to him, members of his family have lived in the city since the 1850s. He and his family are planning to move to St. Paul once the school year is over.

St. Paul city staff will now settle claims of \$7,500 or less

The St. Paul City Council voted on November 26 to raise from \$2,500 to \$7,500 the minimum monetary claim against the city that it will review each week. Claims below \$7,500 will now be settled by the City Attorney's Office and Risk Management staff.

Typical claims include recovery of damages when a person trips and falls on a public sidewalk, a motorist collides with a city-owned vehicle or a vehicle is improperly impounded. Most claims are settled by the city; only a few proceed to Ramsey County District Court.

City Council president Dave Thune suggested raising the minimum to \$25,000 to save more time and money. He pointed out that the City Council rarely changes the settlement amount recommended by city staff.

Other council members disagreed. "Claims need to be part of the public agenda," said Bobbi Megard of Ward 4.

On January 1, the city of Minneapolis will raise its internally handled claim limit from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Ramsey County staff members are authorized to settle claims of \$10,000 or less, Hennepin County staff members can settle claims of \$2,500 or less, and Dakota County staff members can settle claims of \$5,000 or less.

News briefs compiled by Jane McClure and John Wadell.

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In the long run, the condition of the spinal discs and the integrity of ligaments are most important. Injured discs may degenerate later leading to cervical spine arthritis, and torn ligaments which are allowed to heal long will never hold vertebrae in alignment. Preventing these complications is an important goal of early treatment.

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Crisis Nursery volunteers

/from page 1

takes them grocery shopping so they have the kind of food they like to eat.

Mary Comford, a Highland resident, has taken children into her home on five week-ends so far as a Crisis Nursery volunteer. Though she enjoys doing it, she admits that it is hard work.

"It's sometimes difficult because you don't know what the child's boundaries are," Comford said. "It's not like when your friend drops off their child and says, 'He likes to turn on the oven switches.' You don't know."

"But these children have all come from very loving parents," she said. "We've had the most precious, entertaining children and that makes it worth it. When those kids go back to their parents, hopefully they've had fun their three days here and they've felt comfortable and secure."

Comford and Bolger are licensed by the state to provide foster home care. The Crisis Nursery, which is based at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, does interviews and checks the volunteers' backgrounds, police records and

references. It also checks the home for safety and provides orientation sessions to host families.

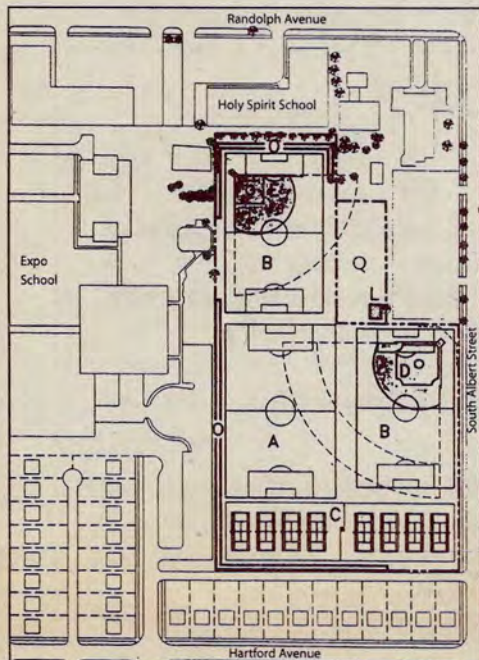
Densmore said what she likes best about the Crisis Nursery is that it does not have a lot of rules. "We're client-centered," she said. "What I might consider a crisis others may not, but it doesn't matter. We're here to help. If the parents don't want to talk about it, that's OK, too."

In addition to Densmore, the Crisis Nursery staff includes two family counselors, a volunteer coordinator and a part-time person who provides outreach services to the county's Hmong community. They put parents in touch with community resources in order to obtain clothing, financial aid, legal aid and counseling.

"We make a difference," Densmore said. "I know the combination of services that we provide helps bridge some real crisis times with families so they're able to get onto firmer ground."



John and Mary Comford, daughters Erin and Katy, and dog Molly have reserved a room in their Highland Park home for Crisis Nursery visitors. Photo by Brad Stauffer.



A master plan shows how new soccer fields, ballfields and tennis courts would be laid out just west of South Albert Street.

Cretin-Derham to develop new athletic fields

/from page 1

"We feel this is going to be very good for the city and very good for the community," said Parks and Rec superintendent Robert Piram.

According to Piram, this is the first time the city has entered into a partnership with a private school to develop new recreational facilities. CDH entered into a similar partnership last year by contributing to the construction of the county-owned Highland Ice Arena in exchange for dedicated storage space and use of a shared training facility.

Completion of the Carondelet field project will bring an end to an issue that Highland and Macalester-Groveland residents have wrestled with for nearly three years. In 1995, the St. Paul City Council approved a \$357,000 Capital Improvement Budget request from the Highland and Macalester-Groveland community councils to create three soccer fields and one baseball field on the property. The original plan called for the city to lease the fields from the Sisters of St. Joseph. CDH

has had a lease on the property ever since the merger of Cretin and Derham Hall 10 years ago. CDH will continue being the primary lessee under the new plan.

Construction was originally scheduled to begin in 1996. However, the move by public school coaches to oust CDH from the St. Paul City Conference prompted CDH officials to take a hard look at their own athletic facilities in case they could no longer use publicly owned facilities. The public school coaches have complained that CDH, which is the only private school in the City Conference, unfairly wins too many conference championships. CDH's future status in the City Conference is still uncertain.

The city plans to transfer the \$357,000 in CIB money to CDH for the Carondelet field project. City Council members also are expected to approve a city lease and a shared maintenance agreement with the school.

CDH will have first priority for use of the

new fields, followed by neighborhood youth teams. Nearby Expo Magnet School and Holy Spirit Elementary School have separate playgrounds but will be allowed to continue to use the fields at no charge.

Parks and Recreation will schedule all public use of the fields, working with the CDH officials to avoid any conflicts. No adult teams will be scheduled to play there, he said.

The Highland-Groveland Recreation Association, which makes extensive use of the open space now, discussed the Carondelet field project last week as part of its planning for the 1998 soccer season. The association will have to find other space to use during the spring and summer months while the new fields are under construction.

Some HGRA members raised concerns about agri-lime infield areas being part of the soccer fields. CDH officials share that concern, Engler said. According to him, the school has not ruled out grass infields.

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STAR allocation discussed/

from page 1

stead of opening up more PED programs," said Ward 3 City Council member Mike Harris said. "This way, we've taken the Neighborhood STAR Board and the City Council out of the process. Maybe we should just farm out all of the money and get rid of the (STAR) staff."

"I'd rather see us give neighborhood groups the opportunity to compete for this money," said Ward 4 City Council member Bobbi Megard. "When we make the decision, it looks like we don't have a STAR process anymore."

"But doesn't this allow us to get the STAR money out into the neighborhoods faster?" asked City Council president Dave Thune of Ward 2. According to him, adding STAR money to existing PED programs and setting up a proposed \$1.25 million pilot loan program also will allow sales tax funds to be distributed year-round.

Ward 5 City Council member Joe Collins agreed. According to him, small businesses and community development organizations sometimes cannot wait a year for the STAR process to unfold.

The STAR Board has approved the concept of the \$8.15 million allocation, though some board members expressed concerns about using STAR money for projects normally funded through the city's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB). According to STAR Board member Kathryn Sundberg it is important that the STAR program not continue to duplicate the CIB process.

Outgoing STAR Board chairman Steve Wellington agreed. He said it would be a mistake for STAR proceeds to become a secondary funding source for city parks, libraries and public works projects.

At the same time, Wellington said, the plan for the \$8.15 million puts the City Council in a difficult position. "How do you say no to a Dunning Field or to a new library on the East Side?" he said.

As proposed, the \$8.15 million in 1997 STAR proceeds would be allocated as follows:

- \$750,000 to be divided among the city's seven wards to cover the capital costs of neighborhood improvement projects.
- \$400,000 to two projects that failed to receive funds through the 1997 STAR program: a \$200,000 grant to Circus of the Star for a performance and practice facility to be built in Highland Park, and a \$200,000 grant to the Gateway Project for streetscape improve-

ments on West 7th Street from the western city limits to I-35E.

- \$1.25 million to establish pilot loan programs through neighborhood banks for economic development and housing projects. Banks that have a history of community lending would be invited to submit proposals and two or three would be selected to participate.

- \$2.9 million to support neighborhood projects that were not recommended for funding in the 1998-99 Capital Improvement Budget, including \$1.5 million for stadium and recreation center improvements at Dunning Field on Marshall Avenue.

- \$350,000 for a Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Program at West 7th Street and Jefferson Avenue.

- \$2 million in loans and grants for redevelopment of the Phalen Corridor, an old railroad and industrial area on the East Side.

- \$500,000 for a loan and grant pool for neighborhood projects to be offered in conjunction with other city funds.

The City Council has given preliminary approval to all of those expenditures. According to Amy Filice of PED,

both the STAR Board and the City Council will have another chance to review details of those portions of the allocation that have not yet been spelled out.

Only the \$2 million in STAR money for the redevelopment of the Phalen Corridor proved to be controversial for the City Council. Megard, Harris and Jerry Blakey of Ward 1 all voted against that allocation. All three questioned allocating more money to an area that already has received millions of dollars in city funds in addition to state and federal money.

Megard noted that neighborhood STAR funds are one of the few sources of city money for which neighborhoods like Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park and Summit Hill are eligible. "The money shouldn't be reserved for just one section of town," she said.

"Why \$2 million more for the Phalen Corridor?" Harris asked city staff. "Why not set it aside for Maxson-Dale or for University Avenue or for Selby-Dale? Did you guys take a dart and throw it at a spot in town on a map?"

Plans for the Phalen Corridor include the cleanup of polluted land, new industrial and business development and a new street estimated to cost \$4.6 million.

"I'd rather see us give neighborhood groups the opportunity to compete for this money," said Ward 4 City Council member Bobbi Megard.

"When we make the decision, it looks like we don't have a STAR process anymore."

Hearing set on runway extension

A public hearing on the Metropolitan Airports Commission's plan to construct an extension to crosswind Runway 4-22 will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 18, at MAC headquarters, 6040 S. 28th Ave., Minneapolis.

MAC is proposing to build a 1,000-foot runway extension on the northeast end of the runway. The extension is designed to accommodate Northwest Airlines flights serving Hong Kong. The construction project is scheduled to begin in 1999 or 2000.

The South Metro Airport Action Council (SMAAC) opposes the extension of 4-22, claiming that it will result in planes taking

off within 1,200 feet of the Veterans Administration Hospital. SMAAC also has argued that the extension would adversely affect recreational activities at Fort Snelling, at Minnehaha Park and on the Mississippi River.

However, Roy Fuhrmann, manager of aviation noise programs for MAC, said that the construction of a new north-south runway will eventually result in less use of Runway 4-22 and fewer planes flying over Fort Snelling, the Mississippi River and Highland Park. Work on the new runway is scheduled to begin next year and to be finished by 2003.

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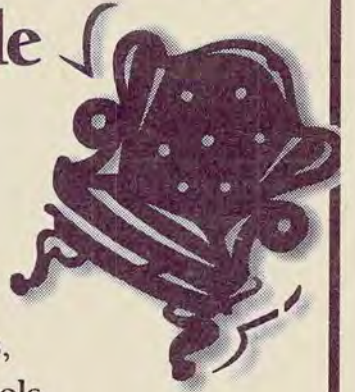
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VIEWPOINT

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MICHAEL MISCHKE

Head-on collisions waiting to happen

The expansion of the I-35E bridge over the Mississippi. The direct connection of Ayd Mill Road to I-94 and I-35E. A new transitway along the Hiawatha Avenue Corridor through the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis. A new transitway along the Riverview Corridor through the Highland Park neighborhood of St. Paul. The proposed rerouting of Hiawatha Avenue through Minnehaha Park. The proposed rerouting of Shepard Road along the Mississippi. The stunning number of drivers now running the red lights at the unbearably congested corner of Snelling and St. Anthony avenues. Every on-street bicycle lane that's ever been proposed. The effort now under way to restrict the speed and volume of vehicles on Fairview Avenue.

And overlying it all, the continuing sprawl of the third most sprawling metropolitan region in the country. It's hard to believe, but the Twin Cities has one-third the population density of Los Angeles, the poster city for urban sprawl.

Everywhere you turn these days there's a head-on collision just waiting to happen between residents who believe that their neighborhoods ought to be primarily places for people, and an increasingly auto-dominated transportation system that would reduce those neighborhoods to little more than conduits for commuter cars.

Writing in the December 16 issue of "Minnesota Journal," a publication of the Citizens League, executive director Lyle Wray prudently advocates a go-slow approach to plans now being laid in the Minnesota Legislature and in the United States Congress to secure taxpayer funds for the proposed transitways in St. Paul and Minneapolis. The dedicated routes would be used initially for buses, airport shuttles and taxis, but they may be adapted for light-rail transit.

But "transit isn't a piece of hardware," Wray writes. "It's a system that provides access to jobs, services and recreation by means other than driving alone. Rather than starting with a transportation technology and figuring out what problem it will solve, policymakers should start by understanding what the problem is and how to solve it most efficiently."

The problem, as he sees it, is threefold: People need better access to increasingly congested commercial districts in the Twin Cities; those people who don't drive cars need better and more affordable public transportation, especially to growing job centers in the suburbs; and some segments of the roadway system face chronic rush-hour congestion that will only get worse if something isn't done.

An equally compelling argument to begin pushing hard for alternatives to the automobile is offered by John DeWitt, the president of the St. Paul-based Transit for Livable Communities, in a paper published this fall under the title, "Is Driving Driving Sprawl?"

"Our current transportation systems and development patterns are not the result of innate and inflexible public preferences," DeWitt writes. "They are strongly influenced by decades of public policy decisions strongly favoring the automobile and sprawl development. As an auto-dominated transportation system takes hold, the resulting development patterns essentially mandate an even greater degree of auto-dependence."

Noting that many of the most attractive neighborhoods in the Twin Cities today—Macalester-Groveland, Summit Hill and Merriam Park among them—were developed by private interests responding to market forces shaped by the transportation system of the turn of the century, i.e. the streetcar, DeWitt states that "the development of high-quality transit must be a precursor to more compact development patterns. When a commitment to high-quality transit is accompanied by more compact, mixed-used development patterns we can begin to break the stranglehold of our auto-dominated transportation system."

Chicken or egg, egg or chicken, it's growing increasingly evident that we have to start somewhere—and soon. It's projected that 650,000 more residents will be driving 400,000 more cars in the Twin Cities area by 2020. We can no longer simply look to increasing bus ridership or widening roads to accommodate that kind of growth if we ever hope to retain the kind of quality of life we've enjoyed up to now.



Shepard-Davern plan may be for naught

by Cy Kaster and Laura Deuberry

The St. Paul Planning Commission, at the request of the City Council, has established a 40-Acre Task Force to develop recommendations for the Gateway to St. Paul project and the future of the Shepard-Davern area of Highland Park. The recommendations that come out of the task force's deliberations will be presented to the public and to the St. Paul City Council for review before implementation.

In 1993 a planning study was completed for the Shepard-Davern area with little neighborhood involvement. That study recommended the city "redevelop the area east of Davern Street with attractive residential, office and/or light industrial development to create a visually appealing gateway into St. Paul along Shepard Road, the city's grand river road."

However, the city did not follow that recommendation. As a result, we now suffer what has become the backyard parking lot for the airport. Various companies now either park or service rental cars in our neighborhood. On average, there are 1,000 cars parked in the Shepard-Davern area, resulting in air pollution and creating safety hazards for the people who live in the area.

Recently, City Council member Mike Harris proposed a moratorium on construction in the area until the 40-acre study is completed. However, the moratorium did not have the support of enough of Harris' colleagues, opening the door for more car rental companies to relocate to Shepard-Davern.

In November Nigel Finney of the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) told the task force that MAC was looking for a single "hub" for all airport car rental facilities. Three sites are being considered, one of which is the Shepard-Davern area. This concerns us and it should concern you as well.

Of the three sites, only the Shepard-Davern area lies within a residential neighborhood. According to Finney, the process calls for MAC to purchase the hub site and lease it back to the car rental agencies. MAC does not pay taxes and therefore would not be contributing to St. Paul's tax base.

We are encouraged that the city is taking notice of what is happening in our area by establishing the 40-acre task force. However, we are concerned that as the car rental agencies continue to purchase land in our neighborhood, all the task

Shepard-Davern/see next page

They're paving paradise, not preserving it

Dear editor,

Though Iric Nathanson offered balanced coverage of the meeting on the proposed rerouting of Highway 55 (Villager, December 7), a few points need clarification.

First, there is only one coalition (in opposition). It is called Stop the Re-Route and is composed of more than a dozen organizations, including the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, Citizens for a Better Environment, Clean Water Action Alliance, Green Party, Izaak Walton League, Minnesota Ornithologists Union, Land Stewardship Project, Minnesota River Valley Chapter of the Audubon Society, Park and River Alliance, Progressive Minnesota, Sierra Club, South Hiawatha Business Association and the more than 8,000 area residents, park visitors and other concerned citizens who signed a petition opposing the rerouting.

Second, the lawsuit challenging the legality of the (rerouting) was filed by a single organization, the Park and River Alliance, and is supported by Stop the Re-Route.

Third, members of Stop the Re-Route have not repeatedly said the road will remove "hundreds" of mature oak trees, as Minneapolis City Council member Dennis Schulstad has

VILLAGE POST

suggested. Rather, we maintain that over 100 mature oak trees would be lost, as one can plainly see if one walks the route from 46th Street to the Crosstown Highway. Some of these oaks exist in the northern portion of Minnehaha Park. (There is one majestic specimen right in front of the Princess Depot). Most exist near the southern end of the park. Though the latter oaks are outside the park boundary, they, the soil and air they enrich and the animals for whom they provide habitat don't know the difference.

Stop the Re-Route maintains that the new highway will destroy Minnehaha Park. Fact: 6.9 acres of park land would be used for the new highway. Unless one's view of preserving a natural environment is to pave it, this is destruction.

Some re-route supporters think the opinions of those who

Village Post/see page 8

A few last-minute stocking stuffers for St. Paul's mantelpiece

by Neal Bernards

Through the misty haze of shopping overload and eggnog stupor, the Spirit of Christmas Past came upon me. The animated apparition—looking something akin to George Latimer, only with a lot snowier show of chin hair—magically bestowed upon me the power to transform the Capital City as I saw fit.

The Spirit was a generous sort, providing power, wealth, influence—everything I needed to serve as the Santa of St. Paul for a day, except the intelligence to use the gifts wisely. Instead, the Spirit foolishly granted me free rein to stuff the city's stocking in whichever way I chose. I decided that I would:

- Pave the Mississippi River from shore to shore so the bikers, joggers, motorists and homeowners on River Boulevard could all have a wide enough roadway to live in harmony.
- Divert the Mississippi River's flow southeast down Ayd Mill Road and bring to an end yet another ceaseless civic conversation.
- Keep Norm Coleman in town by giving him a St. Paul that was large, complex and confounding enough to slake his

political ambition.

- Create a downtown nightlife.
- Provide earplugs to the residents of Highland Park to protect them from the whine of all those who kvetch about airplane noise.
- Give the complainers a day (and night) in South Minneapolis so they could experience aircraft flyovers in all their sonic splendor.
- Force Northwest Airlines to replace its 30-year-old jets.
- Buy a backup electrical generator for the merchants of Grand Avenue so they never have to endure another blackout during "Monday Night Football."
- Sentence the Groveland Park panda vandals to a night of public ridicule by making them pose as statues outside the school.
- Earmark some of the state's \$1.3 billion tax surplus for local public school sports programs to give Cretin-Derham Hall a little competition in the St. Paul City Conference.
- Move all the University of St. Thomas party houses to one block, build a 25-foot high freeway noise wall around it and let the students go crazy.
- Move the party house landlords there, too.
- Bestow a dignified name on the state's new National Hockey League team that does not besmirch the reputation

of Minnesota, our weather, our citizens or our sensibilities.

- Entice three large Minneapolis corporations to move to downtown St. Paul—just for kicks.
 - Rescind those niggling drinking laws and return Grand Old Day to its former debauchery.
 - Ban living within five blocks of Grand Avenue for anyone who owns a car.
 - Put speed bumps up and down Fairview Avenue and post a 5 mph speed limit.
 - Convince shop owners that free parking at Victoria Crossing would boost their business by 25 percent—because it would.
 - Put those snow emergency sirens to added use by having them sound on recycling days, garbage days and diaper service pickup days.
 - Confiscate the St. Paul street maps of all Minneapolis residents and really confuse them.
 - Build the Twins a new stadium on St. Paul's riverfront with Carl Pohlad's money—and not tell him.
- As my flight of fantasy came to an end, I decided to give Jews, Muslims and Buddhists holidays that are as equally obnoxious, overwhelming and all-consuming as Christmas—just to give us Christians a taste of our own medicine.

A Christmas past remembered for the esprit de corps it bred

by Dick Gordon

December 1941 was a different kind of holiday season for many Americans of my generation. We weren't thinking so much about Christmas shopping and what we were going to give and get as we were about what branch of the Armed Forces we would join and where we might be in December 1942. (I, for one, ended up on British Samoa a few miles from Robert Louis Stevenson's grave.)

What happened at a little-known place called Pearl Harbor not only snuffed out more than 2,000 American lives, but changed the world for countless others.

It is difficult now to describe the wave of patriotism that prevailed then to those who were not born at the time or were not old enough to comprehend. Though isolationists and interventionists had divided the country prior to Pearl Harbor, the Day of Infamy pulled it back together. Everywhere people went, they were asking or answering the same question: "What outfit are you joining?" Men were actually trying to pull strings to get enlisted.

Of course, plenty of Americans were already involved in the war by then. They included long-time Highland resident Harold Kurvers, who was dodging Japanese bombs on Bataan while praying for reinforcements that never came. Kurvers drew an early number in the peacetime draft lottery in 1940. A few months after induction, he was assigned to a

National Guard tank battalion and was en route to the Philippines.

"I was stationed on the southern part of Bataan," said Kurvers, now 79. "The Japanese landings were on the north. They put 43,000 men ashore on December 22. We were thinking every day that our reinforcements were coming, right up to the time that General Wainwright surrendered."

In the intervening four years, Kurvers survived the Bataan death march, malaria, dysentery, tuberculosis and two prison ship sinkings even though he could not swim.

When the peacetime draft was initiated, a popular song captured the mood: "Goodbye, dear, I'll be back in a year." However, it wasn't until Christmas 1945 that Kurvers returned to his fiancée, the late Dorothy Berger. He married her the next month. In the intervening four years, Kurvers survived the Bataan death march, malaria, dysentery, tuberculosis and two prison ship sinkings even though he could not swim.

Unlike Kurvers, Summit Hill resident Kay Todd had a late

draft number and did not enlist in the Army until the summer of 1942. But he was no less a hero. Todd was an anti-Roosevelt Republican and a talented attorney. A top athlete at St. Paul Academy and Yale, he volunteered for the Army paratroopers and became part of the Allied forces prior to the 1944 invasion of Normandy. A German bullet snuffed out his life at 34, soon after his unit parachuted behind Nazi lines.

Macalester-Groveland resident Dick Wiessner was a carefree teen-ager at Central High School when Pearl Harbor was hit. Three years later, his life had changed radically. By the time he was 20, Wiessner had flown 80 bombing missions from airstrips in Italy, France and Germany. His fighter bomber group received presidential citations from both Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman.

Young men weren't the only ones who joined the fray, of course. Vincenta Donnelly Scarlet of Summit Hill became a captain in the WACS and outranked both her younger brothers, also World War II veterans. Another Summit Hill resident, the late Harold Wood, who as a Marine was part of the Allied expeditionary forces in France during World War I, helped out on the home front during World War II as an adjutant general in the Minnesota National Guard.

Unlike Americans during Vietnam and later U.S. military conflicts, the generation of half a century ago was united in a cause—all due to what happened on a far-off Pacific island on December 7, 1941.

Shepard-Davern suffers from status as airport's backyard parking lot

force's work may be for naught.

The task force is making great strides in developing recommendations for the future of the neighborhood, but we are concerned that something is being lost with the current Shepard-Davern development. That loss is one of the most beautiful Mississippi River sites in the city.

Theodore Roosevelt has been quoted as saying, "The

nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to future generations, increased and not impaired in value." The Mississippi River from downtown St. Paul to Highway 5 is beautiful and must be preserved for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We encourage you to see what is happening in this

neighborhood. If you are concerned about it, show up and say so at meetings of the Highland Area Community Council. If you have thoughts, suggestions or solutions, bring them so that these can be shared with the task force.

Kaster and Deuberry are Shepard-Davern neighborhood residents and members of the 40-Acre Study Task Force.

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VOTED BEST ONE-STOP SHOPPING
by Mpls. St. Paul magazine

Village Post/

from page 6

live outside the Nokomis and Longfellow neighborhoods don't matter. If this were the case, should we allow local entities to be the sole caretakers of our nation's public lands? Would we not be risking many of our protected areas to special interests who lobby hard to destroy the places we strive to protect?

Minnehaha Park and Fort Snelling State Park, including Camp Coldwater, are natural and historic areas of local, regional, state and national value. We in the Twin Cities have a responsibility to make the preservation of these wonders our utmost priority. Just as it would be inappropriate to invite trucks, noise and air pollution into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, so it is inappropriate here.

Jill Walker
South Minneapolis

Editor's note: The writer is a Sierra Club board member, co-organizer of Stop the Re-Route and resident of Minneapolis' Standish Neighborhood north of Lake Hiawatha.

Credit Coleman for sea of cars

To the editor:

The Highland Park neighborhood gave strong support to the re-election of "business-first" Mayor Norm Coleman. Now the Shepard-Davern area is reaping the rewards along with the city. The entrance to the Mississippi River approach to downtown St. Paul will soon be a sea of automobiles. Money will come in, as our mayor assured us it would with his leadership.

I made the choice to live in St. Paul because of its livable neighborhoods. But then, I didn't know what the city's priorities were. Who says that quality of life is important to the whole community? Perhaps I'm alone in thinking it to be very important.

It looks like Highland got what it voted for.

Nanette J. Eklund
Highland Park

Better than a deadbeat parent

To the editor:

Regarding Sue Shetka's letter to the editor (*Villager*, December 3) on the computer changeover for the state's child-support system: Though I agree that the changeover has been a great big pain for most custodial as well as non-custodial parents, I take offense to her remark that "child-support payments are tax-exempt income that custodial parents may spend at their discretion. There is no guarantee that the children will benefit from the support payments."

I would like to ask who Ms. Shetka thinks has been paying for my child's day care, who has been buying his food and clothing, who has been providing shelter for my child while I have waited the last four months for my support payments? I have had to turn to both my father and brother for support during the times when my ex-husband doesn't pay or the system is going through a changeover. The only thing that my ex-husband's support check will pay for, by the time I get it, are late fees, overdraft fees and interest for maxing out my credit cards.

While the system may not benefit the children, it is better than counting on one's deadbeat ex-spouse to fulfill his

obligation to his children. And, yes, support is still owed even though the system is down. The system was created to extract money from people who don't have a sense of responsibility or obligation. It is no wonder it fails so miserably.

Jennifer Brown
Summit Hill

A necessary bureaucracy

To the editor:

Regarding Sue Shetka's letter (*Villager*, December 3) on the child-support bureaucracy: After I told our daughter's father that I didn't have enough money for food and the father replied, "Sorry, not now, I have bills to pay," and even though I had supported our daughter alone for several months with no attempt at help, and even after I tried to reach an agreement with our daughter's father as to monthly payment amounts to no avail, I had to seek help from the child-support office of Ramsey County.

Partly due to the child-support payments I now receive, my children and I have a home, food, medical insurance, security. Our daughter deserves her father's support. Even though he is not mentally capable of supporting her, he can support her monetarily, and I figure he sort of pays day care for me having his daughter the majority of the time since he doesn't want her.

Ramsey County child support is needed.

L. Englund
Macalester-Groveland

Petco has pet pros too

Dear editor,

The 16 hours of employee training at Petco is only a small part of the employees' background. I have a degree in animal science, and animal care has been my profession for over 20 years. I also belong to three professional animal care societies. My work has included snakes to primates.

Small pet stores have their place, but as a consumer it is nice to go to one store where I can pick up information on setting up a fish tank for a complete life cycle, take care of a problem with my snake, pick out a new bird, have my child learn how to identify the sex of hamster offspring, have my dog groomed, learn what to expect if I get a potbelly pig or a monkey and obtain what my cat or dog needs.

I enjoy working with young people—customers and fellow employees—sharing knowledge and creating interest in their careers. Working at Petco is not just a job. It's an extension of my professional career.

Ethel Meininger
Highland Park

A bicyclist's best friend

Dear editor,

Most people who complain to me about bikes describe situations caused or exacerbated by themselves. They often want bicycles off the streets—apparently so they won't have to meet their responsibilities. State law says, "Every person operating a bicycle shall have all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle," but too many motorists don't know or understand this.

California, which has a similar law, explains clearly in its driver's manual what is required of motorists: "Drivers of

motor vehicles must treat bicycle riders the same as drivers of other motor vehicles. Bicyclists are not out of place on the roadway—they are part of the traffic and share the road with other drivers. . . . Automobile drivers must leave safe passing room and must not turn so close to them that the bicyclist is in danger of being hit. Although bicyclists will normally ride near the right hand edge of the roadway, they can legally move left to turn left, to pass another vehicle or bicycle, or to avoid debris or parked cars. . . . When the lane is too narrow to pass a bicyclist safely, wait until the next lane is clear and give the bicyclist all the rights of any other slow-moving vehicle."

The law places much of the responsibility for bicycle safety on motorists, just as it does for traffic safety in general. Meet your responsibilities and you will have fewer annoying or dangerous encounters with bicyclists—or anyone else on the road.

John Kaplan
Highland Park

Summit's beauty appreciated

To the editor:

I would like Sheran Neumann to know that I have seen the evergreens planted by the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association as I drive up and down Summit Avenue. I am happy to know there is someone who is making our journeys attractive. Good work.

Pearle Weichmann
Highland Park

Editor's note: Sheran Neumann was pictured in the December 7 Villager tying red bows to one of the evergreens planted in the urns on the Summit Avenue bridge over Ayd Mill Road.

Share the wealth

To the editor:

Governor Carlson recently told taxpayers that a surplus of \$1.3 billion is now in the state treasury and that probably there will be property tax deductions made in the future. Some legislators also would like the surplus funds used for income tax relief. Both ideas sound good at the outset.

But why not divert some of this money to provide housing for the homeless? Other uses for the funds might be job training, transportation to jobs in suburban areas and repair of the state's roads and bridges.

So much of the recent legislative effort was spent on the Twins' wishes for a new baseball stadium that other more needed things were either neglected or not sufficiently examined.

Robert Havlik
Macalester-Groveland

Do write, won't you?

The *Villager* always welcomes letters to the editors. In fact, the more the merrier. To be considered for publication, however, letters must be signed and include a telephone number for verification. You may send yours to the *Villager* at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116, or fax us at 699-6501.



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Two views from below the Mississippi River bluff in Merriam Park show the fallen trees and the stumps left by city workers clearing vistas along River Boulevard this fall. Photos by Mike McDonough.

Environmentalists say the city goes too far in clearing vistas along bluff

by Michele Moore

The breathtaking views of the Mississippi River Valley from bluff-top benches in St. Paul are giving residents of the area cause for concern.

Last September, a crew from the city of St. Paul's Division of Parks and Recreation cleared the trees and shrubs in front of about 10 viewing areas along the boulevard's walking path in Merriam Park. Sections of riverside vegetation as large as 30 feet wide and 80 feet down the slope were clear cut so that passersby and those sitting on the benches could have an open view of the Mississippi River Valley.

Michael McDonough, who lives along that stretch of the River Boulevard, is among those who believe the cutting was too aggressive. Along with the shrubs, numerous trees were taken down to stumps, McDonough said. Ashes, oaks and other species whose trunks ranged from 4 to 20 inches in diameter were felled. "There were so many, I had to stop counting," McDonough said.

Ed Olsen, who supervised the clearing project as manager of Environmental and Natural Resources in the Parks and Recreation Division, agreed that less aggressive cutting could have achieved the same result. "Given an endless amount of money and an endless amount of manpower, we could trim things back every year," Olsen said. Clear cutting, he said, is not only less expensive, but less dangerous than sending city employees up onto ladder trucks or over the sides of bluffs by rope to trim the trees.

Parks and Recreation only cuts vistas when enough citizens complain about obstructed views from the benches and parking areas along the river, Olsen said. According to him, his office does not have the budget to clear vistas more than once every six or seven years, so rather than trim, his crews cut the vegetation as close to the ground as possible.

Olsen admitted he was not completely satisfied with his crews' work this fall. "One of my crew leaders was a little enthusiastic and probably cut a little farther down the slope than I would've liked," he said. But as Olsen sees it, the problem is really a difference in

park maintenance philosophy.

"The argument is between people who want to leave things natural and those who want to have a view," he said. "There are always people who want it cut and people who don't. We (city staff) are always caught in the middle."

That argument reached the ears of the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission last Wednesday. Peggy Lynch, executive director of Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County, told the commission that her main concern was erosion. "Some of the trees that were cut were huge," she said. "When you do that on a bluff, you have to be concerned (about runoff) when it rains and snows."

McDonough, who is a landscape architect, said the roots of the trees that were cut will

keep some of the soil from eroding, but where a variety of vegetation once held the rain and melting snow back so that it soaked into the ground, now the water will run directly into the river, carrying with it pollutants the vegetation might have filtered out.

John Wirka, lead landscape designer for Parks and Recreation, said the city may need to develop new criteria for river vistas. He said he may recommend a compromise that would have city workers trim brush and low growth but leave the bigger trees.

In the meantime, Wirka said, the cutting will continue. However, he hoped it would be less aggressive until the issue is resolved.

McDonough believes there are ordinances that prohibit the type of cutting that was done on River Boulevard this year. He cited a section of the city's zoning code that states that "no wetland or bluff line vegetation shall be removed or altered except that required for the placement of structures." The code also prohibits clear cutting except in cases where it is necessary to make room for "approved public roads, utilities, structures and parking areas."

Olsen could not be reached for comment, but according to Sandy Fecht, a hydrologist with the state Department of Natural Resources who has been drafting new guidelines for the river corridor, the city's zoning code governs land uses in the river corridor.

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City budget amendments come to the aid of area projects

by Jane McClure

The St. Paul City Council is expected to adopt a final 1998 budget of nearly \$382 million on December 17. Several amendments to the budget were hammered out over the past few weeks. Changes that affect the *Villager* area include:

- Spending \$254,935 to add library hours throughout the city, including Sunday hours at the Merriam Park Library (1:00 to 5:00 p.m.) and an expanded schedule on Saturdays at the Merriam Park and Highland Park libraries (10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

- Spending \$100,000 for weekend maintenance staff at recreation centers and playgrounds.

- Spending \$55,000 to create a new special projects position in the Division of Parks and Recreation. Among other things, the new staff person would help develop a performance facility in Highland Park for the Circus of the Star youth circus and possibly plan for the

renovation of the Highland Park 18-hole Golf Course.

"There are just too many projects out there that we're not getting finished," said Parks and Recreation superintendent Robert Piam, "and every year we seem to add more projects to the list."

Before the City Council formally approves the position, Parks and Recreation must draft a detailed job description with a complete list of pending projects.

- Spending \$40,000 for the design of future improvements to Homecroft Recreation Center. Homecroft missed the cut in the 1998-99 Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget process earlier this year.

The total cost for work at Homecroft, which is now penciled in for 2000-2001, is \$1.711 million.

- Spending \$10,000 to start a Living at Home/Block Nurse program in the Summit-University neighborhood.

- Spending \$50,000 to have a sworn police officer work on gun violence prevention and intervention programs.

- Spending \$35,000 to contract with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services to work on fair housing issues.

- Spending \$100,000 to establish the Historic St. Paul Foundation to

promote historic preservation in the Historic Hill, Summit Avenue West and other historic

districts.

Many of these additions will be paid with money from the city's reserve fund and through savings realized in insurance and pension fund payments.

Other budgetary matters on the table December 17 will be a major reworking of the neighborhood portion of the city's Sales Tax Revitalization program (see story on page 1).

The City Council also must resolve the Fire Department budget. To hold the line on that budget, the Coleman administration has recommended not filling six vacant firefighter positions and one fire investigator position. Most City Council members oppose that recommendation.

One proposal for saving the firefighter positions would shift funds within the department's budget and make other cuts, including two supervisory positions. The issue was sent back to the Coleman administration for other suggestions, which will be reviewed on December 17.

Many of the additions to the budget will be paid with money from the city's reserve fund and through savings realized in insurance and pension fund payments.

Property taxpayers to reap the benefits of state aid to schools

by Jane McClure

The promise of receiving a property tax decrease, or at most a slight increase, kept property taxpayers away in droves at St. Paul's annual "truth-in-taxation" hearing on December 9 at Arlington High School.

Only 80 people—most of them local officials and their staff—turned out for the hearing, which was held jointly by the city of St. Paul, Ramsey County and the St. Paul Public Schools. The state-mandated hearing gives citizens a chance to comment on the coming year's property taxes and local government budgets.

Only a dozen people testified during the one-hour hearing. Some thanked their public officials. Others said they would be in favor of spending more property tax dollars for the St. Paul Public Schools.

The turnout was a stark contrast to the first such public hearing in 1993 when more than 1,000 people jammed the Central High School auditorium to complain about double-digit tax increases.

"It's taken five years to get to this point. Thank you," said Highland Park resident Gary Fischbach to the gathered local offi-

cials. "I think you're starting to listen."

The big difference in next year's property tax bite was a result of the 1997 Minnesota Legislature's decision to provide more state aid for public schools. Next year will mark the first time since the "truth-in-taxation" hearings began that the St. Paul school district's share of the property tax levy will go down.

"We're happy to report that the greatest portion of your property tax bill has dropped dramatically," said St. Paul School Board chair Mary Thornton Phillips.

Overall, the property tax levy will decrease by 9.9 percent in St. Paul in 1998. That reflects an 11.9 percent decrease for the St. Paul Public Schools, to \$110.1 million; a .5 percent decrease for the city of St. Paul, to \$63.8 million; and a 1.96 percent increase for Ramsey County, to \$158 million.

The Ramsey County Board had set a maximum levy increase of 3.62 percent in September, but was able to cut that increase

nearly in half by voting to not levy for regional rail operations in 1998. "The board agreed to hold its tax increase to less than 2 percent and we did it," said commissioner Rafael Ortega. Had the county not taken over the St. Paul Public Health Department in 1996, Ortega said an additional \$1 million would have been cut from the budget.

Most St. Paul property owners will see a decrease in their property taxes for 1998, some by as much as 16 percent. St. Paul property owners who do see increases next year are those whose market values increased by at least 10 percent

and those whose properties are valued at the \$72,000 threshold, according to Chris Samuel, manager of local government for the county. The increase in those latter cases is the result of a shift in property tax classifications. The Legislature counteracted the shift by increasing state aid to schools and creating a new education homestead credit.

Most St. Paul property owners will see a decrease in their property taxes for 1998, some by as much as 16 percent.

Though Fischbach thanked officials for holding the line on spending, he questioned what the city, county and school district will do without the state's assistance. "When all of this money dries up at the state, where's the money going to come from?" he asked.

Among the speakers who advocated spending more money on public education was Summit Hill resident Lloyd Fjare. "I'd take less of a property tax refund and earmark it for the schools," he said.

"I think you'd find a lot of support for having more money go to schools," added Macalester-Groveland resident Margaret Jones.

Macalester-Groveland resident Linda Smaller also questioned whether public education was getting the money it needs. "It's been your experience that all we want is a lot less taxes," Smaller said. According to her, many parents want a better educational system.

The St. Paul School Board and Ramsey County Board were both scheduled to adopt their final 1998 levies and budgets on December 16. The St. Paul City Council will do likewise when it meets at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 17, at City Hall.

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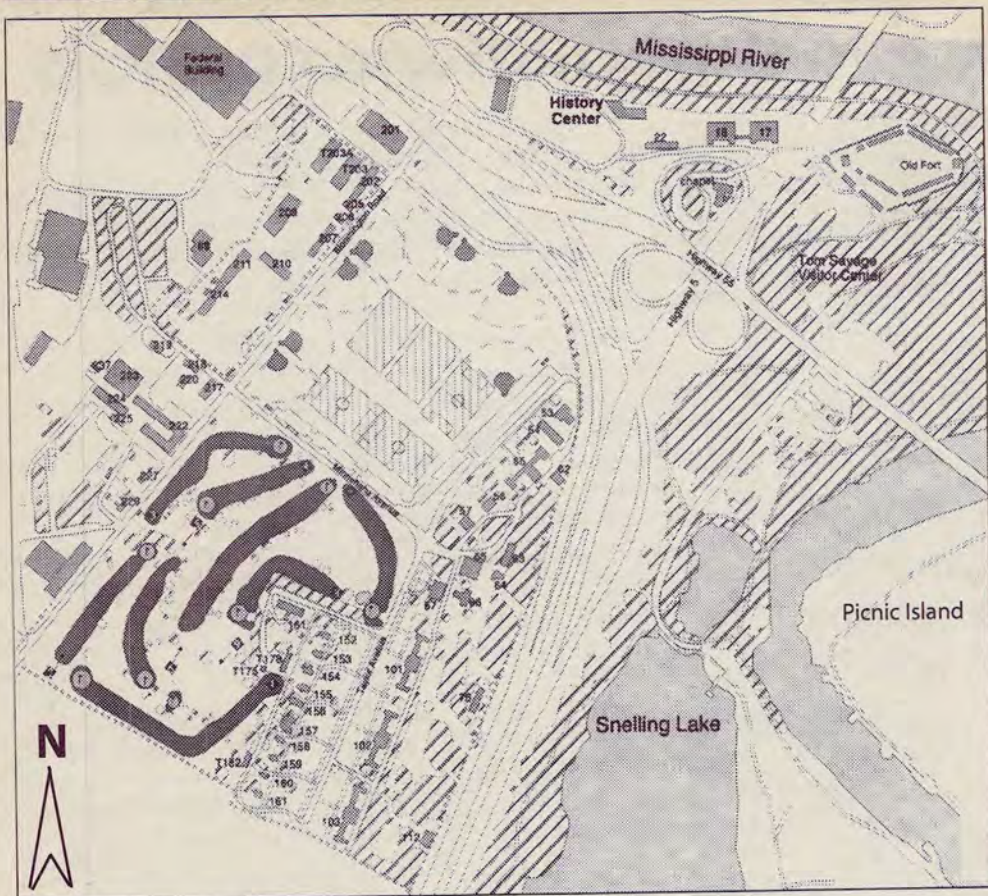
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A map of Fort Snelling's Upper Bluff Area shows the nine-hole golf course at the lower left, Officers Row and the other historic buildings south and east of the course, and the ball fields to the golf course's northeast.

Study team plans redevelopment of Fort Snelling's Upper Bluff area

by Catherine Condon

Officers Row in Fort Snelling's Upper Bluff area housed U.S. military brass and their families for decades. When the fort was retired as an army post in 1946, Veterans Administration staff and their families moved in. The daughter of one VA physician, Catherine Watson, spent her teen-age years in a stately slate-roofed double house facing the yellow brick barracks where enlisted men once lived.

Watson loved growing up in what was known then as Tower Town, named for the fort's nearby round tower. The site is on the National Register of Historic Places and Watson would like nothing more than to see what's left of it preserved. According to her, historical tourism is more than just a passing trend. "I would make it a historic village," she said.

Now a Longfellow neighborhood resident and *Star Tribune* travel editor, Watson was one of 35 citizens who gathered at Fort Snelling on December 1 for the first of three public meetings on potential new uses for Fort Snelling's Upper Bluff area. The 141-acre parcel—bordered by Bloomington Road, Highways 5 and 55, and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport—includes a nine-hole golf course, the former polo grounds now used as baseball, rugby and soccer fields, and Officers Row, whose 28 buildings have been largely vacant for 25 years and are in disrepair.

The meeting was hosted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which acquired the property in 1971. With a \$75,000 legislative grant, the DNR has hired St. Paul historic preservation consultants Thomas R. Zahn & Associates to do a study on the property's reuse.

"Since 1971 the golf course and the polo grounds have been used extensively," said DNR regional park manager Bill Weir. "But the buildings have not. We've made some attempt to find uses for them, but they haven't worked out."

Called the Upper Bluff Reuse Study, the project is being directed by Thomas Zahn and a team that includes Weir, DNR parks planner Lee Markell, Metropolitan Council senior planner Phyllis Hanson, a tourism planner, historic preservation architects and an economist.

The team has been interviewing numerous people who have past, present or a potential

interest in the area. They include representatives of the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development, Fort Snelling State Park Association, Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, Hosting International, Veterans Administration, Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Military Museum, Richfield Recreational Services, Minneapolis Park Board, a local apartment developer and a Dakota tribe of American Indians.

Interviewees also include the General Services Administration, a U.S. governmental agency that owns federal surplus land, including 11 acres west of the Upper Bluff area, and the city of Richfield, which is looking to replace 180 acres of recreational space that was lost to anticipated airport growth.

A preliminary report on the study's findings will be presented at a second public meeting sometime during the week of January 5. A final report with recommendations for the property's reuse will be presented at the third and last public meeting in March.

Thus far, those who have been interviewed have suggested razing Officers Row and expanding the golf course to 18 holes, replacing the golf course with soccer fields, and converting the historic homes on Officers Row into bed-and-breakfast inns.

The noise from the nearby airport makes redeveloping the historic structures for residential use less attractive, but Weir said soundproofing materials could vastly improve indoor living conditions and phasing out the DC-9s and other older airplanes could reduce noise levels.

A deed restriction placed on the land by the federal government requires that the parcel be used for recreational purposes, Weir said. According to him, the study team hopes to meet the conditions of the deed while preserving as many of the historic buildings as possible. "We (the state parks) are somewhat biased and obligated to try to find uses for this property for which it was intended," he said. "If that fails, there are ways to change deeds."

Though the deed restriction may not close the door to other uses, he added, "I feel the need to make an attempt to find legitimate recreational uses for the property."

For more information on the study, call Weir at 772-7994, Markell at 296-4781 or Zahn at 221-9765.

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Dalton to direct Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline councils

by Chris Smith

Karen Dalton brings an awe of the power of grassroots organizing to her new position as executive director of the Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline community councils.

"When you bring neighbors together, give them information and let them make their own decisions, they become empowered," she said. "It becomes a magical process."

A graduate of New Jersey's Farleigh Dickinson University, Dalton said she was interested in social causes as a youth, but it was in college that she first became active in grassroots organizing—first in her dormitory and then for nationwide environmental causes, including as co-founder of the national College and University Recycling Caucus.

After college, Dalton traveled the country. Arriving in St. Paul that summer, she stopped at the home of a friend in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood and became enthused about the neighborhood organizing efforts that she saw taking place. She returned in 1993 to put down roots and soon became the recycling

coordinator for the University of St. Thomas.

"I worked to get the students to take over their own programs," she said. "They run the Great River Cleanup now and have eco-action teams that take on projects." At St. Thomas, she managed 25 student workers, two dozen maintenance staff and a \$150,000 annual budget.

In 1995 Dalton was hired as the crime prevention and environmental coordinator for the Macalester-Groveland Community Council. "That was challenging because the position was a new combination of responsibilities," she said. "But I found there were a lot of connections between the two. Beautifying neighborhoods is a great way to bring people together, and when residents become a support system for each other, that has a powerful impact on crime."

The move to Dalton's new desk as executive director will be a short one—just over a cubicle wall from where she has worked for the past several months as community organizer for the Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline councils. She is replacing Ed Bower, who is retiring after 10 years of di-



From the corner of Snelling and Selby avenues, Karen Dalton can see both of the neighborhoods for which she is serving as executive director. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

recting the Snelling-Hamline council and four years of leading the Merriam Park council. The two community groups make up two-thirds of St. Paul's District 13 and share many programs and resources, including their staff members.

Bower lives in Merriam

Park, so he said he has both a professional and personal interest in his successor. "The neighborhood is really lucky to have Karen," he said. "She has a lot of energy and gets a lot of things done. I've been pleased with all the projects she's worked on."

In moving from commu-

nity organizer to executive director, Dalton said she will take on more administrative duties and fewer organizing responsibilities. "The councils here have become very active," she said. "They're expanding their roles, doing more grant writing and running more programs. Now, instead of staffing committees and gathering information for them, I'll be doing more work with budgets, writing grant applications, looking at long-range plans, and making sure the councils run in a professional manner."

Among her first duties will be working with volunteers to hire her replacement as well as a coordinator to oversee the district's Pride in Neighborhood Housing initiative. That program, which received the top ranking of all proposals that sought city Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) dollars this year, will begin issuing low-interest grants and loans in January to upgrade the housing in the Snelling-Hamline and Merriam Park neighborhoods. The STAR funds, which come in the form of \$60,000 in grants and \$400,000 in loans, will be used for such exterior home improvements as replacing

roofing, siding, steps and sidewalks.

"It's an exciting program and it came completely from the neighborhood, not the staff," Dalton said.

Other priorities for the councils in 1998 include work on transportation issues, and increasing youth programs, she said.

Another effort that Dalton is excited about is the councils' Safe Apartment Program, which works with tenants and landlords to help them understand their respective rights and responsibilities and provide resources for help. Dalton said the program has increased community council participation among renters, who make up half the population of District 13. "We held a landlord workshop in September and had 40 landlords come," Dalton said. "That tells me there's a need out there. But I should know. I'm a landlord myself."

Dalton's duplex is in Merriam Park and she continues to be an active member of that neighborhood's Environment Committee.

"I'm one of those guerrilla gardeners you hear about," she said. "There's nothing I love more in the world than planting a tree."

Merriam Park COUNCIL CAPSULE

PRIDE IN HOUSING

The Pride in Neighborhood Housing Program was the top-ranked proposal to receive funds through St. Paul's 1997 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization program. A total of \$400,000 in low-interest loans and \$60,000 in grants will be available in the coming year for Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline residents to make exterior home improvements.

The program is a collaborative effort of the Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline community councils, Liberty State Bank, Macalester College and the University of St. Thomas.

Information about the program will be sent out to area residents in mid-January. For information, call the community council office at 645-6887.

HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

The holiday season typically brings an increase in theft and burglary. Following these suggestions can help residents enjoy a safe holiday season:

- Use checks or credit cards rather than carry large amounts of cash when out shopping.
- Lock all purchases in the trunk of the car before leaving for the next destination.
- Never leave the car unlocked, not even for a quick trip back into the house.

For further holiday safety tips, call crime prevention coordinator Christine Yanchar at 644-1085.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT

The Merriam Park Community Council is looking for residents to serve on the following committees in 1998: Building and Land Use, Environment, Community Issues, Transportation and Economic Development, and Long-Range Planning. To receive a copy of the council's goals and objectives for the coming year or to learn more about participating in community council activities, call Karen Dalton at the community council office at 645-6887.

RECYCLING NOTES

The next recycling day in Merriam Park will be Friday, December 26, because of the Christmas holiday. All recyclable material should be placed on the curb by 7:00 a.m.

The 1998 recycling calendars will be mailed to area residents by the end of December.

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Highland Area Community COUNCIL CAPSULE



JANUARY MEETING

The Highland Area Community Council will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 8, in the community room at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

The community council office will be open until noon on Monday, December 22, and then closed for the remainder of the week. It also will be open until noon on Monday, December 29, and then closed until Monday, January 5. For information, call 298-5138.

HOLIDAY SECURITY

Unfortunately, the holidays are a time of increased criminal activity. The following are some suggestions on ways to protect your home and your valuables this season:

- Don't carry large amounts of cash when shopping.
- Keep money in a billfold so that it can be counted without removing the bills.
- Carry purses across the shoulder with the purse in front and wallets in a front pocket.
- Never leave packages in the back seat of the car. Lock them in the truck and remove them as soon as you get home from shopping.
- Never hide presents in the garage. This is usually the easiest place for a burglar to get into.
- Break up boxes that TVs, computers and other gifts came in before putting them out for recycling.
- If expecting a package to be delivered, try to make sure someone is home or make an arrangement with a neighbor to have the items delivered to them.

Those going on vacation this holiday should be sure to let a neighbor know how long they will be gone and how to reach them. They also should ask the neighbor to check the house everyday and possibly drive the car up and down the driveway. Residents are encouraged to purchase timers to give the house an occupied look, stop mail and newspaper deliveries, and make arrangements to have the snow shoveled.

The St. Paul Police Department also offers a House Watch service for those on vacation. For information, call 292-3634.

NO CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

The Highland Area Community Council does not conduct a Christmas tree pickup. Trash haulers will pick up trees along with residents' other trash. They will be taken to the processing plant in Newport and used as fuel.

RECYCLING KUDOS

In the last 10 years, Highland area residents have recycled 16,344.5 tons of material. That is enough to have saved more than 272,000 trees and provided electricity for 28,000 homes and water for 28,000 people.

The next recycling days in Highland are on Mondays, December 22 and January 5. Items should be sorted, bagged and on the curb by 7:00 a.m.

Remember this holiday season that wrapping paper, tissue paper and other decorated papers cannot be recycled. They should be reused or thrown in the trash. Better yet, consider using reusable containers, boxes or bags for gifts.

SENIOR NEWS

The Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave., is offering the following activities for seniors: a movie on Wednesday, December 17; and a Christmas party from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, December 18, with music by the Swedish Chorus (\$3.50). For details, call the center at 645-7424.

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St. Leo the Great

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St. Therese's:

Christmas Eve Mass at 4:30 p.m. Christmas Day Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Carols at 8:00)

Holy Spirit: Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00, Carols at 9:30 and Mass at 10:00 p.m. Christmas Day Mass at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary:

Christmas Eve Mass at 3:30 p.m. (Children's Mass) and 5:00 p.m. Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Nativity of Our Lord:

Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00 and 5:30, Carols at 11:30 p.m. and Midnight Mass. Christmas Day Masses at 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 10:30 and noon.

St. Luke's: Christmas Eve Carols at 4:30 and Mass at 5:00, Carols at 9:30 and Mass at 10:00 p.m. Christmas Day Carols at 9:45 and Mass at 10:00 a.m.

St. Mark's: Christmas Eve Family Mass at 5:30, Carols at 11:30 p.m. and Midnight Mass. Christmas Day Masses at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

EPISCOPAL

St. John the Evangelist:

Christmas Eve Family Choral Eucharist at 5:00 p.m.; Festival Choral Eucharist at 10:30 p.m. Christmas Day with Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

LUTHERAN

Immanuel: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4:30 and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Day Communion Service at 10:00 a.m.

Pilgrim Evangelical:

Christmas Eve Family and Children's Service at 5:00 p.m. and service at 11:00 p.m.

St. Luke: Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m. Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.

Gloria Dei: Christmas Eve Family Service at 4:00; Services at 8:00 and 10:30 p.m. with Holy Communion. Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.

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St. Paul's: Christmas Eve Family Service at 5:00 p.m.; Candlelight service at 11:00 p.m. Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. (Chapel Service)

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MnDOT outlines options for 35E bridge

Expansion efforts driven by age of overpass, traffic volume

by Jane McClure

Before an audience of area residents, environmentalists and elected officials, staff from the Minnesota Department of Transportation unveiled four alternatives for a new and larger Interstate 35E bridge over the Mississippi River on December 11.

Pre-design work for the new bridge is under way, with a final design expected by 2001 and construction tentatively scheduled for 2001-2003.

Pushing the project along are the deteriorated condition of the bridge and increases in traffic caused by the growth of St. Paul's suburbs to the south. The bridge currently carries about 72,000 vehicles per day, but MnDOT expects that number to almost double in the next 25 years—to 115,000 in 2015 and 131,000 in 2024.

"We need to do something before we have to close or place restrictions on the bridge," said MnDOT bridge engineer Don Fleming.

All four alternatives would keep the bridge open while a new bridge or new traffic lanes are added. Closing the bridge down even for a year would cost the local economy an addi-

tional \$24 million, according to Mukhtar Thakur of the MnDOT bridge design staff.

Three of the alternatives call for building a new four-lane bridge next to the existing four-lane bridge. The piers supporting the existing bridge could then be used to widen the roadway up to eight lanes of traffic.

Citizens listening to MnDOT's presentation were concerned about the environmental impacts the larger bridge would have on the river and on the Crosby Park nature area below. They also were dismayed by the MnDOT planners' disregard for mass transit.

Several people asked why none of the four bridge alternatives includes dedicated lanes for buses or high-occupancy vehicles. Others questioned why there was no coordination between the bridge project and the proposed Riverview Transit Corridor, which will extend from downtown St. Paul to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

"Does it make sense to make it easier to keep people in their cars?" asked Shawn Bartsh, president of the Highland Area Community Council.

According to state Representative Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), Minnesota spends most of its transportation money on highway and bridge construction. "If we keep doing things in the same way, it will never solve the problem," she said. "We'll just fill more lanes with cars."

Three of the four bridge options would cost \$20 to \$21 million to complete. The fourth option, which calls for widening the existing 67-foot-wide bridge, has an estimated cost of \$27 million.

The four alternatives include:

1. Build a new 81-foot-wide bridge downstream from the existing bridge with four 12-foot traffic lanes and 4-foot shoulders.

NSP's power lines across the river would

need to be moved to accommodate the new bridge, adding from \$1 to \$2 million to the cost. A half acre of right-of-way also would have to be purchased in Crosby Park.

2. Build a new 81-foot-wide bridge upstream from the existing bridge with four 12-foot traffic lanes and 4-foot shoulders.

3. Build two two-lane bridges with entrance and exit lanes.

A new 60-foot-wide bridge would be constructed downstream from the existing bridge, then a new 60-foot-wide bridge deck would be constructed on the existing bridge's piers and substructure.

The bridge could then be expanded to 139.6 feet with six traffic lanes, room for a bicycle or pedestrian lane, and such safety features as standard-width shoulders and entrance and exit lanes at Shepard Road and Highway 13.

4. Expand the existing bridge on both upstream and downstream sides.

At its maximum width of 164 feet, it would have six traffic lanes, standard-width shoulders, entrance and exit lanes at Shepard Road and Highway 13, and a lane for bicycles or pedestrians.

"We need to do something before we have to close or place restrictions on the bridge," said MnDOT bridge engineer Don Fleming.

St. Thomas' efforts have yet to muffle complaints of fan noise

by Kate Havelin

University of St. Thomas officials are continuing to get an earful from the noise produced by exhaust fans atop the newly opened Frey Science and Engineering Center at the corner of Summit and Cretin avenues. However, the earful they're getting is not coming from the fans—it's coming from the neighbors.

Residents living along Goodrich Avenue have been complaining about the noise ever since the switch was thrown last summer on five industrial-strength exhaust fans on top of the building. A Minnetonka engineering firm has measured noise levels around the building at 43 to 51 decibels, which is below the state-imposed legal maximum but still too loud for St. Thomas officials and surrounding residents.

Doug Hennes, vice president for univer-

sity and government relations, estimated that St. Thomas has already spent \$17,250 in an attempt to reduce the noise from the fans.

In September, the university began turning off two of the five fans during off-peak hours. In October, metal shrouds were installed around the fans to muffle the noise. More recently, the fans were rotated so the discharged air would go east and west rather than south toward Goodrich Avenue. "We think the sound levels are down noticeably," Hennes said.

However, Beth Brombach, 2214 Goodrich Ave., said shifting the fans has not accomplished much, if anything. "I haven't noticed any difference at all," she said. "It still sounds like a highway, like a lot of cars idling."

Shane Albertson, 2198 Goodrich Ave., has noticed "a slight decrease" in the noise, but still has concerns about the sound levels emanating from the science center.

On December 10, acoustic engineers once again measured decibel levels around the building—once when the fans were running

and again when the fans were shut off. Turning the fans off trips alarms within the building because the fans were designed to vent potentially hazardous fumes from science labs.

Hennes said that if the latest test results show that the sound level has not dropped to at least 42 decibels, the college will likely install three- or four-sided steel panels around the fans.

Regardless of what the latest test results show, Hennes said St. Thomas officials are willing to walk with any neighbor, "even if they want to walk at 2:00 a.m.," so residents can point out what they are hearing. After all, Hennes said, "noise is in the ear of the beholder."

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee is scheduled to discuss the noise issue again on January 7.

Regardless of what the latest test results show, Hennes said St. Thomas officials are willing to walk with any neighbors, "even if they want to walk at 2:00 a.m.," so residents can point out what they're hearing. After all, Hennes said, "noise is in the ear of the beholder."

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

HealthPartners recently announced the winners of the 1997 Better Health Restaurant Challenge. More than 80 restaurants across the Twin Cities competed in the event by offering low-fat menu items in various categories. Local winners included **Trotter's Cafe and Bakery** for best casual dining, **Caravan Serai** for best vegetarian and **Barbary Fig** for best dessert. The contest added a Partners for Better Health Award this year to honor restaurants that have demonstrated a long-term commitment to offering tasty low-fat menu items. Local winners of that award included the **Highland Grill**, **Arby's** and **Boston Market**.



Norwest Bank offices, including the Macalester-Groveland office on Grand and Fairview avenues, are collecting donations of new winter hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for those in need throughout December. Norwest has set a goal of collecting more than 10,000 items for this year's "Share A Little Warmth" drive.

Jane Willard, a Macalester-Groveland resident and president of EnPro Assessment Corporation, has received the first geologist's license from the state Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, Landscape Architects, Geoscientists and Interior Designers

Agents of change. Burnet Realty broke ground two weeks ago on its new 11,200-square-foot Highland office. The two-story building, expected to open in May on the former site of the Highland Car Wash at 1991 Ford Pkwy., will also house Burnet Home Loans and Burnet Title. There to mark the occasion were Highland branch vice president Kathy Phillips (foreground) and, left to right: Don Maietta, Burnet regional vice president; Jerry Svec of CBA; developer John Wall of Wall Companies; Steven Faber and Rich Kiemen of KM Building Co; and Larry Fredlund of SHEA Architects. Photo by Terry Faust.

Board. The Minnesota Legislature added geoscientists to the board in August 1995 and the rules for licensure were adopted this spring. Willard has been a consulting environmental geologist in the Twin Cities for 18 years.

The Edward Jones office at 2057 Randolph Ave. is participating in the "Toys for Tots" collection drive. New, unwrapped toys may be dropped off at the office until December 24.

Revived Selby Avenue to serve as grounds for elegant new coffee cafe

After six months of gutting, redesigning and refurbishing the space, Nina's Coffee Café will open around the end of December in what was originally the grocery store of the Albion Hotel (later the Angus Hotel and later yet the Blair House) at the corner of Selby and Western avenues. The owners of Cathedral Hill's newest business are David Strock, Charles Senkler and Dan Dahlin, who also own the nearby Fabulous Fern's Bar and Grill at 400 Selby Ave.

According to Strock, who will serve as the operating manager of Nina's while he continues to fill the same position at Fern's, the "coffee cafe" moniker is intended to convey the idea that Nina's will be much more than a coffee shop, but something less than a full-service restaurant like Fern's. The coffee, which will come from European Roasteries of New Prague, will be complemented in the morning by fresh baked goods, quiche, Scotch eggs, burrito wraps, yogurt, granola and fresh fruit. Afternoon and evening fare will include salads, soups, sandwiches, pastas, vegetables, desserts and a rotating selection of meat and vegetarian entrees. Hand-dipped ice cream also will be served year-round. All food will be available for dining in or taking out.

"If anything, our last six years at Fern's have proven to us that well-prepared, interesting food that is reasonably priced is the formula for success in this marketplace," Strock said. "Our plan is to replicate that formula at Nina's."

Strock said that chef Mark Tufenk of Fern's will also oversee the preparation of all food at Nina's.

The name Nina's and the cafe's new interior

were intended to evoke the historical appeal of "probably the most architecturally significant commercial building in the Hill District," according to Senkler. The Albion Hotel's opening in 1888 was heralded by owner Frank P. Blair as the fashionable alternative in St. Paul's residential hotel market. The brick and Bayfield stone-clad building, which was designed by German-born architect Herman Kretz, is now on the U.S. Register of Historic Places.

"We've purposely stayed away from the trend to slick, European-style interiors in the design of Nina's," said Senkler, who has also operated a commercial space-planning business for the past 10 years. According to him, Nina's interior will be set off by the original exposed Chaska brick, natural wood and earth tones. Many of the fixtures and much of the furniture were scrounged from antique dealers across the Upper Midwest.

Nina's also will include a gallery featuring the work of local artists. "We've got the space to do it right," Senkler said. "With Local Color Art Supply right below us and the College of Visual Arts right across the street, we figured it would be a natural."

According to Strock, the reason the three owners of Fern's opted to open a second establishment in Cathedral Hill was "to respond to the need for a high-quality cafe and coffee house for the residents and employees of this neighborhood as well as the downtown and state Capitol crowd."

"Cathedral Hill has a great customer base," Senkler said. "We wanted to be an even bigger part of Selby Avenue's resurgence and make Nina's a neighborhood gathering place."

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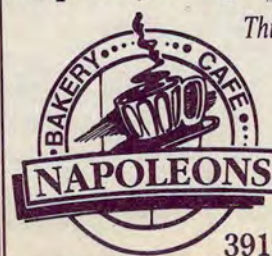
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New proposal ties rental home inspections to complaints

by Jane McClure

Mayor Norm Coleman's veto of an ordinance that would have required regular inspections of all rented single-family homes and non-homesteaded duplexes in St. Paul has inspired an alternative proposal.

That proposal, introduced by council members Jerry Blakey and Mike Harris, could be adopted when the St. Paul City Council meets at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 17. It would require inspections of rented dwellings of two units or fewer only after four substantiated city code complaints have been made against the same landlord in a 12-month period.

If that were to happen, the landlord would be required to register the property with the city at a cost of \$225. The property would then have to be brought up to code within a year, at which time a certificate of occupancy would be issued. If the landlord did not cooperate, the city would impose sanctions, including possibly ordering the owner's tenants to vacate the property.

One year after the certificate was issued, the property would be inspected again. If it met all building codes, it no longer would require a certificate of occupancy. If problems were

found, the certificate would remain in place until they were corrected.

The plan has the support of Coleman's office, but is opposed by council members Bobbi Megard and Dan Bostrom, whose citywide rental inspection and certificate of occupancy policy was vetoed by Coleman in late November.

The Megard-Bostrom plan would have required all non-homesteaded single-family homes and duplexes to be inspected every four years. Properties also would have been inspected as complaints were received.

Affected property owners would have been required to pay a \$25 provisional fee to have a certificate of occupancy in place when the program started. As dwellings were inspected, a fee would have been charged and a standard permit issued. Landlords would have paid \$80 for the inspection of a single-family rental home and \$90 for a duplex. Reinspection fees would have cost half as much.

Blakey and Harris opposed the Megard-Bostrom plan. Blakey said it would displace tenants and result in the loss of affordable housing. Harris said it would generate unreasonable expenses for property owners. Both said that the plan would create another layer of bureaucracy and that the fees would not

cover the cost of inspections.

Peter Hames, Coleman's deputy chief of staff, said that would not be the case with the alternative proposal. "This (Blakey-Harris) program focuses on problem properties as identified in a complaint process," he said. "It uses existing programs and staff and provides for cost recovery."

However, the Blakey-Harris plan also has its critics. Members of the Minnesota Multi-Family Housing Association and the St. Paul Association for Responsible Landlords are concerned that a complaint-driven system could prompt retaliation by tenants against their landlords.

Bostrom agrees. "The concern I have is that it is not a uniform policy," he said. "If you don't like your neighbor next door, you can call four times about tall grass and weeds and force an inspection. Some people also might have a real bone to pick with their neighbors and they might call and call and call."

Bostrom urged Blakey and Harris to develop a better version of the original ordinance. He said he could not support the new proposal.

"I think we've bollixed this up pretty well," Megard said of the new plan. "We'll continue to have substandard housing and we'll con-

tinue to have a huge number of dwellings that aren't inspected."

Only rented dwellings of three or more units are now inspected every two years in St. Paul. There is no routine inspection program for buildings with fewer units.

Megard said she also is troubled that the St. Paul City Attorney's Office has issued conflicting opinions on the legalities of the inspection program. "I have to say publicly that I'm in a quandary," she said.

When work began on the rental inspection program two years ago, the idea was to target dilapidated homes in the Merriam Park neighborhood near the University of St. Thomas. However, Megard said she was told by the City Attorney's Office at that time that the program could not be based on complaints, nor could it be targeted at one geographic area. Blakey and Harris have since been told that it is possible to operate a certificate of occupancy program on a complaint basis.

"At that time, the City Attorney's Office informed us that this should be a citywide program, and that we had to treat everyone the same," Megard said. "If that's the case, this new proposal, it seems to me, could be easily challenged in court."

Campaign report shows Coleman topped \$1 million mark

by Jane McClure

If nothing else, the 1997 St. Paul mayoral race will go down as the year of record campaign spending.

According to campaign finance reports that were due on December 4 at the Ramsey County Government Center, Mayor Norm Coleman raised \$1,288,934 and spent \$1,246,455 over the past four years in his successful bid for re-election. That is about four times the amount of money his campaign spent in winning his first mayoral term in 1993. The Coleman campaign raised \$59,673 in cash and in-kind donations in the most recent reporting period, which covered the period between October 28 and December 4, and spent \$60,354.

Coleman, a Republican who ran as an independent, raised the bulk of his campaign war chest—\$874,000 of it—over the past two years alone. The latest Coleman campaign report listed 45 pages of donors who gave amounts ranging from \$10 to \$500. Major donors included Carpenters Union 57, St. Paul Firefighters Local 21, the Washington, D.C.-based Citizens for Sensible Government, Plumbers and Gas Fitters Local 34, the Minneapolis-based Citizens for Sensible Government and Painters Union 61.

Coleman's DFL-endorsed challenger, state Senator Sandy Pappas, raised \$215,440 and spent \$214,652. During the latest reporting period, her campaign reported raising \$24,429 and spending \$35,954. Pappas' major contributors included AFSCME Local 34's

Political Action Committee, IBEW Local 110's Political Action Committee and the St. Paul City DFL Committee.

Among those who filed reports in local races for St. Paul City Council, Chris Coleman raised and spent the most money, despite the fact that he was unopposed in his bid to replace Dave Thune in Ward 2. Coleman raised \$22,514 and spent \$21,859.

In Ward 3, independent Mike Harris, who won his third term, had not turned in his report as of the December 4 deadline. His DFL challenger, Randy Schubring, reported raising \$14,196 and spending \$15,706.

In Ward 4, DFLer Jay Benanav raised \$19,773 and spent \$16,580 in his successful bid to succeed council member Bobbi Megard, who is stepping down. Mark

Roosevelt, an independent candidate for the Ward 4 seat, did not have his latest campaign report on file.

In the St. Paul School Board race, incumbent Mary Thornton Phillips raised \$10,380 and spent \$8,662 to retain her seat. Becky Montgomery, who also won re-election, raised \$6,130 and spent \$5,902. Gilbert Delao, elected for the first time to the School Board, had not filed his latest campaign report.

Larry Dandrea raised and spent more money than any School Board candidate in his unsuccessful bid for election attempt. He raised \$14,389 and spent \$16,374.

School Board candidates Bob Johnson and Maryjane Reagan did not file reports. Neither candidate reportedly raised or spent any money on their campaigns.



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Anonymous family gives \$30 million to UST business school

A Twin Cities area family has given the University of St. Thomas an early Christmas present by donating \$30 million to its Graduate School of Business.

The gift, the largest in St. Thomas' 112-year history, will enable the university to endow up to 10 new professorships and an annual visiting professorship in its business program.

"I was absolutely stunned by the family's generosity," said the Reverend Dennis Dease, president of St. Thomas. "The family (who has asked to remain anonymous) made a pledge in 1990 for \$10 million and then decided to increase the gift to \$30 million. The

family told me that they chose to make the gift to St. Thomas because our programs address the key issues that confront all corporations—for-profit and nonprofit—while simultaneously stressing ethical business practices and responsible stewardship."

Dease said St. Thomas' Graduate School of Business, which was established in 1974, already receives high marks from students and corporations throughout the region. "But this gift ultimately will catapult St. Thomas into the leading ranks of business schools in the United States," he said. "It will allow us to take the next step—to recruit more of the top

business educators in the country, to provide sound financial footing for other programs and to offer financial aid to students."

Dease said the value of the gift could far exceed \$30 million because it will encourage others to support the school's programs. "In addition, because we'll spend only a portion of the investment proceeds from the endowment each year, its value could double over the next 10 years," he said.

With the gift, St. Thomas plans to establish the following endowed professorships in 1998: a \$3 million chair in global marketing, a \$3 million chair in global technology man-

agement, a \$3 million visiting professorship. A \$2 million scholarship fund also will be established. Other programs will be identified over the next several years.

St. Thomas' Graduate School of Business is the fourth-largest school of its kind in the United States based on the number of students pursuing master's degrees. In the fall semester, 3,088 graduate business students were enrolled in nine degree programs offered. An additional 20,000 people a year take continuing education and noncredit courses through the school's 13 professional development centers and institutes.

SCHOOL NOTES

IHM-St. Luke's principal Mary Mitzuk, a Green Bay native and a staunch Packer backer, donned Minnesota Vikings attire on December 1 to fulfill a promise to her students. Mitzuk agreed to wear Viking purple if the school made its pledge goal for the Marathon for Nonpublic Education. The 408 students met the challenge by raising \$38,000 in pledges. Mitzuk got her revenge that night when the Packers beat the Vikings on "Monday Night Football."

Irish Educational Services, a nonprofit foundation located at 790 S. Cleveland Ave., has awarded \$2,500 to the Meanscoil School in Northern Ireland. The check was presented by Leah Curtin of the Highland-based Hibernian Insurance Fund of Minnesota and Dr. Eoin McKiernan, former chairman of the English department at the University of St. Thomas and former head of the Irish-American Cultural Institute.

James L. Peterson of Summit Hill, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota, has received the 1997 Distinguished Alumni Citation in Science from Gustavus Adolphus College. A 1964 graduate of the St. Peter college, Peterson was credited for enhancing the quantity and quality of the museum's programs. Since Peterson became president in 1984, the Science Museum has added a paleontology hall and has hosted numerous high-profile traveling exhibits. Last April the Science Museum broke ground on a new 325,000-square-foot building in downtown St. Paul. Peterson, a native of Red Wing, has a

A picture is worth a thousand 'Happy Holidays'

Tanya Adelman, a resident of the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood and senior at St. Paul Academy and Summit School, photographed 26 children at the Frogtown Family Resource Center in St. Paul since the start of the school year.

This week, she planned to give the framed black-and-white photos to the children and their families as holiday gifts. To complement the photos, student and faculty advisory groups purchased presents for each Frogtown family they "adopted."

Adelman is a volunteer at



Tanya Adelman's photo of a boy named Paco.

the center, which provides support and counseling for low-income families. She also wrote poems to accompany the photos.

Ph.D. in entomology. He taught high school biology and worked in ecology, limnology and aquatic biology before taking the reins at the Science Museum.

Three Macalester College faculty members recently received national recognition. David McCurdy earned the American Anthropological Association's Mayfield Teaching Award for

his innovative teaching methods and best-selling books. Truman Schwartz received the James Flack Norris Award for outstanding achievement in the teaching of chemistry. And Duchess Harris, a visiting assistant professor in political science, was named one of the nation's 30 young African-American leaders of the future by *Ebony* magazine.

Jane Frazee, director of graduate programs in music education at the University of St. Thomas, has become the first American woman to win the international Pro Merito award from the Carl Orff Foundation. The award recognized Frazee's dedicated use of the Orff method, which stresses a hands-on, learning-by-doing approach to music. During her six-year tenure at St. Thomas, the university has created the largest Orff summer program in the country and has developed an international program for teachers at the Orff Institute in Salzburg.

The College of St. Catherine will confer 233 degrees at its winter commencement ceremonies on December 18 at the O'Shaughnessy. Degrees will be awarded to candidates in St. Catherine's traditional day, Weekend College, graduate, second major and certificate programs as well as to candidates from its Minneapolis campus. Patricia Hvidston, '67, will give the commencement address.

Webster Magnet School and **Roosevelt Senior High School** were among 50 Minnesota schools to receive cellular phones from AT&T Wireless as part of its Safe Schools campaign. The program is designed to help reduce crime and violence in schools by providing cell phones that can be used by security guards, adult crossing guards, parking lot monitors and parents accompanying students on field trips.

*Best Wishes
for a Joyous
Holiday Season
and a
Healthy New Year*

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THE CARING, AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVE TO A NURSING HOME

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WINTER PET SPECIALS!

The month of **January**: Dog & Cat spays and neuters are **25% off!**

February is Dental Care Month: Dental cleaning/polishing is **25% off!**

Please call to schedule an appointment **646-7257**
1430 Marshall Avenue • St. Paul

Need a quick holiday meal... or an hors d'oeuvre everyone will love?

Don't serve your guests ordinary pizza — Try our Pre-cooked Pizzas — hot and tasty from your oven!

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season

Thank you... from the *Carbone's Krewel!*

- ✓ Partially baked — ready for oven or freezer
- ✓ Cut smaller — great idea for parties
- ✓ Same generous portions of toppings and cheese for the last 35 years
- ✓ A guaranteed taste treat

1698 Randolph 698-0721
Lunch Mon. thru Sat til 3:00 pm

Best wishes for the holiday season from the officers and staff of
FIRSTAR BANK
Highland Office
757 Cleveland Ave. S.

To all our customers from the staff at
WHITE WAY CLEANERS
2030 Ford Pkwy.

Season's best from Randy and Winnie and staff
HIGHLAND "66" SERVICE CENTER
Randolph and Snelling

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season
STATEMENTS/ TOBAK & NEWS
Highland Village Center
Next to Lunds

Season's greetings from Lucille & Al Smith
LUCI ANCORA
2060 Randolph Ave.
LUCI ST. PAUL
470 So. Cleveland

Special thanks to all our neighbors and customers
LIBERTY STATE BANK
176 N. Snelling Ave.

Seasons greetings from
State Representative MATT ENTENZA
and the Entenza family

Best wishes of the season
PARKWAY FAMILY PHYSICIANS
Brad, Dave, Mary, Bill, Bonnie, Michelle, Deb, Penny, Margie, Tom, Kelly, Sue, Michele, Jan, Jeanne, Jessica
721 Snelling Ave. S.

May your holiday season be an Ace. From the staff at
ACE HARDWARE
1676 Grand Ave.

Happiest holidays from Bill King and staff at
DORAN-KING GARAGE
1521 Randolph Ave.

Season's greetings from
SENATOR DICK COHEN
District 64

Happy holidays from
RAFAEL ORTEGA
Ramsey County Commissioner
District 5

Thank you for your past patronage and blessings in the new year from Jeff Tracy and our entire staff
RED ROBIN CLEANERS
2015 Ford Pkwy. and 644 Grand Ave.

Have a safe and happy holiday season
DAKOTA BANK
2310 W. 7th St.

Best of the season from the staff at
THE VILLAGER
757 S. Snelling Ave.
Your community newspaper

Season's greetings from Jill Nordquist and staff
HIGHGROVE COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
680 S. Cleveland Ave.

May the holidays and New Year bring you health and good cheer!
Your neighbors at
FAIRVIEW HIGHLAND PARK CLINIC, FAIRVIEW HIGHLAND PARK PHARMACY
2155 Ford Pkwy.

Happy Holidays
SEVENICH, BUTLER, GERLACH & BRAZIL, LTD. CPAs & Tax Service
Larry P. Butler, William J. Brazil, John V. Morin, James J. Urban, Michelle R. Melquist, Darcy M. LaBore, Thomas G. Schramer, John D. Groess, Dean Becker
2221 Ford Pkwy., #300

Best wishes to our customers and friends for a joyous holiday.
MIDWAY NATIONAL BANK
University Ave. at Snelling

To our customers and friends — thank you for your patronage and all the best in the coming year.
R.F. MOELLER JEWELER
2073 Ford Pkwy.

Wishing you health, healing and harmony for the new year
DR. ANNE LANGFORD, DR. HEATHER KARLS, CHIROPRACTORS
730 Cleveland Ave. S.

May your holidays be blessed with happiness.
NEW ART SALON
614 Snelling Ave. S.

Best wishes for a picture-perfect holiday season from Pam and everyone at
FRAMEWORKS
2022A Ford Pkwy.

Happy holidays to all our customers, friends, and neighbors
HIGHLAND GRILL
771 Cleveland Ave. S.

To all our customers and neighbors, from Ray and Joe at
SPORTSMEN'S BARBERS
472 S. Cleveland Ave.

Good will toward all during this time of happiness and celebration.
The Tracy 1 Stop Team
TRACY 1 STOP AUTO MART
Marshall & Hamline Aves.

Happy holidays
RAUCH & FRANKHAUSER PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
101 5th Street East, Suite 1711



*May your home and your heart be
filled with laughter, joy and goodwill,
now and throughout the coming new year.*

Local Color Art Supply

Creative Gift Ideas!

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Your Complete Art Materials Resource

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Two Months FREE SERVICE for New Residential Customers.

Household rubbish only



Barb and Wayne Karls, the creative minds behind 2-Creative. Photo by Mike Long.

Grand design firm invests 13 months in creating world's first Yanni catalog

by Christy Rain

Still looking for a holiday gift? How about a computer mousepad featuring the cover of new age musician Yanni's "Tribute" CD? Or perhaps a black canvas Yanni tote bag, with his signature on one side and musical shorthand on the other? Or a leather flight jacket with "Yanni" embroidered in gold thread across the chest?

Those items and 22 others offered by Burnsville-based Yanni & Co. can be found in a new catalog produced by 2-Creative, a Grand Avenue business that is owned by Macalester-Groveland residents Barb and Wayne Karls.

"This is the first gift catalog to exclusively offer Yanni-related items," Barb said. "We started work on the catalog over a year ago. The first mailing was sent to over 110,000 Yanni Fan Club members in November."

It took 13 months for 2-Creative to produce the Yanni & Co. catalog. The company started with a list of 200 products and whittled it down to 25. The items range in price from a \$14.95 Yanni piano folio, which features "Reflections of Passion," "First Touch" and other compositions, to the \$425 flight jacket. Barb conducted focus groups with Yanni fans and met with the Greek-born musician himself to receive his stamp of approval.

"When we met with Yanni to present possible catalog covers to him, we found him very understated," Wayne said. "He was concerned about his fans and refused to take the standard catalog profit margin (often 60 percent)."

The couple designed and produced the catalog and assisted in the telemarketing training and packaging. And they continue to market items from the catalog. In fact, when Yanni appeared on the "Tonight Show" a few weeks ago and didn't have a gift from the catalog to give to Jay Leno, Barb was on the

phone the next day to Yanni's marketing company suggesting items that he might give at personal appearances.

"We were happy to get the Yanni project," Wayne said. "We were competing with a lot of agencies, but we were confident we had what was necessary to be successful."

Developing and publishing consumer and trade materials is nothing new to the couple. They began what they describe as a "high-end creative advertising, designs and solutions" company four years ago at 1992 Grand Ave. and have since opened a second office at 1022 N. 5th St. in Minneapolis. Barb focuses on art direction, sales design and product development, while Wayne concentrates on marketing and creative design. Between them, they have 27 years of advertising experience.

"We saw an opportunity in the market because small companies weren't getting the service they wanted and should receive," Barb said.

"We obtain most of our clients through word-of-mouth," Wayne said. "We don't do contracts. We have projects and most of our projects develop into full-time client relationships."

It was word-of-mouth that helped 2-Creative land the Yanni project as well. Stafford Photography, which had shot the album cover for a previous Yanni CD, had used 2-Creative's services and recommended the company for the job. Some of 2-Creative's other clients have included General Mills, Paper Magic, Devold (a Norwegian apparel company), Electrosonic, and Spilka and Dicommed, to name a few.

Barb said if working with Yanni leads to projects with other nationally known musicians, so be it. However, neither she nor her husband want their business to grow too fast.

"We don't want to lose sight of what makes us unique," Wayne said.

Meander soup, window contest winners named

For the second straight year, La Cucaracha was awarded the grand prize in the Grand Meander soup tasting competition. Sixteen restaurants and delis on Grand Avenue competed in the contest, and three celebrity judges selected La Cucaracha's Nina's grilled shrimp soup as the grandest of them all.

Honorable mentions were awarded to Sidney's Pizza Cafe for its country minestrone with pesto, and to the Lotus for its vegetable with black mushroom. The Acropol Inn, Bruegger's Bagel Bakery and Wild Onion

were deemed to have served up the warmest hospitality.

Charlemagne Fine Jewelry won top honors in the Meander's holiday decorating competition. Judges also presented awards for the following: best nighttime display to the Bibelot, best use of products to Ace Hardware, most traditional display to McClay-Alton Law Offices, best fantasy display to A. Johnson & Sons Florist, most visible display to Billy's on Grand and "most inclusive" display to Creative Kidstuff.

Now on Grand!

Smokers' Haven

After Trying The Rest, It's Time To Come To The Best!

We have in stock **Guaranteed** the following cigars:

A. Fuente	Dunhill	Punch	Ashton
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At Competitive prices just in time for Christmas!

Don't forget about our import cigarettes:

Shepard Hotels	Export "A"	Springwater
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Or if it's 100% tobacco you're looking for:

Planets	Bees	American Spirit
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1936 St. Clair at Prior 699-4700

THE BEST IN MEATS !!!

Season's Greetings

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- Rolled Rib
- Standing Rib
- Beef Tenderloins
- Hillshire Hams
- Fresh Turkeys
- Leg-O-Lamb
- Fresh Geese
- Pork Or Lamb Crown Roasts
- And Much More

Call 699-4700 to place your order

Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season !!!

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE 8 A.M. - 2 P.M.; CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

Macalester-Groveland COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD NOTES

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's board of directors will not meet in December. The board's next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15.

The community council office will be closed from December 23 to January 2, though the answering machine will be checked for emergency messages during that time.

UST EXHAUST FANS

The community council's Housing and Land Use Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 7, to discuss the ongoing problem with the noise emanating from the exhaust fans on top of the University of St. Thomas' newly constructed science center.

University officials will present information on the types of chemical fumes that are being extracted from the building, recent noise decibel readings and plans to solve the problem. For information, including meeting location, call 698-7973.

AYD MILL ROAD STUDY

The community council's Transportation Committee will hold an informational meeting on the Ayd Mill Road environment impact statement at 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 12. The Macalester-Groveland representatives on the Ayd Mill Road Task Force will present their recommendations on the alternatives now being studied for connecting the roadway to the interstate freeway system.

The board plans to make its recommendation in February on what should happen to Ayd Mill Road. For information, call 698-7973.

NO CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will not be collecting Christmas trees this year. Trash haulers will take them to the county Refuse Derived Fuel facility in Newport, where they will be chipped and converted into fuel.

GET CONNECTED

The Mac-Groveland Job Connection matches area youths and college students who want to make money with senior citizens who need odd jobs done around the house. The minimum pay is \$5.15 an hour with the rate depending on the difficulty of the job and the age of the worker. For information, call Kate Schultz at 698-7973.

GRAND PARKING LOTTERY

The Grand-Snelling Business Association now offers free two-hour customer parking at the municipal lot on Grand Avenue just east of Snelling. Some spaces in the lot are reserved for those with permits.

A lottery will be held to award three of the reserved spaces to the public. To participate in the lottery, call Karen Tarrant at 698-5506.

RECYCLING INCENTIVE

Macalester-Groveland residents may now take advantage of a new recycling incentive program. During each of the four recycling days in Mac-Groveland, an address will be chosen at random from the area that is putting out its recyclable materials that day. If recyclable goods have been set out at that address, that household will win a \$10 certificate to a local

restaurant. Seven winners have already received their awards. The program is sponsored by Eagle Environmental and the Macalester-Groveland Community Council.

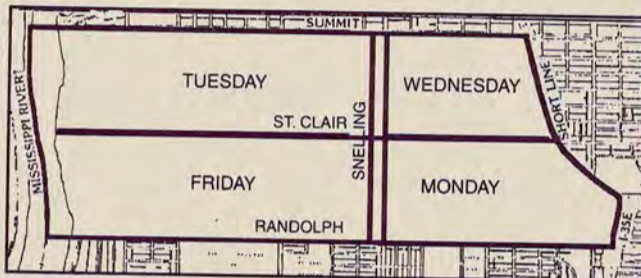
KIDSPARK TAKES A HOLIDAY

KidsPark, the community council's drop-in child-care program, will be closed from December 19 to January 5. KidsPark normally operates from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. weekdays out of the Groveland Recreation Center, 2045 St. Clair Ave. Families pay \$10 per morning for infant care and \$2.75 an hour for children 16 months and older, plus a membership fee, which will drop to \$25 in January.

Though KidsPark is run by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, its use is not restricted to Mac-Groveland families. Reservations may be made up to one week in advance by calling 698-7841.

MIDDLE INCOME FIX-UP FUND

Residents of single-family homes and owner-occupied duplexes in Mac-Groveland can now borrow up to \$10,000 for home improvements through the Macalester-Groveland Middle Income Fix-Up Fund. The loans are offered at the prime rate and there is no household income limit or second mortgage required. For information, call Kate at 698-7973.



Macalester-Groveland recycling days

SNOW PLOWING POLICY

The city of St. Paul will declare snow emergencies this winter after snowfalls of 3 or more inches or an accumulation of 3 or more inches over several days. In the southwest quadrant of the city, which includes the Mac-Groveland neighborhood, sirens will sound at 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. to alert residents to a snow emergency. Plowing will begin at 9:00 p.m. that day on night routes, which are designated with red-and-white signs, and at 8:00 a.m. on day routes, which are unmarked. Parking is banned until the snow is plowed curb to curb. Tagging and towing will be done ahead of the plows.

Residents also can find out if a snow emergency is in effect by calling 266-PLOW.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

The St. Paul Police Department is sponsoring its sixth annual Citizen Police Academy. The program offers citizens a chance to become acquainted with the department and their neighborhood. Applications are due by February 20 and can be obtained through the community council. For information, call 698-7973.

SNOW SCULPTING CONTEST

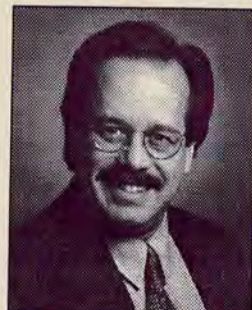
The Macalester-Groveland neighborhood will host its sixth annual Teen and Family Snow Sculpting Contest during the 1998 St. Paul Winter Carnival. The contest will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, February 7, on the Summit Avenue median between Albert and Pascal streets.

Prizes will be awarded in both the teen and family categories. There is a non-refundable fee of \$7.50 to enter the contest, which includes lunch, hot cocoa and coffee. For more information, call Lee Wallace at 698-7973.

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Les Steinberg,
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TCF Highland Park
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Call Les at 698-6438

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Come to for your **Leitner's** 291-2655 WINTER SUPPLIES

☐ Birdseed & Feeders

☐ *seasoned*

☐ FIREWOOD!

☐ Sand/Salt/Poultry Grit
(for ice control)

☐ Fresh HOLIDAY
Floral Arrangements!

☐ Poinsettias

Happy Holidays

945 Randolph ~ One Block East of 35E



When you're #1,
you can do things
others can't.

2.1%
Can Sell Your Home



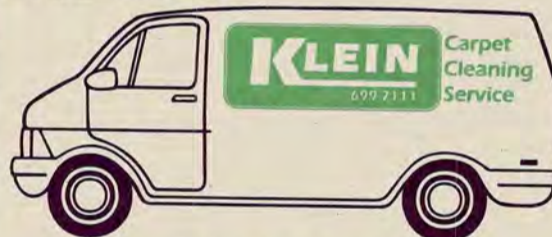
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Phil Sorensen,
Goodrich Ave. Resident
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For holiday entertaining,
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Carpets
will love us!



- State of the Art Prochem Truck Mount System
- 16 Years Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Experience
- Fully Certified by Institute of Inspection, Cleaning & Restoration

Living Room,
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\$79⁰⁰
only with coupon thru
Jan. 31, 1998.

Upholstery Cleaning
5ft. Sofa or 2 Chairs
\$59⁰⁰
only with coupon thru
Jan. 31, 1998.



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Carpet
Cleaning
Service

699-7111

between 9 am - Noon



Give
Cosmetics
as Stocking
Stuffers



Extended Monday Hours
in December

open
til 8 p.m. on Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd
for your shopping convenience.

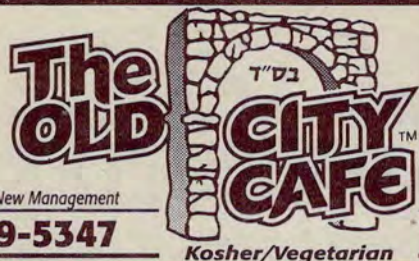
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Customer Appreciation Coupon

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE



Free BLIMPIE® Sub Sandwich with the purchase of any Sub Sandwich of equal or greater value. Please present this coupon before ordering. Not valid if altered or duplicated. One order per coupon. One coupon per customer per visit. Customer must pay any sales tax due. Not good in combination with any other offer. Cash value 1/100 of 1¢. Offer expires Jan. 15, 1998.



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— Mary & Bob
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Sandwich with Purchase of Sandwich or
Entree of Equal or Greater Value



Not valid w/any other coupon or offers.
Expires January 18, 1998.

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Grand & Snelling

COUPON

\$15.00 OFF
Your First House
Cleaning Service

New Customers Only
Not valid with any other offers.
Expires 1/20/98

\$15.00 OFF
Your Second House
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We have... **GIFT
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One less thing to worry about.

With all the different directions life pulls you these days, who has the time to clean? Call Merry Maids.

• Customized cleaning services to meet your particular needs and budget.

• Bonded and insured employees. • Thoroughly screened, trained employees.

• We bring our own equipment and supplies. • Quality Service Guarantee.

We tailor our service to meet your needs.

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YOUR CAR FROM YOUR HOME OR OFFICE

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Starting at **\$169.95** INSTALLED*

Reg. 199.95 **\$169.95** Plus FREE Parking Light Flash so you know car has started (\$30.00 VALUE)
Some restrictions apply. With coupon thru Dec. 31, 1997 only.
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TREATS**

with purchase of 15 lbs.
or more of ANY dog food, up to \$5.00 value

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BUY 1/GET 1**

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food, up to \$5.00 value

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Value Means...

1. Competitive Pricing 2. Quick Turnaround 3. Quality Workmanship

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Clip & Save in your Car's Glove Compartment

Call our HOT Line! **647-6355** in case of accident

**FREE
TURKEY**

with this ad
and \$500 of repairs
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replacement thru 1/1/98



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Complete Professional
Basecoat & Clearcoat Refinish

**\$200.00
OFF** • Reg. \$1195.00
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with Collision Repairs
(See Store for details)



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Reg. \$7.99
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with coupon Dec. 18, 19, 20
this Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Only.

750 ML

Heineken

Reg. \$10.99
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12 Pack
Bottles



CAROLANS.
FINEST
IRISH CREAM LIQUEUR

Reg. \$10.99
\$8.88
mail in
300
\$5.88

with coupon Dec. 18, 19, 20
this Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Only.

750 ML



**Corbett Canyon
White Zin**

Reg. \$5.99
\$3.99

with coupon Dec. 18, 19, 20
this Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Only.

1.5 Liter

**Tosti
Asti**

Reg. \$9.99
\$6.99

with coupon Dec. 18, 19, 20
this Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Only.

750 ML

**BLACK
VELVET**

Reg. \$8.99
\$6.99

with coupon Dec. 18, 19, 20
this Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Only.

Liter



THE KIOSK

Thursday/December 18

LA LECHE LEAGUE (St. Paul Metro chapter) will meet at 7:00 this evening. The discussion will focus on families and the breast-fed baby. For meeting location information, call Deonne at 645-3083.

THE MIDWAY-HIGHLAND CHAPTER of the American Association of Retired Persons will hold their Christmas party at 1:00 this afternoon at the Lyngblomsten Senior Center, 1415 Almond Ave.

Sunday/December 21

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon on the corner of St. Clair and Snelling avenues, for a walk around the neighborhood. Afterwards walkers can meet at the St. Clair Broiler. For information, call Bill at 665-9061.

Tuesday/December 23

"TEA WITH SCROOGE" will be hosted by Gerald Charles Dickens, great-great grandson of Charles Dickens, at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today at the St. Paul Hotel, 350 Market St. Dickens will perform a shortened version of *A Christmas Carol*, dressed in Victorian costume, while guests



It'll never replace Rudolph. Santa parked his sleigh for a day to pose for photos with children in an F-4D Phantom jet fighter at the Minnesota Air Guard Museum. Pictured checking out the cockpit with the Jolly Ol' Elf (a.k.a. retired paratrooper Jerry Huntington) are Allison and Kaylee Musolf. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

enjoy black currant tea, tea sandwiches, scones and other delicacies. The cost is \$21.95, plus tax and gratuity. For reservations, call 292-9292, extension 3775.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening at 1447 Berkeley Ave. for a walk around the neighborhood. Afterwards walkers can warm up with hot cocoa and

cookies. For information, call 698-8507.

Wednesday/December 24

A BLOOD DRIVE will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. today at the Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. To register, call 699-1343.

Tuesday/December 30

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening at 669 Sumner St. for a walk around the neighborhood. Afterwards walkers can warm up with hot cocoa and cookies. For information, call 698-7019.

Wednesday/December 31

A LIFE-SIZE BRONZE BUST of St. Paul native son and author F. Scott Fitzgerald by Merriam Park sculptor Michael Price is being raffled off by Public Art Saint Paul. The drawing will be held as part of the Capital City New Year celebration at 10:00 this evening. Tickets for the raffle are \$50 each. For information, call 290-0921.

Saturday/January 3

TACTILE TOURS of the "Families" exhibit for blind and visually impaired visitors as well as those who enjoy a gallery tour with increased lighting and listening devices will be given from 1:00 to 2:15 this afternoon and the first Saturday of every month throughout 1998 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is free. For more information or reservations, call 297-7258 or 282-6073 (TTY).

St. Paul has a capital idea for ringing in the new year

A Capital New Year returns to downtown St. Paul on Wednesday, December 31, with what the event's organizers are calling the largest New Year's Eve celebration in the Twin Cities. It may also be the longest, with 125 activities stretched over 12 hours.

The alcohol-free party will feature music, dance, drama, film and comedy for all ages from noon to midnight at 24 locations.

Highlights include a Grand Candlelight Procession led by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater, a Celtic Fire Ceremony in Rice Park, a countdown to the New Year in front of Landmark Center, and a fireworks finale on the river front.

Local and national musical acts will perform on five stages. The Blues Stage in Roy Wilkins Auditorium will feature Tongue and Groove with Billy Franze, Renee Austin and Wain McFarland, Willie Murphy, the Angel Headed Hipsters and headliner Corey

Stevens. Firstar's tent will go back to the '70s and '80s with Paul Metsa, the Lights Out Committee, Buzzwell, Curtiss A and the Flaming O's. The Country Dance Ranch tent will feature Jack Knife and the Sharps, Trailer Trash, Art Blackburn and the Pretty Good Blue Grass Band, Prudence Johnson and Gary Rue, and Bill Hinkley and Judy Larson. Landmark Center will play host to the Blackburn Beach Blues Band and the Rock and Soul Revue.

Diverse cultures will be represented in performances by the Macalester College Pipe Band, Illyrian Minstrels, Chang Mi Korean Dancers, CAAM Chinese Dance, Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir, Heart of the Earth Survival School Drum and Dance, Djembe Drum Group, Azteca Mariachi, Rane Ramaswamy, Rakia Folk Ensemble, Theater Mu and Mu Daiko Drums, pianist Eileen Reagan, Edelweiss St. Paul, the Greentree

Dulcimer Group, and Maryam Yusefzadeh and Robayat. Excerpts from Ruth MacKenzie's Finnish epic "Kalevela, Dream of the Salmon Maiden" will be presented, and storytellers Sean Brown and Nothando Zulu also will perform.

The St. Paul-based Circus of the Star youth circus will present three performances. Also appearing will be the Touch of Magic Clowns and the Teddy Bear Band. There will be hayrides, train rides, outdoor ice skating at Ecolab and indoor skating at RiverCentre.

Five professional dance companies will perform, including Zenon, Zorongo Flamenco, Corning Dances, Jawaahir Middle Eastern and Dancing People. A square dance, Irish ceili with Paddy O'Brien and the Moon Coin Dancers, a professional ballroom dancing exhibition and public waltzing to Cafe Accordion also will be featured.

Other performers include Stoney Lone-

some, Straw Dogs, Surreal Chemical Marriage, Adam Granger, the Mouldy Figs, the Medicine Show Music Company, Dare to Breathe, Debbie Duncan and the Plus Three Trio, Lex Exodus and New Beat Confidential and Prince Jabba.

The Seventh Place Cinema will present the Minnesota Frostbite Film Festival featuring movies made in Minnesota. Also on tap are performances by the USA Trampoline Champions, comedians Maxine Jeffris and Nick Swardson and magician Derek Hughes.

A single \$8.00 passport is good for admission to all events, free bus and trolley rides, discounted car-pool parking and entry in a drawing for two round-trip airline tickets to Europe.

Passports may be purchased on the day of the event at all Capital New Year sites, or in advance at all Dayton's and Mervyn's stores or by calling Ticketmaster at 989-5151.



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CHURCHES



Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion
5:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 24
Holiday Hymnsing
9:30 a.m. Sunday, December 28



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Sun., Dec. 14 - 10:30 am
Children's Musical
Sun., Dec. 21 - 10:30 am Advent
Worship with
Brass Ensemble
- 3:00 pm German
Christmas Service

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm Family Service
(For Children of All Ages)

11:00 pm Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 am Traditional
Christmas Service

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Christmas
Eve
Services

Dec. 24

5:00 p.m.

+
11:00 p.m.



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Fairmount Avenue
United Methodist Church

1523 Fairmount Ave.
(1 block east of Snelling,
3 blocks south of Grand)

Christmas Eve Services:
4:30 and 10:30

Sunday Schedule

9:00 Education for all ages
10:00 Coffee in Fellowship Hall
10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary

699-1335 Fully accessible



Around they go. Preschoolers from the Jewish Community Center visited Macalester Plymouth Preschool on December 12 for a Hanukah program of music, stories and dancing. Pictured dancing to the Soufganyot (jelly doughnut) song are Anna Wilhelmy and Samantha Salzman. Photo by Mike Long.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

A community celebration to light the Mitzvah candle on the second night of Hanukah will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 24, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The event will feature entertainment by Allan Lieberman, who uses music to tell the Hanukah story. The choirs from Temple of Aaron and Mount Zion synagogues will lead the blessing and a sing-along. Admission is free, but participants are asked to bring an unwrapped gift to donate to charity. For information, call 698-0751.

Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., is offering the following activities in the next two weeks: a pre-Hanukah party at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 21; a Men and Women's Torah Break at noon on Wednesday, December 24; and a Hanukah Shabbat dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 26. For information, call 698-8874.

Inquiry classes designed to explore the Roman Catholic faith will be held at 7:30 p.m. on 12 Tuesdays beginning January 6 at Nativity Church, 1900 Wellesley Ave. For information, call 696-5454.

A Winter Solstice celebration will take place at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, December 21, at Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 S. 38th Ave., Minneapolis. The service will include a burning bowl ceremony and guided meditation to celebrate the longest night of the year. For information, call the church at 729-7556.

Tzivos Hashem, a Jewish children's club, meets from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sundays at Adath Israel Synagogue, 2337 Edgumbe Road. The club features songs, stories and arts and crafts. For information, call 699-2347.

The Church of St. Helena will present a four-part series on "The Riches of Catholic Teaching about the Spiritual Life" at 8:00 p.m. on each Wednesday in January in the parish office building, 3204 E. 34th St., Minneapolis. The cost is \$3.00 per evening. For information, call 729-7321.



CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24

4:00 pm FAMILY SERVICE (Nursery Provided)
8:00 pm HOLY COMMUNION
10:30 pm HOLY COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 25

10:00 am HOLY COMMUNION



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CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Sunday, December 14
10 A.M.

LESSONS & CAROLS
Sunday, December 21
4 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00 p.m. - Family Service

10:30 p.m. - Festival Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

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Services 4:30 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 25, Christmas Day 10:00 a.m.
Service with Holy Communion

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Services. Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
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Service
6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
9:00 a.m.



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ON THE TOWN

Visions of sugar plums...

...still dance in the head of Lise Houlton as she carries on the family tradition Twin Citians know and love as *Nutcracker Fantasy*

by Jan Shaw-Flamm

For many people, the Minnesota Dance Theatre's 31st anniversary production of *Nutcracker Fantasy* is a family affair. Thousands of parents will again take their youngsters to see godfather Drosselmayer, little Marie, the waltzing flowers, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the other characters that they loved when they themselves were children.

For artistic director Lise Houlton, a Summit Hill resident, *Nutcracker Fantasy* is a family affair as well. Her mother, choreographer and Minnesota Dance Theatre founder Loyce Houlton, created the ballet, and Lise's daughters, 10-year-old Kaitlyn and 8-year-old Raina, are dancing the roles of the young cousin, the merliten and the marionette in this year's production, which opens on December 19 at the Historic State Theatre in Minneapolis.

Like her daughters, Lise Houlton began dancing at a tender age. "I started in kindergarten and I loved it," she said. "But it wasn't until I was about 14 years old that I thought, 'I'd better get to work.'"

Lise was involved in the creation of the very first *Nutcracker Fantasy*. She has since performed every one of the principal female roles.

At the age of 19, Lise joined the Stuttgart Ballet in West Germany. Two years later, she returned to the United States and was asked to replace an ailing dancer in the American Ballet Theatre's (ABT) performance of *Sphinx*. She was then offered a contract with ABT and danced lead roles with the New York company for eight years, sharing the stage with some of the world's greatest dancers, including Mikhail Baryshnikov and Patrick Bissell.

In 1985, Lise left ABT to start a family. After the birth of her second daughter, the family returned to Minnesota and Lise rejoined her mother's dance company.

"I very much love New York," Lise said. "It's a very exciting, fulfilling place to work. At some point in your career, New York is the only place to be."

"But now the Twin Cities are very much like New York with so much happening. And we love it

for our children. We're finding great friends and we're trying to become gardeners. When we first came here from New York, our oldest daughter was almost 4. We were looking at houses and Kaitlyn said, 'Mommy, everybody has their own park!' She had no concept of a yard."

Lise and her family had been back in Minnesota for four years when Loyce Houlton died. Lise then assumed the role of artistic director for the Minnesota Dance Theatre. She said staging that first *Nutcracker Fantasy* without her mother's guiding hand was difficult.

"We all felt a great loss when mother died," Lise said. "We kept hearing in our minds her voice, her shouts, her demands. Getting that *Nutcracker* on was very important. The first year everyone did it for her. Now we do it for us."

Tara Tauscheck of Highland Park has been dancing with the Minnesota Dance Theatre



Lise Houlton, artistic director of the Minnesota Dance Theatre, works with two of her students, Laurel Keen and Philip Arner, as they practice their parts as the Snow Queen and the Snow Cavalier in the upcoming production of *Nutcracker Fantasy*, running December 19-28 at the Historic State Theatre in Minneapolis. Photo by Brad Stauffer.



Tara Tauscheck of Highland Park plays the part of the Arabian in *Nutcracker Fantasy*.

for six years. This season she performs the principal role of the Arabian.

"Every year I love *Nutcracker* more," she said. "I started in the Snow Corps. Each year you work harder and harder and you work your way up."

"The Arabian is a different role, not strictly classical ballet," Tauscheck said. "Lise has choreographed it beautifully."

Nutcracker Fantasy claims the record for the longest running artistic production in Minnesota history, having drawn more than a million patrons in the past 30 years. During that time, the show has grown and changed. This year's production features 75 performers from the Minnesota Dance Theatre and guest artists from the American Ballet Theatre. Twelve stagehands are required to move the elaborate sets and handle the pyrotechnic effects. And conductor Philip Brunelle will lead a full symphony orchestra in performing Tchaikovsky's score.

"They're wonderful," said Lise of the orchestra. "They really like working with the dancers and don't seem to mind the fog machine and the occasional crown falling into the orchestra pit."

Nutcracker Fantasy will be performed 12 times through December 28. Tickets range

Nutcracker/see page 28

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Music

The Minnesota State Band will perform their 19th annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 17, at Landmark Center, downtown St. Paul. Admission is free. For information, call 296-1577.

"Romantic Overtures," a concert exploring the music of the Romantics, including excerpts from the works of Wagner, Dvorak and Tchaikovsky, will be performed by the Minnesota Orchestra at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, December 17 and 18, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$13 to \$31.75, call 371-5656.

A **Christmas concert** will be performed at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 18, in the Activity Center at Cretin-Derham Hall. The concert will be followed by an old-fashioned sing-along. Admission is free.

"Christmas with Doc & Friends," a concert of Christmas classics and sing-alongs, will be performed at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 19-20, and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 21, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$17.75 to \$37.75, call 371-5656.

"Noel avec The Rose Ensemble," with special guest Bradley Greenwald, will be performed at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 20, at St. Luke's Catholic Church, 1079 Summit Ave. For tickets, priced at \$15 or \$8.00 for seniors and students, call 647-4903.

Richard Paske, a Laurel Avenue pianist and composer, will perform from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 20, at the Loring Bar, 1624 Harmon Place, Minneapolis. Paske will improvise on compositions by some of the great composers of our time. For details, call 646-4365.

Michael Johnson will perform holiday favorites at 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 26, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall at the University of Minnesota. For tickets, priced from \$19.50 to

\$24.50, call 371-5656.

The Dubliner Pub, 2162 University Ave., will hold the following concerts from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays: Tom Dahill on December 26 and 27; and The Tim Malloys on December 30 and 31. Also The Tim Malloys will perform every Tuesday, Trial Ro Crua every Wednesday and The Gallivanders every Sunday. There is no cover charge. For information, call 646-5551.

Books

The Hungry Mind Bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave., will host the following readings at 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted): Alfonso Silva Lee will read from his new book *Natural Cuba/Cuba natural* on Tuesday, December 30. Admission is free. For details, call 699-0587.

A **tribute to Thomas McGrath** will be held at 7:00 p.m. Friday, December 19, at Macalester-Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave. Editor Dale Jacobson, poets Michael Dennis Browne; Robert Bly; Freya Manfred and Jim Dochniak, artist Gaylord Schanilec, and filmmaker Mike Hazard will share their memories of McGrath and read selections of his epic poem "Letter to an Imaginary Friend." Also excerpts from the documentary film *The Movie at the End of the World* will be shown. Admission is free. For information, call 699-0587.

Family

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

ON THE TOWN briefly



Dylan Skerbitz, 7, of Highland Park is among the local children performing in the Minnesota premiere of "Christmas Revels," a celebration of the Winter Solstice with traditional and ritual dances, processions, carols and drama. Performances will be given at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 19-20, and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 21, at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St. For tickets, priced at \$17 for adults, \$12 for children ages 6-12 and free for children under 6, call 870-1099.

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

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

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

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: families can make their own gift wrap using paint and stamp designs on December 21; children can make a

bank in which to save money to help others in the community as they learn about Kwanzaa traditions through stories, dance, music and readings on December 28; and families can make a 1998 calendar with stickers, stamps and dates on January 4. Admission is free. For details, call 296-6126.

The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will offer the following story time activities at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays: Johanna Dzik, the "Shoeless Storyteller," will tell stories on Saturday, December 27. Admission is free. For information, call 224-8320.

The Nokomis Community Library, 5100 S. 34th Ave., Minneapolis, will show the following family films at 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 29: *Pluto's Christmas Tree*, *Mole & Green Star*, *Mole & Christmas Tree* and *Linnea in Monet's Garden*. For information, call 729-5989.

Dance

Ballet Minnesota will present the *Nutcracker* at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 19-20, and at 3:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, December 20-21, at the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. For tickets, priced at \$9.00 for children 12 and under and \$22 for adults, call 989-5151.

The TGIS Singles Social Club will hold the following smoke-free dances at 8:30 p.m. on Saturdays (unless otherwise noted): Dancer will provide the music for a dance on December 27 in the Grand Ballroom of the Thunderbird Hotel, 2201 E. 78th St., Bloomington (\$8.00); the Underbeats will provide the music for a New Year's Dance on December 31 in the Hall of Tribes at the Thunderbird Hotel (\$20); and the Convertibles will provide the music for a dance on January 3 at the Thunderbird Hotel (\$10). There will be discounts for those arriving be-

fore 9:00 p.m. For information, call 644-3443.

Film

"Cinema with Passion" continues with weekend showings at the Riverview Theatre, 3800 S. 42nd Ave., Minneapolis, with the following films: *Black Mask* at midnight Saturday, December 20; *Royal Warriors* at midnight Friday, December 19, at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 20, and at midnight Saturday, December 27; *Beyond Hypothermia* at midnight Friday, December 26, at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 27, and at midnight Saturday, January 3; and *Fox Hunter* at midnight Friday, January 2, and at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 3. Admission is \$5.00. For information, call 349-2549.

Exhibits

An exhibit of popular prints and engravings from the 19th century is on display at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The exhibit will be on display from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays until March 28. The cost is \$1.00. For information, call 297-2555.

"Q is for Quilts," an exhibit of 14 quilts donated from across Minnesota and the stories behind them, has opened in the "Minnesota A to Z" exhibit at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. A new set of quilts will be displayed each year until the exhibit closes in 2005. Admission is free. For information, call 296-6126.

A **Holiday Invitational Exhibition**, featuring the work of over 50 regional and national clay artists, has opened at the Northern Clay Center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis. The exhibit will remain on view until December 31. For information, call 339-8007.

"Crossing Borders," an exhibit

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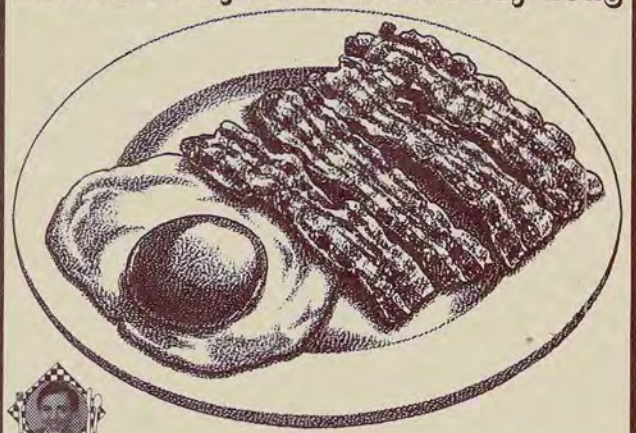
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of pottery, weaving and glass by four artists from northern Minnesota and Canada has opened at the Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave.

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

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

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

An exhibit of new paintings by Rod Massey and Mike Lynch has opened at Groveland Gallery, 25 Groveland Terrace, Minneapolis. Their works will remain on view until January 7. For information, call 377-7800.

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

"Material Matters," a group exhibition including both painters and sculptors whose work emphasizes the "process of making," with each artist celebrating the unique, physical properties of the materials they use, has opened in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. The exhibit will remain on view until February 15. For information, call 696-6416.

Theater



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

Teatro del Pueblo has opened *La Posada*, the comical love story of Anita and Aurelio, an elderly couple living in West St. Paul, in Ordway's McKnight Theater. Performances will be given at 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays and at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays through December 21. For tickets, priced at \$15, or \$7.50 for students, children and seniors, call 224-4222.

Tales From the Charred



Joe Juliano, along with his six-piece band Hot Cup of Blues, will perform at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, December 21, and every Sunday at the Wild Onion, 788 Grand Ave.

Underbelly of the Yule Log, written and performed by Kevin Kling, has opened at the Jungle Theater, 709 W. Lake St., Minneapolis. Performances will continue at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, at 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays until January 4. For tickets, call 822-7063.

Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk, the four-time Tony Award-winning musical, will open Wednesday, December 17, at the Historic Orpheum Theatre. Performances will be given at 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, at 2:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and at 7:30 p.m. Sundays until November 28. For tickets, priced from \$25 to \$55, call 989-5151.

The Playwright's Center, 2301 Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, will present a reading of the screenplay adaptation of Matt Sciple's play *In the Garden* at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 17. The play depicts the life of a post-Apocalyptic American family whose fragile existence is shattered by the arrival of a mysterious stranger. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. For information, call 332-7481.

Grease will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 18, and Saturday, December 20, and at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, December 21, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors or children under 12.

Amahl and the Night Visitors, Gian Carlo Menotti's one-act

Christmas opera about love and belief, will be performed by James Sewell Ballet at 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 19, and at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 20, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall on the campus of the University of Minnesota. For tickets, priced from \$11.25 to \$27, call 291-1144.

The Music Man, starring Joel Higgins, will open at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 21, at the Ordway Music Theatre. Performances will continue through January 4. For tickets, priced from \$24 to \$50, call 224-4222.

Three Rivers Meeting, Jim Stowell's newest work about the search for the meaning of "home" will open December 31 at the Great American History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Performances will continue until January 25. There also will be one weekend with performances of *Cuba Si*, showings of two of Stowell's films and a celebrity reading of his book *Traveling Light*. For ticket information, call 292-4323.

Etc.



A New Year's Eve Gala, including a concert by the Minnesota Orchestra and a post-concert gala with live music and dancing, will be held beginning at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 31, at Orchestra Hall. The post-concert gala will begin at 10:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Convention Center. For tickets, priced from \$19.75 to \$35.75 for the concert and \$20 for the party, call 371-5656.

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Prof arranges a Christmas reading of Freeman

"Christmas Jenny," a century-old short story by Mary Wilkins Freeman about a naturalist and herbalist who is misunderstood by her Puritan New England neighbors, will be read over WCAL 89.3 FM at 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Day, December 25.

For University of St. Thomas English professor Mary Reichardt, the reading will be an especially precious holiday gift. Freeman and her writings have been a consuming interest of Reichardt's for the past 12 years. They are the subject of two critical studies by Reichardt, including her dissertation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she received a Ph.D. in early American literature. Reichardt also has edited two anthologies of Freeman's stories.

"Christmas Jenny" is included in one of those anthologies, a 1997 collection of 28 stories that Reichardt considers among the best of the 250 that Freeman wrote. Freeman (1852-1930) was one of the most popular and prolific American writers at the turn-of-the-century, Reichardt said. Fifty-two of her stories appeared in such publications as *Harper's Bazaar*, *Harper's Monthly*, *Harper's Weekly* and *Cosmopolitan*.

Reichardt said she was drawn to Freeman's stories because of their portrayal of the position of women in post-Civil War New England society. "The region was very depressed at the time," Reichardt said. "Many of its men had died in the Civil War and many others had gone West. Freeman's stories tell of women struggling by their wits to survive, and that makes them seem very contemporary. Freeman has feisty women."

Reichardt recommended the Freeman reading to the host of the hour-long WCAL program, Merriam Park resident Christine Sweet, during a recent program at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Highland Village.



Author Mary Wilkins Freeman



Among the local youngsters performing in *Nutcracker Fantasy* are, clockwise from top left, Kaitlyn Gilliland, 5th grade, St. Paul Academy; Nicole Ducane of Lexington-Hamline, 5th grade; Clara Swyers, 1st grade, Linwood A+ School; Raina Gilliland, 2nd-grade, SPA; and Alta Swyers, 1st grade, Linwood A+.

Nutcracker

from page 25

from \$14.50 to \$39.50 and are available by calling 989-5151.

"Some people think the Minnesota Dance Theatre only comes out of mothballs for *Nutcracker*," said Lise, who also teaches ballet at the University of Minnesota, "but we'll be performing *Peter and the Wolf* at the Ordway in January, and *Rumblings* at the Southern Theater in February."

For now, however, the dancers' minds are on the company's best-known and best-loved work. So after three decades, how does Lise Houlton account for the fact that *Nutcracker Fantasy* remains so popular?

"Because it's a classic story with a classic musical score," she said. "And just like Christmas, it doesn't happen every day."

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Buck's only wish is a home for the holidays. This sweet 1-year-old neutered male is a Labrador/Spitz/American Eskimo mix and a favorite with volunteers and staff. Buck is good with elementary school-age children, is housebroken, and gets along well with other animals. If you are interested in adopting "Buck," please call (612) 645-7387, ext. 105 during shelter hours.



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SPORTS

CODY'S CORNER

TOM CODY



Springing to see what's the matter with pro sports

Twas the week before Christmas when all through the town
All the pro franchise owners were wearing a frown.

Their demands had been snuffed by the state House with care;
Minnesotans rose up and said, "Leave, if you dare!"

And Carl in his kerchief, Eloise in her cap,
said, "There's no snow in Charlotte—we're sick of this crap!"
Roger Headrick concurred, thinking too change-of-scene.
His Vikings might leave once they dump Denny Green.

The Wolves? They're not leaving. (Target Center's like heaven.)

And the national debt's nothing next to what they gave Kevin.
Stephon's next in line to move in for the kill;
A hundred mil easy and the fans get the bill.

Pro sports got you down? Think they're whiners and loafers?
Head to Dinkytown then and go cheer on the Gophers.
But Woog's squad is strugglin', Clem Haskins' is pacin',
just hoping that their teams win more than Glen Mason's.

These three all need presents, and not Santa Claus suits.
What they want in their stockings is prime-time recruits.

Even New Year's depressing. The bowls need revamps.
Fiesta, Orange, Rose—and still no national champs.
Wins and losses don't matter; what draws fans is a name.
Hell, there's even a bowl game that took Notre Dame!

They once were in first, but now—tsk, tsk, tsk—
The Vikes' chances ruptured with Brad's vertebral disk.
Sunday's game is a big one, there's no way to back out.
The dome half-full for Indy? This one's a black-out.

The lame-duck Twins' prospects? The short-term looks bleak.
Knoblauch's history; he'll be gone by next week.
The dome in '98? A sad picture it paints.

The obvious question: Will they outdraw the Saints?

You once were a fan; now you're not so enthused.
This Christmas you're puzzled, bewildered, confused.
"What's the difference?" you ask. "The whole sports scene is rotten.

I used to love sports. But why? I've forgotten."

A sure-fire cure for the sports fan's December:
Watch the kids play the games and then you'll remember.
Household money running low? Time to take drastic steps?
Just ignore the big-timers and go see the preps.

No contracts, no taunting, no Rodman, no Deion.
No free agent signings. ("Now what team is he on?")
No Sprewell, no Rider, no Ditka, no Rison.
No Lou Holtz, Jimmy Johnson nor cannibal Tyson.

Just watch the kids play, and when the game's lost or won,
you'll recall once more: Sports were supposed to be fun.

(With apologies to Clement C. Moore.)

CATHOLIC SCHOOL RIVALRIES RENEWED

One of the more interesting high school sporting events this holiday season will be the first Catholic Spirit Boys Basketball Tournament on December 27, 29 and 30 at the University of St. Thomas. Sponsored by Mancini's restaurant and Cretin-Derham Hall, the tourney will feature eight private Catholic schools.

"We hope it'll bring back some of the old CCC (Central Catholic Conference) rivalries," said CDH varsity basketball coach and tourney originator Bill McKee. "Seven of the teams are from the Twin Cities. Many were looking for a change of scene in their holiday tournaments. We don't want this to be exclusively Catholic schools down the road, but that's how it worked out the first year."

Cody's Corner/see next page



Raider junior Sam Kronschnabel flies through the air while practicing her balance beam routine at Turners Gym in Mendota Heights. Working the beam below her is senior Katie Skrypek. Photo by Mike Long.

Beaming with confidence

Young coach leads seasoned corps of CDH gymnasts

by Bill Wagner

At 23, Aaron Collins is the youngest head coach in Minnesota high school gymnastics. However, you wouldn't know it by the confidence he exudes—in himself and in his Cretin-Derham Hall team.

A graduate student at Northwestern College of Chiropractic in Highland Park, Collins is only a few years out of high school himself, but he doesn't let his comparative youth affect his coaching style.

"I'm hard," Collins answered when asked to describe himself as a coach. "I expect a lot. However, I'm hopeful that

they'll appreciate it in the long run. I know what they can and can't do."

An assistant coach at Cretin-Derham Hall for three years, Collins ranks his Raiders among the top five teams in the state. "We're a much better team than last year," he said. "This year I see our team getting to state and actually doing something when they get there."

A year ago, the Raiders appeared ready to make a run at the state title. Yet despite amassing a school record 141 points in winning the Twin Cities championship, the squad ran out of gas at the state meet, finishing last among the eight qualifying teams.

Collins has most of his top gymnasts

back from that team and he is hoping they learned from the experience. "We have the talent and the heart this year," he said. "We just need to work hard and get our routines down and clean up our form. It's just a matter of time."

CDH appears to be right on schedule. The Raiders cleaned up in the St. Paul City Conference preview, scoring a league-best 138.45. The team's first dual meet resulted in a victory over Johnson by 138.35 to 64.81. CDH also topped Como 136.05 to 63.90 last Wednesday and bested Roseville 138.8 to 135.1 in another dual meet on Friday.

CDH/see page 31

United they stand

Combined SPA, Vis hockey team keeps improving with age

by Tom Cody

When St. Paul Academy and Visitation School joined forces to form a girls hockey team five years ago, they didn't know the club would one day become a dominant force in the metro area.

Yet this winter St. Paul United is rated among the top 10 teams in the state and is leading the Northern Suburban Conference with a 4-0-2 record (5-1-2 overall). One of the big reasons for the team's success has been the play of SPA senior center Heather Murphy.

"She's a good leader," said coach Charlie Stryker. "She's not afraid to let her teammates know what she thinks. We have a pretty young squad, so that's important. All three captains (Murphy and Vis seniors Jenny McCall and Katy Rollwagen) have been instrumental."

"Katy and I have been friends ever since first grade at J.J. Hill," Murphy said. "Our relationship helped smooth things



St. Paul United leading scorer Heather Murphy. Photo by Mike Long.

between the two schools. Now we come to practice and swap stories about our schools and catch up on the gossip in the locker room. I think it's been a big

part of our success."

So has Murphy. She had 10 goals and seven assists in the team's first eight games.

"Last year, Erica Olson (SPA '97) did most of the scoring for us," Stryker said. "This year it's more balanced, but Heather has been the big offensive weapon for us. She's a good, fast skater. She's got strong legs from playing soccer and gets a lot of goals off breakaways. Heather works hard for her points and she certainly makes the most of her chances."

"I think it's just a matter of trying to be in the right place at the right time," Murphy said. "I got a few goals in soccer the same way. You just have to keep your head up and look for openings, then make the most of your opportunities."

Murphy got interested in hockey as a 5th-grader. "My younger brother Bryan

St. Paul United/see next page

St. Paul United hockey /from previous page

was playing with Highland-Central," she said. "I was watching a lot of North Stars games on TV and got into a boys Squirt league. The boys were pretty good and their game was a lot faster, a lot more aggressive than the girls game. I think that helped me develop quicker. I had no choice. I had to keep up with them."

"The high school girls game is still improving," Murphy said. "We're getting more players from strong girls programs. The skating is getting better, but the stick-handling and rink awareness is improving even more."

Rollwagen skates with Murphy's line, which also includes Liz Funk, a talented 8th-grader from IHM-St. Luke's School. "That line has a lot of ability," Stryker said. "Alexa Gollinger (SPA junior) centers our second line. She's one of those shifty players who can score, pass and fore check and she's been another offensive force for us. McCall has been very steady defensively. She anchors a young group of defenders."

Kerry Rollwagen, a freshman from Vis, has been outstanding in the nets for United. She

had a goals-against average of under 2.00 and a save percentage of over 90 percent as of last week. Her play was the difference in United's 2-1 upset win over powerhouse Roseville. "We played Roseville in a one-period exhibition at Moundsview," Murphy said. "They dominated play then, but Kerry was tough in the nets that night and we got a couple of goals on just five shots."

Roseville stands in the way if United is to make a post-season march. The section favorites, led by phenom sisters Ronda and Renee Curtin, have lost just one game in five years.

"The Curtins are really good," Murphy said. "They're quick, they're good with the stick, and they've got great hockey sense. We'll have to play very well to beat them."

Stryker agreed. "To stay with Roseville, you have to cover your defensive zone well," he said. "You have to keep an eye on the Curtins, but you have to score some goals to win. They'll certainly be the top seed in our section."



St. Paul United coach Charlie Stryker talks to his troops. Photo by Mike Long.

Cody's Corner: Hoops tourney rekindles Catholic school rivalries /from previous page

St. Thomas Academy takes on Bethlehem Academy of Faribault in the first game of the quarterfinal round at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, December 27, followed by St. Agnes vs. Benilde-St. Margaret at about 5:00 p.m. Holy Angels will face St. Bernard's at 7:00 p.m., and CDH will face Hill-Murray in the finale around 9:00 p.m. Tickets, priced at \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students, are good for the whole day.

EATING CROW WITH THE CROWD

Having promised myself that I'd visit the Metrodome at

least once every decade, I attended the Packers-Vikings game a few weeks back. The much-ballyhooed Central Division encounter lived up to its billing, but only in the pre-game atmosphere. Once the actual contest began, that atmosphere quickly dissipated. The Vikings stunk up the joint and the festivities came to an abrupt end.

I'd expected to see the Cheeseheads out in full force, but I was shocked to witness normally staid Minnesotans decked out in their purple battle array as well. Fan energy on the plaza outside the dome had the electricity of a World Series

or a Final Four contest. It had been a long time since the Metrodome hosted a football game of that magnitude. Unfortunately, the Vikings played like their quarterback was suffering from a herniated disk in his neck.

Vikings fans took some heat from the rabid Wisconsinites, especially at halftime, when it seemed like most of the male-dominated crowd was standing in line in a restroom.

"How many Vikings fans does it take to screw in a light bulb?" shouted one Packer fan to another at the urinal.

"None. Their games are all blacked out!"

SPORTS SHORTS

Dennis Czech has been named the new head football coach at Macalester College. Czech, a 1983 Macalester graduate, was a standout running back for the Scots in the early 1980s and is ranked second on the school's all-time career rushing list with 2,394 yards. He served under Tom Hosier as assistant coach at Macalester from 1985 to 1987 and was the running back coach for the Scots this past season. He is a 1977 graduate of Cretin High School and served as an assistant coach with the Raiders for two years following his graduation from Macalester.

Cross country skiing instruction for children ages 4-14 and their parents will be available at three area parks beginning December 21. Sponsored by the Minnesota Youth Ski League, a collection of skiing clubs, the classes will meet from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays at Como Park (to register, call Anne Rykken at 487-3846); from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sundays at Hyland Park in Bloomington (call Tony Aspholm at 827-2956); and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sundays at Hiawatha Park, 4553 Longfellow Ave., Minneapolis (call Chris Munholland at 343-0565).

St. Paul Parks and Recreation is seeking teen-agers in grades 7-9 who are interested in becoming involved in the 1998 St. Paul Winter Carnival Junior Royalty program. Teens will compete for King Frost, Queen of the Snowflakes and other mem-



The 6th- and 7th-grade volleyball teams from St. Mark's School both went undefeated in league play this fall and survived five rounds of playoff competition to capture Twin Cities championships. The 6th-grade team (pictured at left) included, from left: front row—Maggie Hamm, Maura Conlin, Emma Daugherty and Anne Rogers; back row—coach Beth Tessman, Kelly Cromett, Laura Mason, Nancy McMurray, Mary Lynn Amdahl, Stacey Marrone, Carrie Lindberg, Jackie Richie, Sarah Fleming and Kate Cromett. The 7th-grade team (pictured at right) included, from left: front row—Meghan Gowan, Cristina Labey, Megan Roesler, Jane Tigan and Liz Cheney; back row—Tess Bartmann, Mira Swanson, Sam Cheney, Meleah Lentz, coach Joe Stinchfield, Michaela Conroy and Deirdre Hughes.



bers of the royal court. The registration deadline is December 31. For information, call 266-6400.

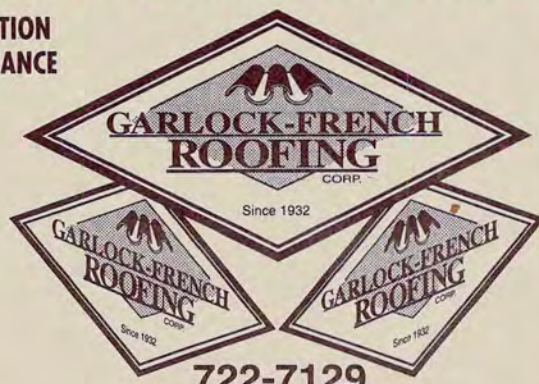
The University of St. Thomas will host its annual holiday baseball clinic from December 26-28 and December 29-31. Players from elementary school through high school age will learn the mechanics of hitting, fielding, base running, pitching and catching. There also will be a session for fastpitch softball. The sessions will be conducted by members of the St. Thomas coaching staff and baseball team, clinicians John and Jim

Tschida, and several former professional baseball players. For information, call Dennis Denning at 962-5924.

Macalester College will hold its holiday baseball camp on Monday and Tuesday, December 29-30, in the college field house. The sessions will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon for those ages 7-13 and from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. for those ages 14-18. Camp directors will be Macalester baseball coach Steve Hauser and Waldorf Junior College coach Brian Grunske. For information, call Matt Parrington at 696-6770.

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CDH gymnasts/

from page 29

The Raiders are led by senior captain Courtney Norman, the state's two-time defending champion in the vault who has developed into an all-around performer as well. In the first meet of the year, Norman logged an 8.8 on the uneven parallel bars, a 9.1 on the balance beam, a 9.3 in the floor exercise and a 9.7 on the vault.

Collins rates Norman as a solid Division II and possibly a Division I college prospect. "She's very talented and she catches on quickly," he said.

Collins should know. An outstanding gymnast at Roseville High School, he was offered a gymnastics scholarship at Arizona State University, but turned it down to attend Northwestern College in Roseville.

Another leader for the Raiders is senior Katie Skrypek, a specialist on the beam. Junior Kristi Germann, an all-around standout, will be out with a bad foot until the first of the year, but senior Ellie Roscher has been picking up the slack.

Norman, Skrypek, Roscher, Germann and junior Sam Kronschnabel are all capable of turning in good all-around performances, and that depth makes it difficult for opponents to make up points, Collins said.

Whether it will be enough to topple a perennial state power like Lakeville, Collins isn't saying. "We'll know more later in the season," he said.

With the demands of graduate school, Collins said he didn't know until this fall whether he would be able to coach the Raiders this year. He is equally unsure about his prospects for next year. "It all depends on my work schedule," he said. "But if I can't come back, it would be nice to go out with a state championship."



Courtney Norman pushes off the horse during vault practice. Photo by Mike Long.

Next Issue: January 7

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St. Paul Blackhawks Soccer Summer Team Registration

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Please use Wheeler (at Randolph) entrance

Saturday, February 7, 1998, 10 am-2 pm
SPA Lower School, 1150 Fairmount Ave.
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Players need to provide a copy of their birth certificate and a small photo for identification.

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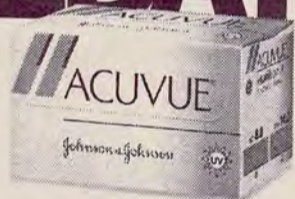
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Candidates must have strong verbal communication skills; initiative; interpersonal skills; ability to shift gears; and a professional presentation. Microsoft Word experience is helpful.

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Previous teller or cashing experience preferred; excellent customer service skills required; must be flexible with work hours.

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Deadline: Dec. 31

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FITNESS INSTRUCTORS, PT. \$17.50/hour. Needs: certification, 1-year experience with ability to teach various formats. Mac-Groveland area; 484-1629. **v**

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PUBLIC HEALTH nurse experienced in home care; work with seniors; part-time, flexible hours; immediate opening; paid orientation; Macalester-Groveland area; 690-5291. **v**

For additional job openings, turn to the Employment Opportunities ad section. For advertising information, call 699-1462.

Child Care Wanted

SEEKING NANNY for infant, 6 & 8 year girls. Full time, live-out, immediately; 699-3704. **v**

CHILD CARE WANTED. Mother with five young children seeking nanny to assist full time with child care and running of house. Excellent health, lots of energy, excellent references, experience and nonsmoker all required. Very competitive pay. 334-8573 after 6 p.m. only. **v**

MENDOTA HEIGHTS family needs an experienced, energetic, responsible mother's helper; 19 months & 6 year; driver's license, nonsmoker, hours flexible, mostly afternoons needed, occasional overnights; Wendy, 450-7911. **v**

MENDOTA HEIGHTS family seeks nonsmoker, FT/live-out nanny for 3 girls; 5, 3 1/2, 2 1/2, Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Must have transportation, good driving record. Previous experience preferred. Competitive salary. References required. Start Jan. 5. Judy, 375-3049 between 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **v**

Child Care

Parents are urged to exercise caution in arranging child care. Be sure to investigate references. To obtain a list of licensed day care providers in the area, call 641-0332. **gv**

SITTER SERVICE has nannies for all occasions; days, evenings, vacations; FT/PT; 429-2963. **v**

PART-TIME and occasional child care for children over 2 years; my home; licensed, experienced; 690-1079. **v**

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For Rent Residential

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CONDO, LARGE 1 BD, den, 2 BA, indoor pool, fitness center, heated underground parking; avail. March 1; 905-9388. **v**

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COLLEGE FRESHMAN wants to rent garage near Univ. of St. Thomas, small car; Kate, 1-712-336-0547. **v**

Roommates Wanted

MALE, NONSMOKER, \$290 + util., Dec./Jan; large apt, Mac-Grove, quiet, bus line; Bob, 645-9919. **v**

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