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MN United’s home opener on April 13 will test city’s traffic management plan

Officials are urging fans to ride, bike, walk, skip—just don’t drive

By Jane McClure

Minnesota United FC will play its 2019 home opener at 4 p.m. Saturday, April 13. Close to 20,000 soccer fans will flock to the new stadium at Snelling and St. Anthony avenues, but they are being advised to leave their cars at home and bike or walk to the game or take a bus, train or taxi. Unless they have reserved a parking space ahead of time, driving to Allianz Field may prove to be a challenge.

That is the message being delivered by team and city officials as they attempt to ease the movement of 19,400-ticket holders to and from the stadium for Minnesota United’s 18 home games this season.

The city released a six-page summary of its travel and parking plans for the stadium area earlier this month to the Union Park and Hamline-Midway district councils, but council members and staff were surprised at the lack of data backing up the plans.

Concerns were raised about spillover parking on resi-

SOCCER STADIUM TRAFFIC ►3



In step with St. Pat’s. Members of the Mactir Academy perform on the main stage during the 16th annual Day of Irish Dance at Landmark Center on March 17. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER



Sister Brigid McDonald joins the weekly peace demonstration on the Lake Street bridge.

‘Sisters of Peace’: McDonald siblings’ vows led to decades of protests against injustice

By Anne Hauth

Sister Brigid McDonald says she is part of a bridge group. Not the kind in which you play cards. Sister Brigid’s group involves the Lake Street Bridge, where she and her cohorts stand every Wednesday evening to protest violence and war. In recent weeks she has been holding a bright yellow “Hands off Venezuela” sign and listening to the honks of passing cars, or what she calls “drive-by tootings.”

The Lake Street Bridge vigil is one of hundreds of anti-war protests that Brigid and her sisters Rita, Kate and Jane McDonald have participated in around the nation since the 1980s. The four McDonalds are all members of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and their life stories are told in *Sisters of Peace*, a new drama that is playing through April 14 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St.

The McDonalds have been subject to personal threats, hundreds of arrests and even a few nights in

jail. But the idea of a play about their lives surprised the sisters, who are now in their 80s and 90s. “Everyone works for peace in their own way,” Brigid said. “We’re really not extraordinary.”

Fellow protesters on the Lake Street Bridge would disagree. They call the sisters heroes. History Theatre artistic director Ron Peluso describes them as “superstars in the peace community.”

Sisters of Peace was written by Doris Baizley and is directed by Barbra Berlovitz. It stars Sue Scott, Peggy O’Connell, Katherine Ferrand and Wendy Lehr as the four McDonalds. The drama follows the sisters from the time the youngest, Jane, entered the convent in 1955. It portrays many of the demonstrations they have been involved in, as well as the disagreements they have had with the Catholic Church and with members of their own family. The play highlights how the sisters have been able to diffuse tension and

‘SISTERS OF PEACE’ ►3



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Lunds & Byerlys released two potential designs for its proposed five-story development on the northeast corner of Grand and Avon streets (at left in the drawings).

Lunds & Byerlys unveils plan for Grand grocery

Market would occupy first floor of five-story apartment building

By JANE MCCLURE

The prospect of a new Lunds & Byerlys supermarket on the northeast corner of Grand Avenue and Avon Street with four stories of apartments above drew more than 250 people to a public meeting on March 18 at Mount Zion Temple.

The reactions from neighbors were mixed. Some were excited about the new housing options and having a grocery store nearby. Others were concerned about traffic, spillover parking and a large building that towers over nearby businesses and homes.

The project is being proposed at a time when Grand Avenue is undergoing many changes, according to Jason Koenig, president of the Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA), which hosted the meeting with the Summit Hill Association (SHA). "We've seen many businesses close, but we've also welcomed a ton of new businesses," Koenig said. The GABA and SHA leadership urged all those present to offer their suggestions and voice their concerns.

The plans call for a 24,000-square-foot supermarket on the first floor and a total of about 69 apartments on the second through fifth floors. The market-rate apartments would range from studios to three-bedroom units. Two levels of underground parking would be provided with approximately 200 spaces.

Lunds & Byerlys' representatives emphasized that the project is not a done deal as they juggle city processes and the

economics of development. However, they said, they will not be seeking any public subsidies.

The project would require a zoning change from community business to traditional neighborhoods, a mixed-use category. It would also require a variance from a zoning overlay district on Grand. The overlay district was adopted in 2006 as a way to keep out larger chain stores. It limits the footprint of new buildings to 25,000 square feet and the above-ground floor space to 75,000 square feet including parking. Building heights are limited to three stories, or to 30 feet for commercial structures and 35 feet for mixed-use ones.

"We want to be in your neighborhood, and we want you to be our customers," said Mitch Avery, Lunds & Byerlys' vice president for real estate. According to him, the corporation's intent is to develop a project that is consistent with Summit Hill's neighborhood plan. "Our vision is your vision," he said.

Avery cautioned that while the planning is in the early stages, Lunds & Byerlys' contract to purchase the properties calls for a short window in which to act.

The project site includes 791 Grand Ave., a century-old building that housed a series of grocery stores for many years, and 799 Grand—two buildings that are owned by the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio. The project would also involve the current site of Brasa restaurant at 777 Grand, a building that Lunds & Byerlys has owned since 2006. Lunds & Byerlys officials said they are currently in talks with Brasa to find a new location for the popular restaurant.

Lunds & Byerlys' CEO Tres Lund said the development would be "much more than a store," citing Lunds & Byerlys' longtime commitment to charities, to

fitting into neighborhoods and to the well-being of its employees. "We'd love nothing more than to work with you on this process," Lund told the gathering.

Two conceptual drawings of the project were presented by Doran Companies and Momentum Architecture Group. One featured an all-brick facade, and the other had a mix of exterior materials. Both had cornices and balconies and upper floors that were stepped back from the property line.

"The beauty of this community is the diversity of its architecture," Lund said. The objective, he added, is to use "timeless" construction materials. "We want to give a great nod to the area's architectural history," he said.

Those in attendance at the meeting had many questions about the project. Parking was a major focus. Eighty spaces would be dedicated to grocery store customers and 25 spaces to employees. The building would also have 1.25 parking spaces per apartment. Any additional parking spaces could be rented out to neighbors without off-street parking, Avery said. He said the intent is for the development to house all of its own parking needs.

It is not yet known how the project would affect parking on Avon, nor are there firm plans for vehicle access into and out of the parking ramp.

This would be Lunds & Byerlys' third store in St. Paul. The others are in Highland Village and downtown. The supermarket chain has built and renovated several stores in recent years and is very experienced at construction management, according to Avery. The developer would have a manager on site throughout the construction project, and there would be extensive neighborhood outreach and communication, he said.

Mendota Hts. finds funds for fire station addition

Capital Fund, lot sales to make up shortfall

The Mendota Heights City Council has figured out a way to come up with nearly \$8.2 million to expand and upgrade its only fire station at 2121 Dodd Road. The city had allocated a maximum of \$7 million for the project, but learned that the cost would be at least \$1.2 million higher after bids were opened. The council agreed on March 19 to use \$400,000 from the city's Capital Fund and a minimum of \$800,000 in proceeds from the sale of three city-owned lots near the Village at Mendota Heights to make up the difference.

The council also opted to keep a 15-year term on capital improvement bonds to pay for the bulk of the project. A 20-year term was being considered to lower the annual tax increase, but City Administrator Mark McNeill said the longer term would result in an increase of around \$783,000 in interest. With the \$7 million bond cap, taxes will now increase by around \$103.76 annually over 15 years on a median-priced home of \$356,000.



Ground is scheduled to be broken next month on an addition that will nearly double the size of the Mendota Heights Fire Station on Dodd Road.

The last of 21 contracts needed for the project is expected to be awarded by early April. The other 20 were approved by the council on March 5.

The 18,000-square-foot station, which was built in 1984, will be expanded to 33,000 square feet. The station operates with 36 firefighters and houses two fire engines, one ladder truck, one tanker, one rescue truck and several support vehicles.

A large addition to the north of the station will be used to expand the apparatus bay and add a mezzanine. There also will be facilities for training, gear washing and equipment decontamina-

tion as well as new administrative offices, a dayroom, dining area and kitchen, dorm rooms, restrooms, laundry and locker room. All heating, air conditioning and communication equipment will be upgraded.

The project also will include garage bays for two HealthEast ambulances and space for a small museum housing the station's original fire truck and uniforms.

Ground will be broken for the project in mid-April, weather permitting. The main addition is expected to open in early 2020, and other facets of the project will be completed by early 2021.

1◀ 'SISTERS OF PEACE'

create peace in contentious situations.

When the drama was in the early stages of development, History Theatre presented a dramatic reading that nearly sold out, according to Peluso. In the audience was former Minneapolis police chief Tony Bouza, who arrested the sisters many times and often sent doughnuts to their holding cells.

Bouza is just one of "a huge network of people in this community who know and love these women and want to see their story told," Peluso said.

Many of the sisters' arrests were outside the former headquarters of Alliant Techsystems in Eden Prairie. Alliant manufactured land mines, and the sisters showed up there every week for several years until the corporation moved out of state.

"We'd protest on the property of weapons makers and get arrested for trespassing," Brigid said. "But we don't feel our trespassing is true to the meaning of the word. Weapons and bombs are trespassing all over the world."

When Alliant moved, the sisters finally felt they had achieved some success. "It's hard to see success in the peace movement," Brigid said. "You wonder if it does any good, but I always say it's still the right thing to do."

The sisters' bravery and dedica-



tion make their story "undeniably interesting," according to Baizley. "They've remained active for so long, yet they haven't given in to any kind of bitterness about the world," she said. "They know they won't end greed and violence, but they've made it their job to stand in opposition. I find that so admirable."

The four sisters were raised in a family of 13 on a dairy farm in Hollywood Township, Minnesota. Many of their fondest memories involved singing and dancing in the kitchen of their childhood home. Singing is part of the sisters' spiritual practice, Baizley said, and their voices blend effortlessly in four-part harmony.

Although the sisters all share a

talent for music, a passion for peace and a keen Irish wit, their personalities are quite different, according to Berlovitz. Each of them has a scene in the play that demonstrates their individuality.

"Those scenes are really lovely and touching, and I think they will really stick with people," Berlovitz said. "The actors portraying the sisters are striving to do them justice in terms of personality, drive and emotional quality."

"The actor who plays Brigid plays me better than I do," said Brigid.

"The playwright, the director and the actors are all marvelous," said Jane. "They're portraying very powerfully and beautifully how the peace movement changes your life,



The McDonald sisters on the farm (from left, Rita, Kate, Jane and Brigid) and more recently (from left) Kate, Jane, Brigid and Rita.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET

and they're presenting it with compassion and reality. I think the audience will get spiritual goosebumps."

The sisters have been generous in allowing their stories to be dramatized, according to Baizley. "They've been able to look at the play like a play, which isn't easy to do when it's your life up there," she said.

Brigid said she would do anything for peace, and she hopes the play will inspire other people to speak out against injustice. "You're never too old or too young to pay attention to issues and speak the truth," she said. "You can do it at 16 or 96. We're on the bridge until there's no more war."

While speaking out for peace is important, Jane and Brigid said,

they emphasized the importance of listening. Libby Roderick's "Low to the Ground" is one of the sisters' favorite songs. Its lyrics, "Stay low to the ground, live close to the earth, don't stray very far from your soul," remind them to listen to other people and to the earth itself.

"These women don't put up with anything but the truth," Baizley said. "They speak directly, and they sing beautifully. They look at other people and they truly listen."

Sisters of Peace is being performed Thursdays through Sundays in the evening, afternoon and morning. Tickets are \$20-\$42 with discounts for seniors and students.

For reservations, call 651-292-4320 or visit historytheatre.com.

1◀ SOCCER STADIUM TRAFFIC

dential streets, traffic congestion on Snelling and University avenues, cars traveling down neighborhood streets to avoid that congestion and the relatively small area that the traffic study considered. The study was centered around the stadium, but did not look at potential traffic impacts farther north and south. District council members said they would have liked to have been more involved in the study and stadium planning in general.

"This has come up really quickly," said Hamline-Midway Coalition community organizer Melissa Cortez. "I think there have been a lot of missed opportunities. It feels like this is just happening to us."

City and team officials said they, too, would like a closer partnership with the neighborhoods and will do better at facilitating that in the future. Sam Fetting, who is overseeing communications for the city as the soccer season approaches, admitted that opportunities for better communication were missed.

Both the *Villager* and *Midway-Como Monitor* neighborhood newspapers have filed a data access request with the city to obtain the full stadium traffic study and the documents that were used to draft it. City officials acknowledged the request, but provided no data until late in the afternoon on March 22.

Minnesota United has been informing ticketholders about purchasing parking spac-

es in advance or using other means to get to games. The stadium has only 400 off-street parking spaces around it. According to Maureen Smith, Minnesota United's senior vice president for finance, the team is selling that parking, but many of the spaces are reserved for team staff and VIPs. Some of the 1,200 parking spaces in Spruce Tree Center and at the HealthEast campus northwest and west of the stadium are also being presold.

The city's advice is plan ahead. "We don't want you to drive by yourself, because it's going to be a miserable experience if you do," said St. Paul Police Commander Kurtis Hallstrom. "If you don't have a parking space reserved, don't drive to the stadium."

The new soccer stadium transportation management plan drew on the older Snelling Midway Master Plan and the stadium's 2016 Alternative Urban Area Review (AUA), according to city planning director Luis Pereira. Involved in the planning were staff from several city departments, the consulting firm Strgar Roscoe Fausch, the Ramsey County Department of Public Works, Metro Transit, the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. The plan also drew on gameday experiences at Xcel Energy Center, TCF Bank Stadium and US Bank Stadium.

City officials are asking the public's help in improving the transportation management

plan by visiting the city's website at tinyurl.com/yyuqko2a. "Having that ongoing public input is really important to us," Pereira said.

The plans are being made not just for soccer fans, but for residents and business people concerned about maintaining access to their properties. Another focus are the businesses and institutions that want to lease their parking lots. The city is already hearing about homeowners wanting to park cars in their yards for a fee, but that is forbidden in neighborhoods around the stadium.

The 2016 AUA raised several red flags about soccer stadium parking, transit and traffic. The Met Council questioned the assumptions used to estimate the percentage of fans who would travel to games by various modes of transit. "Those assumptions appear to be tilted heavily to make the case that few if any roadway improvements will be needed for this massive traffic generator," the Met Council stated in a 2016 letter. "Additional potential capacity on the Green Line does not automatically translate to usage."

City officials responded that their assumptions were partly based on the lack of off-street parking near the stadium. They indicated their belief that traffic, transit and parking can be "effectively managed."

Some streets around the stadium will have limited access on game days. Pascal Street between University and St. Anthony avenues will be open to local traffic only. One-lane

restrictions will be in place on St. Anthony between Pascal and Hamline Avenue and on University between Fry and Pascal streets. Spruce Tree Drive will have restricted access to make it safer for fans arriving by light-rail. The pickup and dropoff site for shuttle buses, taxis and ride-share vehicles will be on St. Anthony west of Pascal.

St. Paul and Metro Transit police will be stationed at intersections around the stadium to control vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The light-rail Green Line and A Line bus are expected to be the workhorses for stadium arrivals and departures, according to David Hanson, Metro Transit's assistant field director for operations. Extra trains and buses will be used to get people to and from the stadium, and Metro Transit will have staff posted at the rail platforms and bus stations to direct fans.

Articulated buses that can carry up to 100 riders were recently added to the A Line fleet. A three-car light-rail train can carry up to 600 riders, and the train platforms can accommodate up to 1,800 waiting passengers.

Metro Transit will be operating shuttle buses between the stadium and the Minnesota State Fairgrounds where about 2,500 parking spaces will be available for soccer fans. Downtown parking ramps will also be promoted as an option. However, the fairgrounds is the only place where tailgating will be allowed on game days.

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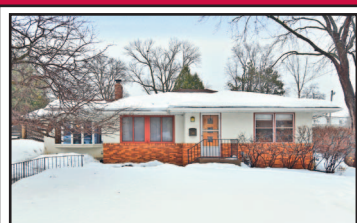
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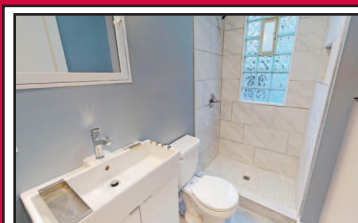
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Federation favors Island Station apartments

BY JANE MCCLURE

The latest developer eyeing the former Island Station site on Randolph Avenue and Shepard Road is heading to City Hall with the support of the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation. Federation board members voted 7-1-2 on March 11 to support a conditional use permit for Stoneleigh Companies. The Illinois-based developer wants to construct a 260-unit market-rate apartment building on the site and is seeking the permit to increase the maximum height to 45 feet.

The Minneapolis architectural firm BKV Group is designing the building and presented the plans on March 11. Stoneleigh, which has a purchase agreement for the property, did not return calls for comment.

The 10-acre site at 380 Randolph Ave. overlooks the Mississippi River and is zoned for Traditional Neighborhoods 2, which only allows building heights of up to 35 feet.

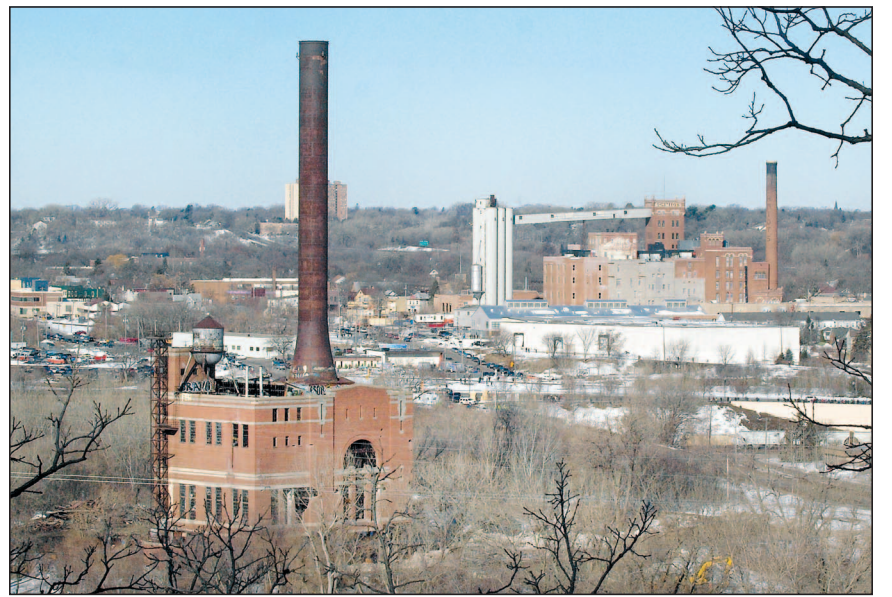
"This is an interesting site, but it has a number of challenges," said Jeremiah Smith, senior architect with BKV Group.

The property is located in the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area, which requires a minimum 100-foot setback from the river. It is also adjacent to industrial and natural areas.

"It's going to be a journey to make something happen here," said BKV Group partner Michael Krych.

Another potential hurdle is that the foundation of the old Island Station power plant remains on the property. Parking also cannot be provided underground.

Early plans for the site show a C-shaped building, with a private courtyard atop a 150-space parking ramp and surface parking on two sides of



The former Island Station power plant and its 289-foot smokestack just moments before being leveled in March 2014. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

the building. Smith said the housing will appeal to people who bike to work, with bicycle parking and repair spaces included.

The project will also include trails to the river and a small marina as called for in the city's Great River Passage plan. Smith said the goal is to work with the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation to also develop a small park on the property. Canoe and kayak access to the river is being considered, but that will require negotiations with adjacent property owner Xcel Energy.

Federation board president Becky Yust said that it has long been a dream of the neighborhood to have a canoe or kayak launch on the Mississippi. "We're close to the river, but we have no place to do that," she said.

Most of the debate on March 11 centered on the need for affordable housing in the neighborhood. Only market-rate

apartments are currently being proposed for the project, ranging from micro-studios to two-bedroom units.

Federation board members noted that the West End now has some of the highest rental rates in the city. Board member Meghan Redmond said it is "ridiculous" to develop apartments with high rents and price people out.

St. Paul's draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan identifies Island Station as one of 30 "opportunity sites," where larger-scale redevelopment is encouraged.

The St. Paul Gas & Light Company commissioned construction of the power plant in 1921. It began operating in 1926, but seldom at full capacity and was decommissioned in 1975.

Several developers looked at reusing the plant, but its deteriorated condition and ongoing issues with trespassers prompted the demolition of the plant and its 289-foot smokestack in 2014.

St. Paul considers charitable gambling changes

Goal is to direct more proceeds to minority, low-income children

BY JANE MCCLURE

Proposed changes in how St. Paul allocates charitable gambling proceeds to nonprofit groups that provide youth services are on hold. The City Council postponed voting on the changes on March 13 to allow for more public comments.

One key change would require organizations in the city's 10 Percent Club to prove they primarily serve youths from neighborhoods with low-income and high minority populations. Another change would allow groups to receive up to \$15,000 a year, almost double the current \$8,000 cap, from the approximately \$125,000 that is raised annually for that purpose from charitable gambling.

For many years, St. Paul has required the holders of charitable gambling licenses to give 10 percent of their monthly net proceeds to youth programs. The money can be given to the city's Youth Program Fund or directly to eligible members of the 10 Percent Club. Groups apply to be on the club's list, which the City Council approves annually.

The proposed changes, which are being sought by council members Rebecca Noecker and Jane Prince, came out of a study conducted by St. Paul Youth Services' YouthPower program. However, many youth service organizations and

holders of charitable gambling licenses said they were not able to review the proposed changes before they were introduced and were not aware of a March 6 public hearing on the subject.

Council member Chris Tolbert pushed for the layover. While he agreed with the effort to direct more funds to groups that serve youths of color and low incomes, Tolbert said the lack of notice was troubling. "Those groups need to be part of the conversation," he said.

City staff planned to meet with charitable gambling license holders and members of the 10 Percent Club before the proposed changes return to the council on April 17. An additional public hearing was not planned.

Noecker said changing how the funds are allocated will help youths of color and high need, and help the city achieve its goals of racial equity. She said the allocations are not doing that now.

The YouthPower study indicated that access to youth programs is negatively affected by cost, cultural and language barriers, lack of transportation, and availability of activities tailored to the needs of youths of color and low-income families.

The pending changes call for more extensive reporting on charitable gambling proceeds and the elimination of an advisory board that oversees the funds. Instead, employees from the city's Parks and Recreation and Safety and Inspections departments would fill that role.

In the early 1990s, the city opened the 10 Percent Club to non-sports groups, resulting in more than 70 members at

one point. As nonprofits have shut down and charitable gambling dollars have dwindled, some of those groups have dropped out.

The current list has 40 members, including 25 sports groups or booster clubs and eight groups that support Scouting. The proposed changes would allow all groups currently on the list to be grandfathered in for one year. Those deemed to not serve the target populations would then lose their eligibility.

Zach Ryan, who oversees four gambling licenses for Serving Our Troops, which raises funds to provide meals and support for military families, said that while he is sympathetic to helping low-income and minority youths, leaving out other groups will have an adverse impact. He said neighborhood goodwill is earned when money can be given to a local organization. For example, he said proceeds from charitable gambling at Mancini's Char House support youth programs at the nearby Palace Recreation Center.

Groups who spoke to the City Council on March 6 said the funds they receive as members of the 10 Percent Club help them offer more activities to young people.

Representatives of the Boy Scout troop at St. Pascal's Catholic Church and the Shakespeare in St. Anthony Park youth theater program said they would lose significant portions of their annual budgets if the changes were adopted. They said the city needs to do more to encourage groups to apply for charitable gambling funds, not shut groups out.

St. Paul declares emergency as it braces for major spring flooding

Streets, parks closed as rapid snowmelt keeps Mississippi River rising

By Jane McClure

Winter's whiteout has turned into the spring blues. The St. Paul City Council approved an emergency declaration on March 20 in anticipation of the Mississippi River reaching major flood stage of more than 17 feet this week.

"With a historic snowfall this winter, combined with the rapid snowmelt, we're anticipating significant spring flooding," Mayor Melvin Carter said in a statement. "This action ensures we're prepared to respond and keep our city safe."

The city closed Water Street/Lilydale Road in mid-March due to water pooling on the street. Lilydale, Crosby Farm and Hidden Falls parks were closed on March 20. Steps were also being taken to move vehicles from the city's impound lot on Barge Channel Road to parking lots at Maplewood Mall.

The emergency declaration gives newly appointed St. Paul Emergency Management director Rick Schute authority to seek and manage resources from Ramsey County, the state and federal government. Schute outlined flood preparations for City Council members on March 20. The city's Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Police departments are all working with Emergency Management on flood preparations.

"This helps us take the necessary measures to protect our city," Schute said. Council members agreed with him that the situation could become serious.

More than 3 feet of snow fell in the Twin Cities this winter, so major flooding was expected. Schute said the flooding is likely to be similar to those caused by heavy rains in 2014 when the Mississippi crested at more than 20 feet. That year the city had to close streets and parks and cancel or relocate many activities. That led to the Taste of Minnesota moving to Waconia.

Warm temperatures and spring rains have sped up this year's snowmelt and the chance of flooding. Schute said floodwaters are expected to climb by about a foot each day until the high water mark is reached.

As of 7 a.m. on March 25, the Mississippi

River was measured at 16.9 feet. Minor flood stage is at 14 feet, at which point Lilydale Park starts to become submerged. Moderate flood stage is at 15 feet, and major flood stage at 17 feet. At 17.5 feet, Harriet Island will begin to become submerged.

At 18 feet, Shepard and Warner roads may become impassable. The city closed those two roads and several others on March 24. One major concern for city officials is the protection of infrastructure in Lowertown, so motorists will encounter street closings there.

City officials are already working to help businesses on both sides of the river maintain access while handling flood preparations.

Even when the water recedes, which could take several days, parks and trails will likely remain closed for cleanup. Residents should check the city's website before visiting river-front parks, including Crosby Farm, Hidden Falls, Lilydale, Harriet Island, and the Upper and Lower Landings.

Schute said there is a 95 percent chance that St. Paul will hit major flood stage of 17 feet and a 50 percent chance that it could hit 22 feet. That would put it among the top five floods of all time. The city's most devastating flood was in 1965 when the Mississippi crested at 26.4 feet and accelerated the removal of homes and businesses close to the river.

One bright spot with the snowmelt is that as of noon on March 21, St. Paul lifted its one-sided parking ban on residential streets. The ban went into effect on March 6 due to the narrowing of streets and a lack of space to put snow. The ban was supposed to stay in place until April 1, but city officials had indicated it could be lifted if conditions allowed it.

"The one-side parking ban was an unusual but necessary step to ensure our streets were safe and accessible this winter," said Public Works director Kathy Lantry in a statement. "We understand this was an inconvenience for residents, businesses and visitors these past two and a half weeks. We greatly appreciate everyone's cooperation and compliance with the parking rules."

The last time St. Paul implemented one-sided parking was also in 2014.

St. Paul provides detailed flood forecasts, street closings, emergency preparedness information and a webcam that shows different areas along the Mississippi River at stpaul.gov/departments/emergency-management/flood-preparations. City officials are asking the public to stay away from flooded areas.



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CDH expansion plan features new entrance, gathering space

Efforts to improve security, energy use also are underway

By JANE MCCLURE

A new Activity Center entrance and gathering space, better access to the Joe Mauer Fieldhouse and several mechanical system improvements are on the drawing board at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. The Highland District Council's Community Development Committee agreed on March 19 to send city officials a letter of support for the project.

School officials are seeking up to \$8 million in conduit revenue bonds for the work. No variances or zoning changes are needed, only city site plan review and building permits. The financing request will go to the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority board.

Paul Solomon and Lisa Williams of the CDH facilities staff presented the plans to the HDC committee. Some work started at the school in 2018 and will continue this year with improvements to ventilation, heating and cooling, security, technology and other building systems. The high school still uses a heating system from 1928, the year the oldest part of the school was built after moving to



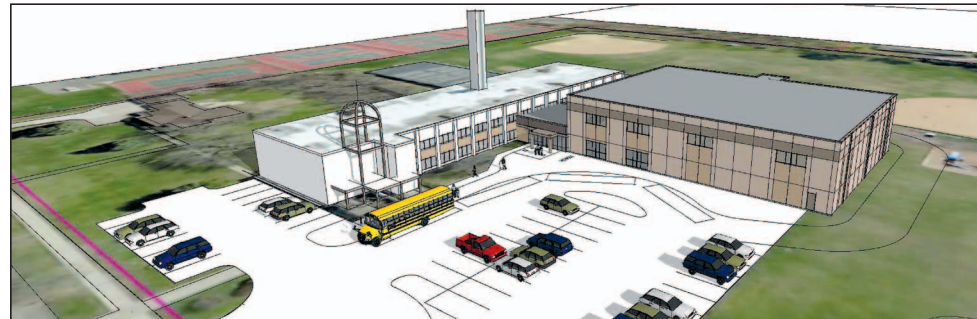
A drawing of the proposed gathering space inside a new Activity Center entrance at Cretin-Derham Hall.

Highland Park from downtown St. Paul.

The most visible change will involve renovating the Activity Center entrance facing Albert and adding a gathering space with seating areas, a fireplace, piano and more. Solomon said the change will improve the connection between the entrance and the fieldhouse, which is named for CDH graduate and former Twins star Joe Mauer.

Solomon said the renovations are intended to improve campus safety and security, decrease the school's energy use and carbon footprint, and create a learning environment that meets current and future educational needs. Solomon said another key focus is to bring the entire school in compliance with current building codes, while maintaining its historic look.

For example, only half of the school has fire sprinklers now. "We'll have sprinklers installed in the entire school," he said. Fire alarms will also be upgraded.



A rendering of the 21,000-square-foot addition (shown in color at right) that would house a new lunchroom, gym and classrooms at Urban Academy, 1668 Montreal Ave.

HDC committee supports two-story addition for Urban Academy campus

By JANE MCCLURE

Urban Academy Charter School won the support of the Highland District Council (HDC) Community Development Committee on March 19 to construct a two-story addition to the building it leases at 1668 Montreal Ave. from the Lumen Christi Catholic Community.

"We're full," said Urban Academy superintendent Mongsher Ly. The K-6 charter school moved in 2015 from downtown St. Paul to the larger building in Highland Park that originally housed St. Gregory's school and church. The charter school currently enrolls almost 300 students and would like to eventually expand to 500.

The school building now has more than 24,000 square feet of space and sits on almost 9 acres of land. A 21,000-square-foot addition on the west end of the building would feature a new cafeteria, gym and kitchen on the first floor, and classrooms on the second floor. The existing gym and cafeteria would be converted to classrooms.

Urban Academy hopes to add seventh and eighth grades in the future. The addition initially will be built as a shell and then completed later. It is hoped that work can get underway this summer and wrap up in a few months.

"We're trying to be sensitive to the surrounding community as we plan this expansion," said Lumen Christi parish administrator Ryan Raycamp, who is working with the charter school on its expansion plans. "We're trying to take as little green space as possible."

The addition will not take away space from the existing ballfields on the school property. "Those fields get a lot of use," Raycamp said.

Urban Academy has a 15-year lease with Lumen Christi. "They've been a good tenant and we'd like to keep them in the community," Raycamp said.

The charter school started serving students in grades K-3 in 2003 and slowly expanded to K-6. It was originally sponsored by Hamline University and is now sponsored by Novation Education Opportunities. State reports show that the academy has a very diverse student body and a high percentage of students who are English language learners.

The school property is zoned residential, so the academy operates there under a conditional use permit. At this point, it is believed the expansion only needs city site plan review and building permits. No one attended the committee meeting to oppose the expansion.

St. Gregory's was founded in 1951. For a time, parishioners worshipped in a tent with a wooden floor. The current building was erected in 1952. In 1979, St. Gregory's merged with St. Therese and St. Leo, and the schoolchildren were transferred to Highland Catholic School. In 2005, the three merged parishes were renamed Lumen Christi.

Game of kings: Local club levels the field for all comers

Chess Enthusiasts create friendly clime for players of all ages to compete

By ANNE MURPHY

On every Monday evening there is a meeting of the minds at a Macalester-Groveland coffeehouse. Members of the Highland Chess Enthusiasts come to Coffee Bene at 53 S. Cleveland Ave. to play a game they love with others who feel the same way. They set up their chessboards at 5 p.m. and play until the shop closes at 8 p.m.

The group has over 70 members, although only a fraction of that number meet each week to compete. There are boys and girls and men and women from childhood to retirement age. They vary greatly in skill, but all share a love of competing in a friendly environment.

Highland Chess Enthusiasts was founded by Highland resident Anna Brailovsky. On a trip to New York City a little over a year ago, she took her son, Addison, 12, to the Chess Forum near Washington Square Park where pickup games of chess are customary. She returned to St. Paul determined to start a neighborhood chess group.

"The Forum is open from 10 a.m. till midnight everyday and people play all day long," Brailovsky said. "Addison said he wished there was a place for friendly chess play close to home." So Brailovsky went to work securing a location and spreading the word through Facebook and the social media site Meetup.

Addison had participated in formal chess matches and tournaments, but he also enjoyed the friendly, relaxed play he experienced in New York. "At Coffee Bene, you can find someone who you're even with and who enjoys playing, and that makes it more fun,"



Gavin Leuthold, 9, and Everest Anderson, 8, prepare for battle at a meeting of the Highland Chess Enthusiasts at Coffee Bene.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

he said.

Ed Dieter of Highland Park, who serves as Addison's chess coach, calls the Enthusiasts a welcome addition to the chess scene in St. Paul. There used to be many opportunities for friendly competition in the city beyond the more formal matches and tournaments, he said.

Dieter, 66, has enjoyed chess since childhood. He played competitively in the 1970s and earned the rank of expert, just below master. He recalled playing friendly games at a chess club on East Seventh Street near the original 3M headquarters. "A lot of the people from 3M would stroll over to play," he said. "There was also a club at Zion Lutheran Church in Frogtown. There was a full-time chess club on Marshall Avenue, where Izzy's is now, in maybe '75 and '76. And for a number of years, the Chess Castle was above the corner of Snelling and University avenues before it moved to Northeast Minneapolis.

"Once one has achieved a bit of skill at chess, opponents become more difficult to find," Dieter said. "To improve, it's important to play against players of similar strength or slightly stronger. But tournament play is daunting and, frankly, not especially friendly. Casual club chess offers that opportunity in a friendly atmosphere. It also allows more conversation of what each player was thinking and what went right or wrong."

Kevin Leuthold of Merriam Park and his son Gavin, 9, are Chess Enthusiasts. "We like it because it's a friendly group and a low-pressure way to play chess," Leuthold said. "We also like that there are players of different ages and abilities, from beginner to expert, so each of us can usually find someone to play close to our level.

"One other thing that's great about the Chess Enthusiasts is that it gives children and adults a chance to share their interest in chess," Leuthold said. "I had a chance to be a

part of a similar group of chess players when I was a kid, and being able to interact with adults on equal terms was something I always remembered. It's a great way to build a sense of community."

Charles Severson, 50, another member of the group, has been playing chess since junior high. He had been playing chess online as an alternative to formal matches when he learned about the Chess Enthusiasts. "At Coffee Bene," he said, "you can joke and have fun and learn the game. You can ask someone why he or she made this move or that. And some of the kids are incredibly good.

"I just looked at the website where I play chess and it states that since 2010 I've played over 10,000 games," Severson said. "But live chess is my favorite. There's something about watching your opponents' facial expressions, watching them think, watching them struggle when they're behind. (At Coffee Bene) we all start the game with a hearty handshake and finish the game the same way. It makes that human connection. I can log on and play as much online chess as I have time for, but I'd much rather drive 15 minutes in the snow to play one or two games with a person sitting in front of me."

"A venue like Coffee Bene where players of different strengths and generations can compete and observe each other's games offers a more complete experience of chess," Dieter said. "Chess teaches with nearly immediate feedback the consequences of one's actions, the importance of controlling your emotions, a reliance on yourself when everything can be seen, and the courage to act on what you see. "I never stop learning at the chessboard, and the chessboard never stops informing my life."

Anyone interested in joining the Chess Enthusiasts may do so by showing up at Coffee Bene on a Monday evening.

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Dr. Schulte comes to us from Eagan, where he was in private practice. He's a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and holds a Master's of Public Health degree from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. He earned his bachelor's degree at St. John's University.

He lives nearby with wife Dr. Meredith Meador-Schulte, also a dentist, and son Gus. Dr. Schulte enjoys woodworking in his shop and following the local sports teams in his spare time.

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Viewpoint

Fall comes before pride of humanity

BY JAMES MCKENZIE

I am writing to thank the three anonymous people who got me safely off the black ice where I'd fallen and brought me home on the morning of March 17. (Yes, St. Patrick's Day, but I was on nothing more than coffee.)

A thin layer of snow on the sidewalk had obscured the ice where I fell near Snelling and Lincoln avenues. My quad tendon ruptured, and after I'd slid and dragged myself to bare concrete, I heard a young voice above me ask if I needed help. She and a clerk from the nearby Sherwin-Williams store got me carefully to my feet.

When I said I needed to phone my wife, the young woman, a freshman at Central High School, offered me a ride home, gesturing past the mounds of snow where her mother was patiently waiting in their car. They were on their way to a farm where the student keeps a retired thoroughbred. Once they got me home, mother and daughter didn't leave the curb till I'd slowly limp-shuffled up the walk and was safely in the door.

I think the student's name was Rory, but really this is a story of the kindness of strangers—a widely available, easily rendered phenomenon that is nonetheless important to recognize. A very large number of people stand ready to help in such fashion—even for long periods of time, as I discovered during the great flood and fire of Grand Forks, North Dakota, in 1997.

I tested this notion out several weeks before my fall at a wonderful Friday Forum conducted by the St. Paul Public Schools' Equity and Culture Program, a public conversation focusing on cultural, racial and linguistic issues. The program is offered monthly, with each one focusing on a different population. January was white perspectives month, and a lucky mistake made me one of 10 panelists for that event.

I've been to three Equity and Culture Programs now (African-American and Somali perspectives being the other two), and though the great variety of panelists made each one memorable, uplifting and challenging, it was the high school students on the panel who shined the brightest with their fresh, from-the-front-lines perspectives.

"Raise your hands if you've ever felt joyful working with others to push a stranger's car out of snow and ice," I asked at one point during my panel. Almost every hand, young and old, white, brown, black, went in the air. All of us yearn for the meaningful pleasure of collective activity in the assistance of the visible common good, whether it is in sandbag lines, blizzard conditions or helping an obviously injured person off a cold, icy sidewalk.

In this dark, dangerous era of well-funded, weaponized speech masking as news, let's cultivate the joy of connecting with strangers. There is much more that binds us than divides us. Finding ways to do this every day taps a deep, often unrecognized longing that we all share.

The St. Paul school district's Center for Equity and Culture will conduct two more Friday Forums this year—on May 3 on the Biracial and Multiracial Perspective and on May 17 on the perspective of the Karen people from Myanmar (Burma), among the most recent and least known refugee populations in the Twin Cities, resettling here after many years in Thai camps.

The free forums run from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Washington Technology Magnet School, 1495 Rice St. A light meal is provided.

James McKenzie is a writer from Macalester-Groveland and an occasional contributor to the Villager newspaper.



Inbox

Prayers for a veterinarian

Usually when we receive a mailing from a business, it contains an advertisement, announcement or bill. What's rare is to receive a letter written as though we are friends or family.

Recently, we got a letter from Dr. Mark Goddell, our veterinarian at Fort Road Animal Clinic. We've brought our pets to Dr. Goddell at Fort Road for the 12 years we've lived in the area. He's one of the most experienced, caring and trusted professionals I've known. The letter informed us of wonderful changes in his personal life and plans for the clinic. It also shared the very sad news of the illness he faces. It asked for nothing but our prayers.

I was incredibly touched by this kindness. Our relationship with the clinic is pretty typical: a few visits a year for checkups and acute illnesses, prescription renewals and referrals. We are one among thousands in Dr. Goddell's client database. The letter, however, left me feeling like a member of his community—a community he provides care for and a community he now reaches out to. In this day and age of increasing divisions and decreasing trust that can leave us feeling isolated, Dr. Goddell's incredible letter of community is evidence of how we can come together.

Let's all hold Dr. Goddell in our prayers. He's someone who, with his decades of care for animals, expansion of emergency veterinary care and investment in the Highland, West Seventh and wider St. Paul area, has made a real difference in our community.

Susan Walker
Highland Park

Pay attention to district councils

I wrote a letter to the editor ("After tragedy comes safety push," *Villager* Inbox, December 5, 2018) about how a small, activist group called Sustain Ward 3 rushed to judgment regarding a fatal bus-bicycle accident on May 9, 2018, at Summit and Snelling avenues. The group used the incident to push for better bike lanes on Summit. While much media attention and a public meeting at Macalester College followed, little attention was given to the report in the May 26 St. Paul *Pioneer Press*. According to St. Paul Police spokesman Steve Linders, two witnesses said the bus driver had the right of way and the bicyclist had gone through a red light.

At this point, the issue should have been laid to rest. However, Macalester-Groveland District Council president Mike Sonn picked my letter to the editor out of the *Villager* and imported it into his Twitter feed. While I was being castigated on Twitter, Mr. Sonn was asked by St. Paul Planning Commissioner Bill Lindeke, "Is that a fact (that the bus driver had the right of way)?"

Mr. Sonn answered, "It isn't a fact, but poor police work and even poorer reporting."

Mr. Sonn did not indicate how he knew that. But why is the Macalester-Groveland District Council president telling a member of the Planning Commission that the St. Paul police are guilty of poor work and that the *Pioneer Press* is guilty of even poorer reporting?

As an advocate of cycling with its many health and environmental benefits, Mr. Sonn should be applauded, but to purposely co-opt the truth and misinform a member of the Planning Commission to advance his political agenda is beneath a district council president. Mr. Lindeke should be able to rely on district councils to keep him informed of citizens' views, business issues and local concerns. Tainted testimony does not help him make well-informed decisions.

I implore the residents of Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland and Union Park to pay more attention to their respective district councils and to who sits on their boards of directors. Attend a district council meeting. See who is making the decisions that affect you and your neighbors.

Several district councils will be holding board elections at annual meetings this spring—the Highland District Council on April 10 and the Macalester-Groveland Community Council on April 11. The St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council listen to the district councils when making decisions that affect all of us and our money.

Jim Ginther
Highland Park

Right-of-way isn't always right way

Thank you for printing Judith Erdmann's letter ("Pedestrians, be wary," *Villager* Inbox, February 13). Her piece addresses concerns that I have with pedestrian safety.

I'm a lifelong resident of St. Paul, and have seen many changes in my 70-plus years. I'm from the old school and practiced from an early age to look twice before crossing the street. I never have and still do not expect nor want cars to stop for me because I'm in a crosswalk. If there is a stop sign or a stop-and-go light, then of course I expect it. Otherwise, I want them to pass so I can get across at my own pace.

I feel we are raising a whole new generation of pedestrians who feel they bear no responsibility for watching out for oncoming traffic before crossing the street. We now have a full-time staff person at the city with a budget to help make this possible. People feel they can step off the curb into an intersection at any time and the driver now bears full responsibility for stopping while the pedestrians leisurely cross the street. We've spent hundreds of dollars on staff, striping, signs, fancy lighting, etc., all to make this possible.

8◀ INBOX

I'm not opposed to pedestrian safety, but there are many things I don't like about these rules and laws. The situation that irks me the most is when I can't see you at night. If people are wearing dark clothing, all I see are shadows.

I hesitate to bring this issue of visibility up, especially to the city because I can imagine what the solution would be. No doubt it would include spending more money and resources. Or we could just go back to common sense and have people be cautious as they cross the street.

Barry Riesch
St. Anthony Park

Revitalizing a Grand corner

Given the need for capital infusion on Grand Avenue, my enthusiasm for the Lunds & Byerlys development is high (*Villager*, March 13). Grand Avenue seems tired right now. Vision and leadership are required if our community is to compete economically.

Whatever takes place on Grand, it should complement our community and enhance its aesthetic and economic well-being. This means a close look at the negative influences of commercial rents on Grand and the number of absentee landlords. Direct ownership is closely related to stewardship.

Whatever housing is planned, priority should be given to home ownership, meaning the construction of condos, not apartments. In keeping with the historical essence of the community, no building should be over three stories high.

Michael Hartoonian
Summit Hill

Why the public subsidy at Ford?

We're seeing another attempt by a wealthy developer to get the city and state to provide government funds to help it make even more money. The Ford site sits like an enormous diamond in the rough waiting to be cut and polished. This 122-acre urban site has been called one of the most desirable in the country. Now we're hearing mewls and whines from Ryan that it needs \$107 million in subsidies to do the job.

Well, that's predictable, isn't it? What's just as predictable is some city and state officials are ready to roll over and give in to Ryan's demands. Some have said it was a forgone conclusion that Ryan would get help in the form of tax increment financing (TIF). Thankfully, others are pushing back.

If Ryan Companies can't do this very desirable development without government help, please find another developer. Ryan wants to socialize the risk of developing the Ford site while privatizing all the profit. Enough! No subsidies, no tax breaks, no TIF unless Ryan opens its books and agrees to share their profits with taxpayers.

Bob Brereton
Macalester-Groveland

Voting according to policy, not party

I'm glad to see the writer of the letter, "Corruption in a one-party town" (*Villager* Inbox, March 13) is starting to come to his senses. He would never vote Republican, yet he did. He would much rather have a one-party town run by the DFL, though he hates how corrupt it has become. He hopes never to vote Republican again, but says his vote

went to a Republican who cared about his vote and seemed to have reasonable policies and ideas.

Perhaps more people should vote based on reason, sound policy and sound management rather than just the letters "DFL." What is so bad about a two-or-more-party town? It is the two-plus-party system that keeps the balance, and St. Paul has lost that balance because of people whose closed minds have prevented them from voting based on intelligent thought.

Jim Sampair Jr.
Macalester-Groveland

Grass if legal may not be any greener

The world's attempts to control addictive drugs have included substituting heroin for opium and morphine for heroin. Now comes the legalization of marijuana for recreational use. Over the last 30 years, psychiatrists and epidemiologists have studied the problems that result from marijuana use in its many forms. Their research reveals that it quite often leads to other more dangerous drugs, including cocaine, opioids, methamphetamine and heroin. A mountain of evidence shows that teenagers who regularly smoke marijuana are three times more likely to develop social anxiety disorders, depression and episodes of paranoia.

Ten states have legalized the recreational use of marijuana. Before we take the plunge, let's see how they fare.

Tom Nordeen
Summit-University

For nonpartisan redistricting

Gerrymandering is an anti-democratic process whereby politicians draw maps of congressional or legislative districts that favor the political party in power. Then it is easier for that party to win the next election. This has been a big problem in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, North Carolina, Texas and other states. It could be a problem in Minnesota if existing procedures stay in place.

In the Legislature now is a bill, House File 1605/Senate File 2575, that would create a commission made up of qualified, fair-minded citizens and retired judges. It would have strict rules to follow to assure that fair district maps are drawn after the 2020 census. The maps would be drawn to avoid any partisan advantage for any political party. The Legislature and governor would then need to approve this plan.

If you favor fair electoral maps in Minnesota, contact your state representative, senator and the governor and tell them you favor the language of HF 1605 and SF 2575.

Gary Fifield
Macalester-Groveland

Do write, won't you?

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

VILLAGER

Volume 67, Number 3

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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The Villager serves the Highland Park, Lexington-Hamline, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Summit Hill, Summit-University and West 7th neighborhoods of St. Paul, the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods of Minneapolis, Lilydale, Mendota and Mendota Heights.

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CIRCULATION

The Villager is published every two weeks by Villager Communications Inc. The paper has a press run of 60,000, including 50,000 copies delivered to households and businesses and another 10,000 copies distributed via newsstands. Mail subscriptions are available at \$38 per year for those living outside the area.

Next Issue: April 10

Visit myvillager.com for the 2019 calendar and publication deadlines.

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District Council News

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Annual meeting—The Highland District Council will hold its annual meeting and board elections from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, at Highland Park Middle School, 975 S. Snelling Ave. Board members will be elected to all 12 grids. Those in odd-numbered grids will serve a two-year term, while those in even-numbered grids will serve a one-year term. A meeting for prospective board members will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 1, at the Highland Cafe & Bakery, 2012 Ford Pkwy. For more information, see the HDC website.

Ford site amendments—A public hearing on proposed amendments to the Ford Site Zoning and Public Realm Master Plan will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, at City Hall. Written comments may be mailed to the St. Paul City Council, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd., #310, St. Paul, MN 55102, or emailed to contact-council@ci.stpaul.mn.us. Visit tinyurl.com/ly59jhn.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Annual meeting—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will hold its annual meeting and board elections from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11, in the Smail Gallery at Macalester College. Elections will be held for all odd-numbered grids and two at-large seats. For information on running for the board, email mgcc@macgrove.org.

Mac-Grove mini-grants—The community council is hoping to award two to four mini-grants this year to increase involvement in activities that benefit the neighborhood. Applications are due by April 29. Visit macgrove.org/minigrants.

Ward 4 renter summit—Ward 4 City Council member Mitra Jalali Nelson and five district councils will hold a free renter voice summit from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, April 18, in the Anderson Center at Hamline University, 774 N. Snelling Ave. The summit will provide renters with information on accessing resources and understanding their rights. Email ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us for information.

Upcoming meeting—Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, Groveland Rec Center.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Union Park micro-grants—Residents and small groups of neighbors in Union Park are invited to apply for grants of \$200-\$600 to complete improvement projects in the neighborhood. The application deadline is April 30. Visit unionparkdc.org/micro-grant.

Renter voice summit—The St. Paul Ward 4 City Council office is partnering with local district councils to help renters get engaged, learn more about their rights and make an impact in the city during a renter summit from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, April 18, in Room 111 of the Anderson Center at Hamline University, 774 N. Snelling Ave.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.; and Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 8, Room 127, 1821 University Ave.

West 7th

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Annual meeting—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation will hold its annual meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at Summit Brewing Company, 910 Montreal Circle. The agenda will include board elections, updates on federation activities, and a vote on bylaw amendments. More information about board candidates is available on the federation's website.

Board update—At its meeting on March 11, the Fort Road Federation's board of directors heard presentations about the 2020 Census, St. Paul's Stop for Me campaign and the city's Blend Awards. The board also heard a presentation about proposed apartments for the old Island Station site on Randolph Avenue. The developer wants to increase the maximum height of the apartment building from 35 to 45 feet. The board voted to support the request after discussion about public access to the river and housing affordability in the neighborhood.

Community Garden Plots—Plots at the community garden on Jefferson Avenue and Victoria Street are still available to residents of the West Seventh neighborhood. To sign up, call the office or email Emily@fortroadfederation.org.

News Briefs

Hearings set on Ford site plan changes

The St. Paul City Council will hold two public hearings beginning at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, on Ryan Companies' plans for Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant in Highland Park. Ryan is Ford's chosen master developer for the property. One hearing will address Ryan's proposed amendments to the city's master plan for the 122-acre site. The other will address proposed zoning, street configuration and other technical changes to the master plan.

Most of Ryan Companies' proposed changes to the master plan were recommended for approval by the Planning Commission earlier this month. However, there were differences on the amount of commercial parking, on the configuration of streets and on Ryan's request to allow up to 35 single-family homes to be built along Mississippi River Boulevard. The city's master plan called for buildings of two to six units there.

The City Council will vote on the zoning amendments on April 10 at the earliest, though it may vote on the other master plan amendments immediately following the hearing on April 3. A separate hearing will be held on Ryan's request for \$107 million in public subsidies to aid in the development, though no date has been set for that hearing.

\$120,000 in unpaid trash bills reviewed

St. Paul property owners who have not paid their trash bills under the city's new organized trash collection system will be referred to legislative hearings. The City Council on March 20 authorized the legislative hearing process in an attempt to collect roughly \$120,000 that is owed the city for trash bills during the last three months of 2018.

City Council members were not told how many bills are outstanding. However, the legislative hearings are scheduled to begin on April 11 and continue well into May. The final decisions are in the hands of the council. The first garbage bill hearings before the council are planned for May 22.

Most of the unpaid bills range from \$55-\$200, but smaller late fees are also pending. Property owners can go through the hearing process, pay their bills if directed to do so or have the fees assessed on their property taxes.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.

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Home Improvement

Keeping an open mind

Mpls. main-level renovation featured in spring showcase

BY DAVE PAGE

When Matt Brusven and fiancée Tracy Moe finally “pulled the trigger” on remodeling their home at 5356 26th Ave. S. in Minneapolis, they did something some might think unthinkable. “We took two bathrooms and turned them into one,” Brusven said.

The result, according to Tammy Vetter of Changing Images Design, is a “larger, functional bathroom where before there were two small, not-so-functional bathrooms.”

Anyone thinking about tearing down walls to make rooms more expansive might learn from Brusven and Moe, whose home is one of 59 properties on the Parade of Homes 2019 Spring Remodelers Showcase that will run from noon-6 p.m. Friday through Sunday, March 29-31.

Brusven bought the two-bedroom 1956 rambler on a corner lot in the Nokomis East neighborhood in November 2012. “Right away I knew I wanted to open everything up,” he said.

A wall and stairwell separated the living room from the kitchen. Brusven planned one day to tear down the wall and create a large open space for cooking, conversing and entertaining.

After moving in about four years ago, Moe said she briefly “flirted with the idea” of buying a place more in line with the couple’s tastes, but the location of the home was just too good. Brusven works at the nearby Veterans Administration Center and appreciates the fact he can easily take his dog for a walk around Lake Nokomis.

Conversations with Vetter about what remodeling the rambler might entail began in 2015. The couple got the financing secured and cobbled together preliminary designs last spring with Moe’s brother, architect Jarrett Moe.

Last summer, Brusven and Moe started the demolition themselves to save money. “I encourage that,” Vetter said, “since I prefer to put things back together.”

Vetter began working on the home last September. Her biggest challenge was removing the wall



Matt Brusven and Tracy Moe show off their open-concept kitchen, dining and living room, which will be on view during the Spring Remodelers Showcase on March 29-31. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

between the living room and kitchen. A 20-foot laminated beam was hoisted into the attic crawl space to support the new open space. The extra weight on the joists holding the beam required Vetter and her crew to shore up a couple of spots in the basement.

“It was some work,” Vetter said, but the space now features an uninterrupted ceiling.

While Vetter’s crew was in the attic, they added insulation to improve energy efficiency and dampen airport noise.

Changing the location of the stairway to the basement would have added significantly to the cost of the project. To make it less

disruptive to sight lines, Vetter installed a steel-and-cable railing system, which is a lot more open than a pony wall. “Guests will look right through it,” Vetter said.

The kitchen floor was replaced and now matches the dark wood flooring in the living room. A massive island features a large stainless steel sink and white quartz countertop along with room for four stools. The dishwasher in the island is hidden by a door that matches the rest of the cabinets under the island.

The other kitchen countertops are gray quartz to complement the walls. A new oven with sleek range hood and large refrigerator round out the appliances.

Wood from a Moe family barn now surrounds the fireplace, which dominates one end of the living room and features a new gas insert. Barnwood was also used to make shelves in the kitchen. Brusven and Moe sanded the thick planks themselves and stained them a trendy color called Worn Navy.

The half bath off the master bedroom and the home’s main bathroom were then combined, resulting in a roomy bathroom with a double sink.

Vetter also roughed in bathroom plumbing in the basement, which Brusven and Moe plan to finish in

SHOWCASE ► 12

Mac-Grove couple plan extensive home remodel to age in place

BY JANE MCCLURE

For one Macalester-Groveland couple, trying to stay in their same general neighborhood as they grow older will involve an extensive home renovation project. Michael and SueEllen Buelow recently bought a house at 1493 Highland Pkwy. They plan to rent out the home for a time, then extensively renovate it to be handicapped-accessible before moving in.

Michael Buelow is a contractor with BB Design, which has a long track record of renovating housing in St. Paul. SueEllen is disabled. The couple’s intent is to create a home that will serve them for many years to come.

“Our children are leaving the nest, so downsizing and moving makes sense for us,” Michael Buelow said.

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) recently granted the couple side- and rear-yard setback and sidewall articulation

variances for the project. The variances had the support of the Highland District Council and neighbors.

The variances will allow the couple to connect a detached garage to the house, expand the kitchen and add a master bedroom on the main floor. They will also enable the Buelows to add onto the house without incorporating an architectural feature, such as a bay window, to visually break up a large sidewall. Instead, they will use complementary siding to create eye-catching interest along the wall. They also plan to construct a pergola in the front yard.

The one-story Highland Parkway house was built more than a century ago and is believed to have been moved there from another lot. “This house likely would have been a teardown,” Michael Buelow said. “Instead, we plan to expand and renovate it, making it handicapped-accessible in the process.”

Buelow is proposing to renovate the house using “universal design,” a term that is

often used instead of describing a structure as handicapped-accessible.

Gloria Bogen, a longtime member of the BZA, said the board has seen an uptick in variance requests in recent years to accommodate people with disabilities. The requests are usually needed for building setbacks and lot coverage in order to attach garages, build breezeways or add first-floor bedrooms, larger kitchen and full baths.

“We see the requests come in as people anticipate needing greater accessibility,” Bogen said. “They may not need it now, but they will in the future.”

Though the city has added to its senior and accessible housing stock in recent years, “many people want to age in place and stay in their neighborhoods. Variances allow them to do that,” Bogen said.

It is not known how many homes in the city have had disability-related renovations in recent years. In St. Paul, some disability accom-

modations can be made to a home with only building permits. In other cases, variances are needed to meet zoning code requirements.

Another option for people with disabilities is to seek a “reasonable accommodation” under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Such accommodations granted by the city can only be in place as long as the person with the disability lives there. Once the person moves, the accommodation must be removed.

That can be as simple as taking out a front-door ramp or as complex as tearing down a breezeway or addition. There is also an annual inspection fee on top of the charges for permits and the accommodation itself. City staff typically discourage such requests.

Bogen said the BZA and city officials will likely see similar accessibility requests in the future. “I also live in an older home,” she said, “and if I want to stay there after retirement, I’d probably consider some type of modification to it, too.”

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11◀ SHOWCASE

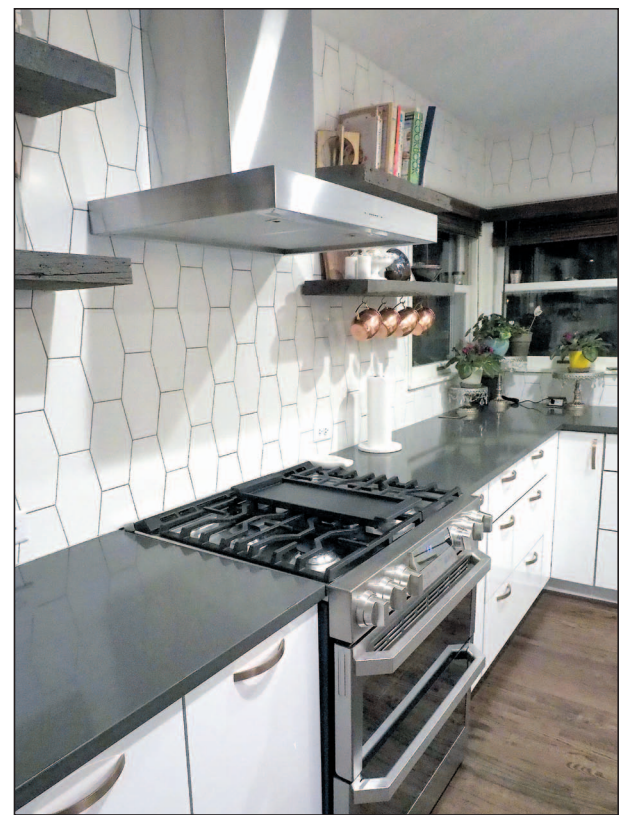
the future. That will enable them to add a full bath in the basement.

"We know going from one-and-a-half baths to one is not great for resale," Brusven said.

He said the couple are "absolutely thrilled" with Vetter's work. "We always had enough space, but now we have the kind of space we always wanted," Brusven said.

Admission to the Remodelers Showcase is free with the exception of two Dream Homes, where a \$5 donation is requested. Proceeds will benefit the Builders Association of the Twin Cities-Housing First Minnesota Foundation to help build and remodel homes for veterans and the homeless.

For more information on the Remodelers Showcase or to view an online guidebook, visit paradeofhomes.org. Free copies of the guidebooks will also be available at Holiday Stationstores.



Brusven and Moe's remodeled kitchen features a dual oven with sleek range hood, modern acrylic cabinets and gray quartz countertops. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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Stop in for a look-see

Other local homes on the Spring Remodelers Showcase on March 29-31 include the following:

- 1882 Rome Ave. College City Design/Build added a family room and an owners' suite with a vaulted ceiling, walk-in closet and curbless shower, all on one floor of this 1940s Highland Park home. Low-maintenance materials were used throughout the interior and exterior.
- 1780 S. Mississippi River Blvd. Vujovich

Design Build relocated the garage and created a better connection to the house of this 1940s Highland home. A new chef's kitchen with adjoining pantry and mudroom were added, complete with modern windows that overlook the gardens.

- 2277 Copperfield Drive, Mendota Heights. The owners completely remodeled the kitchen in their mid-1990s home. Inspiri LLC took out a buffet to open the space between the kitchen and family room, added a dry bar, and updated the built-ins and cabinetry.

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St. Paul to revisit home design guidelines

BY JANE MCCLURE

New home construction and major home improvement projects in the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods have been subject to their own residential design guidelines since 2015. The guidelines were adopted by the St. Paul City Council following a spate of house tear-downs and the construction of newer, larger homes on those lots. Now those guidelines are getting another look.

The guidelines addressed some of the biggest concerns with large infill homes that were considered by some to be out of scale with neighboring residences, created water runoff problems and blocked sunlight. However, contractors, homeowners and district council committee members were not entirely satisfied with the solution.

Members of the city's Board of Zoning Appeals have objected to district councils recommending approval of variances to the design guidelines. Meanwhile, Highland District Council and Macalester-Groveland Community Council committees want the city to review the design guidelines and make possible revisions.

The city's Department of Planning

and Economic Development has made the review part of its 2019 work plan, said planning director Luis Pereira. "We know this is something you're waited for for some time," Pereira said when he recently met with the HDC board.

Pereira said one reason the review has taken so long is that other larger projects, including the Ford site master plan amendments, have taken up staff time.

The review will be led by the PED and Department of Safety and Inspections. Any proposed changes to the guidelines would first be considered by the two district councils. They would then be taken up by the Planning Commission, which would hold a public hearing before forwarding any recommended revisions to the City Council for a final public hearing and vote.

The review is welcome news to Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert, who has heard many calls for revisions. "We've had these guidelines in place for a time and we need to see what's worked and what hasn't," he said.

As part of the residential design guidelines, the city instituted additional penalties for contractors after hearing complaints about workers driving over neighbors' yards, leaving construction material behind, and generating noise

and litter. Those regulations could also be reviewed, Tolbert said.

The residential design guidelines limit the heights of new homes or home additions, as well as lot coverage, door and window placement, and sidewall articulation. The regulations vary by the type of zoning a single-family property is in.

The biggest issue since 2015 has been the sidewall requirement, which is meant to break up the exterior appearance of large, flat walls. That is one of the requirements for which builders often seek variances, said DSI zoning specialist Jerome Benner II. He and city planner Mike Richardson have been reviewing that and other design guidelines with the two district councils' land-use committees in recent months.

Under the current design guidelines, the sidewalls of new homes or additions in Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland that are longer than 35 feet must be broken up with recesses, projections or other architectural features. Over the past few years, some developers have cited the lack of space in an existing setback to add projecting features. The sidewalls also may have built-ins behind them where an architectural feature is not possible on the exterior.

Home & Garden Clippings

The Summit Hill Association's Spring Plant Sale will be held from 5-7 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 3-4, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. Orders of hanging baskets, patio pots, perennials and flats of annuals are due by March 28. To place an order, visit squareup.com/store/summit-hill-association. For more information, contact the SHA at 651-222-1222 or info@summithillassociation.org.

The 2019 Recycling Guide for Ramsey County residents was mailed out in March. The 24-page guide has information on household recycling, organics recycling, yard waste, household hazardous waste and medicine disposal. This year's guide also includes information on purchasing radon test kits for \$2. Visit RamseyRecycles.com or call 651-633-3279.

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is selling plastic compost bins for \$64 plus tax, but Ramsey County residents can get \$20 off. Order online at RecycleMinnesota.org and enter promo code "Ramsey" to receive the discount or call 651-641-4589 and mention that you are a Ramsey County resident.

Metro Blooms will offer a workshop on how to prepare soil that is resistant to erosion, compaction and runoff at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 3, at the Longfellow Community Center, 3435 36th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The cost is \$15 per household. For reservations, visit metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426.

A free paper-shredding event for residents of Mendota Heights, South St. Paul, Sunfish Lake and West St. Paul will be held from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 20, at the West St. Paul Sports Complex, 1650 Oakdale Ave. Confidential material will be locked in a container and shredded in a mobile unit without being touched by human hands. There is no limit on the amount of material that can be brought to the event. The material should be brought in paper grocery bags with three-ring binders, spiral binders and binder clips removed.

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society will hold May Day classes focusing on various varieties of phlox at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, at Scarborough Fair Boutique, 2238 Carter Ave. Horticulturist Mary Maguire Lerman will discuss how to best grow the various phlox and their value as cut flowers and butterfly/hummingbird attractors. Each participant will receive a powdery mildew resistant phlox for their garden. Register for either session by calling 651-643-3601 or visiting northerngardener.org.mshs-events.

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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Robbery—TCF Bank, 2163 Ford Pkwy., was robbed at 3:33 p.m. Monday, March 11. The suspect fled before the police arrived.

—BMO Harris Bank, 522 S. Snelling Ave., was robbed at 3:19 p.m. Monday, March 18.

Burglary—Home break-ins were reported on the 2000 block of Scheffer Avenue on March 2-3 and on the 800 block of St. Paul Avenue on March 4.

—An apartment was burglarized on the 2000 block of Shepard Road between 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, March 4.

Theft—Several iPads were reported stolen from Jie Ming Academy, 1845 Sheridan Ave., at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, February 27.

—Two wheels were stolen from a vehicle on Maynard Drive and Stewart Avenue during the evening of March 4-5.

—Laptop computers and soccer equipment were stolen from vehicles at Bakers Square, 2239 Ford Pkwy., between 8:45-9:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 5.

—Cash, a BB gun and a wallet were stolen from a vehicle in the parking garage of the Pointe, 1375 Davern St., during the evening of March 6-7.

—Seven boys ages 13-14 were arrested for crimes ranging from felony auto theft to fleeing police at Hertz Rent-a-Car, 1420 Davern St., at 3:59 a.m. Thursday, March 7.

—A blower door, combustion analyzer, ladder and hoses were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of South Snelling Avenue at 12:16 p.m. Sunday, March 10.

—A backpack with more than \$1,000 worth of items was reported stolen from a vehicle at St. Paul Academy, 1712 Randolph Ave., at 4:41 p.m. Friday, March 15.

Weapons—A boy found seven empty .22-caliber shell casings in his locker at Highland Park High School at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 27.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—Two boys ages 13-14 were arrested for strong-arm robbery at Skyline Tower, 1247 St. Anthony Ave., at 11:37 p.m. Tuesday, March 5.

Shooting—A boy was shot in the wrist while on a light-rail train near the Lexington Parkway station at 10:49 a.m. Friday, March 8. The suspect fled the scene, but was later found

hiding in a bush on the 1200 block of Lafond Avenue. The victim was taken to the hospital.

Burglary—An apartment was burglarized on the 1100 block of Central Avenue during the evening of March 4-5.

Theft—A trailer was stolen from a garage on the 1300 block of Portland Avenue during the evening of March 2-3.

—A 19-year-old woman was cited for trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 8:28 p.m. Thursday, March 7.

—A 34-year-old woman was arrested for trying to steal more than \$1,500 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 10:14 p.m. Tuesday, March 12. She was arrested for felony theft again at the same store two days later.

—A student tried to pass a counterfeit bill in the cafeteria at Central High School at noon Thursday, March 14. The incident was handled by school administrators and the fake bill was turned over to the police.

—A vehicle was reported stolen at Skyline Tower, 1247 St. Anthony Ave., at 10:59 p.m. Friday, March 15.

Macalester-Groveland

Theft—A cellphone was stolen from an employee at Macalester College at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 12.

—A backpack with a laptop computer and figure skates was stolen from a vehicle on Brimhall Street and Randolph Avenue between 8-11 p.m. Wednesday, March 13.

Weapons—A gunshot was reported near Berkeley Avenue and Macalester Street at 3:40 p.m. Tuesday, March 12. A single shell casing was recovered.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—A burglary was reported on the 2400 block of Bridgeview Court at 4 a.m. Monday, March 4. The garage and house had been entered using a garage door opener from an unlocked vehicle in the driveway.

—A home was broken into on the 1600 block of Lexington Avenue at 11:03 a.m. Tuesday, March 5. The male suspect shattered the glass in the front door and stole a checkbook.

—Several items were reported stolen from vehicles in an underground garage on the 2000 block of Lexington Avenue at 12:16 p.m. Wednesday, March 13.

—Several items were reported stolen from an apartment on the 2000 block of Lexington Avenue at 3:58 p.m. Thursday, March 14.

Merriam Park

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1900 block of Roblyn Avenue on March 10-11 and on the 1800 block of University Avenue on March 19.

—A backpack with more than \$1,000 worth of items was stolen from a vehicle on Wheeler Street and University Avenue between 5-6:40 a.m. Thursday, March 14.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—Bottles of liquor were stolen during a break-in at Big Top Liquor, 1544 University Ave., at 3:21 a.m. Saturday, March 9.

Theft—A wallet was stolen on Hamline and University avenues between 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 6. The loss was estimated at more than \$1,000.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on Pascal Street and University on March 7 and at the Midway McDonald's, 1570 University Ave., on March 12.

—A 20-year-old man was arrested for stealing a purse in the parking lot of the Midway Walmart at 5:50 p.m. Sunday, March 17.

—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were stolen from a vehicle at LA Fitness, 1370 University Ave., between 6-7:45 a.m. Monday, March 18.

Miscellaneous—A 54-year-old man was arrested for disorderly conduct after spitting at an employee and swearing at patrons at Big Top Liquor, 1544 University Ave., at 7:29 p.m. Saturday, March 16.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A 59-year-old woman was arrested for making terroristic threats at gunpoint at Domino's Pizza, 1110 Grand Ave., at 8:42 p.m. Thursday, March 7. The suspect reportedly was upset that the chicken wings she had ordered were not included in the delivery to her home. Police said the suspect and her daughter went to the shop and demanded a refund. The mother had brought a loaded gun with her and took it out at the store. The two women left, but were found at their home on the 1000 block of Dayton Avenue.

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1100 block of Grand Avenue on March 5, on the 600 block of Lincoln Avenue on March 8, on the 800 block of Grand on March 15 and on the 900 block of Grand on March 19.

—A stereo deck was stolen from a vehicle in what appeared to be an attempted auto theft on the 800 block of Fairmount Avenue

during the evening of March 15-16.

—A jacket and purse were stolen from a vehicle on Grand Avenue and Victoria Street during the evening of March 16-17.

Summit-University

Burglary—Selby Commons, 909 Selby Ave., was broken into between March 1-4.

—Basement storage lockers were reported broken into on the 400 block of Laurel Avenue at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, March 17.

Theft—A laptop computer and drone equipment were stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Selby Avenue during the evening of March 2-3.

—A laptop computer was reported stolen from a vehicle at Sweeney's Saloon, 96 N. Dale St., at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 5.

—Around \$2,500 was reported stolen from an apartment on the 700 block of Concordia Avenue at 3 a.m. Thursday, March 7.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 800 block of Hague Avenue on March 9, on the 500 block of Holly Avenue on March 9-10 and on the 300 block of North Dale Street on March 16-17.

Assault—An assault was reported at St. Thomas More School, 1065 Summit Ave., at 12:56 p.m. Saturday, March 16.

West End

Burglary—Rooster's BBQ Deli, 979 Randolph Ave., was broken into between 10 a.m.-12:09 p.m. Sunday, March 10.

—A snowblower, a container of ice melt and a tank of propane were taken from a garage on the 1700 block of Benson Avenue on Monday, March 11. A suspect was later seen using the snowblower, which was recovered but had a damaged ignition.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 400 block of Daly Street on March 4, at Mancini's Char House on March 4 and on the 200 block of West Seventh Street on March 17.

—An Xbox, laptop computer, television and personal items were stolen from a vehicle on the 800 block of West Seventh Street between March 4-8.

Assault—An intoxicated 24-year-old woman was arrested for assaulting a stranger on Chestnut Street and Smith Avenue at 6:01 p.m. Saturday, March 9.

Miscellaneous—An intoxicated 31-year-old woman was arrested for disorderly conduct after she refused to leave an Uber driver's vehicle on the 600 block of West Seventh Street at 3 a.m. Monday, March 4.

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The Kiosk

Thursday/March 28

MENDOTA VFW, 1323 Sibley Mem. Hwy., will hold a garage sale from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday and noon-5 p.m. Saturday, this weekend and April 4-6. Donations are welcome. Call 651-688-7408.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be accepting blood donations from noon-6 p.m. at that Mendota Heights City Hall, 1101 Victoria Curve. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN pilots to U.S. Air Force operations will be discussed by author Sarah Byrn Rickman in a World War II History Round Table at 7 p.m. at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center. Admission is \$5, free for students and WWII veterans.

Saturday/March 30

AMERICAN LEGION POST 39 will host a fundraiser for veteran photojournalist Lou Michaels from noon-5 p.m. at the Eagles Club, 287 Maria Ave. Food and beverages will be available, and a silent auction will be held. Michaels, a photographer for the *Villager* among other publications, has stage 4 cancer. Proceeds from the event will go toward his medical bills. For information, call Bird at 651-770-5738.

Monday/April 1

CELEBRATE RECOVERY, a program for people in recovery from addiction, is meeting every Monday evening at Central Baptist Church, 420 N. Roy St. A meal is served at 5:45 p.m. A large group meeting follows at 6:30 and a small group meeting at 7:30. Call 651-646-2751 or email steve.nuessle@centralbaptistchurch.com.

Tuesday/April 2

WOMEN'S DRUM CENTER, 2242 University Ave., will offer an hour-long class in hand drumming for beginners at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$10, drums provided. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

Wednesday/April 3

THE CARD CLUB will meet for games of bridge, 500 and cribbage beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. New members are welcome to join in the competition every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. An optional lunch is served at noon for \$10 per person.

WANT TO LINE DANCE? Veteran teacher Darrel Allen is offering an hour-long class at 10 a.m. every Wednesday at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Drop in any week. The cost is \$5.

THE LIFE AND MUSIC of Austrian composer Joseph Haydn, the father of the symphony, will be covered by Dr. Daniel Freeman in a four-week series from 10 a.m.-noon today and April 10, 17 and 24 at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave. All are welcome. For information, visit friendsofthespc.org.

Thursday/April 4

"WHY IMMIGRATION REFORM is So Difficult" will be addressed by anthropologist Leo Chavez of the University of California-Irvine at 4:45 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Campus Center at Macalester College. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6381.

ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, 1983 Dayton Ave., will hold an informational session from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on its middle school for grades 6, 7 and 8. The PreK-8 school offers a Catholic classical education, Singapore math and a cross-curricular STEM program. Transfer students qualify for a discounted tuition of \$3,000 per year for two years. Call 651-644-3380 or visit markerspride.com.

Friday/April 5

FARE FOR ALL'S monthly distribution of fresh produce and frozen meat will take place from 10 a.m.-noon at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. The food will be available in packages priced from \$10-\$25. Cash, credit and debit

cards are accepted. Call 651-298-5493.

A USED BOOK SALE will be held from 6-8 p.m. today, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 a.m.-noon Sunday, April 5-7, in the Community Room at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. Books, audio books, records, games and puzzles will be available. Admission is \$10 on Friday, free otherwise.

Saturday/April 6

"WORKING WOMEN and the Civil War," a day-long symposium, will be held from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Historic Fort Snelling. Sessions will cover such topics as Clara Barton, the battles of New Ulm, families surviving the terror and prostitution behind the lines. The cost is \$10, free to students. For reservations or more information, call 612-726-1171 or visit mnhs.org.

"HOMES VS. FACTORIES," the 95-year battle over the future of the southern end of Highland Park, will be discussed by Macalester-Groveland historian Marc Manderscheid in a free program at 1 p.m. at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. For information, call 651-695-3700.

Sunday/April 7

DISTRICT 64 RESIDENTS are invited to meet with Senator Dick Cohen and Representative Dave Pinto and discuss their priorities for the current legislative session beginning at 1 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. The meeting is cosponsored by ISAIAH.

A HIGH TEA for all women and girls age 6 and older will be served by the St. Helena Council of Catholic Women from 2-4 p.m. in Rowan Hall at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St. in Minneapolis. Elegant finger food will be served along with live music. Admission is \$12 per person. For reservations, call Lucy at 729-9445.

Monday/April 8

ART TO FAWN OVER, a workshop in nature painting, will be offered to adults

and teens from 6:30-8 p.m. at Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. in West St. Paul. The cost is \$20, and includes materials and a cup of hot cocoa or tea. To register, visit dodgenaturecenter.org or call 651-455-4531.

"MUSIC AND COSMOS in Plato's *Timaeus* will be addressed by associate professor William Stevenson of the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in 3M Auditorium in Owens Science Hall at the University St. Thomas. The dialogue examines the relationship between cosmology and humanity's concept of the soul. Admission is free. Call 651-962-6315.

Tuesday/April 9

POET, THEATER ARTIST and musician Dylan Fresco will perform "Welcoming the Stranger" and "Christian Privilege," his take on being a Jewish transplant in Minnesota, at noon in the Iversen Hearth room on the third floor of the Student Center at the University of St. Thomas. Admission is free.


Wednesday/April 10

TIPS ON GROWING tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes will be offered at a meeting of the Longfellow Garden Club beginning at 7 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A silent auction on garden-related goods will be part of the program. The public is invited. Auction items should be dropped off by 6:50 p.m.

Thursday/April 11

"WRITING ON THE WALL: A History of Graffiti" will be discussed by architectural historian Alyssa Auten at 7:30 p.m. at the Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery, 445 N. Smith Ave. Admission is free, but reservations are requested. For more information, call 651-222-0701.

THE CHIEF OF LOGISTICS in the European Theater, Lieutenant General J.C.H. Lee, will be discussed by author Hank Cox in a World War II History Roundtable at 7 p.m. in the Visitor Center at Historic Fort Snelling. Admission is \$5, free for students and WWII veterans. Call 612-726-1171.

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On the Town

Field of dreams

Hampl celebrates wasted day as fertile ground for memoirist

BY ANNE MURPHY

As a memoirist, Patricia Hampl has introduced countless readers to the people, places and times that figured prominently in her life and the thoughts and feelings they engendered. The Ramsey Hill resident has a penchant for reflection, a pastime that she celebrates in her latest memoir, *The Art of the Wasted Day* (Penguin Random House, April 2018, 288 pp.)

In her book, Hampl maintains that leisure spent in solitude is a precious commodity—a stretch of time when people can look back, around and inward for a better understanding of themselves. The book is dedicated to her husband, Terrance Williams, who died in 2015, and it is among the nominees this spring for a Minnesota Book Award in the category of Memoir and Creative Nonfiction.

Hampl is looking forward to having even more time for reflection. She is currently at work on a new book and will again be teaching in the Prague Summer Writing Program. However, this spring she will be retiring from her longtime position as the Regents Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Minnesota.

Will *The Art of the Wasted Day* validate the time we spend just thinking or daydreaming? “I’ve noticed ads and reviews for several recent books on slowing down, leisure and related subjects,” Hampl said. “It’s an idea

that’s in the air in our over-amped era. This interest—a kind of wistful longing—has ramped up along with the fast pace the Internet has given us.

“Reading books is itself a way of slowing down,” Hampl said. “Long-form reading like novels and some kinds of short-form reading like poetry beguile the mind into focus. And focus engages the imagination, which is surely our deepest self. A kid dead to the world in a book is a kid developing an independent self and a companion for life.

“The cultural historian Elaine Tyler May and I co-edited an anthology several years ago about this question,” Hampl said. “She is a writer of history and I’m a literary writer—supposedly opposite occupations. However, we came to believe that memoir is personal history and history is public memoir. Both are narrative, with greater or lesser emphases on personal and public realities.

“The point of writing a memoir—and yes, I think everyone should write one, not just people who think of themselves as writers—is not that you’re obsessed with yourself, but that you’re fascinated or bedeviled by history, by how the past has become the present.”

Hampl is the author of several memoirs. *A Romantic Education* was inspired by her ancestral ties to Prague. *Virgin Time* recounted her Roman Catholic upbringing in St. Paul. *The Florist’s Daughter*, which won the Minnesota Book Award for Memoir in 2008, introduced readers to Hampl’s library clerk mother and floral designer father and the life and times that encouraged her love of writing and of St. Paul.

“I have always had to travel a lot for my work,” Hampl said. “And I have a Midwesterner’s fitful desire to be elsewhere. I have family and close friends in a number of far-flung places, so I’m often on the move—and gladly. But I love St. Paul, and think it’s a mysterious, funny place, full of secrets. Our weather alone makes us as dramatic as any Russian novel.

“Kafka said of Prague, his hometown, that ‘this little mother has claws.’ St. Paul has some of that for me,” she said. “As one gets older, of course, there is more lived history to wonder over in a supposedly familiar place. I have a whole St. Paul in my mind that precedes the freeway system, for example. I move through several superimposed St. Pauls in a single day. That’s what happens if you stay in your hometown and live long enough.”

And what has Hampl been contemplating lately? “Aside from the state of the country



Patricia Hampl, author of *The Art of the Wasted Day*.

“The point of writing a memoir is not that you’re obsessed with yourself, but that you’re fascinated or bedeviled by history, by how the past has become the present.”

that I fret and fume over? My current book,” she said, “which is just a slim sheaf of pages at this point, but it has me hooked.” The book is “partly set in St. Paul,” she said, “but I’m a slo-mo writer, so I can’t say just when this will be done and out.”

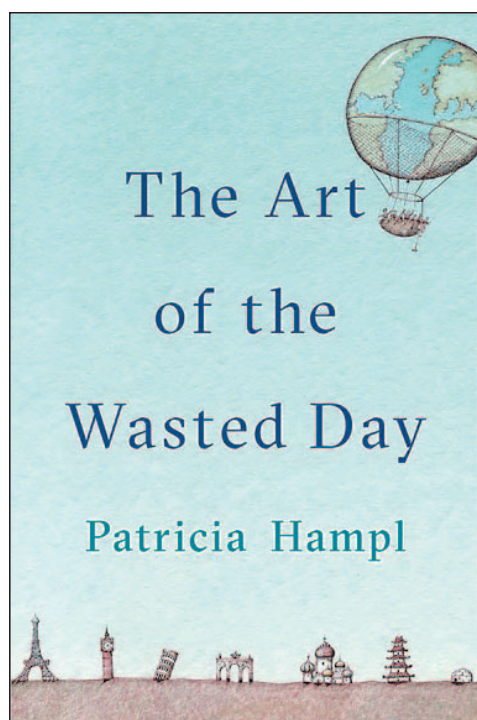
Hampl said she is also looking forward to spending more time at her favorite haunts. “The Como Conservatory, especially in winter, is a treasure,” she said, “and good for the winter-parched complexion. If you have a dog, as I have, walking along Summit Avenue never tires. Lilydale Park is sweet, too.”

Of the literary community, she said, “there are now a full three generations of writers younger than my generation publishing in the Twin Cities,” she said. “The fact that more

literary books are published in the Twin Cities than any urban area outside the New York-Boston corridor makes this a far more dynamic cultural center than when I started out. St. Paul has so much literary life—a dynamic reporter and reviewer in Mary Ann Grossmann covering all things literary, the wonderful *St. Paul Almanac*, the East Side Freedom Library, plus various other lively cultural centers. Why leave home?”


Lovers of literature will not have to leave St. Paul for the Minnesota Book Awards. The winning authors in nine categories, the book artist of the year and the Kay Sexton Award winner will all be honored on Saturday, April 6, at the InterContinental Hotel, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd.

Sponsored by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, the book awards program will open at 6:30 p.m. with a reception for the finalists, followed by the awards ceremony at 8 p.m. and the after-party at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60 and \$40 and include complimentary wine and other refreshments during the awards ceremony, and champagne and dessert at the after-party. For reservations, visit thefriends.org or call 651-222-3242.



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On the Town Briefly

Music

The world-renowned Choir of King's College in Cambridge, England, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Tickets are \$45-\$59. Call 651-290-1200.

The Ordway will present concerts by the progressive heavy metal band Dream Theater at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 28 in the Music Theater; and Boys II Men at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 31, in the Music Theater. For tickets, visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

Pianist Kenny Broberg, silver medalist in the Van Cliburn Competition, will perform works by Bach, Beethoven, Marc-André Hamelin, Medtner and Franck at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 31, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Tickets are \$30, \$15 for full-time students. Call 612-822-0123.

"Traveling Music," compositions by Brahms, Bartok, Ewazen, Gershwin and Mozart, will be performed by the Capital City Brass Quintet at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 31, at Olivet Congregational Church, 1850 Iglehart Ave. The free program will include a Hungarian dance by a German, a tango by a Canadian and a Balkan suite by an Ohio native.

Lumina—aka singers Linda Kachelmeier, Clara Osowski and Angela Grundstadt—will be joined by cellist Laura Sewell in "The Veil and the Thorn" at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 31, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. The program features songs for the Lenten season spanning 12 centuries, including works by Kassia, Bach, Tomkins, Di Lasso, Duruflé, Rutter, Vaughan-Williams, Ippolitov-Ivanov and Patty Griffin. Tickets are \$15. Call 651-224-5809.

English virtuoso organist David Briggs will perform his dramatic solo transcription of Mahler's Symphony No. 6 on the Cathedral of St. Paul's two pipe organs at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 2. Admission is by donation with \$10 suggested.

Duo pianists Anton Melnichenko and Katerina Knyazeva will perform the music of Shostakovich and Rachmaninoff in concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 6, in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$15, \$8 for students. Call 651-523-2459.

The Minnesota Bach Ensemble will be



Tantalus Quartet will perform the works of Roland Dyens, Clarice Assad, Phillip Houghton and Kristian Anderson, Brahms, Dvořák and Respighi at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 30, in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$10-\$25. Visit mnguitar.org.

joined by mezzo-soprano Meg Bragle, oboist Basil Reeve and violinist Jonathan Magness on April 6 and 8 in the music of CPE Bach, Vivaldi, J.S. Bach and Handel. The program "Brilliant Vivaldi and Bach" will begin at 3 p.m. Saturday and 7 p.m. Monday at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 S. Second St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$30, \$10 for students. Visit mnbach.org.

Beatles vs. Stones, a musical showdown featuring the tribute bands Abbey Road and Satisfaction, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 8, in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. Tickets are \$27-\$67. Call 651-690-6700 or visit oshag.stkate.edu.

Dan "Daddy Squeeze" Newton will perform a mix of Cajun and Tex-Mex music in a free concert from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 11, in the Ratskeller at Summit Brewing, 910 Montreal Circle.

Thursday Musical returns with performances by pianist Susan Hellerud, bass clarinetist Paul Schulz, sax player José Zayas Cabán, and duo pianists Carolyn Britton and Richard Tostenson at 10:30 a.m. April 11 at the MacPhail Center, 501 Second St. S. in Minneapolis. Admission is \$15, \$6 for students. Call 612-333-0313.

Books

Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will play host to free readings and discussions with Heidi Barr and *What Comes Next: Between Beauty and Destruction*, her personal account of unemployment, at 7 p.m. March 28; Mark Conway and his poetry

collection, *Rivers of the Driftless Region*, 7 p.m. April 2; painter Marley Kaul, poet Taiju Geri Wilimek and their collaboration, *We Sit*, 7 p.m. April 6; and Macalester English Professor Peter Bognanni and his *This Book is Not Yet Rated*, 7 p.m. April 10.

Palestinian-American poet and physician Fady Joudah will read from his verse exploring the concept of origins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, in the auditorium of the John Roach Center at the University of St. Thomas. Admission is free.

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Jorie Graham, a professor of rhetoric at Harvard University, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 4, in Coffman Theater at the University of Minnesota, 300 Washington Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. Admission is free. Call 612-625-3363.

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to author and rock musician Mark Mallman reading from his memoir, *The Happiness Playlist*, at 7 p.m. April 3; author Iric Nathanson discussing his history *Downtown St. Paul*, noon April 4; and author Maryse Meijer reading from her story collection, *Rag*, 7 p.m. April 10. Admission is free.

Beverly Cottman and Jim Stowell will join host Richard Rousseau for an hour of storytelling beginning at 6:45 p.m. Friday, April 5, at Coffee Bene, 53 S. Cleveland Ave. Admission is free, though tips are welcome.

Lebanese poet Zeina Hashem Beck will read from her verse in a free program at 7 p.m. Monday, April 8, at Moon Palace Books, 3032 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis. She will be accompanied by

local poet and playwright Ifrah Mansour, playwright Willie Nour, poet and comedian Nader Helmy and poet Valérie Déus.

The Great Books Discussions Group will examine the short story "You're Ugly, Too" by Lorrie Moore in its meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Admission is free and open to all. Call 651-285-7550.

Dance

American Ballet Theatre will return to Northrop Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, with a vibrant program featuring Alexei Ratmansky's "Songs of Bukovina" set to the music of Leonid Desyatnikov, Jerome Robbins' "Other Dances" set to a waltz and four mazurkas by Chopin, and Twyla Tharp's "In the Upper Room" set to a score by Philip Glass. A performance preview with ABT artistic director Kevin McKenzie will be offered at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are \$33-\$75. Call 612-624-2345 or visit northrop.umn.edu.

"Gentle Human," new choreography by Zoe Emilie Henrot that explores vulnerability, emotion, grace and power, will be performed on April 6 and 7 by the new Ballet Co. Laboratory. The curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Cowles Center, 528 Hennepin Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$24, \$29 and \$36. Visit balletcolaboratory.org.

Exhibits

Ceramic artists from across the region will display their works in seven solo and group exhibits from March 26-30 at the Schmidt Artist Lofts, 900 W. Seventh St. Among the shows are "Divergence," varied ceramics and two-dimensional works by eight Midwestern artists in Landmark Gallery; "Form and Abstraction: A Universal Language," new work by five clay artists from the Upper Midwest in the Tunnel Gallery; "Over the Divide," works from the Clay Studio of Missoula, Montana, in the Flex Studio; "My Four Truths in Claytopia," sculpture by Guillermo Guardia in the Pigs Eye Gallery; Brad Menninga's installation, "Full Circle: Decay, Dread and Déjà Vu," in the Pigs Eye Gallery; Tony Angelino's mixed-media and stoneware sculpture installation, "something,

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here, gone," in the Tap Room; and D.C. Ice's "The Civilized Menagerie," an exploration of anthropomorphism, on the fifth floor of the Brewhouse. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. A public reception will be held from 5-10 p.m. Friday, March 29.

Ceramic sculptor Ray Chen's collection "Mother and Child" is on view through March 31 in the North Gallery at Landmark Center. A public reception for the artist and Kristen Lowe, the producer of the documentary film "Ray Chen, Only Son," will be held at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 28. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, until 9:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

"Paintings of Nature," landscapes, still lifes and figures by Kay Taylor, will be displayed from April through June at Amore Coffee, 879 S. Smith Ave. An opening reception will be held from 4-7 p.m. Sunday, March 31.

More than 30 artisans will display their creations for show and sale from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Admission is free, and refreshments will be available. Call 651-695-3711.

Family

Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., will offer the following free programs: Board at the Library, games of chess, checkers, Clue and more, 2-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays; Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Fridays; You Can Make It crafts and other activities for children ages 7-11, 3-5 p.m. Mondays; and Maker Break, inspiring children to make up a story with characters, plot, setting and theme, 3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, April 4. Call 651-642-0385.

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will host the following free events: a reading by Minneapolis author Jane St. Anthony from her young-adult novel, *Whatever Normal Is*, at 2 p.m. March 30; Super Silly Surprise Storytime, 6:30 p.m. April 2; The Little Guys Storytime with author Vera Brosgol, 10:30 a.m. April 4; and Picture Book Poetry Palooza with author Laura Purdie Salas, 2 p.m. April 6. Call 651-224-8320.

Travel the world without leaving town. The art, crafts, music, dance and food of Great Britain will be featured on an Urban Expedition from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, March 31, at Landmark Center. Admission is free. Call 651-292-3063 or visit landmarkcenter.org.

Hands-on workshops will be offered at St. Paul public libraries on April 1-6 to keep children engaged and learning over spring break. The workshops are geared to ages 7-11. Parents and guardians are welcome. The schedule includes Henna Designs, 1:30-3 p.m. Monday, St. Anthony Park, 2245 Como Ave.; 2D Character Animation, 2-3:30 p.m. Monday at Highland Park, 1974 Ford Pkwy., and 3-4:30 p.m. Tuesday at West 7th, 265 Oneida St.; Bubblemancy, 12:30-2 p.m. Wednesday, St. Anthony Park, 2-3:30 p.m. Friday at West 7th, and 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday at Rondo, 461 N. Dale St.; Storytelling, 1:30-3 p.m. Tuesday, Latimer, 90 W. Fourth St., 3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, Merriam Park, 1831 Marshall Ave.; Super Heroes poetry and performance, 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesday at Highland Park, 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday at Rondo; and Every Voice Matters poetry, 1:30-3 p.m. Friday at Latimer. Visit spl.org/break.

The Loki Puppet Players will perform *The Poetry of Puppetry 2* at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 6, and 10 a.m. Thursday April 11, on the historic Jemne stage at the Latimer Library, 90 W. Fourth St. Admission is free. Call 651-266-7034.

The JCC Symphony Orchestra will present an interactive concert for all ages at 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 7, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The free program will feature shorter orchestral works, demonstrations and a chance to join the musicians and become part of the music. A reception with light refreshments will follow.

Film

Rondo: Beyond the Pavement, a documentary by St. Paul youths about the largely African-American neighborhood of Rondo which was decimated in the 1960s by the construction of I-94, will be shown at 7 p.m. Friday, March 29, and at 2 and 6 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at Family Place, 244 E. 10th St. Call 651-225-9354.

Men Don't Cry (2017), a drama about the trauma of war and a group of middle-aged Bosnian war veterans in therapy, will be screened at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 4, on the thrust stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for seniors and students. Visit parksquaretheatre.org.

The Film Society of Minneapolis-St. Paul will roll out its 38th International Film Festival from April 4-20. More than 250 films from over 70 countries will be screened at the St. Anthony Main Theatre, 115 Main St. SE. in Minneapolis. Other screenings and special events are scheduled at the Parkway Theater and Capri Theater in Minneapolis and at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul. Visit mspfilm.org.

Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf, a documentary about the perennial gardens designed by the Dutch master gardener, will be screened at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 7, at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. A discussion will follow with local horticulturists. Tickets are \$10-\$15. Visit northerngardener.org.

Theater

Little Women, a drama by Peter Clapham based on the first half of the novel by Louisa May Alcott, is playing through April 14 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. It tells of the four young March sisters—tempestuous Jo, motherly Meg, shy Beth and spoiled Amy—who struggle to keep their family together while their father is away fighting in the Civil War. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays and at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11. Tickets are \$22. Call 612-333-3010.

Monty Python's Spamalot, the Tony Award-winning musical spoof of the story of King Arthur, the knights of the Round Table and their quest for the Holy Grail, will trot across the Ordway Music Theater's stage from April 2-7. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$34-\$132. Visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

Twelve Angry Men, the jury room drama about the power of one who speaks with conviction, will be given a dramatic reading by 12 women at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 8, in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. Directed by Kari Steinbach, the TheatreX production is also intended to promote voter registration. Tickets are \$10, or less for those in need. Visit theatrex.org.

Dear Lenny, a meditation on Bernstein's commitment to music, love and social activism, will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 12, in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. Artists Dan Chouinard, Diana Grasselli, Bradley Greenwald and Prudence Johnson will draw on Bernstein's music and personal letters in this theatrical presentation, which will conclude with a sing-along to *West Side Story*. Admission is \$18 in advance, \$22 at the door, \$12 for students. For reservations, visit tinyurl.com/y4s67hvk.

Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

The launching of Allianz Field

The home opener is still a few weeks away, but the gray spaceship on Snelling and St. Anthony avenues—also known as Allianz Field—hosted its grand opening on March 18. The new privately financed stadium for Minnesota United FC's Loons opened its doors with all the hoopla one might expect.

Loons managing partner Bill McGuire was joined by the usual political types who took turns trying to one-up each other. McGuire didn't miss a trick, thanking anyone and everyone who helped get the spaceship launched, including former St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and the Mortenson



St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter and Governor Tim Walz raise their scarves to celebrate the soccer stadium's opening. PHOTO BY LOU MICHAELS

Construction folks who finished the \$200 million project on time and on budget. At one point, McGuire even made a Minnesota Kicks reference, which caused a few of the younger folks within earshot to ask, "Who were the Kicks?"

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter cited the various City Council and Parks and Recreation luminaries—all of whom backed the project effusively—who were there for the unveiling. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, whose city used to host the team, noted the stadium was "an asset" for the entire region and then tried to lead the assembled chorus in song.

Governor Tim Walz said he was thrilled because he remembered going to his daughter's soccer games and that "this is the type of thing Minnesota does." Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan one-upped her boss by recalling she once had a poster of former Kicks goalie and heartthrob Tino Lettieri, and then strengthened her street cred with the soccer crowd by noting she had been a "Striker Liker," a reference to Minnesota's indoor soccer team that played for a while at Met Center.

MLS commissioner Don Garber praised the new stadium as the greatest thing ever. "They overdelivered," he said of the Mortenson crew.

That was followed by a request for fans in attendance to raise their Minnesota United scarves for the cameras.

It all seemed a little strange to a fellow who wasn't there as a soccer fan, but no matter. This was the grand opening of the city's new soccer playground and, as is now the case with such things, goofiness reigned. There was no time for answers to such pertinent questions as where in the world a capacity crowd of 19,400 people coming to watch the Loons play are going to park their cars and why a team located in the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood still lists its address in Golden Valley.

Eventually, the time came to go inside and check the place out. The people who built the stadium had done their homework. Like Target and CHS fields, Allianz Field packs a lot into a relatively small space. The vast majority of the seats are close to the action. At one end is a pyramid of seats—an architectural phenomenon unique to soccer stadiums.

Scattered among the black seats are several blue ones—something reminiscent of the days of Met Center. There are the usual hospitality areas for fans who may just want to socialize, along with a Brew Hall and a team store that will be

WRIGHT CALL ► 20

Ruling the roost

Redhawks claim three-peat in boys' hoops

By Bill Wagner

The Minnehaha Academy boys' basketball team showed again why it is clearly at the top of its class by cementing its third consecutive Class AA state title with a 69-52 win over Minneapolis North on March 23 at Target Center.

The top-seeded Redhawks finished the season with a 29-2 record. Their only losses were against Hopkins, which won the Class AAAA state title over Lakeville North. Minnehaha is expected to move up to Class AAA next season, assuming approval by the Minnesota State High School League.

The Redhawks figured North might try to mix it up physically in the state final, and coach Lance Johnson said his squad was more than ready. "The big key in this game was that we were totally composed," he said.

Johnson said the win gave his squad relief as well as joy. "It's super fun to win three in a row," he said, "but if we had lost today, our season would have been perceived as unsuccessful. Still, it's fun to have those expectations."

When asked to elaborate on what the victory meant about his team, Johnson answered, "That we're really talented. This is a legit AAA or AAAA team."

Senior guard Siegel Howard said it was a fun squad to play on, but it went deeper than that. "You have to persevere when you face adversity and that's what we do on this team," he said. "If it isn't going well, we tell each other to just keep playing."

The Redhawks raced out to a 13-2 lead over North



Sophomore Chet Holmgren rejects a shot as the Redhawks topped Minneapolis North 69-52 on March 23 for their third straight Class AA state title. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

and extended it to 30-15 at halftime. The Minnehaha defense, led by 7-foot sophomore forward Chet Holmgren, was simply too tough for the Polars to get many decent shots. Holmgren finished with a triple double of 16 points, 14 rebounds and 10 blocks. Do-everything junior guard Jalen Suggs and freshman forward Prince Aligbe added 20 points each.

Minnehaha also got to the foul line early as North looked about half a step behind on defense.

"There are times when the shots aren't falling for you," Johnson said, "but you can always play defense."

Junior forward Kaden Johnson said he felt a little rough the next day, but also very happy. "It's just a truly amazing feeling to do this three times in a row with my best friends," he said.

Minnehaha bounced St. Peter 78-47 in the opening round of state. Suggs led the way with a triple double of 21 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists. Kaden Johnson

and Holmgren each had 14 points, with Aligbe adding 11 off the bench.

Holmgren also contributed 12 rebounds and eight blocks. "I'm a rim protector," he said.

Suggs, who is considered one of the top high school prospects in the nation, said it was important that the team remain focused throughout the tourney. "This is March and you always see Upset City in March," he said. "You can't overlook any opponent."

In the semifinals, Minnehaha defeated Lake City 82-52 largely on the wings of an 18-3 run in the first half. Afterward, Lake City coach Greg Berge called the Redhawks "one of the top two or three teams in the state."

Suggs led the way with 24 points and 11 rebounds, while Holmgren added 23 points and also 11 boards. Aligbe had 15 points and Kaden Johnson pitched in with 14.

The state three-peat capped off another successful season for the Redhawks, but an often overlooked aspect of this triumph took place before the start of play. This had to do with Suggs stepping up his offensive production.

Both coach Johnson and Suggs alluded to this during television interviews prior to the North game. They noted that Suggs had averaged 15 points per game last year, but was hitting for around 25 an outing this winter.

"He told me, 'You're going to have to score more,'" said Suggs about his coach.

"And just like that, he did it," Johnson said.

Holmgren, Aligbe and Suggs were all named to the all-tournament team.

Minnehaha girls also win state AA title

By Bill Wagner

With a combination of talent and an overwhelming drive to succeed, Minnehaha Academy won the Class AA state girls' basketball title on March 16 at Williams Arena. It was the Redhawks' sixth straight and 13th overall tournament appearance, and their first championship finish since 2010.

Third-seeded Minnehaha swept through this year's tournament by defeating St. Peter 56-37 in the first round, Albany 70-67 in the semifinals and Caledonia 72-63 in the final. It ended a Redhawk streak of three consecutive

first-round losses at state.

All of which made first-year head coach Matt Pryor, a Minnehaha graduate, extremely proud. "We have different girls who've stepped up for us in big moments this year" he said. "When you have a lot of players who can do that, coaching is a pleasure."

The Redhawk players savored the championship just as much. "We've been together for so long," said senior Taytum Rhoades. "I love this team. When we get in trouble, we're very good at digging ourselves out of that hole."

Rhoades, who is headed to the University of Minnesota Duluth to play basketball next season, said she had talked to

her sister Terra, a 2018 grad who played on Minnehaha teams that got close, but never won a state title. Terra now attends Fordham University in New York City, but is not playing basketball. "She was so excited for us," Taytum said.

Senior Nevaeh Galloway, who will play next year for Bemidji State, was elated as the final buzzer sounded against Caledonia. "You think about all that hard work and it all paid off," she said. "We set our goal at the start of the season to win the state championship. We remained committed to that goal."

Winning the title was no walk in the

REDHAWK GIRLS ► 20



Taytum Rhoades is fouled during the Redhawks' 72-63 win over Caledonia in the Class AA state title game on March 16. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

19◀ REDHAWK GIRLS

park. Against St. Peter, the Redhawks led 27-18 at the half, but the score could easily have been a lot closer. Minnehaha was only 10 for 37 from the floor, with junior sharpshooter Mia Curtis going an unheard of 0-for-12 on field goals.

Those stats could have been a recipe for disaster, but Rhoades hit seven points in a row early out of her 11 for the first half and finished with 15. Curtis, meanwhile, rallied in the second half to end up with 11.

With their rebounding and defensive skills, the Redhawks outscored St. Peter 29-19 in the second half.

"We can win a lot of different ways," Pryor said afterward. "When you rebound and play good defense, you're always going to give yourself a chance."

Curtis said there was little worrying in the locker room at intermission despite her goose egg. "My

teammates were very encouraging," she said. "They just said, 'Keep on shooting.'"

"We're pretty good at lifting each other up," Rhoades added.

Freshman Telia Graham contributed four points in a row off the bench in the first half. Meanwhile, senior starter Avery New led the team with 13 rebounds, including four off the offensive glass.

In the semifinals, Albany gave Minnehaha all it could handle and led 55-48 with 8:21 to play. The Redhawks trailed most of the second half, but once again found another gear.

The teams traded the lead four times in the final three minutes before Curtis hit a layup with 1:23 to go to give Minnehaha the lead for good. Rhoades finished with 27 points, while Curtis contributed 17 and junior guard Kate Pryor had 12.

In the final against fourth-seeded Caledonia, the Redhawks trailed by six points with just under eight min-

utes to go and Curtis having fouled out. Once more, Rhoades was there to pick it up. She scored 16 points in the second half and finished with 29 for the game while playing with four fouls.

Curtis finished with 18 points, including 15 in the first half. Junior guard Tanna Gallo had two big three-pointers in the second half, grabbed three rebounds and dished out two assists. Pryor added all 10 of her points in the second half, including a three-pointer and two free throws to extend Minnehaha's lead.

The one downside to the tournament, Rhoades said, is that it was the last time this group of Redhawks would play together.

"That's kind of a tear-jerker," she said, "but it's been such fun to play for this team."

The Redhawks finished the season with a 25-6 record. Rhoades, Curtis and Galloway were named to the all-tournament team.

19◀ WRIGHT CALL

open year-round. Interestingly, the spaceship aura from the outside doesn't transfer to inside the gates. Indeed, one gets the impression that Allianz Field would make an excellent small-scale pitch in jolly old England.

As a nod to the current mayor, there are bike racks everywhere (400 according to the website). The aisles are wide and the rows aren't particularly long. Perhaps the most unusual thing is a huge clock on the south end that looks like a relic from the old TV series "Beat the Clock." Alongside it is a manual scoreboard where goals can be recorded. (There is an electronic one at the other end that will, one presumes, keep folks interested during the occasional moments when not much action is taking place on the field.)

All in all, the United got off to a good start without playing even an exhibition game in the new place. McGuire acknowledged a little concern that there will be no dry runs before the April 13 home debut against New York City. (Just one suggestion: A couple of days before the first game was played at the Metrodome, the Twins put a lot of people to work flushing toilets at once to make sure there would be no...er...flow issues. It's the little things that count.)

Visitors to Allianz Field would be advised to check things out in advance and perhaps do what folks do during the State Fair—cut a deal to park in some neighbor's driveway.



The new Allianz Field soccer stadium. PHOTO BY LOU MICHAELS

Apparently, the hope is that many fans will take the light-rail train and walk in from University Avenue or park at the State Fairgrounds and ride a free shuttle.

The true test of the stadium will come later. Soccer is a game that only stops for lightning. A rainy or snowy day could pose a challenge. What to do when that occurs will be important. And the parking issues aren't going to go away. As happens with games at the University of Minnesota, people will get impatient when they can't get out quickly after a game. Now that they run their own concessions, the

Loons also will be held responsible if they run out of food or refreshments.

Although there will be a honeymoon period, the fact is that critics will be waiting with knives drawn.

As was the case with CHS Field, the die has now been cast. The team is here and now everybody, including the United, has to make the best of it.

Next Olympic curlers in our backyard?

One of the best stories coming out of the last Winter Olympics was the gold medal success of the U.S. Curling Team, which included Minnesota and Wisconsin natives. The next games are still three years away, but a new challenger to represent the U.S. may be percolating in Villagerland.

Kevin Tuma, a 17-year-old Macalester-Groveland resident and a junior at Nova Academy, skippered his team to the title at the 2019 USA Curling U18 National Championships on March 17 in Chaska, defeating a Wisconsin team 7-5 in the finals. Tuma's team also includes 14-year-old Sidney Harris, a freshman at Nova.

That win led to an invite to the U18 Players Championship on March 29-31 in Guelph, Ontario. There the Americans will compete against the top teams from Canada and elsewhere.

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

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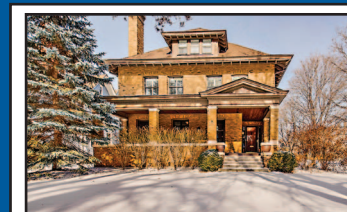
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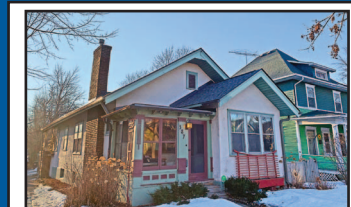
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SUNNY 2ND FLOOR CONDO!

This 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo has fabulous views. Hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace, 3rd floor guest suite. 302 Summit Ave unit F.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$392,000



CLASSIC CATHEDRAL HILL CONDO!

This classic features 3BR's, 2BA, fireplace, sun room, hardwood floors & over 1700 finished square feet in Cochran Park Condominiums. You will enjoy the sunny & bright open floor plan with many large windows on 3 sides and beautiful natural woodwork.. 436 Holly Ave #3.

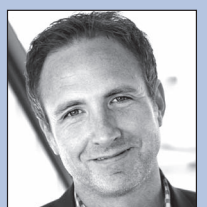
SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$329,000



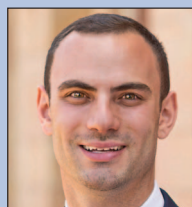
HISTORIC COMMODORE CONDO!

Complete renovation in 2016, this Historic Commodore Condo features 2 bedroom 2 bath and underground parking, in-unit washer and dryer. Close to shops and fabulous restaurants.

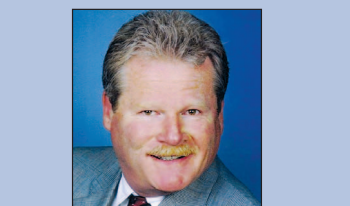
SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$395,000



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