



Mona Myers, 11, enjoys access to a computer as staffer Michele Bailey works behind her at the new Freeport St. Paul center at 816 Selby Ave. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Selby's Freeport in a storm

Center offers support for kids in crisis

BY BOB GILBERT

Freeport West, a 38-year-old Minneapolis nonprofit agency offering support to homeless and at-risk youths, has expanded its services to the Summit-University neighborhood of St. Paul. Called Freeport St. Paul, the organization opened a storefront at 816 Selby Ave. last month to provide a place where young people can receive help to get back on a healthy, productive path.

Freeport St. Paul will focus its energies on a social service program called Project Solo, which targets homeless teens and young adults ages 13-21. Each participant gets a case manager to coordinate such things as life skills training, employment, housing, health services, resume writing and job counseling.

Freeport executive director Ramona Wil-

son said 20 percent of the young people the program was helping in its Minneapolis office were from St. Paul, so opening another branch made sense. Many of the clients come from poverty-stricken, unstable homes and need more help than their families can provide.

"Kids today are dealing with so much destitution," Wilson said. "Some kids can't go home because their parents can't afford to keep them. The mortgage crisis has sent some families down to the homeless shelter, and many shelters will not take boys over age 14 so they end up on the street. Adults are dealing with tough problems and the kids are dealing with those problems, too."

"People need to know that these kids are interested in becoming members of the

FREEPORT ST. PAUL ►5

Central Corridor plan arrives in D.C. right on schedule

But only after another round of 'draconian' cuts

BY JANE MCCLURE

Following cuts that Chairman Peter Bell described as "draconian," the Metropolitan Council approved plans for a \$914.8 million Central Corridor light-rail transit line on September 3 and submitted it to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for its approval.

The estimated cost for the 11-mile line between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis has risen about \$23 million over the past six months even with the cuts. Increases in material costs have hit the project hard, according to Central Corridor project director Mark Fuhrmann. The steel needed for the rails has doubled in cost in the past year, he said, and the cost of asphalt, concrete and diesel fuel are up between 50 and 70 percent.

The Central Corridor's new budget brings the project's cost-effectiveness index (CEI) to \$24.45, which meets the federal standard of \$24.49 "by a whisker," Fuhrmann said. The CEI is based on travel times and construction and operating costs. It is used by the federal government to rank projects vying for funding.

Local officials are banking on the federal government to cover about half of the Central Corridor's construction costs. A decision on whether the project may proceed to final design is expected in 2009. Construction of the light-rail line could commence as early as 2010 with operations beginning in 2014.

The tight construction budget is something to worry about, Bell said, especially considering the potential impact of continued inflation. "There isn't anything left in (the budget) to play with," he said. "There are no additional dollars (to cut)."

Among the cost-saving measures adopted in the past few weeks were the modification of the station foundations, the postponed construction of some sta-

LIGHT-RAIL TRANSIT PLAN ►4

Residents push for Central Corridor park-and-ride

Union Park board says bus barn site too valuable for parking lot

BY JANE MCCLURE

Though the Central Corridor light-rail line is at least six years away from beginning operations, residents and business owners in neighborhoods along University Avenue are already worried about the prospect of spillover parking. Some Merriam Park residents want St. Paul and regional officials to consider building a park-and-ride lot at the former Metro Transit bus barn site on Snelling and St. Anthony avenues. However, their plea for support from the Union Park District Council was voted down 3-9-5 on September 3.

Although park-and-ride lots have been discussed for the past few years along University Avenue, Union Park is the first district council to take a vote on actually creating a lot. David Ras-

mussen, a Union Park board member who lives in the neighborhood southwest of Snelling and University, collected more than 1,000 signatures on a petition for the park-and-ride lot during the Minnesota State Fair. The bus barn site is one of the most heavily used lots for State Fair parking.

Rasmussen also knocked on doors in his neighborhood and got more than 20 residents to support the park-and-ride idea. Rasmussen said his neighborhood already deals with people who park their cars and hop on one of five bus routes that pass through the neighborhood. Though a resident-only permit parking zone has been established in the neighborhood, he said it is not always enforced.

"People have major issues with the idea that there'll be a light-rail station just east of Snelling and University," Rasmussen said. "Park-and-ride facilities are going to be needed along the Central Corridor."

Rasmussen said his neighborhood is one of a

handful in the district where people live between I-94 and University. "We're the closest people to light rail and we should be supporting it," he said to other board members. "You're the people who, if you are going to use light rail, need a way to get there."

A few board members attacked the park-and-ride idea, noting that neighborhood plans and the city's Central Corridor Development Strategy call for redeveloping the former bus barn site and not for parking. St. Paul also has a long-standing policy against building park-and-ride facilities. Some people urged Rasmussen to take the idea to a committee for a broader discussion.

Some board members said that though they don't like the idea of using a valuable piece of real estate for parking, they see the need for such facilities. "I think we have to look again at how we address parking along the Central Corridor,"

CENTRAL CORRIDOR PARKING ►5

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News Briefs

Curbside composting contract is still in the works in St. Paul

The St. Paul City Council has postponed action on a new contract with Eureka Recycling that would institute the curbside collection of food wastes as compost.

"The city and Eureka are 100 percent committed to introducing compost collection to the entire city," said Ward 4 City Council member Russ Stark. "We're all anxious to get it up and running. We just have a few more details to iron out."

Curbside composting in St. Paul has been on the drawing board for over a year and will continue to be for several months as discussion continues on the terms of the contract, according to city and Eureka officials.

Curbside composting was tested in a portion of Highland Park a few years ago, allowing local residents to set out food waste, paper towels and other items along with their regular recyclable material. Some Highland families all but eliminated the need for trash collection during the test.

"The city is understandably taking another look at various policies with regard to city contracts," said Eureka Recycling CEO Susan Hubbard. "We can't determine the cost impacts and other implications for citywide curbside composting until the city sets its policy. In the meantime, other costs have increased, but we're committed to making this program work."

"The delay is unfortunate," said Mayor Chris Coleman, "but it will allow us the time to bring forward a curbside composting program that will improve our environment and provide a great service to St. Paul residents for years to come."

Trotter's gets outdoor liquor license under relaxed rules

Trotter's Cafe and Bakery, 232 N. Cleveland Ave., has become the first establishment in St. Paul to be granted an outdoor liquor service license under the city's new relaxed requirements. The Union Park District Council agreed to waive the 45-day notice requirement, allowing the cafe to immediately begin serving beer and wine outdoors.

This summer the City Council relaxed the standard for outdoor liquor service after hearing complaints from several restaurant owners about the difficulty of obtaining the signatures of 90 percent of property owners within



The PETA protest in Rice Park (right) on September 3 appeared relatively tame when compared to that of the self-proclaimed anarchists above who marched down Kellogg Boulevard on September 1 on their way to the Xcel Energy Center and a run-in with local authorities protecting the peace at the Republican National Convention.

PHOTOS BY LARRY ENGLUND AND TOM CONLON

300 feet of their establishments. The owners said they were unable to even contact some property owners despite repeated efforts in person and by mail and phone.

The new ordinance gives the City Council more discretion in awarding such licenses. Now a business owner who obtains as few as 60 percent of the required signatures may be granted the license after the City Council finds that noise, traffic and the proximity to homes do not make a case against the license. With fewer than 60 percent of the required signatures, the license may be granted if the applicant can prove a good-faith effort to obtain more signatures and appears before the City Council at a public hearing.

Trotter's has 34 residential properties within 300 feet. Cafe staff spent four months knocking on those doors, leaving notes and telephoning in an effort to obtain the needed signatures. Though they did not run into any opposition to outdoor liquor service, they were only able to obtain the consent signatures of 12 property owners, or 34 percent.

If the city should receive a complaint related to Trotter's outdoor liquor service, the license will be suspended until a public hearing is held.



Thirty-five donated benches to line the path on river road

Ramsey County Active Living's 1,000 Benches Program will be pulling up a seat along Mississippi River Boulevard after all. After some delays, the St. Paul City Council voted last month to approve a plan to place 41 benches along Mississippi River Boulevard and at Cherokee Park on St. Paul's West Side.

The benches were offered to the city earlier this summer and have the support of the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation. However, City Council members had questions about the appearance of the benches. Earlier this year, a proposal by the Union Park District Council to put some of the benches in the Summit Avenue median was halted by the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC). The HPC criticized the appearance of the benches as not befitting Summit Avenue's historical character. Summit Avenue is in the Historic Hill District and Summit Avenue West Historic District.

The benches, which are donated by the county, are made of recycled materials. They have sides made from recycled metal and seats and backs made from recycled plastic.

The bench design and materials cannot be changed, since they are paid for through a grant meant to promote recycling.

City Council members Russ Stark and Pat Harris asked for a layover before the council vote on the benches for Mississippi River Boulevard. Changes along the boulevard, ranging from signage to marking of bicycle lanes, has sparked controversy there in the past. But after looking at the benches, council members agreed that the city should accept the donation.

Six of the benches will go to Cherokee Park and the rest to Mississippi River Boulevard. They will replace old concrete and wooden benches, many of which are deteriorating.

The 1,000 Benches program promotes healthy exercise through walking. Several trails throughout the county have the benches, which include a concrete base and embedded slogan about health and fitness.

Union Park has not yet announced a new walking route for its benches. The benches already may be found along a path between the Western Sculpture Park and the Rondo Library in Summit-University.

Ahoy, mateys! Treasure Island Playground ready to expand

Plans are proceeding full speed ahead to add a pirate ship and tree fort with climbing wall to the popular Treasure Island Playground next to Expo School, 540 S. Warwick St.

Volunteers are needed from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. the weekend of September 19-21 to lend a hand and possibly some tools for the building effort. Volunteers are needed to help with building (basic carpentry skills are welcome but not necessary), recruiting volunteers, arranging for food service and helping with child care.

Some tools are needed, including saws, drills, sawhorses, extension cords, sanders, grinders, ladders and levels. Also needed is some heavy equipment, such as a Bobcat and a boom truck able to place a 500-pound roof on top of the 15-foot-tall tree fort.

Money for the project was raised through a Buy-A-Board program that was launched last year. Lunch and dinner will be provided to volunteers. For information, call Daniel Brown at 651-227-0038 or visit www.expogle.com/volunteer.html.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and John Wadell.

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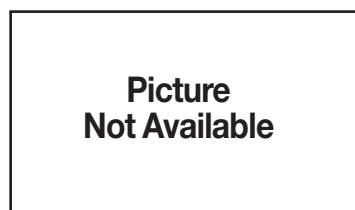
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1 ◀ CENTRAL CORRIDOR

tion shelters, the consolidation of four traction power substations to two, and the postponed installation of a second ticket vending machine at each platform.

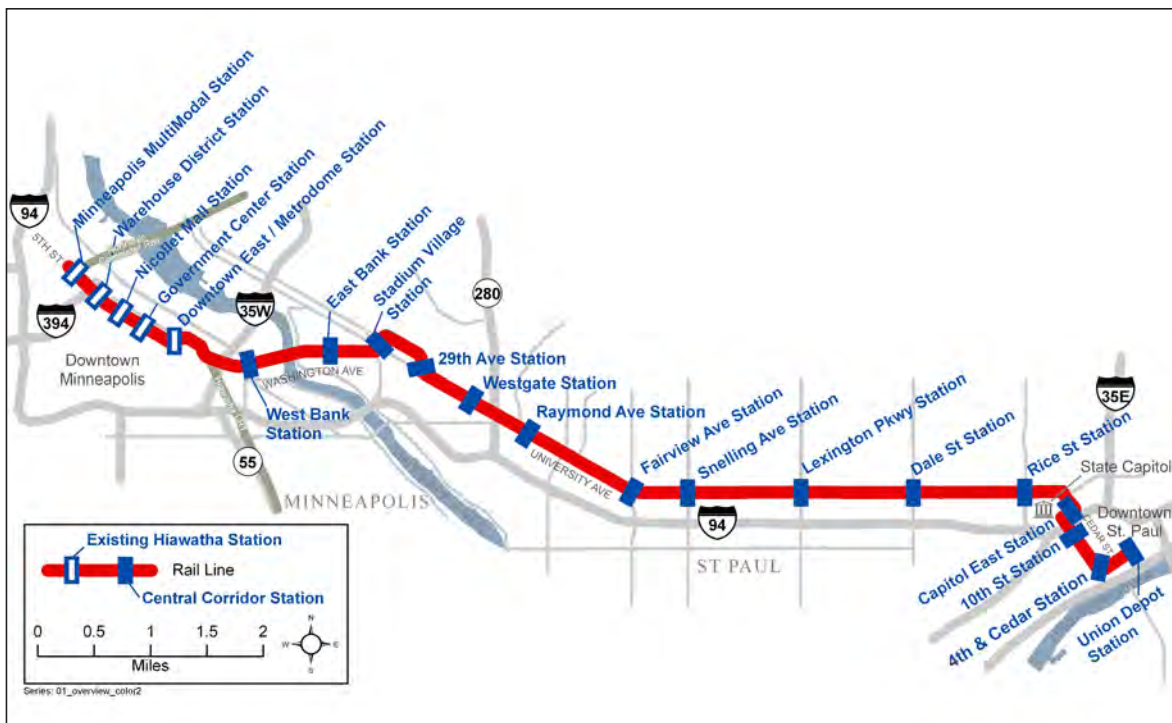
"When we're at the point of taking out ticket machines, that tells me how tight this budget is," Bell said.

Project planners also pared the cost of Central Corridor maintenance facilities, reducing the amount of track and other materials used in their construction. St. Paul and Ramsey County representatives on the Central Corridor Management Committee questioned the decision not to enclose a light-rail vehicle storage facility near the former Union Depot concourse.

"To have a facility without walls, where you can't even wash the cars—it just doesn't make any sense," said Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega.

Bell compared the downtown St. Paul storage facility to a car port. "The budget realities we face are so incredibly draconian, we're forced to do this," he said.

Project planners left in the Central Corridor budget the infrastructure for light-rail stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues,



The proposed Central Corridor light-rail transit line would feature 20 stations along its 11 miles of track as well as the infrastructure for three additional stations between Snelling Avenue and Rice Street.

making it easier to add them in the future. St. Paul and Ramsey County officials had lobbied to build them at the outset.

Under the plan approved on September 3, light-rail stations along University Avenue between Snelling and the state Capitol will be a mile

apart. "We've heard a consistent voice on the part of the community that these stations be included," said St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman. "I get the costs. I get the cost-effectiveness index. I get the challenges we face." But failing to provide adequate stations in neighborhoods where so

many residents are transit-dependent "is a question of trust," he said.

The submission of the Central Corridor plan to the FTA followed a 45-day public comment period. Sixty-five comments were received. Among the most numerous were requests to build the three additional

stations on University Avenue and address the loss of customer parking on University.

Close to 1,000 of the 1,150 on-street parking spaces on University in St. Paul could be lost to the light-rail line. Over the past few months, St. Paul city and Metropolitan Council staff have been surveying businesses along the avenue to gauge the impact of that loss. Project planners have pointed out that there are thousands of off-street parking spaces along University and hundreds of other on-street parking spaces on adjacent side streets. However, negotiating shared parking agreements and installing metered parking or otherwise restricting parking on side streets brings additional costs and complications.

The third biggest concern in the public record is the impact the light-rail line would have on local bus service, especially on University Avenue. Under the current plan, Route 16 buses would run less frequently on University once the trains are operating. Central Corridor project staff have studied the idea of providing additional buses on University just between downtown St. Paul and Fairview Avenue. However, that would increase the cost of the project, raising its CEI to \$25.65.

Plaintiffs seek to mitigate light rail's impact on neighborhoods

BY JANE MCCLURE

What they regard as a failure by state and federal agencies to consider the Central Corridor light-rail line's impact on low-income people and minorities living or working in neighborhoods on either side of University Avenue has prompted three local organizations to threaten a lawsuit.

The St. Paul chapter of the NAACP, the Community Stabilization Project and the the Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation have all said they will challenge the project in court for "serious deficiencies" in its 4,000-plus-page supplemental draft environmental impact statement (SDEIS). The groups want the perceived deficiencies addressed before a final EIS is completed for the project.

The light-rail line has been touted as a boon to the neighborhoods it would serve. However, residents of Summit-University and Frogtown are concerned that the proposed transit line will lead to increases in residential and commercial property taxes and decreases in on-street parking, all of which could displace local homeowners and drive out locally owned businesses.

Though the proposed \$914.8 million budget for the Central Corridor includes the infrastructure for light-rail stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues, unless and until those stations are built, the light-rail stations between Snelling Avenue and the state Capitol will be spaced a mile apart and many people will have to walk a half-mile to catch a train or wait an additional 15 or 30 minutes for a bus.

The Summit-University Planning Council

(SUPC) discussed the proposed lawsuit on August 26 along with the possible creation of neighborhood focus groups to help reduce the light-rail project's negative impacts. Another suggestion was to draft a community benefits agreement before the light-rail line is built.

"There are many people who are trying to head off a lawsuit," said SUPC president Steve Wilson. "One way to do that would be to get people together to discuss what they want to see happen if the light-rail project is built."

Representatives of the three prospective plaintiff groups have staged a variety of demonstrations to make their point over the past several months, including a march on August 14. They have also retained an attorney, Thomas DeVincke, who outlined their concerns in a letter to the Metropolitan Council and FTA:

"The central failure of the SDEIS is that it is based entirely upon the conclusion that the (Central Corridor project) does not have a disproportionate impact on low-income and minority populations," DeVincke wrote. "This conclusion is incorrect."

The light-rail route would run through low-income and minority neighborhoods, DeVincke noted, and he questioned whether project planners understand the federal environmental justice requirements that would be triggered by the project.

Project planners need to consider mitigating the light-rail project's impacts before it moves ahead, DeVincke said. The mitigation measures could include funds set aside to aid businesses disrupted by the light-rail line's construction, a moratorium on resulting property tax increases and grants for existing locally owned businesses.

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Dreja Burce, 13, and Breanna Ellis, 12, take advantage of the new Freeport St. Paul facility in the Summit-University neighborhood. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

1 ◀ FREEPORT ST. PAUL

community," she said. "They aren't juvenile delinquents."

With a staff of four and a \$310,000 budget, Freeport St. Paul is hoping to serve 100 homeless kids from the St. Paul area. The new Selby Avenue youth center will be open from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays during the school year. The center offers computer stations where young people may work on resumes, search for jobs and enhance their computer skills.

The Wilder Foundation estimates that on any given night there can be up to 700 kids out on Twin Cities' streets. While the majority of the kids are local, a significant number are from the suburbs and outstate Minnesota.

"Young people need coaching in so many ways," Wilson said. "They need the opportunity to engage adults in conversation because so many of them aren't getting it from their parents. It's important for kids to know that people in the community care about them."

Once Freeport St. Paul opened its doors, private money started coming in. The St. Paul Foundation and the F.R. Bigelow Foundation each gave \$30,000, and the Mardag Foundation gave \$10,000 to underwrite the program's services.

"We have more kids on the street right now than we've had in a long time," said Jerry Timian, project manager for the St. Paul Foundation. "Children on the street are sexually and physically exploited by adults in terrible ways and we want to see that stopped."

"It was a good move to bring that program across the river to St. Paul," Timian continued. "This organization has a long history of success and its new leadership seems strong and

thoughtful and is trying to raise their work to the next level."

Sherree Ellis, manager of Freeport St. Paul, said the kids who come to the Selby location are often not the kind of kids who go to the bigger recreation centers. "They're more comfortable in the smaller environment that we have to offer," she said. "We try to make kids feel good enough about themselves so they know that they deserve to have good things happen to them. Some kids feel that there's no hope and we're trying to let them know that there are so many opportunities for them out there."

Ellis said that a big draw for her program is the cultural component Freeport St. Paul offers in its promotion of acting, singing, dancing and the spoken word. One hundred kids participated in a theatrical production titled "Revelations Judgment Day," which Ellis wrote and directed. Rehearsal began in winter and culminated in a performance at Stepping-Stone Theater in August.

"The play was a grassroots effort," Ellis said. "Those kids love a microphone and it drew them in. They got involved in our production and we got to know them."

Wilson said Freeport St. Paul is now looking for adult volunteers for such things as its reading program. "There's such a huge need in this community," she said. "We need to get more people involved. We wouldn't ask for people to donate much of their time, but we need kids to see positive role models so they have something to aspire to."

For more information, call Freeport St. Paul at 651-222-3504 or visit www.FreeportWest.org.

1 ◀ CENTRAL CORRIDOR PARKING

said board member Anne White.

A park-and-ride lot was considered for the former bus barn site after the I-35W Bridge collapsed, but the idea was dropped by Metro Transit last fall in favor of other measures to alleviate bridge traffic.

Board member Tim Thoreen said he could support an innovative development at the bus barn site that would include a parking facility. "I don't think this is something we should immediately reject," he said. "There's going to be a parking issue in this district when Central Corridor starts operating."

Building a transit hub with parking and retail stores is one of many ideas that have been considered for the former bus barn site. The site has been vacant since the bus barn was torn down in 2002. Past ideas have included a Best Buy store, a National Guard armory or a headquarters for Allina Hospitals and Clinics. There have also been ideas for mixed-use development as part of a larger proposal to

revamp Midway Shopping Center.

Shopping center owner RK Midway would like to buy the old bus barn property, but Metro Transit would need to find land elsewhere in the area to park buses.

Union Park executive director Theresa Heiland suggested that the future of the bus barn property be discussed at part of an upcoming workshop sponsored by the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development and the national Center for Transit-Oriented Development. Results of a recent study analyzing the economic feasibility of development along Central Corridor at four sites, including the former bus barn site, will be presented at the workshop. Other sites that were studied include the Case Warehouse, Midway Chevrolet and the League of Minnesota Cities blocks.

The study will be presented at 11:45 a.m. Thursday, September 18, at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. Bring a bag lunch or register with Carol Peshman at 651-266-6636 to have lunch provided.

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Paster's latest plan for Mendota Plaza fails to pass muster

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

The Mendota Heights City Council has sent Paster Enterprises back to the drawing board once again with its two-phase, \$40 million plan to upgrade the Mendota Plaza Shopping Center on Highway 110 and Dodd Road.

After more than a year of working with Paster on the redevelopment proposal, the council put off approval of the plan on August 5 for another six months. The issue is expected to come up again at the council's regular meeting on October 21, but only to see whether the developer's plans have improved, according to council member Ultan Duggan.

This was the third time in the past year that Paster Enterprises has been told by the council to refine its plans for the center, which is one of 11 owned and managed in the Twin Cities by the St. Paul-based company.

"After all this time, (the owners) do not seem to be taking any of our suggestions," Duggan said. "The overall feel of the plan, as it stands now, is not sufficiently unique for Mendota Heights, and it doesn't fit with the bookends of the Dodge Nature Center (to the east) and the Mendakota Country Club (to the west). We don't want just another strip mall."

Council members would like Paster's plan to better complement

the type of development that can be found across Highway 110 at the Village at Mendota Heights. "It doesn't need to be the same as that," Duggan said, "but it needs to be as unique."

In August 2007, Paster presented the council with a conceptual plan for the redevelopment, but was told it needed work. Duggan and fellow council member Jack Vitelli sat down with the company's design staff last fall. But after meeting with the council again in May, Paster was left with a list of 22 concerns to address. In July, the Mendota Heights Planning Commission recommended the City Council approve Paster's revised plans, but not before adding another 11 conditions.

"That list was ultimately reduced to 32," Duggan said, "but the one item taken out turned out to be the most important: What will they do with the creek running diagonally through the property? They see it as an impediment and want to cover it with dirt. We see it as an amenity. And we have yet to see word one on just what their housing plans are, not to mention their traffic management plans."

Part of the problem appears to be semantics. What Duggan and the City Council call a creek and an amenity, company president Howard Paster and development director Ken Henk call a swamp and an eyesore.

"We'd build a man-made pond



Paster Enterprises has a two-phase plan for improving the Mendota Plaza Shopping Center at Dodd Road and Highway 110.

on the site," Paster said, "but the swamp divides the project in a way that doesn't work for us. (Our) plans include the replacement of the existing drainage ditch and existing undesirable trees and vegetation with an underground drainage system and an extensive landscaping plan, including the planting of 350 trees throughout the development and along public roadways."

Paster said the company is working with Al Singer from the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Areas Program on a plan that will allow for a regional trail through the property and address concerns about the creek.

As for the traffic-management plans, Henk said a 38-page traffic

analysis was conducted and it concluded that there would be little or no impact on traffic patterns or volume in the vicinity. "We had verbal approval of our traffic plan from (Public Works director) Sue McDermott," he said. McDermott has since left Mendota Heights for a similar job elsewhere.

Duggan responded that Paster is "ultimately planning to add 100,000 square feet of business space, not to mention 100 new units of housing, all of which will definitely have an impact."

He added that the site's design is not pedestrian-friendly. "The buildings need to be clustered in such a way as to encourage patrons to walk between stores and not use their cars

to get from one side of the property to the other," he said.

Phase 1 of redeveloping the 21.7-acre site includes demolishing the west end of the shopping center where Snyders is located and constructing a separate, 14,820-square-foot building for a new Walgreens. Snyders is set to move into the Village at Mendota Heights by early October.

The first phase would also include construction of a 7,600-square-foot restaurant and a 7,200-square-foot retail building on the northeast corner of the property, next to a new entrance off Highway 110.

Phase 2 includes a 36,000-square-foot office building, a 10,130-square-foot daycare center and another 22,200 square feet of office and retail space. Depending on market conditions, phase 2 would also include a 100,000-square-foot building for either senior housing or market-rate apartments.

At last month's meeting, Vitelli said Paster's revised plan still looked like a strip mall. Council members Sandra Krebsbach, Mary Jeanne Schneeman and Mayor John Huber all expressed varying degrees of frustration, but the consensus was that Paster be given another six months to come up with a workable design.

"We plan to fully cooperate with the city and the county," Paster said. "We want to take the high road on this."

Panel supports three options for Rock-Tenn with reservations

BY JANE MCCLURE

The Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel (RCAP) has thrown its support behind the three top options chosen by the St. Paul Port Authority for powering Rock-Tenn's paper recycling plant in Merriam Park. However, it was not without reservations.

RCAP would like more information on the environmental and economic impacts of several of the energy technologies recommended by the Port Authority, including anaerobic digestion and gasification. RCAP is also pressing the Port Authority to remove the burning of refuse-derived fuel (RDF) as an energy option for Rock-Tenn. The Port Authority would like to keep the RDF option in case its

top three options do not pan out.

The top three options include:

- The burning of natural gas at a reduced cost resulting from the creation of a facility elsewhere in Minnesota or a nearby state that would produce biogas from agricultural waste through a process known as anaerobic digestion.
- The operation of a new natural gas turbine at Rock-Tenn to generate electricity and steam. The electricity would be sold to a utility company, and the steam would be used to power Rock-Tenn.
- The building of a gasification facility at Rock-Tenn that would involve the burning of some form of biomass, such as switch grass, wood or logging residue.

Several RCAP members said they did not want to solve a St. Paul energy problem by creating an environmental problem elsewhere. The RCAP report states that its support for anaerobic digestion should not imply that the panel has reviewed the environmental impact of biogas production. The report also recommends that local officials consider locating the anaerobic digestion facility at or near Rock-Tenn's Midway plant.

Anaerobic digestion produces biogas by breaking down animal waste, agricultural waste or even household garbage through the use of microbes. The option recommended by the Port Authority would locate the facility at an ethanol plant, sugar beet plant or other rural site where the agricultural waste is read-

ily available.

"I wouldn't mind an anaerobic digester in my neighborhood," said RCAP member Tom Welna of Merriam Park.

RCAP member John Curry, also of Merriam Park, agreed. Such a facility at Rock-Tenn could serve the entire metropolitan area as a dropoff point for organic garbage, he said.

However, that did not sit well with members of the local Neighbors Against the Burner organization. "NAB would absolutely not support an anaerobic digester on or near the Rock-Tenn property," said Nancy Hone, a Merriam Park resident who helped found the group.

ROCK-TENN ►7

"What's great about St. Paul?"

The Villager reader asks: "Any unusual facts?"

Jim: Of course, it's the "X." The Xcel Energy Center, located in the heart of downtown St. Paul, is part of the RiverCentre Convention Complex, home to this September's Republican National Convention. It has 650,000 sq. ft. of space, has four concourses on four levels and has been the home of the Minnesota Wild of the NHL since September 29, 2000. That night was the first exhibition game for the team - and the team retired the first uniform number - #1 - representing all Minnesota hockey fans.



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Life Time, neighbors work out compromise

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council has overturned a ruling by the city's Board of Zoning Appeals and has granted a 116-space parking variance to Life Time Fitness. The variance will allow the health club to expand its Highland Village facility and fill about 12,000 square feet of vacant office space within the three-story building that Life Time owns at 2145 Ford Pkwy. However, the variance was granted with 28 conditions, many of which must be met by Life Time by the end of September.

The 28 conditions were largely drawn from a list of 34 concerns drafted by residents of the neighborhood immediately north of Life Time, whose streets are often filled by spillover parking from Highland Village businesses. Though Life Time has a 266-space parking ramp next to the fitness center and rents 10 parking spaces in an adjacent surface lot, the proposed expansion would increase its building's required off-street parking to 392 spaces.

Among the improvements being sought by Life Time is a new spa and cafe for its members. Life Time had planned to apply for a beer and wine license for the cafe, but it has agreed not to seek the license as a condition of its variance.

According to Life Time senior director of corporate communications Jason Thunstrom, the company is pleased with the compromise. "This action will allow for much-needed enhancements to our Highland Park health and fitness center in keeping with the amenities, services and experiences we wish to deliver to our members," he said. "We thank our neighbors for their willingness to actively participate in ongoing, constructive dialogue."

According to Pinehurst Avenue resident Kevin Mencke, the neighbors realize the compromise will not solve all of the problems associated with the shortage of off-street parking in Highland Village. However, he said, they are hopeful it will address many of their safety and parking concerns.

The City Council initially heard Life Time's appeal on August 6, but at the urging of Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris, it laid the matter over for two weeks to allow the parties to work out a compromise. Harris said he understands that the neighbors have put up with a lot of inconvenience over the years and that many still do not support the variance. However, he said, he believes the conditions will make a difference.

Harris said his top priority is making sure Life Time patrons use the building's parking ramp. The conditions call for Life Time to promote the ramp's use through various means, including free ramp parking for Life Time employees and contractors, a minimum of three hours of free ramp parking per day for Life Time members, and a rewards-based system for club members who park in the ramp.

The ramp must remain open 24 hours a day. New security measures must be added, including an escort service for ramp users, security cameras and improved lighting. Bicycle racks must be added to the ramp, and club members must be "strongly encouraged" to use non-motorized transportation. Life Time also must work with the city to rebuild the speed bumps in the alley behind the parking ramp and to review traffic flow issues. Truck deliveries to the building will now be on Ford Parkway and not in the alley, where there have been problems with traffic congestion and occasional accidents.

Another condition calls for Life Time to report to the city by September 30 on its adherence to conditions from past city resolutions regarding the building. Those agreements, which Harris and his legislative aide Dennis Rosemark have been researching, date back to the 1980s when the building was first proposed. Life Time, which has operated a fitness center at that location since 1995, bought the building three years ago.

6◀ ROCK-TENN

"There's no way in hell they'd have a biogas facility (at Rock-Tenn)," said RCAP member Alan Schultze. "It's insane. It stinks."

RCAP has been studying energy alternatives for Rock-Tenn for over a year. The plant near I-94 and Vandalia Street is currently powered by fuel oil and natural gas. However, for many years it was powered by steam piped from Xcel Energy's old coal-fired High Bridge Plant. Xcel decommissioned that plant last year in favor of a new natural gas-powered plant,

and local officials have been studying various other energy options in an effort to save Rock-Tenn and its 500 jobs.

A public meeting on the recommended energy options for Rock-Tenn will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 15, at the Wilder Foundation's headquarters, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. The recommendations will also be reviewed by the local Union Park, Macalester-Groveland, Hamline-Midway and St. Anthony Park district councils before they are forwarded to the St. Paul City Council for a final decision.



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Viewpoint

Teddy redux or just a big shtick

BY DANE SMITH

In a recent *New York Times* interview, John McCain reiterated a claim he has been making since his first presidential campaign eight years ago. "I count myself as a conservative Republican," he told the *Times*, "yet I view it to a large degree in the Theodore Roosevelt model."

To the consternation of conservatives who revere Ronald Reagan as the only acceptable GOP role model, McCain claims as his a president who was a crusading corporate adversary and an economic reformer who actually ran for president under the Progressive Party label.

Roosevelt remains beloved in part because he was a far-sighted early advocate for federal tax increases, universal health care, expanding opportunities and workers' rights. He was also the first aggressively conservationist president.

As McCain exits the Twin Cities where he accepted the GOP's nomination for president, it's appropriate to examine the validity of his kinship to Roosevelt. It's especially appropriate here because Minnesota has a history as a progressive Republican state that embraced Roosevelt.

It was at the 1901 Minnesota State Fair where Roosevelt, in a manly salute to the "sons of the men" of Minnesota who had so recently tamed "the Great Northwest," first issued his immortal words on foreign policy, asserting that the U.S. ought to "speak softly and carry a big stick."

How much did Minnesota like Roosevelt? In 1912, when Roosevelt led the breakaway Progressive Party in a spirited effort to address gross inequalities in a nation where small government was helpless to challenge big business, Minnesota gave Roosevelt his fourth-highest vote percentage and was one of only six states he carried in what was a Democratic landslide for Woodrow Wilson.

McCain hasn't said much about how he's like Roosevelt, but in 2000, columnist David Greenberg, under the headline "John McCain's Big Shtick," dismissed the analogy as "flimsy." On domestic reform, "the TR-McCain analogy collapses," Greenberg wrote. "(McCain) remains a conventional conservative on domestic issues.... On TR's issues...McCain could not be less progressive."

Other commentators have claimed that the McCain-Roosevelt analogy has substantial merit based on their record of bravery in military action, their "peace through strength" toughness on foreign policy, and their advocacy of environmental protection.

At the very least, the GOP's choice of McCain says something hopeful about the direction of the party. The leaders of the ideological right on both economic and cultural issues had declared McCain utterly unacceptable as a nominee as recently as last year.

McCain has since made peace with most if not all of those adversaries, leading his progressive critics to wonder whether his independence has any real meaning. Nevertheless, his nomination represents a turning away from the ideologically pure frontier of American politics and policy.

And having governmental leaders who are not reflexively opposed to using the power of that government to reinvest in our human capital and infrastructure is a good thing. David Brooks, perhaps the most influential of the Beltway pundits these days, wrote recently that there are "at least five large problems that will compel the federal government to act in gigantic ways over the next five years": health care, energy, a stagnation in human capital and educational attainment, financial market reforms and infrastructure.

Brooks also compared McCain to Roosevelt. Brooks noted that Roosevelt had a sturdy conservative image as an American hero who was "thrifty, hard-working, vigorous and righteous." But Roosevelt also sought to create a Square Deal for average Americans. Roosevelt, Brooks noted, said that "the true function of the state...should be to make the chances of competition more even, not to abolish them." Or as Roosevelt said at the State Fair: "Our interests are, at bottom, common.... We go up or go down together."

Dane Smith, a resident of Highland Park, is the president of Growth & Justice, a non-partisan advocate for fair taxation and smart public investment.



Inbox

I'm not marching anymore

To the editor:

I've been a peace patriot for 50 years, but last week was my last protest march. I was humiliated by the stormtroopers, the 8-foot black fences, the public address system that was shut off, the uninvited anarchists and the government's overreaction. The money squandered by the city of St. Paul could have built a new school or library. The city employees' time certainly could have been better spent. The Republican National Convention looked good in comparison to our "protest."

The event started out at 11:00 a.m. on the huge grounds in front of the Minnesota Capitol, and by 1:00 p.m. there were well over 10,000 people there from all over the U.S. We had a stage and sound system. What if instead of a march, we had a program in which we expressed our views and educated each other instead of wearing out our shoes and muscles. There were many among us who could have shared their peace message and wisdom. Staying on the "high ground" of the Capitol and ignoring the RNC would have been much more effective and to the point.

*Len Jackson
Ramsey Hill*

RNC was a bust for St. Paul

To the editor:

Congratulations to St. Paul police chief John Harrington, assistant chief Matt Bostrom and the greatest police force in the state of Minnesota. The St. Paul Police Department's restraint and professionalism was the highlight of the city's fumbled attempt to pull off the high-profile Republican National Convention. The RNC and its estimated \$160 million windfall ended up as a bust rather than a bonanza for St. Paul's retail community.

Minneapolis finessed St. Paul out of 80 percent of the action and left the remainder to be cherry-picked by Bloomington, Eagan and the Xcel Energy Center's own in-house retail outlets. St. Paul got the emergency calls, the police and fire calls, a public image bordering on an urban riot and the bill.

*Charles Senkler
Ramsey Hill*

Editor's note: The writer is co-owner of Fabulous Fern's Bar and Grill on Selby Avenue.

Sharing the road

Dear editors:

The discussion around the proposed bicycle boulevard on Highland Parkway is of interest to me as a nonresident who does frequent business in Highland Park and likes to commute by bicycle as often as I can. I was disappointed that several letters in your previous edition opposed the bicycle boulevard with arguments quite peripheral to the scope of the actual proposal—points in opposition not to the bicycle boulevard per se, but to existing law.

Bicyclists have the right to ride on any nonrestricted roadway. They have the right to ride two abreast and to operate on most sidewalks except in business districts or where otherwise restricted. These rights come with responsibilities to navigate safely, predictably and lawfully with respect to traffic conditions, other vehicles and pedestrians—exactly as motor vehicles are required to do.

*John Siqveland
St. Anthony Park*

Pumped up about bike boulevard

To the editor:

The angry residents fighting against a bicycle boulevard on Highland Parkway have nothing new to say and nothing of value to contribute to the discussion. Without exception, their letters have been misinformed and full of distortions.

I've worked for eight years as a consultant to improve opportunities for biking and walking in St. Paul. I've heard every rant and wild allegation about how the sky will fall if we let bicyclists on our streets. In every neighborhood, opponents scream about how their street will be ruined if a simple bicycling improvement is made. Sometimes the city backs down. Sometimes it's brave enough to do the right thing and build the project anyway.

Without exception, every completed bicycle project has been a huge success. So successful, in fact, that neighborhoods all over St. Paul are asking for new projects. Bike lanes on Como, Marshall, Summit and Raymond avenues all met with opposition. But guess what happened after these amenities were built? The neighbors who screamed and howled about the project are never heard from again. Meanwhile, St. Paul has built yet another terrific route that makes it safer and easier for the thousands of us who live and work in St. Paul to bicycle to work, school and shopping.

8◀ INBOX

If we want to reach Mayor Chris Coleman's goal of making St. Paul "the most livable city in America," then bike lanes, bike boulevards and other improvements are essential. If we want to meet the goals of reducing greenhouse gases, we must make it easy for people to drive less and bicycle more. If we want to meet the goals of the proposed city transportation plan to dramatically increase bicycling, we must build more bike infrastructure.

There are no technical challenges in this project. There are no economic challenges. The only challenge is getting community leaders to realize that sometimes it's best to ignore the howling voices and do what's best for St. Paul.

I encourage all St. Paul residents who want more transportation options to call the mayor, City Council member Pat Harris and the Highland District Council to insist they fulfill the city's stated goals and support this project.

*Alice Tibbetts
Merriam Park*

The 100 percent solution

To the editor:

One hundred percent of bicycle riders know that stop signs do not apply to them. About 99 percent of motorists believe that stop signs apply to them. And just over 70 percent of motorcyclists think it is possible that stop signs might apply to them. Such confusion or profound ignorance!

Notwithstanding that bicycle riders are superior to motorists morally and every other way as well, it is arguable that this situation should be clarified before someone is killed. Two solutions are obvious: Ban motorists from using Mississippi River Boulevard and remove the stop signs, or get the St. Paul police to patrol the river road and issue citations. Given the number of bicyclists and assuming that running a stop sign costs \$100, the latter solution would result in major revenue for the city.

*T. Sexton
Macalester-Groveland*

A safe corridor for cycling

To the editor:

Let me begin by thanking Jane McClure for writing a very balanced article about the August 11 meeting on the proposed bicycle boulevard on Highland Parkway (*Villager*, August 20). There was a lot of passionate debate on both sides, and she accurately captured it all. Steve Michael's cartoon on the editorial page also accurately captures what the reality of what a bike boulevard is—a safe corridor that cyclists and pedestrians can use to avoid high-traffic roads.

I have been an avid cyclist for 40 years and co-own a bike shop in South Minneapolis. In all of those years, I have never seen a community project that both enhances the quality of a neighborhood and addresses citizen concerns until now. Bike boulevards are designed to reduce automobile traffic along their length and direct that traffic to higher-density streets like Ford Parkway. Fewer cars means less noise and less pollution. This project would lower the speed limit from 30 to 25 mph, but it would not restrict automobile traffic nor add any additional traffic signals. It would have no impact on parking or snow removal. In cities that have established bike boulevards, property values have generally gone up, since home buyers like living where automobile traffic has been replaced with quiet, nonpolluting bicycles.

Cyclists take risks every day they travel on the roads. State law recognizes them as vehicles with rights to the roadway. The Highland Parkway bike boulevard would simply give them a safe east-west corridor with access to bike trails at either end. There are certainly cyclists out there who do not obey traffic signs, ride on sidewalks and exceed trail speed limits. They should be prosecuted.

The bicycle is a viable means of urban transportation that is here to stay. It offers the rider improved health without polluting, using fossil fuels or increasing congestion on the roads. Cyclists are your neighbors and fellow citizens who also pay taxes and go off to work everyday to provide for their families. They have a right to be on the roadway and are simply asking for a safe corridor upon which they can have priority over cars.

*Kevin MacAfee
Macalester-Groveland*

No need for bike boulevard

Dear editor,

We oppose the proposed Highland Parkway/Edgumbe Road bicycle boulevard. It will clog traffic on Highland Parkway and Edgumbe, forcing more traffic onto adjacent streets. It is unsafe, encouraging bicyclists and cars to share space on a narrow, unstriped street. Bicyclists will have priority by law, and two riding side by side will irritate and confuse drivers as well as block the street to cars.

It is also unnecessary. There are other streets in Highland on which bicyclists can safely get from the Mississippi River to I-35E—Ford Parkway, Montreal and Randolph, among others. Further, there are already many areas within St. Paul and the metropolitan area available to recreational bicyclists. The existing striped bike lanes are perfectly adequate for bicyclists commuting to work.

Minneapolis has done a good job of providing safe bike paths away from streets used by cars. St. Paul needs to avoid a jerry-rigged solution. Having \$250,000 of federal money shouldn't compel a project that isn't in the best interest of a majority of our neighborhood.

We believe this bike boulevard will not encourage more residents to bike to work. It will be used primarily for recreation. It does not seem necessary to make getting around in our community more difficult, particularly after the closing of Antonio Road through the park and the imminent opening of Trader Joe's at a busy intersection.

Transit for Livable Communities is taking a livable community and making the community less livable.

*Carol Beadie, Judy Kinkead, Missy Bruber,
Debbie Patterson, Judy O'Donnell
Highland Park*

For a greener city

To the editor:

I live in the city because, like many others, I love the proximity to work, groceries and entertainment. I applaud those I see biking to these areas. Not only are they staying healthy, they are taking care of our Earth. Of course, there are cyclists who are not always law-abiding or courteous and therefore frustrating to some. However, there are also motorists who stop in the middle of a crosswalk, fly through a red light, forget to slow coming out of an alley or drive 35 mph down neighborhood streets. We could spend a lot of time sharing experiences of bicyclists versus motorists. The fact remains that bikes

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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9◀ INBOX

are allowed on streets; it's the law. Bicyclists and motorists need to coexist.

For the future of our kids, our environment and our global connections, we need to become a greener, healthier community. Urban living meets those needs. The suburbs are where people must rely on cars to get a cup of coffee, see a movie or go to a park. Perhaps that's a better place for those who are frustrated by bicyclists.

*Maureen Sackmaster Carpenter
Macalester-Groveland*

Promote biking, prevent disease

To the editor:

Those who might have the opportunity to benefit from the proposed Highland Parkway bike boulevard would do well to read both the recently released "Minnesota Obesity Plan" (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/chp/obesity/index.html) and "Prevention for a Healthier America," a report of the Trust for America's Health (www.healthyamericans.org). According to the reports, the nationwide epidemics of obesity and diabetes are a threat to the physical and economic health of the country. "Prevention for a Healthier America" concludes that with a \$50.9 million (\$10 per person) annual investment in community-based disease prevention programs, Minnesota would see a net savings of \$58.2 million in the first two years and \$352.9 million in 10 to 20 years.

No chronic disease prevention program can succeed without adequate physical activity, and the Highland Parkway bike boulevard would help St. Paulites achieve the disease-prevention goals that are necessary for a happy and prosperous life.

*Dr. Thomas E. Kottke
Merriam Park*

Editor's note: Dr. Kottke is a professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota and a senior clinical investigator for Health Partners Research Foundation.

An industry you can bank on

Dear editor,

In spite of the negative headlines regarding challenging economic conditions, failed banks and the ongoing credit crisis, the banking industry overall is solid and strong. The industry, including traditional federally insured, federally regulated depository institutions, your local commercial bank, thrift or savings bank, is well-regulated and profitable.

To date, only nine of the nation's 8,500 banks have failed in 2008. Since 1995, 10 or fewer banks have failed each year. Additionally, banking capital is at historic highs. Banks use their capital and loan loss reserves as a buffer against any potential operating losses. As of March 2008, the industry held \$1.36 trillion in capital, plus \$120.9 billion in reserves, for a total buffer of \$1.48 trillion. Banks are well-positioned to continue helping their communities grow and prosper.

The Upper Midwest is fortunate to have an especially strong banking industry. This region has limited exposure to the boom-bust geographic areas that have been the source of

many of the banking industry's most pressing problems.

Despite a few highly publicized bank failures, the U.S. banking system today receives solid backing in the form of FDIC insurance. Currently, the FDIC insurance fund contains more than \$52 billion in assets and earns an additional \$2.5 billion in interest annually to protect depositors. Additionally, federal and state banking regulators closely monitor the financial health of every bank. When needed, regulators work to improve the health of banks that are struggling.

History proves that the U.S. economy is cyclical in nature, enduring both boom and bust cycles. During this cycle, your local bank remains open for business, doing what it does best: helping meet clients' needs and building healthy communities.

*Jason Burak, Assistant Vice President
Bremer Bank-Midway*

School dismantles stereotypes

To the editor:

Thank you for your article about the Laura Jeffrey Academy, the new "girl-centered" charter school for grades 5-8 (*Villager*, August 6). As a parent and a lawyer who specializes in gender equality, I am excited about the mission of the school, which is to help girls make their own choices in the face of cultural pressures that would otherwise steer them away from math, science, engineering and athletics. However, I was concerned that some of the off-the-cuff comments in the article from young interviewees—e.g., that boys are "super naughty"—might unintentionally mislead readers about the philosophy behind this mission.

I think the people creating the Laura Jeffrey Academy would agree that same-sex education is a good idea, but not because boys are naughty or girls don't like math. It's because same-sex education can help to dismantle these types of stereotypes, which are harmful to both boys and girls.

*Jill Gaulding
Macalester-Groveland*

Nationalize the Ford Plant

To the editor:

I agree with Roger Terveen of United Auto Workers Local 879 that it is great news that Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant will remain open until 2011 (*Villager*, August 20). However, the struggle to save union jobs at the St. Paul plant is not over.

Across the nation, the scourge of plant closings has created a crisis for the working class. The threat of plant closings is wielded as a weapon against organized labor. Ford CEOs have never made decisions based upon anything other than maximum profits. Job security for auto workers is not a consideration in the minds of corporate bosses.

Ford initially announced that it would be closing the Twin Cities Assembly Plant in 2008 and coerced many UAW members to accept buy-out packages. Ford's profits jumped as workers were laid off and the union was kicked in the teeth. Even as Ford announces that the plant will remain open a few more years, the threat of the plant's closure and

the unemployment of almost 1,000 workers still looms. Karl Marx was right when he said that "capitalist production squanders human lives."

Enough is enough. The time has come to nationalize the Twin Cities Assembly Plant and guarantee union power and job security by operating the Ford Plant under public ownership. Ford is not entitled to any compensation. The working class has subsidized Ford's manufacturing at the St. Paul plant for years. What the taxpayers finance, the taxpayers should own. The Ford Plant should be taken over by the government and run by and on behalf of the workers and the community.

Gus Hall, former leader of the Communist Party USA, said at a 1979 rally in Detroit that "there is nothing wrong or illegal in the government taking over these plants, because there is one sacred and inalienable right that supersedes all others, and that is the right of the people to make a living—to be able to eat, pay rent, raise and educate their children."

Everyone who cares about the working class and fighting union busting is invited to a public forum on the Ford Plant at 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 22, at Mayday Books, 301 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Speakers will include a representative of the Gus Hall Action Club, Christine Frank of the International Association of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 13, Alan Maki of the Midwest Casino Workers Organizing Council and David Riehle of United Transportation Union Local 650.

*Michael Wood
Longfellow, Minneapolis*

Editor's note: The writer is a member of the Gus Hall Action Club.

Charisma is not a platform

To the editor:

Every time I see another fresh-faced ad by U.S. Senator Barack Obama, it awakens in me images of my days at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We once had a similarly charismatic young U.S. senator come through town, Senator Bobby Kennedy, and most on campus responded as so many students do now, with thoroughly engaged hearts and minds. Then, I was a member of Students for a Democratic Society and was profoundly apolitical, believing the Republicans and Democrats were simply subsets of the Capitalist Party. I remember chanting at an anti-Kennedy rally, "Charisma is not a platform," a belief I hold today.

Even though I have never trusted visceral buzzwords on a speaker's placard or in his or her stump speeches, I remember those moments as the most idealistic in a student's life, the moments they most want something to believe in. And that brings up a problem that McCain will surely exploit: Obama's exploitation of his own inspiration. Can Obama shine in his own afterglow from months gone by, or will those promised hopes and dreams be seen more clearly in the harsh light of November?

*Paul Peter Paulos
Macalester-Groveland*

INBOX ▶ 11

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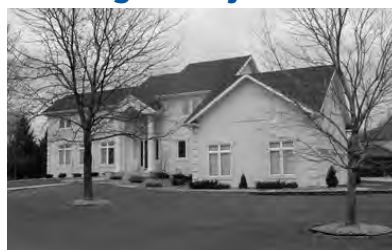
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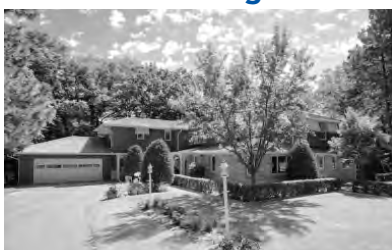
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10◀ INBOX

Village needs a cleaning

To the editor:

I was embarrassed when we brought our Danish guests down to Highland Village this summer for a tour. Down Bohland past the fields, we saw broken booze bottles and litter. Further, along Ford Parkway, in front of eating and drinking establishments, we walked on sticky sidewalks and cigarettes butts, saw crusty food on tables and chairs, and side-stepped spilled beverages. And this was at 10:00 a.m.!

All it would take is a few buckets of hot, soapy water thrown down on the sidewalks and rinsed with a garden hose during these summer months to make it more presentable and make it easier for us to show off the Village.

I e-mailed the Highland Business Association and one particular business to complain. I never received an answer and have seen no improvement.

*Margie Meyers
Highland Park*

Growing concern

Dear editor,

I would like to make a correction in the *Villager* issue dated August 6 regarding the first meeting of Greater Highland Neighbors Against Crime. It read that more than 100 local residents attended. I was a volunteer at the meeting and I counted 170 neighbors, business owners and managers who attended. I would also like to thank the *Villager* for the report on this meeting.

*Michelle Mahr
Highland Park*

Judging Sarah Palin

To the editor:

Governor Sarah Palin and the political movement she represents gain their power by passing judgment on others. They not only pass judgment, they turn their judgment into laws—laws that condone discrimination, laws that add to the economic hardship of struggling families because they don't meet their moral standards, laws that censor and distort science in ways that jeopardize the public's health.

To question Palin's merits as a vice presidential candidate is not about the actions of her family members. It's about her belief that she can pass judgment on others but others can't pass judgment on her when her personal life is shown to be no different from the lives of those she has publicly condemned.

The fact that John McCain didn't see this as an issue when choosing her as a running mate is further evidence that when it comes to serving the public interest and not just his political interest, he just doesn't get it.

*Bob Tracy
Macalester-Groveland*

Scholastic nightmare

To the editor:

Nacel International School can change its name and address (*Villager*, August 6), but that can't change the horrific experience I had hosting for them in 2006-07. My student was a terrific young woman from Poland who called me her Minnesota Mom, and I remain friends with her and her family today. In fact, she returned to St. Paul last year to attend college and lived with me again part of the time.

Nacel's staff and administration treated me so badly that I will never host for them again. When I informed Nacel staff about a host mom who was holding student parties in her home with almost no supervision, I was ignored. As I continued to observe and speak

up about other concerns, I was consistently treated with disrespect and disregard, even laughed at.

The concerns I raised were about a range of issues, such as favoritism shown toward certain host families or their students, inconsistent enforcement of school policies, almost no cross-cultural activities, the principal being absent most days, the difficulty in collecting on a student's health insurance, almost no English preparation for those students needing help, and late stipend checks.

The more I spoke up about these issues, the more I was treated by staff and administration with unprofessional and disrespectful behavior. When I learned last November that school staff and school representatives continued to bad-mouth me privately and publicly, my lawyer wrote Nacel threatening further action if it did not stop.

Hosting a student from another country can truly be a wonderful experience with long-term benefits for both parties, but my hosting with Nacel was a nightmare.

*Katherine Werner
Macalester-Groveland*

Sisters' sendoff

To the editor:

What a wonderful article on the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Mark's school and convent (*Villager*, August 20). Writer Carolyn Will really captured Sister Mary Fran Allen's personality in the story. I know I'm prejudiced regarding the good work of our sisters at St. Mark's since 1913, but this really was a well done news story. Thanks!

*Sister Mary E. Kraft
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet*

Ovarian cancer alert

To the editor:

Ovarian cancer is the fifth most common cause of cancer death among women in the U.S. As a stage 3C survivor, I am interested in raising awareness about this disease.

Several factors have been known to significantly increase a woman's risk of developing epithelial ovarian cancer, which represents about 85 percent of all ovarian cancers:

- Two or more close relatives—mother, sister, daughter, grandmother or aunt—had ovarian cancer.
- A family history of other cancers, such as uterine, ovarian or colorectal, in either female or male relatives, especially in their 20s or 30s.
- An earlier bout of breast cancer.
- An inherited BRCA-1 or BRCA-2 gene mutation.
- Ashkenazi Jewish descent.
- Infertility.

Many women with ovarian cancer have reported such symptoms as bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, and urgency or frequency of urination. Please see your doctor if you experience a combination of these symptoms that persist for more than two or three weeks or increase in intensity. Other symptoms may include fatigue, indigestion, back pain, pain with intercourse, constipation and menstrual irregularities.

If you experience these symptoms, ask your doctor for these three tests: combination pelvic/rectal exam, CA 125 tumor marker blood test and a transvaginal ultrasound. The tests are not fool-proof when used alone, but used together can be very helpful in diagnosing ovarian cancer.

*Susan Kushner
Mendota Heights*

Editor's note. The writer is a founding board member of the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance.

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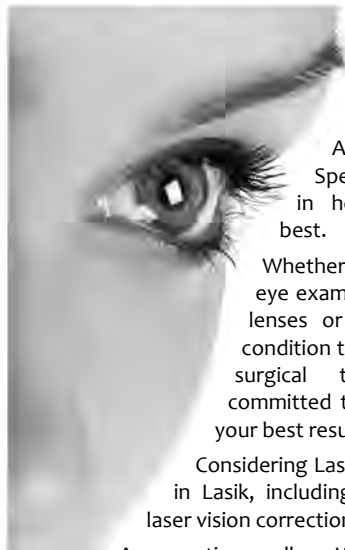
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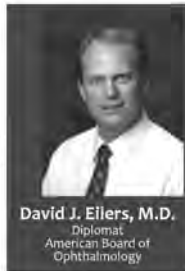
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Larry Bentson, right, talks with scholarship recipients David Drouillard, left Justin Ancier, Scott Palmer and Mike Blyakher during a barbecue at his home. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

U of M scholars have homegrown role model in Highland's Bentson

BY CAROLYN WILL

Many of the University of Minnesota students arriving in buses at the home on Lower St. Dennis Road on a recent Sunday afternoon had never met long-time Highland Park resident Larry Bentson. They didn't know that he's a living legend in the broadcasting industry, having started many television and radio stations, including what's now KARE 11. Nonetheless, the students all proudly identified themselves as Bentson Scholars and were eager to meet other scholarship recipients and their benefactor.

Bentson, 87, who greeted the students with a level of energy belying his age, was treating them to a catered barbecue in his backyard. The students were all recipients of a Bentson Family Scholarship, the largest privately donated scholarship fund offered at the U. The \$5,000 annual scholarships are all renewable for four years.

The idea to establish the scholarship fund came from Bentson and his late wife, Nancy. In 2003, they told then-university president Mark Yudof that they wanted to do something out of the ordinary. "Dr. Yudof told us the greatest need was scholarships," Bentson said.

With a gift of \$10 million, the first Bentson Family Scholarships were awarded in the summer of 2004, just before Nancy passed

away. "She was so excited about it and she talked with every one of those first students," Bentson said.

Nancy graduated from the U's medical technology program in 1945, two years after Bentson graduated from the U's Institute of Technology. Following three years in the U.S. Navy, Bentson began his storied career in communications in partnership with his father-in-law, Eddie Ruben.

Before he even finished college, Bentson had started working in radio for his uncle, Ed Hoffman, who built WMIN-AM 1400. "I was his timekeeper for the construction crew, making sure they put in a full day's work," Bentson said.

While still in college, he also worked as an engineer and announcer for the station.

Around that same time, a young woman from across the river caught his eye. "I started dating Nancy when it was really something for guy from St. Paul to date a gal from Minneapolis," said Bentson, who attended Groveland Elementary, Ramsey Junior High and Central High School before heading to the U.

Bentson married Nancy after his discharge from the Navy and returned to WMIN, eventually becoming its president. He built one of the Twin Cities' first television stations, WMIN-TV Channel 11, as well as South Da-

LARRY BENTSON ► 13

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Legacy of learning

District 197 kicks off 150th year with replica of first school

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School District 197 will kick off its year-long 150th anniversary celebration with an old-fashioned schoolhouse raising from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 13, at Matson Field, located across from Heritage Middle School on Butler and Stryker avenues in West St. Paul.

Pancakes and a potluck dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A variety of vintage sporting events, including old-fashioned baseball, will follow until 3:00 p.m.

The 150-square-foot building will be a replica of the district's first schoolhouse that was built in 1859, just a year after Minnesota was granted statehood. Initially known as County School 3, the building was located about 40 yards from Delaware and Emerson avenues on the border of West St. Paul and Mendota Heights. The building was later renamed the No. 5 District School.

Once it is finished, the replica will serve as the ticket booth and storage room for the high school football and soccer games played at Matson.

"The district is not putting any money into this," said Debi McConnell, history project chair. McConnell said virtually all of the cost of the schoolhouse, about \$5,000, is being covered by donations of money, materials and labor. "We've received a most generous grant of \$3,000 from Home Depot for building materials," she said, "and in-kind donations of architectural design work from Bob Roscoe of Design for Preservation Architects."

Steve Bulach of Bulach Custom Rock, Mike Klehr Inc. and Shane Pavel of Pavel Enterprises have all committed materials and labor to the effort. Nilles Builders is providing the materials for the cupola.

"Twin City Siding Professionals and Metzger Building Supply are also providing labor and materials," McConnell said. Metzger will install a bell on the schoolhouse later in the month.

Throughout the 2008-2009 school year, the district's 150-year history will be incorporated into lessons at each of the district's eight schools and activities at PTA events will focus on the theme, "Proud Past, Bold Future." The festivities will wind up with a history fair the weekend of June 5-7, 2009.

According to a history of the district written by Gloria Gritz, Samuel Cole Staples founded the district's first school



A drawing of the schoolhouse replica that will be raised at Matson Field on September 13.

and promptly registered his two sons, Charles and George.

In 1863, the school was moved to the site of today's Somerset School, 1355 Dodd Road, and served 17 students ages 5-17. That school burned down in 1899 and was replaced with the new Staples School, named after Samuel Staples, who still served on the School Board at the time.

Four other schools—Gladstone, McClung, McGrath and Sibley—were built in 1887-1888. Gladstone School, named after the British prime minister, also held city offices. It was built at 212 Wentworth Ave. in West St. Paul on land donated by George Wentworth. It was condemned in the early 1900s and demolished in 1930.

McClung School was located at 248 E. Hurley St. in West St. Paul. Named for John W. McClung, who wrote promotional literature to encourage settlement, it had 13 pupils in 1910. It was closed in 1928 and demolished two years later.

McGrath School opened at the corner of Wentworth Avenue and Charlton Street on land donated by James McGrath.

Sibley School, named after governor Henry Hastings Sibley, was located on the south side of Bernard and Allen avenues in West St. Paul. The school was demolished in 1964.

Emerson School was built in 1915 on the southwest corner of Bernard and Livingston avenues in West St. Paul. Emerson was the first school in the district to have electricity and plumbing. Named for the city alderman who owned the land for Somerset Golf Course, it was demolished in 1964.

Voters decided in 1928 to build Dodd School at Smith Avenue and Dodd Road

in West St. Paul. It was completed in 1929 at a cost of \$67,000. In 1953, it became the district's first school to have television sets. Dodd School was demolished in 1970 and is currently the site of the Doddway Shopping Center.

Another bond issue in 1930 allowed for the construction of Oakdale School at Oakdale and Roeller avenues in West St. Paul. It was the district's first school to have a gymnasium and cost \$49,000 to build. It was demolished in the early 1980s.

A new Sibley School opened for grades 1-8 in 1939 and a high school was added 13 years later. They were located at Bernard Avenue and Bidwell Street in West St. Paul. Most of complex was razed in 1995 to make way for Heritage Middle School.

The current Somerset School was built in 1936 to replace the aging Staples School. The school made news in national publications because of its Georgian Colonial style. Additions were built in 1953 and 1969, and the school was recently renovated, thanks to approval of a 2004 building bond. The original part of the building is still in use.

School District 197 was officially formed in 1957. Garlough and Mendota elementary schools had just opened at 1979 Summit Lane in Mendota Heights and 1740 Charlton St. in West St. Paul, respectively. Garlough, named for former school superintendent Herbert Garlough, is now an environmental magnet school in partnership with the Dodge Nature Center.

The district's other schools have a more recent heritage. Moreland Elementary, 217 W. Moreland Ave. in West St. Paul, was built in 1964 and Henry Sibley High School, 1897 Delaware Ave. in Mendota Heights, in 1971. The district's fifth and final elementary school, Pilot Knob, was built in 1974 at 1436 Lone Oak Road in Eagan.

Heritage and Friendly Hills middle schools were completed in 1997 and serve students in grades 5-8. Heritage, 121 W. Butler Ave. in West St. Paul, is on the site of the original Sibley High School and the short-lived Grass Junior High. Friendly Hills is located at 701 Mendota Heights Road in Mendota Heights.

McConnell invites anyone who is interested in getting involved or in sharing stories or documents to visit the district's website at www.isd197.org and click on the Celebrating 150 logo. For more information, e-mail her at macbach@comcast.net or call 651-403-7020.

12◀ LARRY BENTSON

kota's first television station, Channel 11 in Sioux Falls, and three ABC-TV affiliates in Madison, LaCrosse and Wausau.

"We built the Sioux Falls TV station and started sending out a signal before the residents in the area even had televisions," Bentson said. His ownership and operation of radio, television and cable television systems throughout the Midwest eventually earned him a place in the Minnesota Museum of Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

Bentson remarried after Nancy's death and it was his new wife, Barbara, who came up with the idea of inviting scholarship recipients over for an annual barbecue in 2005. The party has since grown from 16 students that first year to 255 as the endowment has grown and

the university began matching the gifts. Bentson hopes the gatherings encourage the students to support one another as they pursue their professional careers.

Aliza Kosyakovsky, a sophomore majoring in biochemistry, was encouraged to apply for a Bentson Family Scholarship by her high school guidance counselor. "I thought it was awesome when I found out I'd received one," she said. "Half my tuition was paid."

Kyle Becker, a junior majoring in biochemistry, genetics and cell biology, said he always looks forward to the annual fall get-together. "It's a great way to be meet faculty and other students," he said.

The scholarships are awarded to promising incoming freshmen who have demonstrated outstanding academic potential, leadership, community

involvement and financial need. Preference is given to students of the Jewish faith, which is shared by the Bentsons, but the family has no role in reviewing applications.

"There's nothing more important than helping make the U of M more affordable," said university president Robert Bruininks at the backyard party. "Knowing how competitive and how highly sought-after this scholarship is, when students are awarded a Bentson Family Scholarship, they feel very, very special. And they are some of our most accomplished students."

Bruininks added that the Bentson Endowment keeps on giving and growing. The first group of Bentson Scholars graduated in May of this year. All 16 finished in four years, many of them with multiple majors.

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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—A home on the 1400 block of Highland Parkway was burglarized between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Friday, July 25.

—The concession building was broken into at the Ford Little League Fields at Cleveland and Montreal avenues between 10:00 p.m. Saturday and 7:30 a.m. Sunday, July 26-27.

—A business on the 2400 block of West 7th Street was broken into at about 5:30 a.m. Sunday, August 3.

—Details Salon, 757 S. Cleveland Ave., was burglarized between 12:30 and 12:45 p.m. Sunday, August 3.

Theft—A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 2200 block of Eleanor Avenue between midnight and 6:00 a.m. Sunday, August 3.

Assault—A man was arrested for assault after he pushed a woman to the ground at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday, July 31, at Hidden Falls Park. The woman's hand required stitches.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A home on the 100 block of Cambridge Street was burglarized between midnight and 7:00 a.m. Friday, July 25. The resident was home at the time.

—The door was broken and items were stolen from a home on the 300 block of South Cleveland Avenue between 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 25.

—A home on the 200 block of South Griggs Street was burglarized between 3:00 p.m. Saturday and 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 2-5. Glass on the rear door was broken.

Theft—Two laptop computers were stolen at Macalester College between 6:00 a.m. Tuesday and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 5-6.

—A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 1400 block of Fairmount Avenue between July 30 and August 5.

—A gym bag with hundreds of decommissioned pull tabs was stolen from a vehicle on the 300 block of Woodlawn Avenue between 11:00 p.m. Wednesday and 9:00 a.m. Thursday, July 30-31.

—A purse was stolen from a vehicle parked at Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard at about 7:00 p.m. Saturday, August 2. Another theft from auto was reported at the same location between 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday, August 4.

Weapons—Gun magazines were recovered in the parking lot of Wells Fargo, 1827 Grand Ave., at about 7:00 p.m. Friday, August 1.

Merriam Park

Burglary—Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress on the 1800 block of Roblyn Avenue at about 3:00 p.m. Monday, July 14. A young girl was home at the time.

—A 21-year-old Minneapolis man was arrested at Fairview and Iglehart avenues for possession of burglary tools at about 2:00 a.m. Thursday, July 17.

—A home on the 1900 block of Marshall Avenue was burglarized between

8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, August 2.

—A television and two video game systems were taken from a home on the 2000 block of Carroll Avenue between 11:30 p.m. Saturday and 7:30 a.m. Sunday, August 2-3. The resident was home at the time.

—A speaker system and a bike were stolen from a home on the 2000 block of Carroll Avenue between 11:00 a.m. and noon Wednesday, August 6.

Sex crimes—Police arrested a 58-year-old Lexington-Hamline man at Iris Park Place on Lynnhurst and University avenues for sex offender registration violations at about 4:30 p.m. Friday, July 18. People had reported that the man's pants were down.

Theft—Aluminum and stainless steel were stolen from dumpsters at Carroll Avenue and Wheeler Street on Monday, July 28.

—A computer was stolen at the University of St. Thomas between July 10 and August 1.

—A wallet was stolen from a vehicle on Snelling Avenue and Spruce Tree Drive at about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 5.

—A car was stolen on the 400 block of Roy Street at about 12:30 a.m. Thursday, July 31.

—A car was stolen on the 400 block of North Wilder Street between July 26 and August 6.

Assault—A 49-year-old Merriam Park man was arrested for domestic assault at about 4:30 p.m. Monday, July 28, on the 400 block of Roy Street. Residents reported a man in a car beating up a woman. Police located the man and his wife and made the arrest. The man was also arrested on Hennepin County warrants for driving after license revocation.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A woman's purse was snatched on an MTC bus at University and Snelling avenues at about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16.

Assault—Three or four women assaulted another woman after she got off a bus at University and Snelling avenues at about 1:00 p.m. Monday, July 14. The victim was taken to United Hospital.

Summit Hill

Burglary—The Wild Onion, 788 Grand Ave., was burglarized between 3:00 and 9:00 a.m. Monday, August 4.

—Two apartments on the 800 block of St. Clair Avenue were burglarized between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Sunday, August 3. The front door was pried open and several items were taken from one of the apartments.

Theft—A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Grand Avenue between midnight and 7:00 a.m. Monday, August 4.

Summit-University

Burglary—A condominium building on the 100 block of Mackubin Street was broken into between 8:00 and 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 29. The suspects tried to pry open the doors of several individual units.

—The door was kicked in and several items were taken from an apartment on the 400 block of Selby Avenue between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 29.

—A home on the 400 block of Aurora

Avenue was broken into on Wednesday, July 30.

—A home on the 1000 block of Portland Avenue was burglarized at about 5:00 a.m. Thursday, July 31. The front window screen was cut and a laptop computer was stolen. The resident was home at the time.

Theft—Police discovered hundreds of pirated DVDs in a car that was pulled over for a traffic stop on the 200 block of Aurora Avenue at about 7:00 p.m. Saturday, July 26. The driver, a Chicago man, was also cited for expired license tabs and no proof of insurance.

West End

Robbery—Two juveniles robbed another juvenile of his bicycle in front of the victim's house on the 400 block of Banfil Street at about 1:00 p.m. Friday, July 25.

—The Subway shop on the 900 block of West 7th Street was robbed by two armed men at about 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 2.

—An 18-year-old West End man and two male juveniles ages 13 and 15 were arrested for aggravated robbery on the 800 block of Deaton Street at about 1:00 a.m. Sunday, August 3. The three were suspected of robbing two victims on Benson Avenue.

Burglary—A computer was taken from a home on the 400 block of St. Clair Avenue between 12:30 and 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 25.

—A home on the 900 block of Palace Avenue was burglarized between 3:00 p.m. Thursday and 2:00 a.m. Friday, July 31-August 1.

Theft—Cash was stolen from a car at the West 7th/Fort Road Federation office between 10:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Monday, July 12-14.

—Money was stolen from the pull tab booth at a bar on the 400 block of West 7th Street at about 1:30 p.m. Friday, July 18. When a witness saw the theft, the suspect threw the money to another man and fled out the back door. The second man gave the money back.

—Sheet metal was stolen from a container on the 2000 block of West 7th Street between 6:00 p.m. Friday and 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 25-29.

—A theft from auto occurred at Eagle Street and Shepard Road between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. Sunday, July 27.

—Scrap metal was stolen from a yard on the 1600 block of Race Street between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 31.

Assault—Several people were shot with a BB gun at about 1:30 p.m. Friday, August 1, on Superior Street. Police arrested two boys, ages 11 and 12, for aggravated assault and reckless discharge of a firearm.

Weapons—Shots were fired on the 1100 block of Pleasant Avenue at about 2:00 a.m. Thursday, July 24.

Free pedometers offered

As part of Mayor Chris Coleman's initiative to promote healthy lifestyles, the St. Paul Fire Department is offering free pedometers to adults who visit a fire station for a blood pressure screening. Screenings are offered between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at all 16 of the city's neighborhood fire stations.

The pedometers are provided by the St. Paul/Ramsey County Department of Public Health through its Steps to a Healthier St. Paul program. Call Paula Peterson at 651-228-6203.

Short-lived uprising 40 years ago had long-range effect on Summit-U

1968 riot further weakened area suffering from freeway construction, urban renewal

By VIRGINIA MARTIN

Forty years ago this Labor Day weekend, the Selby-Dale intersection erupted in a riot. Neighborhood residents, civic leaders and city officials had been watching anxiously ever since hundreds of African American communities across the United States exploded the year before, when a total of 165 riots erupted from Newark to Los Angeles in what was considered the worst year for riots in the nation's history.

In St. Paul, Summit-University residents—a mix of black and white with a substantial number of Jews—thought they had dodged a bullet as autumn 1968 drew near and the weather cooled. When violence erupted on Minneapolis' north side in June 1967, the National Guard had been called out to quash the rioters. In St. Paul, the little fires and hostile gatherings in Summit-University were quickly quelled. Captain Art Blakey, a black police officer, said, "We had the manpower to break up crowds on corners before they were able to do anything." Both whites and blacks were able to continue to go about their business in the neighborhood with few signs of conflict.

St. Paul had another narrow escape in April 1968 after the assassination of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. In hundreds of cities across the country, African American neighborhoods exploded in flames of rage. In Summit-University, leaders of the North Central Voters League and the St. Paul branch of the NAACP moved quickly. The NAACP president urged residents to "keep things peaceful in the name of Martin Luther King. . .to

express their hurt and pain in keeping with (King's) teaching and philosophy of non-violence." Once again, violence was averted.

But on that Labor Day weekend in 1968, a dance was held at Stem Hall in downtown St. Paul. Most of the 500 or so young people who attended were African Americans. Two off-duty policemen had been hired for security. One of the officers who was checking the basement men's room found several young men drinking. When he confiscated the bottles, one of the men opened his jacket to display a handgun. When another officer tried to confiscate the gun, a scuffle turned violent.

Police reinforcements were called. The sergeant in charge ordered his men to lock the hall doors by putting their riot batons through the door handles. Tear gas was fired into the hall. Panic ensued. When the cops finally opened the hall doors, people emerged with eyes streaming, gasping for breath—and angry. Windows were broken out. Chairs were thrown at the police.

Most of the young people eventually scattered and went home, but several began breaking windows around Seven Corners before starting up Cathedral Hill and west along Selby. The next day, false fire alarms were tripped, but firefighters were soon dealing with the real thing. Dirty Gertie's, a bar on Selby, was set ablaze, which also damaged Triviski's Bar next door. Several other small businesses were torched. More windows were broken.

According to a St. Paul Urban League report in March 1969, "St. Paul had a weekend box score of which it could not be particularly proud: four police officers shot, 20 other police officers injured, hundreds of youths tear-gassed, 26 citizens arrested, 11 fires in the Summit-University neighborhood in less than 10 hours, thousands of dollars of property damage."

The biggest casualties of the riot were Selby Avenue small businesses, most of which were owned by members of the Jewish community that had taken root in the neighborhood 60 years earlier. German Jews moved first to what is now downtown in the 1850s, then up Cathedral Hill in the late 1880s. A synagogue was built in the neighborhood in 1903, and by 1910 most of the city's German Jews had moved to what is now Summit-University.

Just before the turn of the century, a second wave of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, many of them escaping pogroms in Russia and Poland, started moving to St. Paul. Not as well off, most first settled on the West Side flats across the river from downtown. With growing prosperity, they also eventually moved across the river and up the hill. These were the people who established many of the small Selby Avenue businesses—groceries, delis, liquor stores, dry cleaners and movie theaters.

African Americans followed the Jews, moving up the hill in the late 19th century. By that time, white people had settled much of the land atop the hills around the city and blacks were not welcome to join them. One black historian wrote, "the path of least resistance was through the Jewish community."

For generations, Summit-University had been home to both blacks and whites, but in 1968 Selby was dealt a blow that many thought was fatal. Selby Avenue, wrote Larry Millett, "which had already been showing signs of blight...was further weakened by the 1968 riot, leaving numerous boarded-up storefronts in its wake. It is unlikely that Selby will ever again look as it did in 1959."

That was the year federal and local governments began demolishing thousands of housing units to make way for I-94. By 1968, the Summit-University neighborhood had already suffered not just the freeway construc-

tion that took out Rondo Street, the heart of the black community, but wholesale urban renewal, losing thousands of housing units without sufficient replacement. Houses and apartments were overcrowded as people doubled up. Legal as well as de facto discrimination prevailed. The result was what one writer called "contagious disinvestment," creating a downward economic spiral. The stage was set for an uprising.

By the 1960s, many Jewish business owners had already moved their residences to Highland Park, but they continued to operate small businesses on Selby. Following the riot, these shop owners too began closing their doors. The riot had drained the businesses of almost all of their customers, many of whom were afraid to shop on Selby.

Selby remained blighted for years. Crime rates were the highest in the city. The neighborhood's future looked bleak and most people tried to avoid it, unwilling to even drive through it.

But even in 1968, people were beginning to buy the neighborhood's big, old and cheap houses and renovate them. The 1970s saw a small army of people—many developers and speculators, but also many young people—buy up the once beautiful old houses and use their sweat equity to restore them.

Today, 40 years after the riot, Selby Avenue has become a street of fashionable restaurants and condominiums, along with more modest homes and small businesses. Much of St. Paul's Jewish population has stayed in Highland Park, but Selby Avenue hasn't looked this good since their great-grandparents lived here.

Editor's note: The writer, who has lived in Summit-University for more than 25 years, is a semi-retired writer and editor who is working on a history of the neighborhood.

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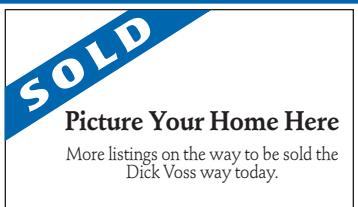
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District Council News

Highland Park

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Neighborhood cleanup—A joint cleanup for the Highland and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods will be held on Saturday, October 11, in Ford Motor Company's employee parking lot off Mississippi River Boulevard and Ford Parkway. (Note the change of date due to the Ford Plant's production schedule.) Volunteers are still needed to work morning or afternoon shifts at the cleanup site. Volunteers with larger vehicles also are needed to help with the reuse area. For information, contact the HDC office.

Highland Parkway bike boulevard—A page has been designated on the district council's website to the proposed Highland Parkway bicycle boulevard. The page includes information on the plans and methods for members of the public to express their opinions. As of last week, 32 households had voted on the project, with 15 against and 17 in favor of the bicycle boulevard. Visit the HDC website for information.

Crime alert—Several burglaries were reported along Mississippi River Boulevard and in the 1800 block of Hillcrest Avenue in late August. The burglars are cutting screens or just walking into unlocked homes. Anyone who sees suspicious activity in the area is asked to call 911.

Board meeting set—The HDC board of directors will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 11, in the warming room of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Amy Gage, director of marketing and communication for the College of St. Catherine, will talk about the college's future plans. For information, call the HDC office.

Verizon Wireless tower and building—The HDC's Community Development Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 22, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. Rob Meira with Verizon Wireless and representatives from St. Paul Regional Water Services and the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation will discuss the placement of a cell phone antenna on one of the blue Highland water towers as well as a building on the ground to house a generator.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Neighborhood cleanup—The Highland and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods' annual fall cleanup will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 11, in the parking lot of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant. (The cleanup was originally scheduled for October 18, but was changed due to a scheduling conflict.) Last year, about 100 tons of material were collected, of which more than half was reused or recycled. This fall's cleanup will again collect reusable electronic products at no cost. Several dozen computers, monitors and television sets were collected last fall and donated to neighborhood charities. For information, visit the website or contact Karmann Peters at the Macalester-Groveland office.

Paint the Pavement—Edgumbe Road may be the first location for the Paint the Pavement Project in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. The citywide project involves creating public art on low-traffic residential streets. The goal is to paint Edgumbe Road in late April or early May 2009. Signatures are needed from 80 percent of the owners of the adjoining 23 homes. For more information on Paint the Pavement, visit <http://creatingplaces.org>. To be part of the committee working on the project, contact Karmann Peters at the community council office.

Rain barrel workshop—The Macalester-Groveland Com-

munity Council will host a rain barrel workshop on Wednesday, September 17, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. At least 10 participants are needed to hold the workshop. The cost is \$50, which includes a barrel to take home. For information, contact Karmann Peters at the community council's office.

Mark your calendar—Board of directors meeting, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 11, Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.; Rock-Tenn public meeting, 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 15, Wilder Center, 451 Lexington Pkwy.; Community Outreach Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 16, Edgumbe; rain barrel workshop, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 17, Edgumbe; Environment Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 18, Edgumbe; and Transportation Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 22, Edgumbe.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Fall house tour is here—The Summit Hill House Tour, presented this year by Warners' Stellan, will be held on Sunday, September 14. Join other vintage home aficionados for a tour of stately residences during this biennial event sponsored by the Summit Hill Association. Free trolley rides will be available between house tour locations. The house tour is the SHA's major fundraiser. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 on the day of the tour and are available at many local businesses or by visiting the SHA website or calling the SHA office.

SHA annual meeting and elections—The Summit Hill Association will hold its annual meeting and board elections on Tuesday, October 7. Anyone who lives in, owns property or a business in, or serves as the designated representative of a business in the neighborhood is eligible to run for one of the seven open seats on the 21-member board. Renters are especially being encouraged to run since more than half of Summit Hill residents are renters. The application deadline is September 26. For information, call the SHA office.

Block and building club leaders—Voters are encouraged to head to the polls on Tuesday, September 9, and then join Summit Hill Association block and building club leaders for a get-together from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. There will be refreshments, a chance to network with other volunteers and an opportunity to review fall crime prevention measures. Call the SHA office for more information.

Upcoming meetings—SHA board of directors, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 11, Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.; SHA Communications Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 29, Linwood.

Summit-University

www.Summit-U.com • 651-228-1855

Neighborhood development—Elizabeth Flannery of CommonBond Communities presented the Summit-University Planning Council's Neighborhood Development Committee on August 19 with its plan to create supportive housing for low-income single adults at Lexington Parkway and Central Avenue. The facility would provide on-site case-management services and would serve as the headquarters for CommonBond's more than 90 employees. The property is zoned medium-density multi-family, which allows for various congregate living arrangements. In order to include the office space, the property would have to be zoned TN3, which provides for higher density, transit-oriented developments.

Western Sculpture Garden—The SUPC participated with Public Art St. Paul in a public gathering on August 19 at the Western Sculpture Park at Marion Street between I-94 and University Avenue. Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter and St. Paul City Council member Melvin Carter III were among those who attended to show support, discuss recent vandalism, and plan for 2009 programs and installations at the park. For more information, contact Public Art St. Paul at 651-290-0921 or www.publicartstpaul.org.

Summit-U gardening—A new online link has been created for gardeners in the Summit-University neighborhood to share ideas, discuss gardening topics and swap plants. Information is available on the SUPC homepage.

Stay in the loop—For details on upcoming meetings or to sign up for electronic news updates, visit the SUPC website.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Neighborhood cleanup—Volunteers are still needed for the Como Park, Hamline-Midway, St. Anthony Park and Union Park neighborhood cleanup that will be held on Saturday, September 20, on the north end of the State Fairgrounds. Shifts run from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Those who work a shift will receive a free lunch and pass to the cleanup site. E-mail Julie Oney at julie@unionparkdc.org.

Union Park annual meeting—The Union Park District Council will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, October 1, at Bethel Christian Center, 1466 Portland Ave. Social time will start at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. All residents and business owners in Union Park are entitled to vote in the election. Refreshments will be served.

Rock-Tenn recommendations—After a year of study, the St. Paul Port Authority shared a preliminary draft of energy recommendations with the Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel on August 4. The Port Authority's recommendation is to offset Rock-Tenn's use of natural gas with renewable biogas from an anaerobic digestion facility to be built in rural Minnesota. The Port Authority also identified two alternatives in case its preferred option is not financially viable. The second of two public meetings on the recommendations will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 15, at the Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. Written comments will be accepted through September 19 at info@rtadvisory.org or Attn: Energy Recommendations, SPPA, Suite 1900, 345 St. Peter St., St. Paul, MN 55102. For information, visit www.rtadvisory.org or contact Nina Axelson at nina@sapcc.org or 612-788-4151.

Lex-Ham Theater—The next play in the Lex-Ham Community Theater's Pulitzer Prize-Winner Reading Series will be *Craig's Wife* by George Kelly, the 1926 prize-winner, on Friday, September 12, at 1184 Portland Ave. The evening will start with a potluck supper at 6:30. The reading will begin at 7:00, with parts reassigned at the start of each scene so everyone gets a lot of chances to read. First-timers are welcome. Bring food to share and a copy of the play, if possible. For information, visit www.LexHamArts.org/theater/Pulitzer/PulitzerRS.html or call 651-644-3366.

Recycling bins—Recycling bins are available from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The next pickup dates are September 17 and October 1.

Stay informed—To receive the monthly newsletter of the Union Park District Council via e-mail, or to be included on the e-mail list for crime notifications, e-mail info@unionparkdc.org and place "subscribe to e-news" or "subscribe to crime notification" in the subject line.

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Religious Notes

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1895 Laurel Ave., will play host to the following programs: a Heretics Group offering a lively discussion about faith and religion from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on September 10 and the second Wednesday of every month; "Armchair Theologians" to share their thoughts about spiritual journeys at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday; and a Mystics Group at 11:15 a.m. on September 14 and the second Sunday of every month. Call 651-646-6175.

The Woodbury Chorus and Orchestra will present a concert of peace music at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 11, in the chapel at the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, 1880 Randolph Ave. The concert is part of the 11th Day Prayer for Peace. The sisters have held a prayer for peace on the 11th day of each month since October 2002. Admission is free. Donations will benefit the Salvation Army food shelf.

Groveland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1671 Summit Ave., will offer a free talk at 10:15 a.m. Sunday, September 14, on "Heresy Moves West: Liberal Religion in Minnesota" by the Reverend Charles Ellis. Call 651-488-7022 or visit www.grovelanduu.org.

A Mass for healing will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. Monday, September 15, at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. The Reverend Leon Klimczyk will preside. Call 651-690-1501.

The University of St. Thomas will host an informational session on its master of arts in Catholic studies program on Thursday, September 18. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the university's Center for Catholic Studies, which is located in Sitzmann Hall, 2055 Summit Ave. Light refreshments will be



Dominican Sister Nancy Murray will present her one-woman show on the life of St. Catherine of Siena at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, September 14, at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. Murray co-wrote the play, which she has performed worldwide in both Spanish and English. St. Catherine (1347-1380) was a lay associate of the Dominican order who dedicated her life to helping the ill and the poor. She also worked to promote peace among the Italian city states and strove to bring the papacy back to Rome from Avignon, France, where it had been based for 70 years.

served. For reservations, call 651-962-5703.

The Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will observe Selichot (the beginning of the period before the Jewish High Holy Days) with a reception at 9:00 p.m. followed by traditional services at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 20. Call 651-698-8874.

"Bible 101: The Gospels" will be offered from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on six Wednesdays beginning September 24 at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St. The Reverend David Colby and pastoral associate Maureen Smith will lead the class. Admission is free. Call 651-

224-4728, extension 118.

The Loyola Spirituality Center will present "Blueprint for the Soul: The Roots of Ignatian Spirituality in the Life of Ignatius of Loyola" from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Friday, September 26, at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. Chuck Lofy, a former Jesuit priest and co-founder of the Wellness Center of Minnesota, will be the guest speaker. The cost is \$75, which includes lunch. Registration is due by September 17. Call 651-641-0008 or visit www.loyolaspiritualitycenter.org.

A flea market and street dance will be held

on Friday, October 3, in the parking lot of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Snelling and Goodrich avenues. The flea market will run from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., with dancing to music by the House of Mercy Band beginning at 6:30 p.m. The flea market will continue from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, October 4. Proceeds will benefit Project Spirit of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches and the Immanuel Lutheran general fund. Call 651-699-5560.

Organist James Frazier will present a free recital at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 5, at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 N. Kent St. The recital will celebrate the restoration and enlargement of the church's historic 1922 Skinner organ, believed to be the oldest Skinner organ in the state. It will feature works by Durufle, Willan, Dupre, Vierne and Weaver and a newly commissioned piece by St. Paul composer David Evan Thomas. Call James Frazier at 651-228-1172, extension 38.

An open house for adult Catholics interested in learning about the Carmelite way of life will be held at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, October 5, in the lower level of Nativity Church, 324 S. Prior Ave. Call 651-454-6123.

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 N. Kent St., will collect furniture and household items from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, October 25, to benefit Bridging. Each month, Bridging gives away more than \$1 million of free furniture and household goods to more than 450 families in need. Desperately needed of late are beds, tables, chairs, upholstered furniture, dressers, dishes, towels, kitchen utensils, knives, pots and pans, silverware and linens. Call Sandy Rusch at 952-220-2398.

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Laura Malone, 15, of Mendota Heights hoists the trophy she earned as a reserve champion at the recent American Quarter Horse World Championships in Oklahoma City.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Local teen among world's best young quarter horse exhibitors

BY SUE LEE

Laura Malone of Mendota Heights came home last month with a huge trophy after being named a reserve champion at the Ford American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championships in Oklahoma City. Nearly 2,000 youths ages 18 and younger from around the world participated in the show.

Malone and her 9-year-old chestnut gelding, Canadian Charlie, finished second out of 113 entrees in the Performance Halter Geldings class, which earned her the trophy along with an embroidered horse blanket, silver belt buckle and leather jacket. She also competed in English Hunter Under Saddle, English Equitation and Western Horsemanship.

Finishing in the top five is nothing new to Malone, 15, a sophomore at Cretin-Derham Hall. She began riding at age 4 and has successfully shown horses since age 5 under the tutelage of Bonnie Minor at Timber Valley Farm in Dennison.

Malone owned a couple of quarter horses before teaming up four years ago with Canadian Charlie, whom she calls her best friend. "We've really developed a bond," she said. "He's helped me though some things and we both love the big shows."

Malone shows Charlie in events that are strictly for American quarter horses. To compete in the world championships, she first had to qualify by earning points from Minnesota Quarter Horse Association shows. She earned enough points to be one of the 13 who qualified for the worlds on the association's 2008 youth team.

"The competition is so great at the worlds," she said, "with over 100 of the top horses and riders in the world showing in each event. It means so much more to place when you are up against that kind of competition."

Malone competes in both English and Western riding styles at the quarter horse shows, which entails a tremendous variety of events, equipment, attire and judging standards. In

"The competition is so great at the worlds," she said, "with over 100 of the top horses and riders in the world showing in each event. It means so much more to place when you are up against that kind of competition."

some events, such as the English Hunter Under Saddle class, the horse is judged on its performance, movement and manners. In the English Equitation class, it's the rider's performance and ability to control the horse that is judged. The Western Horsemanship class is similar in that the technical ability of the rider is judged.

The Performance Halter Gelding class evaluates conformation of the American quarter horse as a breed. Horses are judged on balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics, and degree of muscle.

Malone is back to school now, but is riding Canadian Charlie three to five times a week to prepare for the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio, in October. The Congress, the world's largest single-breed horse show, started as a weekend event in 1967. It now draws 16,000 entries and will house more than 8,500 horses from the United States and Canada during the three-week event.

Last year at the event, Malone and Canadian Charlie competed against more than 100 of the top horses and youth exhibitors in the quarter horse industry and took home fourth in Western Showmanship, fifth in Performance Halter Geldings and were the reserve champion for novice youths in Western Horsemanship.



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Food

Fresh-baked bread on demand Busy So. Mpls. dad rolls out a recipe for bakers in a pinch

April Fool's Day may not seem the most opportune time to launch a cookbook project. But on April 1, 2000, amateur baker Jeff Hertzberg took advantage of the call-in portion of Lynn Rossetto Kasper's radio show, "The Splendid Table," to ask how a total unknown might break into the cookbook market.



Home Fires By Jo Marshall

Hertzberg claimed he had a "revolutionary concept" in bread baking. As luck would have it, book editor Ruth Cavin happened to be listening.

Cavin tracked down Hertzberg to offer encouragement. Meanwhile, Hertzberg's daughter just happened to be taking music lessons with the son of a professional pastry chef named Zoë François, who recognized Hertzberg's bread recipe as a springboard for all kinds of tasty products. Lucky for him, François joined in the project.

The birth of Hertzberg's second daughter in 2001 put the book on hold for a while. While that may have seemed like a setback, the postponement coincided with the height of the Atkins' no-carb craze. When the cookbook project resumed, Americans were once again ravenous for bread. Kasper put co-authors Hertzberg and François in touch with an agent, and they finalized a publishing contract.

The result is *Artisan Bread in Five Minutes A Day*. Released last November, the first edition of the cookbook sold out before Christmas. Since then, the authors have been featured in media ranging from the *New York Times* to the radio show "West Coast Live." By some accounts, it's one of the fastest selling cookbooks ever.

Pretty lucky for the two first-time authors. But then, Hertzberg is the kind of person who creates his own luck. A doctor who discovered he wasn't quite cut out for medicine, he went back to school at the University of Minnesota for a master's degree in computer science, became a professor and then a computer consultant who helps doctors keep abreast of the latest technology. Obviously, Hertzberg is a transformative kind of guy, and the glue that connects his various endeavors is gluten.

A native New Yorker, Hertzberg first fell

in love with European breads as a child. The breads that were available in the Twin Cities when he arrived here in the early 1980s paled in comparison. So whether he was working as a medical resident or as a 70-hour-a-week professional supporting a family, he always found time to bake, experimenting with new and simpler methods to fit his avocation into his busy home life.

Admittedly, I wasn't the first cook in the kitchen to embrace his "revolutionary" method. But after one friend, then another, and then another told me, "You've really got to buy this book," I finally got the message. I tried one recipe, and the very next day I was on the phone to the nearest bookstore, asking to reserve a copy for me.

In a nutshell, Hertzberg's method is to refrigerate moist, unkneaded dough that can be baked whenever you want fresh bread. The master recipe yields eight one-pound loaves. And once you've baked the bread, you'll want to try the other items the dough recipe can produce.

On an August day in his kitchen in South Minneapolis, Hertzberg demonstrated how to turn the dough into pizza that he would later bake on a grill. He also showed how to roll out dough for a brioche, making slits on the sides, filling the center with almond cream and fresh raspberries and gathering the loose strands of dough to enclose the rustic pastry.

I'm not the only cook who has been anxious to hear from this guy. The website that Hertzberg and François launched to support their book has become a lively forum for newly converted bread bakers. Fresh suggestions for using the dough are frequently posted, and visitors with questions have found the authors to be generous in sharing their knowledge.



Amateur baker and newly published author Jeff Hertzberg and one of his braided almond cream and raspberry pastries. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

In fact, the on-line conversation has led to another project—a new cookbook due out next year that employs whole grains and healthy sweeteners.

"It became obvious that we should do (another book)," Hertzberg said. "Given the questions we were getting, Zoë and I came to exactly the same conclusion at exactly the same time."

In today's competitive cookbook market, the chances of new authors succeeding without a name like Rachael or Martha or Emeril are slim to none. But this time, the idea was ripe and a couple of unknowns who were willing to create their own luck made it to the top of the heap.

Hertzberg assured me that he is not getting rich off the project, but his satisfaction was more than obvious. Enjoying a second helping of his warm raspberry pastry, so was mine. I'm glad this guy has brought bread baking back into busy kitchens.

For more information on Hertzberg's method, pick up the book or visit www.artisanbreadinfive.com. Hertzberg and François offer classes at such local venues as Cooks of Crocus Hill (visit www.cooksofcrocushill.com). They will also appear on Sunday, November 2, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave., as part of the 2008 Twin Cities Jewish Book Fair. For more information, call 651-255-4752.

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Mississippi Market receives permit for even bigger co-op on West 7th

Commission also grants variance for main facade

By JANE McCLURE

The St. Paul Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit on September 5 that will allow Mississippi Market to increase the size of the natural food cooperative it wants to build in the Victoria Park development on Hathaway and West 7th streets.

The permit is required when a retail establishment in a traditional neighborhood zone reaches 10,000 square feet. Mississippi Market has expressed interest in expanding the store's footprint from 9,541 to 13,345 square feet. Although a final decision to build a larger store has not been made, Mississippi Market general manager Gail Graham said the co-op wants to be positioned to move forward with a plan if it decides to do so.

Graham told the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee on August 28 that Mississippi Market began thinking about a larger building after an initial appearance before the Planning Commission this summer. Some commissioners had criticized the original store's size and design, saying it did not meet the standards for its underlying TN zoning.

"It'd be a better building for the area if it's a little larger," Graham said.

No one appeared at the August 28 hearing to oppose the conditional use permit or a variance for the store. The West 7th/Fort Road Federation supports the requests. If all goes as planned, ground will be broken for the store this fall. Mississippi Market closed on its purchase of the 1.23-acre property from Brighton Development Corporation last month.

The Planning Commission's approval included a request to break up the building's facade on the Hathaway side with a row of glass block windows and other detailing. The wall is next to a receiving area, but architect Bruce Cornwall of LHB Architects indicated there are ways to make it more attractive.

Planning Commission members also want assurances that streets in the Victoria Park development will be finished in time to serve the store. Joan Trulsen, the manager of the Victo-

ria Park project for the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development, said the streets can be completed as soon as the city acquires the former Exxon/Mobil fuel tank farm, which is part of the development site. City officials have been wrangling with Exxon/Mobil in the courts over the reuse of the former tank farm property and its value. Trulsen said city officials expect a court decision on the property's value in November. Then the city can make a deposit, begin the purchase of the land and build the streets. If the store opens before the property is purchased, the city could give the co-op an easement.

Traditional neighborhood zoning, which is meant to promote denser, mixed-use development, includes design standards. That meant Mississippi Market also had to apply for a variance to the standards for minimum door and window openings in the primary facade along West 7th Street. Doors and windows on that side of the building must be at least 50 percent of the length and 30 percent of the ground-floor area. Mississippi Market proposed windows and doors that are 48.3 percent of the length and 23.8 percent of the floor area, which required a variance. The intent of the design standard is to discourage construction of new buildings that have large expanses of blank walls.

Although the store faces West 7th Street, the building's main entrance is oriented toward Perlman Street. That side of the building faces apartments that are part of the Shalom Community Alliance's senior housing campus, so more foot traffic is expected from Perlman. The building's windows and doors do meet the design standard on the Perlman side.

The new store will replace Mississippi Market's current store at Randolph and Fairview avenues. That property was sold several years ago to St. Paul Academy and Summit School, which plans to eventually expand its campus there. Mississippi Market also has a store at Selby and Dale.

The food co-op's next step is to seek approval of a Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization allocation this fall by the St. Paul City Council. The project was recommended for a \$200,000 grant and \$400,000 loan last month by the Neighborhood STAR board.

769 Grand Ave., but rather than squabble with the city and neighborhood over the architectural design, they decided to renovate and expand the existing building.

The building was originally a Kentucky Fried Chicken takeout restaurant. It has also been occupied by an optical shop and, most recently, by a bookstore operated by the Hazelden Foundation. The building has been vacant since last year.

In 2006, Punch Neapolitan Pizza was voted to have the best crust, best sauce, best staff and best overall pizza by *Mpls. St. Paul Magazine*, was named in *USA Today's* 10 great places to moon over a big pizza pie, and was recognized by Academy Award-winning actress Meryl Streep as the restaurant with the "best pizza in the world."

Punch Neapolitan Pizza currently has five other metro-area locations, including the original restaurant on Cleveland Avenue in Highland Village and those on Prairie Center Drive in Eden Prairie, in Calhoun Village on West Lake Street in Minneapolis, on Hennepin Avenue in Northeast Minneapolis and on Wayzata Boulevard in Wayzata.

The restaurant specializes in traditional Neapolitan pizza baked in a wood-burning brick oven. It is one of very few pizzerias outside of Naples, Italy, to be a member of Vera Pizza Napoletana, an organization that is dedicated to certifying the authenticity of Neapolitan pizza.

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Punch Pizza fires up its oven on Grand

Punch Neapolitan Pizza will open its sixth and latest restaurant on Monday, September 15, at 769 Grand Ave. Punch will offer a full menu, express service, patio dining and take-out service.

"Our first restaurant opened in Highland Village in 1996," said John Soranno, co-owner of Punch Pizza. "I started Punch in St. Paul and continue to live in the Highland area, so St. Paul is a special place for our company. We're happy to be coming home again."

Punch is inviting friends and family to join the owners and staff for a neighborhood preview night on Saturday, September 13, when pizza will be served on the house. Donations to benefit the St. Paul-based Bush Memorial Children's Center will be accepted during the preview night and Punch will match all donations up to \$5,000.

"Each time we host a neighborhood party, I'm amazed at the excitement and generosity of our guests," Soranno said. "It's great to be welcomed with open arms."

Punch owners Soranno and John Puckett had proposed building a new restaurant at

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The Kiosk

Wednesday/September 10

THE LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB will meet from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Beth Upton will speak on "All About Houseplants." Members are asked to bring extra houseplants, clean pots and houseplant paraphernalia to swap. A small donation is requested for those you do not bring plants and are not members. Meetings are free and open to the public.

DIANE WANNER, the St. Paul district council coordinator, will address the League of Women Voters of St. Paul at 6:00 this evening at Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. The league's District Council Committee also will present an update on its year-long observance process of the city's citizen participation districts. Admission is free. Contact Amy Mino at amy@minofamily.net or 651-430-2701.

Thursday/September 11

AN OAK SAVANNA INTERPRETIVE tour will be offered from 6:30 to 8:00 this evening along the river gorge in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis. Carolyn Carr of Ecological Strategies will lead the tour. Call Friends of the Mississippi River at 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

A WORLD WAR II HISTORY ROUND Table on "The Operations Across Northern France, Fall 1944" will be held at 7:00 this evening at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center. John Nelson Rickard, author of *Patton at Bay*, will examine General George S. Patton Jr.'s leadership during grueling warfare in northern France. Third Army veterans will add their personal stories. The cost is \$5.00; free for students. Call 651-941-5700.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of University Women will hold a reception for prospective members from 4:30 to 6:00 this evening at their clubhouse, 990 Summit Ave. Members will speak on the AAUW focus and the branch's weekly programs. A special membership fee will be offered. To register, call 952-937-6064.

THE EDGCUMBE HOCKEY Association will continue to hold player registration from 7:00 to 8:15 this evening and from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, September 16, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. New players must bring a copy of their birth certificate. Call Steve at 651-690-4904 or visit www.edgumbehockey.org.

Friday/September 12

WORLD WAR II will be the topic of a program for homeschool students from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at historic Fort Snelling. Students will see a restored tank from the fort's military museum, learn about life on the home front, try swing dancing and learn a few phrases in Japanese. The cost is \$5.00. Call 612-726-1171.

AN ARENA SALE will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. today and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. tomorrow on Minnehaha Academy's south campus, 4200 W. River Pkwy., Minneapolis. The 34th annual sale will feature antiques, electronics, sporting goods, toys and more. Food will be sold and rolls will be available for takeout. Admission is \$3.00 for adults from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today only. Strollers are not allowed in the arena. Call Jane Anfang at 612-728-7721.



Wade Scheel, husband of breast cancer survivor Camille, paints the face of 8-year-old Mette Ulland during Kids Play for a Cure on September 6 at Groveland Park. The carnival was planned by Groveland 2nd-graders Owen Mische and Vivian Scheel to raise money for cancer research. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

THE AUTUMN DAZE FESTIVAL and Homecoming will be held from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. today, 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. tomorrow and 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St., Minneapolis. A fireworks display will celebrate the 25th annual festival this evening, with a parade set for 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. There also will be live entertainment, rides, live and silent auctions, a 5K run on Saturday, games, food and more. Call 612-729-7344.

Saturday/September 13

A BREAD BAKING CLASS will be offered from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at Fort Snelling. Participants will bake bread in a wood-fired oven and in an iron kettle using authentic recipes and will be able to take the bread home. A site tour is included. The cost is \$30. Call 612-726-1171.

THE HIGHLAND PARK SENIOR High School Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament will get under way with a shotgun start at 1:00 this afternoon at Highland National. The cost of the four-person scramble is \$85. A booya will start at 11:30 a.m. at the course, and dinner and a silent auction will follow. Nongolfers are welcome to attend the dinner for \$12. For information or to donate to the silent auction, call Bob Wokasch at 651-699-8536 or 651-855-6064.

IRISH WOLFHOUND DAY will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. Modern versions of the breed will be on hand and full tours of the Sibley House, Cold Store and Faribault House will be offered. Those who bring a dog will receive a \$2.00 discount off the tour fee. Volunteers will watch pets while owners go on tour. Call 651-452-1596.

A KIDSHOP KICKOFF will be held by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at Highland Park on Montreal Avenue. There will be games, hot dogs and surprises.

Look for balloons at the entrance. Kidshops are for children ages 7-18 who have a parent or sibling with a mental illness. The program gives children a chance to interact with other children in similar situations, and to gain information and support. Kids are welcome to bring a friend to the kickoff. Call Mary Jean Babcock at 651-645-2948, ext. 107.

"GARDEN FRESH PIZZA" will be topic of discussion during a program at 1:00 this afternoon at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Participants will prepare, bake and enjoy a hot pizza using items found in the garden. The cost is \$5.00-\$7.00 or \$15 for families. Call 651-455-4531.

A BOOK SALE will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today at Resources for Child Caring, 10 Yorkton Court. Books, music, games and movies will range from 50 cents to \$4.00, with most items selling for under \$1.00. Proceeds will benefit the children's library. Call 651-641-3544.

Sunday/September 14

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon at the light rail station on 46th Street and Hiawatha Avenue in Minneapolis. The group will ride the train and the bus before hiking around the sites of the new Twins ballpark and Gopher stadium. The cost is \$1.50 for adults and 50 cents for seniors for the train and the bus. Call 651-646-6421.

BE A BLACKSMITH FOR A DAY during a program from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at historic Fort Snelling. Participants will work the forge, pound the hot metal, shape the iron and be able to bring their project home. The cost is \$33. Call 612-726-1171 e-mail fortsnelling@mnhs.org.

A RIVER TRAVEL TALES and riverfront walking tour will be offered by Friends of the Mississippi River from 2:00 to 4:00 this afternoon beginning at the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. The tour will be led by John

Anfinson of the National Park Service. Admission is free. Call Sue Rich at 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

Monday/September 15

WORDSMITHS TOASTMASTERS will hold its Tall Tales Speech Contest from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Better Business Bureau, 2706 Gannon Road. Wordsmiths members will compete to deliver articulate speeches about original, highly improbable and humorous subjects. Admission is free. Visit www.wordsmithstm.org

Thursday/September 18

PARENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) will begin a new series of educational programming with "Our GLBT Children: Parent Journeys" from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The evening will include a panel of parents sharing personal stories of their children coming out. Marjorie Sigel, therapist for Jewish Family Service, will moderate. The series will continue on the third Mondays of alternative months. Call 651-698-0751.

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

EVENING TOURS in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Minnesota's statehood will be offered at 7:00, 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. today and tomorrow at the state Capitol. Visitors will see copies of the original constitution, listen to costumed history players talk about what was happening in politics in 1858 and get a rare view of the Quadriga (the golden horses) on the roof. The cost is \$5.00-\$8.00. Call 651-296-2881.

ST. PAUL-ITICS, a series sponsored by the St. Paul Public Library to inspire the public to get politically involved, will continue with Arvonne Fraser, author of *She's No Lady: Politics, Family and International Feminism*, speaking about her life, work and view of politics at 7:00 this evening at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-642-0385.

Friday/September 19

"PREEMPTIVE PEACEMAKING: Just Peace vs. Just War" will take place today and tomorrow in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. *Cirque de Guerre*, a satirical play about the mayhem of war, will be presented from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening. Saturday's conference will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will include a keynote address by Glen Harold Stassen of Fuller Theological Seminary, break-out sessions and a panel discussion. The event is sponsored by Every Church a Peace Church and the St. Thomas Justice and Peace Studies Program. The cost is \$50 for adults and \$20 for students for both days (or \$20-\$10 for the play only or \$35-\$15 for the conference). Visit www.ecapc.org or call 651-228-7224.

A PUBLIC HEARING on a new parks plan that will guide future operations of the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation will be held by the St. Paul Planning Commission at 8:30 this morning in Room 40 of City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd. Copies of the plan are

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available at www.stpaul.gov/compplan or by calling Jessica Rosenfield at 651-266-6560.

ROBERT VANASEK will be installed as the new Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota during a program from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening at the CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan Ave. A reception will follow. For reservations, call 612-822-8862 by September 17.

Saturday/September 20

A RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon today at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 700 Wesley Lane, Mendota Heights. Call 651-452-5683.

AN IRVINE PARK WALKING TOUR will be offered at 10:30 this morning from the Alexander Ramsey House 265 S. Exchange St. Participants will see examples of Victorian architecture and learn about the 19th-century families who lived there. Lemonade and cookies will be served afterward on the Ramsey House front porch. An optional tour of the house is included. The cost is \$7.00-\$9.00. Call 651-296-8760

BREAKFAST COOKING CLASSES will be served up at 9:00 and 10:15 this morning at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Visitors will learn about Annie Robertson, the Ramseys' cook for 37 years, and will make Swedish omelets in the wood-burning stove. Afterward, they will enjoy breakfast on the home's front porch. The cost is \$17-\$22. Call 651-296-8760

A HISTORY RIVER WALK will be held from 10:00 to 11:30 this morning beginning at the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. Join Sibley House staff on a morning river walk (dogs welcome) and learn about the

importance of the juncture of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers to the fur trade and development of Minnesota as a state. The cost is \$4.00-\$6.00. Call 651-452-1596.

THE MERRIAM PARK LIBRARY, 1831 Marshall Ave., will host Chemists in the Library from 1:30 to 3:30 this afternoon. The group will present hands-on science activities appropriate for all ages. Activities will include Magic Messages, Play Putty, UV Bead Bracelets and more. Contact tarino.1@osu.edu.

Sunday/September 21

A CITY OF MENDOTA walking tour will be offered at 1:00 this afternoon from the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. Tour-goers will view the many original landmarks in one of the oldest towns in the state, look at historical photographs and hear how the town evolved from a 19th-century fur trading center. Light refreshments will follow. The cost is \$4.00-\$6.00. Call 651-452-1596.

THE CZECH AND SLOVAK FALL Festival will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at the CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan St. The 19th annual festival will feature ethnic foods, live entertainment, bingo, crafts, demonstrations, a silent auction, games, puppet shows and a bike raffle. There also will be a special exhibit of Czech and Slovak folk costumes.

Monday/September 22

"SAVORING THE HARVEST," a series sponsored by the St. Paul Public Library that features culinary experts sharing their passion for eating and drinking well, will continue with Liz McMann of Mississippi Market speaking on organic food at 7:00 this evening at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-695-3700.



The County Fair will take place on September 13-14 at the remodeled Nativity School campus after a one-year hiatus. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Nativity Fair back in full swing

This fall's Nativity County Fair will return to the school grounds following a major remodeling and expansion that forced last year's fair to be held off site for the first time in its history. The 34th annual fair will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 13-14, at the Nativity School campus, 1900 Wellesley Ave.

Saturday's events will get under way at 10:00 a.m. with a flag ceremony. The entertainment lineup will include the St. Paul Irish Dancers at 11:00 a.m., a talent show at 11:45 a.m., Los Alegres Bailadores at 1:00 p.m., the bluegrass band Drive Time at 1:45 p.m., Green Sweater Society at 3:30 p.m. and the dance band 2nd Generation

performing classic '60s to '80s music from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Sunday's events will begin with an outdoor Mass at 10:30 a.m. Raffle winners will be announced at 11:30 a.m. The entertainment lineup will include the barbershop quintet Avenues at 11:45 a.m., the Show'd Up Band at 1:00 p.m. and the Hottinger Blues Band from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

There also will be rides, games, a Guitar Hero competition and lots of food and drink. Admission is free each day. Tickets will be sold for the rides, games and raffle. For more information, call 651-698-0309 or visit www.nativity-mn.org.

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Shelby Lynne

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Kate Beckman/
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18 COMO - "PERFECT 10"

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Squeaky clean, maintenance-free 2-story in great neighborhood. 3 huge BRs, 2 fireplaces, main floor family room, library, eat-in kitchen, 1/2 bath, new bath, 2-car garage.

GARY FABEL
651-282-9613 • \$399,900



Gary Fabel



NEW LIST

STUNNING RENOVATION

Must-see mid '50s classic, old shell new everything. 2+ BRs, 2 baths, stainless appliances with granite counter-tops, close to river, schools and shopping.

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Nancy Maas/
Mike Tobin



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Wonderful 6-BR, 4-bath stately home on historic Summit Ave. This 3-story Queen Anne features an excellent floor plan with large gracious spaces, hardwood floors, bay windows, corner lot, private yard, brick patio & more!

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612-558-6488 • \$834,900



Kathryn Kennedy



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Wonderful Mac-Groveland 2-story home. Historic corner market building retains its original charm yet has been completely updated to include new roof, exterior, windows, electricity, parking lot & more! Beautiful spacious 3-BR apartment above.

KATHRYN KENNEDY
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Kathryn Kennedy



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GARY FABEL
651-282-9613 • \$189,900



Gary Fabel



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Large, low-maintenance spaces in the heart of Highland. 4 BRs, 4 new baths, an upper deck high in the trees for relaxing and entertaining. Don't miss this unique home. Not a drive-by! 1326 Eleanor Ave.

JOAN JOHNSON & DANIEL BUCHEN
651-282-9626 • 651-282-9609 • \$459,900



Joan Johnson
Daniel Buchen



1206 BAYARD - HIGHLAND'S BEST BUY AT \$929K

Spectacular 4-BR, 3-bath home in Highland. Just off Edgcombe. Fabulous gourmet kit., extraordinary master bath. First floor family room, finished lower level with fireplace. Private yard. All new mechanicals. A dream home all around!

JOAN JOHNSON
651-282-9626 • \$929,000



Joan Johnson



NEW LIST

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Beautiful, well-maintained 4-BR, 2-bath on a quiet street. Hardwood floors & trim, fireplace, newly finished LL, 2+ car garage. Walk to new Trader Joe's, parks & Grand Ave. 1154 Juliet Ave.

DANIEL BUCHEN
651-282-9609 • \$374,900



Daniel Buchen



JUST LISTED - TOP FLOOR

2-BR, 2-bath unit with fabulous river and skyline views. Excellent 34-year-old brick building with 2 indoor parking spaces, fireplace & eat-in kitchen.

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651-282-9613 • \$229,900



Gary Fabel



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651-282-9621 • \$895,000



Sarah Kinney



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

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$645,000



Sarah Kinney



MAGNIFICENT ITALIANATE CONDOMINIUM

This dazzling home on historic Summit Avenue has a gorgeous North Star kitchen and views of the river valley from the living room and deck. The owner's suite includes a private bath with whirlpool. Other features include hwd. floors & central air. 421 Summit.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$895,000



Sarah Kinney



ULTRA-SOPHISTICATED CARRIAGE HOUSE

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This spacious rambler is perfectly set on an oversized 100x170 lot with 3 BRs, 3 baths & 3 FPs. Attached 2-car garage, updated kitchen & bathrooms, hwd. floors & more! You won't be disappointed. 1729 Colvin.

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TOM EDELSTEIN CRS
651-695-4300 • \$795,000



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TOM EDELSTEIN CRS
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Tantalizing 4-BR, 3-bath two story offers lovely hardwood, formal dining, built-in buffet, fabulous kitchen, 2-car garage! 1757 Stanford. *click on www.tomedelstein.com

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Pat McGill

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PAT MCGILL CRS
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Rosemary McNeely & Lolly McNeely Salmen

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Home Improvement



Son Jack, mom Jenni and daughter Kelly Ryan relax with pets Harper and Toby in the family room of their home (right), part of the upcoming house tour. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

These old houses Summit Hill opens the doors to a dozen of its finest residences

BY DAVE PAGE

The relaxed feeling Tracie Vandenburg had at the end of her vacation last March dissipated in a flash when she arrived home with her children in tow to find that the third-floor toilet had overflowed. Though it was midnight, she had no choice but to pry a light fixture off the second-floor ceiling to drain the water because a house guest was expected the next day.

Vandenburg and her husband Derek had already agreed to include their 1907 Tudor Revival home at 46 Crocus Place on the Summit Hill House Tour in September. In fact, they were just wrapping up an extensive re-decorating project when the toilet leaked.

"It could have been a lot worse," Vandenburg said. "We lost no personal property."

Still, a large area of ceiling plaster on the second and first floors had to be replaced, and the butler pantry had to be completely gutted and rebuilt. Vandenburg finished the last bit of painting on the restored ceilings on August 23 and is confident the house will be ready for the tour.

The 2008 edition of the biennial Summit Hill House Tour is scheduled from noon to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, September 14. It will feature 12 single-family homes, three public spaces and the private garden of two professional flo-

ral designers.

The Vandenburgs purchased their home three years ago in order to be closer to the school where their children are enrolled. "We had been looking for a year and had just about given up," Vandenburg said. "But when we walked in the front door (at 46 Crocus Place), we said, 'This is it.'"

The previous owners had lived in the house for 38 years and left it in great shape, Vandenburg said, though the couple did improve it by stripping wallpaper, refinishing hardwood floors, replacing carpeting, adding new light fixtures and reconfiguring the kitchen.

After taking in the front garden of 46 Crocus Place, visitors on the house tour should note the ironwork at the end of the side porch, which came from the old Miller Hospital. The previous owner of the home completed his residency there, according to Vandenburg, and when the hospital was torn down, his wife acquired it as a memento.

The most spectacular room in the Vandenburg's house may be the foyer, where a dramatic staircase rises three stories. The kitchen boasts new granite countertops, Jenn-Air appliances, a built-in banquette, a new back entrance and heated floors.

"We love this place," Vandenburg said. "It feels like a home, not a museum."

Also on the tour is Ed and Jenni Ryan's



Queen Anne-style house at 752 Goodrich Ave. The Ryans have used their own original art in redecorating the 1891 home. For example, Jenni fell in love with a tile she saw at the Palace of the Popes in Avignon, France. She bought a postcard of the design, and she and her daughters used it as a template for the tiles they created for their renovated kitchen.

The color scheme of the first-floor sunroom was inspired by one of the Ryan daughter's rendition of a polar bear, which hangs in the room. Jenni painted the furniture in the breakfast room, and Ed's father executed the watercolors that hang in the formal dining room and living room.

Another piece of artwork with an interesting tale graces the outside of the house. "We were told the metal ornament on top of the turret was commissioned by a previous owner who worked at the Guthrie," Jenni said. "It was

supposedly made in the Guthrie shops." Original to the home are two beautiful leaded-glass windows, one in the dining room and one on the landing, as well as the combination electric-gas chandelier in the foyer.

The Ryans have been fixing up the house "a little at a time" over the 20 years they have lived there, according to Jenni. They rebuilt the porch exactly as it was originally, with curved screens and all, and replaced the siding with an exact replica. They also updated the house's heating and electrical systems.

Among their more noticeable improvements are a new fireplace surround in the living room, a new exterior paint scheme and a four-story addition on the back of the house, which includes a sunroom on the first floor and a sauna and hot tub on the second floor.

SUMMIT HILL HOUSE TOUR ► 29

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South Minneapolis resident Clayton Bennett has authored *Greening Your Home*, his ninth home improvement book. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Bennett's new guide makes it even easier for homeowners to be green

BY FRANK JOSSI

Take a look at the media's obsession with so-called "green" building practices and you will invariably find photographs of sleek new homes. What you don't find is a two-story Tudor or rambler or bungalow of the sort found in Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland and other older neighborhoods.

Clayton Bennett aims to change that image of environmentally friendly homes with the recent publication of *Greening Your Home: Sustainable Options for Every System in Your House* (McGraw Hill, 2008). The 152-page book offers common sense tips on buying green products, upgrading older homes to make them more sustainable and lifestyle changes that promote energy conservation.

"People are misguided about what going green means," said Bennett, 43, a resident of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood. "They imagine it involves great sacrifice and expense and that, in the end, it won't benefit them personally. But that's not true."

According to Bennett, a green remodel may be spread out over several years and only costs 2 to 5 percent more than traditional products and services. A good place to start is installing new windows or fix existing ones. Window frames should be insulated and tightly sealed. Window treatments that block ultraviolet rays while retaining natural light work especially well on south- and west-facing windows and can reduce room temperatures by up to 10 degrees. Installing glass block also increases natural indoor lighting.

Home owners should also consider upgrading their heating and cooling systems. Bennett believes strongly in tankless water heaters, which can cut energy use in half. He said it makes little sense to keep water warm constantly when it may be only needed for a few minutes a day. Bennett said a 50-gallon tank should be used for homes with more than two people.

For remodeled rooms or additions, he said in-floor heating systems should be considered. Hydronic systems use warm water underneath flooring to heat rooms and are 30 percent more efficient than forced air, Bennett said. Electric systems have the advantage of being simple enough for homeowners to install themselves.

When replacing washers and dryers, he said choosing front loaders will save 40 percent on water and 50 percent on electricity compared to top-loading machines. They also wring water from clothes better and enable dryers to work more efficiently.

For a greener home cooling approach, Bennett said installing a "whole house" or attic fan

to suck out hot air can reduce air conditioning costs considerably. Adding insulation is another good way to reduce energy bills and has been made simple through spray-on foams such as Icynene.

In the kitchen, Bennett said people can save energy by switching to induction cooking, which uses a high-frequency electrical field to transfer heat directly to pots and pans, leaving the stovetop cool even when cooking. "Induction cooking is faster, more energy-efficient and safer than electric or gas cook tops," he said.

Bennett also offers tips for making other areas of the house more sustainable, such as using low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) paint, installing floors made out of such renewable natural resources as cork and bamboo, and using fly ash concrete, which is less expensive than regular cement mix and makes use of material left over from coal-fired plants.

A home's plumbing can be made green by "slowing the flow," Bennett said. A good start is to look for WaterSense certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency when buying high-efficiency toilets, shower heads and faucets. Each new fixture can reduce energy consumption by more than 30 percent, he said.

Greening Your Home also includes chapters on financial incentives for conservation, community-supported agriculture, timers and motion sensors, container gardening, composting, graywater reuse (used water that can be repurposed for landscaping) and natural cleaning products.

Bennett, who has written many how-to books and technical marketing materials, practices what he preaches. He installed new windows in his own home several years ago, his family's farm in Wisconsin uses a geothermal system for heating and cooling, his family receives produce from a Community Supported Agriculture vendor, and he has replaced many of his appliances, faucets and other household products with more energy-efficient versions.

Many energy-efficient products can be installed by homeowners themselves. But when professionals are involved, Bennett said homeowners should try to find contractors who are willing to work with green materials and products. Not all do.

"This is all about making choices that will improve the comfort and the quality of your life and reduce your carbon imprint as well," he said. "Philosophically, I think it helps people control their destinies, a quintessentially American value, while indirectly supporting their communities."

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Professional home organizer Judy Palmer demonstrates her own efficient use of storage space in her bedroom's "walk-in" closet. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Blueprint for living

Aesthetics of older homes demand simpler life of residents, expert says

BY BILL STIEGER

Given our cultural propensity for spending and accumulating, Americans can often find themselves buried in an avalanche of stuff, especially those who live in older homes without the benefit of large closets, attics or a three-car garage.

Judy Palmer was one of those people. After two decades in Albany, New York, she returned to her native Minnesota three years ago and bought a home near Lake Harriet in South Minneapolis.

Though Palmer has always had a talent for organizing, moving into a smaller house forced her to make some tough decisions. "I had to take a look at myself and ask: What's really important to me? What do I really need?" she said. "They're questions everyone should think about, but we often don't."

Palmer, a former nurse who is now the owner of Hestia's Hearth: Organizing and Cleaning Services for the Home, will share what she has learned at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 11, at Bethlehem Covenant Lutheran Church, 3143 43rd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Her program on "The Organized Bungalow" will cover such topics as storage challenges, the pursuit of simplicity, the golden rules of organization, and personal style in the home. It is sponsored by the Twin Cities Bungalow Club and is open to nonmembers at a cost of \$3.00.

Palmer has advised homeowners of every stripe, from those in need of simple storage tips to those with full-blown obsessive-compulsive disorders.

"Most of my clients are everyday people

just in need of some advice," she said. "But I've also had clients who are your classic hoarders, people with a serious problem who needed a lot more attention and encouragement."

Palmer had one client who never wore the same item of clothing twice in a year. "She was a wonderful person who I like very much," she said. "But getting her organized was quite an undertaking."

Dick Rueter hired Palmer when he moved his small upholstery shop out of a commercial storefront and into his bungalow in South Minneapolis. "Judy helped me make decisions about the things I really needed," said Rueter, a member of the Twin Cities Bungalow Club. "I had accumulated a load of furniture frames, fabric and knick-knacks. I had a set of end tables I'd bought over 20 years ago but never used. I sold off some of the stuff and donated some of it to the Salvation Army. I guess I needed someone to help me decide what was important and necessary in my home. And Judy helped me understand the importance of living more simply."

"One of the first things I ask a client is, 'Do you enjoy coming home?'" Palmer said. "It's a basic question, but an important one. Having a welcoming and comfortable home is fundamental to your quality of life. If you don't enjoy being at home, where else will you go?"

Palmer asks her clients to identify the items they really need and those that are the most meaningful. She said they are often surprised by the number of things they don't need. "I'd say that five out of every 10 items my clients had stored away needed to be sold, donated

26◀ SUMMIT HILL HOUSE TOUR

Three other Goodrich Avenue houses are also on the tour, including an 1894 Colonial Revival home with an award-winning sunroom and patio and a third-floor "urban ski lodge," a relatively modest but gracious 1917 home designed by renowned St. Paul architect Clarence Johnston with landscaping that blends seamlessly into the architecture, and a 120-year-old house whose spacious interior has been redecorated in the words of the home's owner in "your basic Chinese/French/English style."

Two homes on one of St. Paul's most elite streets, Crocus Hill, are on the tour, including the Tudor Revival home of author and former Grand Avenue business woman Billie Young, which is decorated to match her wide-ranging interests and sense of place.

House tourists may also visit a 1918 Tudor Revival home designed by Johnston for Dr. John Archibald and Jane Holland Cameron, a noted singer who enjoyed a measure of fame as the Sweetest Maid on WCCO radio; the charming 1922 Prairie-Style home of two designers who specialize in historic renovation; and a magnificent Summit Avenue mansion which was designed by Johnston at the same time he was building the renowned Glensheen mansion in Duluth and which has not been open to the public in more than 40 years.

The house tour is sponsored by the Summit Hill Association and proceeds are used for a variety of neighborhood programs. Tickets are \$25 on the day of the event or \$20 in advance at such locations as Kowalski's Market, Grumpy Steve's Coffee and Common Good Books. Transportation will be provided free of charge between the tour sites. Tickets and more information are also available by calling 651-222-1222.



Sisters Alison and Natalie Vanderburgh clown around with pet Tillie on the stairs of their Summit Hill home.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

28◀ 'ORGANIZED BUNGALOW'

or thrown out," she said.

"Life has changed radically since the early 20th century when most bungalows were built," said Tim Counts, a resident of South Minneapolis and president of the Twin Cities Bungalow Club. "Contemporary American families just have more stuff."

Counts first heard of Palmer's services through Rueter. "I became interested in Judy's presentation when I learned she not only addresses the mechanics of organizing a home, but philosophical mat-

ters such as how you want your home to feel when you're there, the things you need and the things you don't."

Most bungalows were built between 1910 and 1930. Typically one- to one-and-a-half-story homes with low-pitched roofs, bungalows came in a variety of styles—Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Tudor and Pueblo—but all of them were in keeping with the philosophy of the Arts and Crafts movement, which put a premium on craftsmanship, simplicity and unity of design.

Palmer's philosophy of organization and simplification are also in keeping

with that movement. "Space is limited in a bungalow," she said, "but building a lot of shelves, bookcases and extra closets can actually ruin the feel of a home of that design. It really pays to find the furniture and belongings that are important and necessary and add to the beauty of the home."

"Bungalows are beautifully designed, beautifully structured houses," she said. "Their owners deserve the pleasure of living in a home that not only reflects the aesthetics of the design, but adds to their enjoyment in living."

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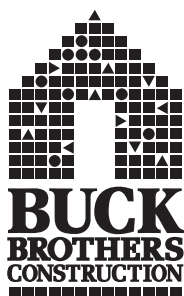
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Rain gardens offer a natural way to keep pollutants from seeping into ground water.

Friends sponsor tour of local rain gardens

Friends of the Mississippi River and the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) will host a tour of St. Paul rain gardens from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, September 15. The tour will be led by Shawn Tracy of the Association of Metropolitan Soil and Water Conservation Districts and staff from CRWD.

Several rain gardens constructed by CRWD and the St. Paul Department of Public Works will be featured on the tour. The gardens received a Sustainable St. Paul award last spring and a Blooming St. Paul Award from the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation in 2007. The tour also will include residential gardens built by recipients of CRWD cost-share grants.

Rain gardens are typically planted downhill from the drain spout of a building or a paved area in order to filter water runoff from rooftops, pesticides from lawns, motor oil from the street and other pollutants before they seep into the ground water. Along with improving water quality, tour officials said rain gardens are neighborhood amenities that beautify, promote wildlife interest and offer opportunities for education.

Bus transportation will be provided during the tour, and participants will be entered in a raffle to win a rain barrel provided by the CRWD.

The tour is free. To register, contact Sue Rich at 651-222-2193, ext. 14 or srich@fmr.org.



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Pick(et) & choose

Residents have a lot more options these days when it comes to installing a fence

BY LARRY ENGLUND

Homeowners who are looking to install a fence in their yards should give some serious thought to exactly what they want from the structure before approaching a contractor, according to the owners of Landmark Fence and Deck of Mendota and Premier Fence of Highland Park, both of which are celebrating 30 years in the business.

"When dealing with a customer, the first thing we need to know is the purpose of the fence," said Dan Caruso, owner of Landmark Fence and Deck. For example, he said, fences can be used to promote privacy, restrict the movement of pets, or define property boundaries.

Pat Caruso, the general manager of Premier Fence, also said that its purpose is primary when considering installing a fence. "If they're looking solely for privacy, we can rule some options out immediately," he said. "Do they want their fence to be maintenance-free, which would rule out wood, and what are their time and budget constraints?"

The Caruso brothers started out working together as fence installers, but after a few years each decided to strike out on his own. Landmark builds decks and fences with an emphasis on red cedar, while Premier specializes in manufacturing its own components for wood and vinyl fencing. Both also deal in ornamental fences.

Over the past 30 years, the Caruso brothers have seen an explosion in fencing options. Chainlink fences, for example, can be color-coated with vinyl and can incorporate wooden posts and post caps. Wooden fences are available in dozens of varieties of materials and designs. Vinyl is maintenance-free, although a little more expensive, and is available in a rainbow of colors. Ornamental steel fencing is sturdier, but ornamental aluminum fencing is less expensive and does not rust.

"When I started in the business, most of the market was chainlink, probably three-fourths, while wood was about 15 percent," Dan said.

"But the biggest change is in the price of materials that form the basis for much of the fencing, due to the rising price of oil, steel and aluminum. We've gotten eight increases in the price of steel since the year began."

"Thirty years ago chainlink was \$3.50 a foot," Pat said. "Now it lists for \$18 a foot."

According to the Carusos, homeowners today are looking for fences that are more aesthetically pleasing than the largely functional designs of 30 years ago. "The local market is fairly sophisticated, with lots of upper-end fence requirements," Dan said.

"Today's customers know more about what they want," said Diane Caruso, president of Premier Fence. "They've gone through the neighborhoods and they've asked around."

"Today's customers know more about what they want," said Pat's wife Diane, president of Premier Fence. "They've gone through the neighborhoods and they've asked around. When they come to us, they often say they saw our fence at a particular address."

"Still, some customers don't have a clue," Pat said. "That's why our estimators are trained to ask questions to help us make good recommendations."

Both brothers agreed that the fastest growing segment of the market in the last 10 years has been ornamental fencing. "It provides an elegant look, yet it's priced only slightly higher than chainlink," Pat said.

Diane noted that best type of fencing is dictated by the property. "If you have a flat site, then almost any kind of fencing will work," she said. "If you have to follow the contour of the land, then wood will work best."



Cedar boards are nailed in place by Premier Fence installer Jesse Stoker at a home in the Summit Hill neighborhood. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

The purpose of the fence and the lay of the land also affect the design. "If you want to contain a dog, you'll want to follow the contour closely, rather than use a stepped approach," Pat said.

"If you have a swimming pool and a teenage daughter who likes to sunbathe, you're going to want privacy," Dan added, "but if your yard slopes down, a 6-foot privacy fence may not be adequate."

Building codes also play an important part in planning for a fence. "Front-yard codes are very restrictive since you may be blocking the views of your neighbors," Dan said. "And there are heavy restrictions on corner lots, since they're essentially two front yards."

Ground condition is critical when installing a fence. Diane said the Minnesota Renais-

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31 ◀ FENCES

sance Festival wanted Premier to install a vinyl privacy fence. "But it was on a rock quarry and we could only dig down a foot, so we ended up going with a chainlink fence," she said.

No matter what kind of fence is being installed, it is important to minimize moisture at the post locations, since post settings determine the longevity of the fence. "Sometimes downspouts will funnel water around a fence post," Dan said. "Then the water freezes and the ground moves no matter how well we set the post. The answer is to maximize drainage by digging around the area and laying a sand base.

Landmark Fence will do partial installations, setting the posts and walking customers through the rest of the installation. Premier has created a do-it-yourself approach for people with small orders.

"We'll provide material counts and instructions and they can call us if they run into any problems," Diane said.

"It's good if cost is a concern or if people enjoy this kind of work or simply want to control a project from start to finish," Pat said.

Both firms stress the importance of qual-



Jesse Stoker eyes up another board for a Summit Hill fence. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

ity during installation and afterward. "I've got 1,500 fences under warranty. That's when years of service works," Dan said.

"Our focus is quality," Pat said. "We're not always the least expensive, but we've never had a complaint from the Better Business Bureau."

A few items for the to-do list

"The Organized Bungalow," solutions to storage and organizational challenges in small and older homes, will be offered from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, September 11, at Bethlehem Covenant Lutheran Church, 3143 43rd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Sponsored by the Bungalow Club of the Twin Cities, the discussion will be led by Judy Palmer of Hestia's Hearth. Admission is \$3.00. Call 612-724-5816.

Household hazardous waste may be dropped off free of charge on Fridays and Saturdays in September at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds parking lot south of Como Avenue and west of Underwood Street. The site is open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Fridays and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays. Household products that are poisonous, flammable or corrosive are accepted along with aerosol spray cans; wet paint, paint stripper and paint thinner; button, lithium, automobile and rechargeable batteries; antifreeze; fluorescent light bulbs; used motor oil; used oil filters; propane tanks; gasoline; kerosene; weed killer; mercury thermometers; and wood preservatives. The service is available to residents of Ramsey, Dakota, Washington, Hennepin, Anoka and Carver counties with a photo I.D. For more information, call 651-266-1144. For information on disposing of appliances and electronics, call 651-633-3279.

The Minnesota Tile Festival, featuring handmade art tiles and mosaics by 40 artists from across the U.S., will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, September 20, at the American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave.

S. in Minneapolis. Admission is \$5.00, free for children under age 12. Included are children's activities and tours of the former Turnblad mansion with its 11 historic tiled stoves. Swedish food will be available for purchase.

The Twin Cities Arts and Crafts Show and Sale, featuring furniture, metalwork, pottery, textiles, lighting and decorative art from the Arts and Crafts era, will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 20-21, on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Sixty dealers from across the country will offer antiques by Stickley, Limbert, Roycroft, Rookwood and the Minneapolis Handicraft Guild, among others, along with high-quality reproductions. The ninth annual event will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 651-695-1902.

Ramsey County's seven compost sites will accept leaves, grass clippings and other soft-bodied plants from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday; and from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. The Midway, Arden Hills, East Side and White Bear Township sites also accept brush. The sites will be open through the end of November, weather permitting. Proof of residency in Ramsey County is required to drop off items at the compost sites. County residents also may pick up finished compost and wood-chip mulch free of charge, when available. For more information, call 651-633-3279.

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On the Town

Wandering Lex-Ham author tells stories of life in a Welsh pub

Year as a publican leads to 'Tales from the Tinker's Dam'

BY BILL STIEGER

It had been many years since author Dan Gabriel and his wife Judith managed the Cross Inn, a country pub on an old Roman road near Towbridge in Wales. Yet Gabriel kept hearing voices in his head of the Welsh locals who frequented the inn as well as the voices of fictional characters from that region.

Gabriel listened and the result is *Tales from the Tinker's Dam* (Whistling Shade Press, July 2008), a collection of humorous short stories about life in a Welsh pub and the quirky characters who bend an elbow there.

If travel is one of the wellsprings of a writer's talent, then Gabriel, 58, a resident of the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood, has been to the well perhaps more than any writer in the Midwest.

"My parents were travelers," said Gabriel, who was raised in Minneapolis. "They took me throughout Europe when I was a boy. My father was an editor and publisher, but he later captained a tourist sailing ship in the Caribbean. The love of traveling was passed down to me at an early age."

Gabriel married just a year after graduating from Minnehaha Academy and he and Judith soon embarked on a series of sojourns that lasted a decade and a half. The young couple sailed the Caribbean, took numerous trips to Europe, and traveled throughout



Author Daniel Gabriel cools his heels at the Liffey. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Asia, Africa, Mexico and Central America. They flew coach, hitchhiked, got seasick on tramp freighters, rode by rail and even by camel.

"Our main priority in those years was just to keep traveling," Gabriel said, "and we could only afford to do it on the cheap, working our way throughout the world. We took every little job we could find."

The couple were employed as sailors, tour guides, dishwashers, laborers, publicans, hotel workers, fruit pickers and cooks. Between their international travels, Gabriel

crossed the United States as a rock 'n' roll roadie, setting up sound systems for acts that included Sly & the Family Stone and Janis Joplin. He also managed to complete two college degrees. During those years abroad, Gabriel supplemented his income by writing stories in literary quarterlies, travel magazines and newspapers. The Gabriels eventually settled in St. Paul in 1985, and raised two sons, Alex and Evan.

"I really prefer St. Paul to Minneapolis," Gabriel said. "St. Paul still has cohesive neighborhoods and a sense of its own identity."

After moving to St. Paul, Gabriel began working for Minnesota's arts education program, COMPAS, and taught creative writing classes across the state as an artist-in-residence. Today, he is that organization's statewide director of arts education programs. All the while, Gabriel continued to write short stories and travel features in literary quarterlies and newspapers such as the *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Toronto Star*, *New York Post*, *MacGuffin*, *Great River Review* and *Whistling Shade*.

It was Joel Van Valen, editor of the St. Paul-based literary journal *Whistling Shade*, who expressed an interest in Gabriel's pub stories. "I've spent some time in Great Britain and Wales," Van Valen said, "and Dan's stories replicate the atmosphere of that culture and setting. When Dan discovered that *Whistling Shade* was planning to go into book publishing, he sent me the manuscript of *Tales from the Tinker's Dam* and I loved it."

The book's central character is Gerry Culhane, an Irishman. Culhane travels by ferry to Wales and takes proprietorship of an abandoned inn called the Tinker's Dam.

The plots are classic short-story fare—stories of the "submerged population," as the great Irish short story writer Frank O'Connor once put it. A part-time waitress named Margo is losing her mind because of a customer who literally bores her to tears. Dai Legg loses wagers on Welsh football and brags of assignments that never occurred. Rhys Jones is in love with Margo, who is dating an American named Rocky, who claims to be a musician.

"The story of the waitress going crazy from the boring customer is based on truth," Gabriel said. "The guy the story is about drove Judith crazy. Our solution was to introduce the customer to another extremely boring customer, whom he became friends with and quit bothering her."

Gabriel writes in the vernacular of the Welsh, Irish and English who imbibe at the Tinker's Dam. He sets off his dialogue with dashes, in the manner of James Joyce, and even spells in the manner of a writer from the English Isles (e.g., colour, realise).

Despite Gabriel's nostalgia for his year as a pub manager—Judith was termed the manageress by the locals—the job was often overwhelming.

"Managing a pub in Wales or England can be difficult, especially if you're not a native," Gabriel said. "The customers had certain expectations, or customs, that needed attending to. And we were required to live in the apartment over the pub, so we were always on call and never seemed to have any time for ourselves. After a year, the stress became too much for us. Judith and I left the place rather abruptly. But I loved the place. Maybe that's why the stories and the voices of the characters kept coming back to me."

Singers vie for a leading role in the revival of rock band Bastille

BY BRENDAN KENNEALY

Shamrocks pub at 995 West 7th St. has taken a page from the CBS reality shows "Rock Star INXS" and "Rock Star Supernova," playing host to a weekly singing competition. After 22 years, the Twin Cities cover band Bastille is back together again, and every Wednesday night through mid-October, the hard-rocking trio is trying out up to five prospective lead singers.

Criss Cain, 20, a student at St. Paul's McNally Smith College of Music, helped kick off the contest on August 30 on Shamrock's elevated stage, performing amid neon lights, smoke machines and the life-size figure of a guitar-toting Elvis. The former front man for an Ozzy Osbourne cover band, Cain sang as Bastille played Osbourne's "I Don't

Wanna Stop" and Aerosmith's "Walk This Way." In between he entertained the audience with stories of dinners he shared with Ozzy himself.

Another contestant, Jezebel Jones of South Minneapolis, looked comfortable bumping and grinding with band members as she belted out Green Day's "American Idiot," Kiss' "Love Gun" and Billy Squier's "The Stroke."

"I grew up singing in church, and I've been writing alternative and jazz music lately," Jones said. "(The contest) looked like a fun way to meet new people and musicians."

Bastille, which takes its name from the 18th-century Parisian prison, is composed of bassist Tom Basterash, guitarist Greg Norton and drummer Tim Mueller. They enjoyed some success in the 1980s playing at county fairs, high school graduation parties and a



Lead singer Criss Cain performs alongside Bastille's Greg Norton (right) and Tom Basterash on opening night of the vocal competition at Shamrocks pub. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Minnesota Strikers playoff soccer game at Met Stadium. One-time Prince guitarist Dez Dickerson even produced two tracks for the band.

"We had some potential," Norton recalled,

"but we had such a bad relationship with our lead singer." Those difficulties led to the band's breakup, according to Norton,

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Waiting is over for author of 'Longing' and 'The Watch'

After 13 years, Summit Hill poet inks two more

BY BOB GILBERT

Having two books published in a single year is unusual for any poet. With her new chapbook, *Longing For Home*, and her new collection, *The Watch*, Summit Hill's Norita Dittberner-Jax has cleared a backlog of 56 poems written over 15 years, emptying, so to speak, her literary nest. But she doesn't mind.

"Unpublished work is something you're always dragging with you," Dittberner-Jax said. "You're always supposed to be doing something with it, trying to find a publisher. I don't have that right now. I'm free to move on to new work."

Getting *Longing For Home* published was especially arduous. It was underwritten with a Jerome Foundation grant that Dittberner-Jax received a decade and a half ago. She used the \$3,000 to travel to sites associated with the dark history of Nazi Germany.

"The Holocaust is so difficult for many Jews to digest," said Dittberner-Jax, who was raised in a working-class German Catholic family in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood. "But it's also difficult for a proud woman of German heritage. It cast a very long shadow. What I found is that German Americans didn't talk about it, and the Jews in America didn't talk about it either. I thought I had to come to terms with it as an individual and as an artist."

As she explains in "German, the Mother Tongue":

*The sounds and shape of German
are as natural to me as a cool glass of water.*

*I know few words, but the sounds move in my mouth
utterly without effort, the way they tumbled*

*from the laughing mouths of aunts and uncles,
a private code, a childhood shared, unconnected to me.*

*The same code my parents used with each other
while I hid under the table, trying to decipher*

*what they were saying in German, language of trouble,
of not in front of the children. Now, preparing for the trip,*

*I hear these childhood sounds again,
musselman, kraut and ruben, Du Jude, kaputt.*

In 1995 Dittberner-Jax and her husband Gene Jax toured such locales as Auschwitz, Nuremberg, Warsaw, Berlin and Dachau. Five years later, she had distilled those impressions in the 21 poems included in *Longing For Home*. Among them is "Jewish Cemetery":

*We take the streetcar to the cemetery,
get off when we see the obelisks
behind a brick wall and barbed wire.*

*Everything locked. Then I notice
a dirt road leading to a lumberyard
that adjoins the cemetery—*

*cement mixers, piles of stone
and planks of clean lumber piled
next to the wall. I take that road,*

*you follow, saying we shouldn't, then
where the planks are highest, you turn
and say, "Quick, climb up and look over!"*

*You give me a hand, I teeter at the top
thinking what fine insurrectionists
we'd make, and look over the wall:*

*deep green, dense with trees, leaves
of ash and maple, the ancient gravestones,
everywhere graves, the Jews of Warsaw,*

*some dead for two centuries, some dead
only 50 years, but almost all of the Jews
of Warsaw dead and still behind barbed wire.*

Dittberner-Jax is an English teacher who worked for many years in the St. Paul Public Schools and at the Perpich Center for Arts Education in Golden Valley. This fall she is teaching a course at the College of St. Catherine and is working part-time as an instructor at Boys Totem Town, a juvenile correctional facility in St. Paul. She also conducts tours for school-age children at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

"Writing poetry is very solitary, and it isn't something I want to do every day," she said. "The other part of me is quite gregarious and enjoys teaching."

Dittberner-Jax's first published poem, "Love Song For Sigmund Romberg," appeared in *The Lake Street Review* in 1978. Her first full-length collection, *What They Always Were*, was published in 1995 and nominated for a Minnesota Book Award.

The Watch is her second full-length collection. It comprises 35 poems grouped around four different meanings of the word "watch." More personal than the chapbook, the collection is dedicated to Dittberner-Jax's late friend, Harlan Olson, whose death from cancer weighed heavily on her mind. "I think many of the poems are how I dealt with his death," she said.

As she writes in "Crossing":

*Now I see how the living begin
the passage: Information
arrives, the measured cadence
of bad news, an announcement
as sudden as the warning
on the loudspeaker, "The store
will be closing in five minutes."*

*If you sleep, you remember
with your first breath upon waking:
you weigh yourself but what use
is the scale, artifact of an earlier life?*



Norita Dittberner-Jax. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

*You live out your days amid the clocks
and calendars of earth, but your mind
is on the old verities,
death, truth.*

*Those who love you bear this,
watch as you lay aside one object after
another, wristwatch, gloves,
the contents of your life taking on dignity
as you sweeten into your passing.*

For Dittberner-Jax, a new poem usually begins with the inward impressions she records in her journal. The exercise helps "get the junk out," she said. And since a good poem must appeal to the ear as well as the eye, she revises her work by reading it out loud. "What I find is that when there is something wrong with a stanza, I recognize it because my voice goes under," she said.

Dittberner-Jax will read from her newly published works in free programs beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 9, at ArtStart, 1459 St. Clair Ave.; and 5:00 p.m. Sunday, September 14, at Magers and Quinn Booksellers, 3038 Hennepin Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

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On the Town *Briefly*

Books

Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave., will present free readings by authors Pamela Carter Joern from *The Plain Sense of Things* at 7:30 p.m. Friday, September 12; Garrison Keillor from *Liberty* at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 13; Chuck Pilon from *Waiting for Mozart* at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, September 14; Eric Dregni from *In Cod We Trust: Living the Norwegian Dream* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 20, at the Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church, 170 Virginia St.; and Dana Nelson from *Bad for Democracy* at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 24. All events are at Common Good Books unless otherwise indicated. Call 651-225-8989.

Spoken-word artists and poetry-slam standouts Allison Broeren, Sam Cook, Dave Crady, Cynthia French and Tom Reed will be featured on Tuesday, September 16, in a free program emceed by Ramsey Hill writer Carol Connolly. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Admission is free. Call 612-871-4444.

The Loft, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis, will play host to free publication readings by Julie Schumacher of Macalester-Groveland from her new young-adult novel *Black Box* at 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 19, and by Macalester-Groveland poet Margaret Hasse from her new collection *Milk and Tides* at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, September 20.

TV news analyst Cokie Roberts will discuss her latest book, *Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation*, with Minnesota Public Radio's Kerri Miller on Tuesday, September 23. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets are \$20. Call 651-290-1221.

Dance

Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre will present the first half of the ground-breaking dance *Romería/Marchita* by Susana di Palma at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, September 16-21, in Minnehaha Falls Park in South Minneapolis. With a score by Spanish composer Arcadio Marin, the dance tells the tragic story of a neglected and barren woman. The audience at these performances



Carolyn Pool, Charity Jones and Angela Timberman star in the *Sisters Rosensweig*. Wendy Wasserstein's Broadway hit of 1992 about the complex relationships among three middle-aged siblings is being staged September 12 through October 5 at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. The curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday. For tickets, call 651-291-7005. PHOTO BY AMY ANDERSON

will be filmed and the film shown as part of its shocking second half on October 16-19 at the Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Admission is free at the falls; \$29 at the theater. Call 612-724-2000.

Beginning square dance lessons will be offered on Monday, September 22, by Dakota Grand Squares, a local square dance club. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church, 11 W. Bernard St. in West St. Paul. Couples, singles and families are welcome. Pre-registration is requested. Call 651-454-2942.

Theater

The Juliet Letters, a fully staged concert version of the song cycle by Elvis Costello about the mystery and magic of the tomb of Shakespeare's Juliet, will be performed September 11-21 at the Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2:00 or 7:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$22. Call 612-340-1725.

Babe, a new musical about Babe Didrikson, arguably the greatest woman athlete of all time, will be given a concert reading at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, September 11-13, in Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Singer-songwriter Ellis stars in the Theatre Unbound production. Tickets are \$8-\$20. Call 612-721-1186.

The Lex-Ham Community Theater's Pulitzer-Prize Winner Reading Series continues on Friday, September 12, with *Craig's Wife* (1926) by George Kelly. The free program begins with a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. at 1184 Portland Ave. The reading follows at 7:00, with parts reassigned at the start of each scene. Call 651-644-3366.

Power, Nick Dear's tautly woven tale of cunning, greed and corruption in the French court of King Louis XIV, will open September 12 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Sundays through October 5. A discussion with Macalester College Professor Martine Sauret follows the September 21

matinee. Tickets are \$20. Call 612-333-3010.

Two edgy new one-acts—*Sia(b)* by Hmong American playwright May Lee-Yang and *Asiamnesia* by Sun Mee Chomet—open Mu Performing Arts' new season on September 13. The plays, which unravel long-held stereotypes about Asian women, will be performed Thursdays through Sundays through October 5 at the Playwrights' Center, 2301 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. For ticket information, call 612-824-4804.

Il Trovatore, the Minnesota Opera's production of Verdi's thrilling melodrama about revenge and remorse, will open at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, September 20, at the Ordway. Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage, it features Russian stars Mlada Khudoley as Leonore, August Amonov as Manrico and Olga Savova as Azucena. Performances continue at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, September 23-27, and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 28. For ticket information, call 612-333-6669.

Music

The Brass Messengers will perform the Gypsy music of Eastern Europe, American country, Latin dance and Afro pop at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 11, at the Picnic Island shelter in Fort Snelling State Park. The concert is free, although a \$5.00 daily or \$25 annual permit is required on all motorized vehicles entering the park.

The soulful sounds of Keith Johnson and the Grassy Knolls can be heard on Friday, September 12, in a benefit for Midway Training Services, an employment service for people with disabilities. The live concert begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Wellstone Center, 179 E. Robie St. It will be preceded at 6:00 by a Northern Indian buffet. Tickets for the concert are \$8.00 in advance, \$10 at the door. Meal tickets are \$7.00. Call 651-641-0709.

Pianist Leon Fleisher will join the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota in concert at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, September 14, at the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 S. 4th St. in Minneapolis. The program includes Schubert's Fantasie in F Minor, Ravel's La Valse and Brahms' Quartet in A Major. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors and \$15 for students. Call 651-450-0527.



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Fri. Oct. 3rd 6:30-9pm

Proceeds go to Project Spirit of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches and ILC General Fund.

Beethoven's 4th Symphony will be performed September 18-20 by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra under the direction of violinist Nikolaj Znaider. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at Temple Israel in Minneapolis, Friday at Wayzata Community Church and Saturday at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 990 Summit Ave. Also on the program are Beethoven's Coriolan Overture, Mozart' Violin Concerto No. 5 and Vasks' Meditation for Violin and String Orchestra. Call 651-291-1144.

Music for the Animals, a benefit concert for Second Chance Animal Rescue featuring Tim Mahoney, Lehto & Wright and Concentral, will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, September 20, at O'Garas Bar and Grill, 164 N. Snelling Ave. A silent auction, raffle and drink specials will also be part of the fun. Admission is \$10.

Master finger-style guitarist Phil Heywood will perform in a Minnesota Guitar Society concert at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, September 20, in Sundin Hall at Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The concert will celebrate the release of Heywood's new recording, "You Got to Move." Tickets are \$22, \$17 for students and seniors. Call 612-677-1151.

Moscow-born pianist Ora Itkin will be joined by violinist Michael Antonello, cellist Teresa Richardson and recorder player Clea Galhano on Sunday, September 21, in a concert of Gypsy music in the classical, Klezmer and Latin traditions. Pieces by Piazzolla, Sarasate, de Falla, Grenados, Gershwin and others will be performed beginning at 3:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is \$20. Call 651-698-0751.

The music of Mozart, Beethoven and

Prokofiev will be performed by Macalester College teachers Mark Mazullo on piano, Mary Horozaniecki on violin and Tom Rosenberg on cello at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, September 21, in the Concert Hall of Mac's Fine Arts Center. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6808.

Exhibits

"Voice to Vision," paintings, drawings, collage and mixed media that express the horror of genocide, is on view through October 2 at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery, 405 21st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The participating artists worked beside genocide survivors as they told of their experiences. An opening reception will be held from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Friday, September 12. Four related documentary films will be screened: *World War II Holocaust Survivors Share Experiences Through Art* at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 16; *Romania 1941/Rwanda 1994* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 20; *If Nothing Else They'll Hear My Beating Heart* at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 23; and *It Was Meant to Be: Germany, Tibet and Laos* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 27. Admission is free.

"Hands On: People at Work," featuring artist Judy Westergard and her series "A Show of Hands: Hands as Portraiture," continues through September at the Water and Oil Gallery, 506 Kenny Road. An open house will be held from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 13. Call 651-774-1822.

The ancient materials of stone, sand, clay and glass are reinterpreted by seven regional artists in an exhibit that runs from September 18 through October 31 in the Lobby Gallery of the

O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. "Bridge of Sand and Clay" includes 50 works by potter Marti Nelson, mosaic artist Elisa Lux, stone carver Marc Clements, multimedia artist K. Daphnae Koop, sculptor Susan Haas Morrissey, painter John Olympio and bead and textile artist Paulette Lack. A reception for the artists will be held from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 4. Admission is free of charge. Call 651-962-5560.

"Hiawatha Tales," photos, paintings and videos by Lawrence Nelson that juxtapose industrial and natural landscapes in the Twin Cities, will open with a reception from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday, September 19, at Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A related Art & Recycling Workshop will be offered from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 18. The exhibit will close with a related video screening at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 1. Call 612-728-5745.

Family

"Saturday Live," a free program at 11:15 a.m. Saturday at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., will feature the Amazon' ANTics of the Children's Museum on September 13 and the Raptor Center on September 20.

"Behold, the Leaf!" a drop-in program for children ages 4-10 and their families, will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, September 13, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Through scientific experiments, discover how and why leaves change color in autumn. The program is free with museum

Low Vision Doctors Help Legally Blind to See

Members of the *International Academy of Low Vision Specialists* help those with macular degeneration to keep reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi
Freelance Writer

Jackson, New Jersey Donald Paquette, 72, a former assessor from Anaheim, California thought that his driving days were over. "I could not read the street signs soon enough and I couldn't pass the vision test at the DMV office."

Gonzalo Garcia, 74, Albuquerque, New Mexico, wanted to be able to read and write more easily. He wanted to see the nails and screws when he tried to use them in home repairs. He wanted see his grandchildren singing in the church choir. But he thought those days were over when he was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration.

Neither Donald nor Gonzalo knew that a low vision optometrist could help with some of those issues.

"In New Jersey, Bioptic Telescopic Glasses can be used to pass the vision test for driving", says Dr. Chris Palmer,

optometrist in Minneapolis, Mn. "This can allow some with conditions like macular degeneration to continue driving".

"Amazing!" says Donald. "I can read the street signs twice as far as I did before and even see the television better!" Mr. Paquette received bioptic telescopic glasses and also special prismatic reading glasses for easier newspaper reading.

People don't know that there are doctors who are very experienced in low vision care. "Not many doctors like to work with people who are often upset and anxious" says Dr. Palmer, who traveled to California for speical training recently. "I love to see their faces light up when they see again."

Macular Degeneration is the most common eye disease among the senior population. As many as 25% of those over 65 have some degree of degeneration. The macula is one small part of the entire retina, but it is the most sensitive

and gives us sharp images.

When it degenerates, ARMD leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision making it impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

The experts do not know what causes macular degeneration. But major factors include UV light from the sun, smoking, aging, and improper nutrition.

Vitamins can help. The results of two studies, AREDS and LAST deonstrated a lowered risk of progression by about 25% when treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins.

A new, proprietary supplement based on the scientific studies is available from these doctors. A very powerful formulation, Macula Therapy Formula is available from Dr. Palmer's office.

Nine out of ten people who have macular degeneration have the dry type. There is no medical treatment ex-

cept for vitamins. The wet type is more aggressive and results in more dramatic vision loss. It involves leaky blood vessels that sometimes can be sealed with hot or cold laser. Newer treatments, such as Macugen, Lucentis and Avastin are injections to prevent leakage.

"Our job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning," says Dr. Palmer. "Whether it's driving, reading, watching television, seeing faces, playing bridge...we work with whatever is on the persons "wish list".

"Telescopic glasses usually cost over \$2000", says Dr. Palmer, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass". Readin glasses start at \$500 and hand magnifiers under \$100. Every case is different because people have different levels of vision and different desires.

- Advertisement

RICHARD DOUGHERTY WITH TELESCOPE GLASSES

Richard Dougherty, 89, of Palmdale, California came to Dr. Shuldiner in June, 2003. He has returned every two years to have the DMV vision report form filled out to keep driving. Dr. Shuldiner prescribed bioptic telescopic glasses to read signs and see traffic lights farther away in June, 2003.

At his visit on March 3, 2007, Mr. Dougherty said "The telescopic glasses keep getting better and better!". "They are actually better, by far, than the day I got them. The doctor is a genius! Definitely worth the \$2300 I paid for them". On his visit this past March, Mr. Dougherty reported that the special prismatic reading glasses were still working fine.

The following are some of the very experienced doctors working with low vision patients. They are members of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists and are happy to speak with you:

Chris Palmer, OD		Brian Saunders, OD	
Minnesota	888 882 2040	Georgia	877 948 7784
Yanna Nachtigal, OD		Marc Gannon, OD, FAAO	
Pennsylvania	877 523 2020	Florida	866 942 2020
Randolph Kinkade, OD		Ross Cusic, OD	
Connecticut	800 756 0766	Washington	877 823 2020
Richard Shuldiner, OD, FAAO		Sheldon Smith, OD	
Southern California	888 610 2020	Michigan	877 677 2020
David Armstrong, OD		Larry Chism, OD	
Virginia	866 321 2030	Texas	888 243 2020

Selby Ave. gets in sync with 7th annual JazzFest

Jazz in all its musical forms will animate the intersection of Selby Avenue and Milton Street on Saturday, September 13, when local businesses and nonprofit agencies roll out the seventh annual Selby Avenue JazzFest.

Close to 10,000 people turned out for last year's JazzFest. "It's the biggest backyard party in St. Paul," said Mychael Wright, the owner of Golden Thyme Coffee Shop and the founder of the fest.

Live music, children's activities, soulful refreshments, and the show and sale of art and other merchandise will be featured from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Kids can make puppets with In the Heart of the Beast Theater staff between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. At 4:00 p.m. the Leigh Kammon and Merle Harris awards will be given out.

The musical lineup includes Dick and Jane's Big Brass Band at 11:00; Walker-West's



Jason "Malletman" Taylor will headline the Selby JazzFest on September 13.

Urban Legends of Jazz at 12:00; Wenso Ashby & Zsamé Morgan at 1:00; Mikhalized at 2:00; Yohannes Tona at 3:00; The John Raymond Project at 4:15; Salsa Del Soul at 5:00; and Jason "Malletman" Taylor at 6:00.

admission, which is \$5.00, \$3.00 for children ages 3–16. Call 612-624-7083.

Learn of the ways and culture of the Dakota Indians by trying out centuries-old tools and playing traditional Indian games on Sunday, September 14, at the Gibbs Museum, 2097 W. Larpenteur Ave. The program will run from noon to 5:00 p.m. on the site of the 19th-century farm and Indian encampment. Admission is \$7.00 for adults, \$6.00 for seniors, \$4.00 for children. For more information, call 651-646-8629.

Create a lantern out of bamboo or origami paper, listen to Vietnamese folk tales, design a miniature storybook or enjoy a Vietnamese meal topped off with moon cakes at the Harvest Moon Lantern Festival from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, September 14, at Landmark Center. The free event will conclude with a traditional lantern parade around Rice Park. Call 651-292-3276.

Teatro del Pueblo will present the puppet show *The Great Cheese Adventures of Mexico* at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, September 21, at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Admission is free. Visit www.sppl.org.

33◀ 'ROCK BAND BASTILLE'

and ultimately convinced them to be more careful in choosing a lead singer this time around. After several fruitless months of recruiting a new singer "the traditional way," he said, the band pitched the contest idea to Shamrocks owners Mike Runyon and Ted Casper.

Shamrocks has been offering live music four days a week since Casper and Runyon bought the West 7th Street bar and restaurant in January 2007. The partners were willing to take a chance with Bastille because "Matt (Norton) has brought some good bands here in the past," Runyon said, referring to Greg Norton's brother, a marketing professional who also serves as Bastille's manager.

Posters hanging on Shamrocks' red-brick walls encourage any man or woman with a "great set of pipes" to sign up for the singing competition at www.RockBandBastille.com. The band screens all applicants and selects the best for the show at Shamrocks, where they perform three songs from Bastille's repertoire.

The singers compete before a panel of judges made up of employees of Shamrocks and contest cosponsor FM radio station



Contestant Tom Corbin belts out a song on the opening night of "Rock Band Bastille."

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

93X. Those who are deemed best at relating to the crowd, interacting with the band and nailing the songs will be invited back for the quarterfinals on October 1 and 8, the semifinals on October 15, and the finals on October 17, when the band will introduce its new lead singer.

Film

Divided We Fall: Americans in the Aftermath, a feature-length documentary on the racial violence that followed in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 16, in the ballroom of Kagin Commons at Macalester College. A discussion will follow the free screening.

Et cetera

Landmark Center's various tenants will roll out the welcome mat from noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, September 21. Featured all afternoon will be tours of the building's nooks and crannies, a historical scavenger hunt, wood-turning demonstrations and a magnetic art project. Other attractions include the Ketzal Cotalicue Aztec Dance Troupe at 1:30, the Rose Ensemble and music of early Mexico at 2:00, a kids' show with Rolf and Carrie at 2:30, and a gamelan workshop at 3:30. Admission is \$3.00, free to children age 12 and under. Call 651-292-3276.



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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Hall of Fame time at Central

The sports stories will be flying more than is usually the case at O'Gara's Bar & Grill on Tuesday, September 23. That's the night when the four newest members of Central High School's Hall of Fame will be honored as part of the Central "C" Club's 90th annual banquet.

In a departure from what many schools do these days, Central went back quite a ways into its storied past to tap the honorees. Richard (Skip) Reynolds (class of 1951) earned all-city honors in football and basketball and also played baseball. In his senior season, he was named the school's most outstanding athlete. Bobby Lewis ('61) was a football and track star, but also participated in gymnastics for two years. Thomas Hardy ('65) played with LeRoy Gardner, who led the St. Paul City Conference in scoring in 1965 when Central won the state basketball consolation title. Hardy was a three-sport star, earning letters in football and baseball as well.

The fourth inductee, Ray Muetzel, worked at Central for 38 years before retiring in 1996. He taught science and served as the school's longtime golf coach and equipment manager.

Tickets for the banquet are \$20 and are available at the school and at the door.

One team's loss is another's gain

Depending on your point of view, the St. Paul Saints had either a very good or very bad season. The team led the American Association in attendance by a wide margin, drawing 286,796 fans over 46 home dates—an average of almost 200 more than Midway Stadium's seating capacity of 6,069. Toss in revenue from concessions and advertising—including a marketing deal in which the city of St. Paul, which owns the stadium, allowed the Saints to have a sponsor "rename" the park for a week—and it can be presumed the team's books look a lot better than those of some companies on Wall Street these days.

The team's performance on the field was a different story. For the first time since George Tsamis became the manager, the Saints struggled badly and missed the playoffs. The team lost 11 of its last 12 games, including a pair of 9-0 drubbings to close out the season, and finished with just 42 wins, second-worst in the league.

However, the Saints' on-field struggles helped St. Agnes High School, which has been playing football games at Midway ever since it opened in 1982. Aggies athletic director Mike Streitz realized there was no way the field would be ready for his team's August 28 opener against Hibbing. But he was thrilled that his team would be able to play a September 5 home game against Lester Prairie at Midway as scheduled. It was the Aggies' inaugural game in the Minnesota Christian Athletic Association. (St. Agnes is staying in the Tri-Metro Conference for all other sports.)

WRIGHT CALL ► 42

Boys' soccer preview

Local coaches cross fingers for an injury-free fall

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

The injury bug has already bitten the Henry Sibley boys' soccer team. In an early-season game, Warrior defender Justin Zeis went up for a header and came down hard, rupturing two discs in his back, according to head coach Terry Doud. Zeis will be out for about four weeks. And he isn't alone.

According to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, 477,500 soccer players wind up in hospitals, clinics and emergency rooms every year. The top five soccer injuries are sprains, strains, fractures, knee injuries and head injuries.

Not much could have been done to prevent the kind of injury Zeis suffered, according to Doud. In general, to avoid injuries, he stresses warm-ups before playing, cool-downs afterward and other sports training fundamentals. "But even with all that, things happen," Doud said. "Soccer is a physical sport."

Cretin-Derham Hall coach Mike Huber said one of the problems is that players only have a few days to practice to get ready for the high school season. "Injuries are a concern because there's such a short time frame," he said.

St. Thomas Academy coach Julius Tangwe said injuries are a concern especially at the start of the season. He encourages his players to stay active in the summer, whether it's playing soccer or another sport.

Players can avoid getting hurt by being more aware while they're playing—something that comes with experience, according to Minnehaha Academy coach Bassam Banat. "The more skilled the players, the fewer injuries," he said.

St. Paul Academy has avoided any injuries so far this season, and that may be no accident. Coach Christian Isquardo prepares his players for the soccer season by taking what he calls "a modern approach" to conditioning. "We're getting them soccer fit," he said. "We've been very healthy, knock on wood."

The boys' high school soccer season is already afoot. Here's a look at the local clubs:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 9-8-2

Coach: Jorey Erickson

Key players and their strengths:

- Sam Mann, senior midfielder. A



Central senior defender Naveed Effendi dribbles the ball upfield during a 3-0 win against Como Park on September 3. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

team leader and a skilled all-around player who has starred for the Minutemen since 9th grade.

- Naveed Effendi, senior defender. Another long-time starter with good size (6-foot-4) who is an imposing, physical player.

- Dahir Wako, senior midfielder/forward. Quick, creative and tough for opposing players to mark.

- Gabe Street, junior goalie. Is playing all-conference-caliber soccer and has three shutouts in six games so far this year.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Central has a deep, experienced team with 13 guys back from 2007. Every player has contributed so far and the team experiences little drop-off when it goes to the bench. Goaltending was a question mark after the team's projected starter was injured, but Street has filled in nicely. Overall, this team looks solid.

Outlook: Central, which is off to a 3-2-1 start, is a perennial favorite in the conference and this year is no different. Erickson expects the team to get stronger as the season goes on. Como Park, Humboldt, Highland Park and Arling-

ton are other teams to watch in a competitive league.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East Conference

Last year's record: 12-6-2

Coach: Mike Huber

Key players and their strengths:

- Ben Barth, senior forward. Scored 14 goals last year. He's quick, can shoot and hounds defenders.

- Anthony Calderon, junior forward. A natural finisher and goal-scorer.

- Neil Bartholomay, junior defender. A tall, physical, aggressive defender.

Team strengths/weaknesses: CDH looks to put the ball in the net often this season with the return of Barth, Calderon and other pure scorers. However, the midfield and defense could use some work. The Raiders gave up five goals in its season-opening loss to Edina on August 21.

Outlook: CDH won the conference crown last year and hopes for an encore in 2008. Huber expects the team to be in the top half of the league. The Raiders

BOYS' SOCCER ► 39

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will compete against such tough conference foes as Stillwater and Woodbury.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: Classic Suburban Conference

Last year's record: 9-4-3

Coach: Terry Doud

Key players and their strengths:

- Jack Kilduff, senior defender. The glue that holds Sibley's defense together.
- Evan Johnson, senior midfielder. A three-year starter and good all-around player. Distributes the ball well.
- Moe Ahmed, senior midfielder. A relentless attacker who's big and elusive.
- Francis Bungue, senior midfielder. An outstanding player. Good at creating scoring opportunities.
- Christian Fregose, freshman forward. Has a good sense of where he is on the field.
- Tom Perillat, junior forward. A hard worker who knows what to do with the ball.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Warriors move the ball well and attack as a team, but the defense is taking a while to develop.

Outlook: Sibley looks to improve as the season progresses. The Warriors opened the 2008 campaign with a 3-0 loss to conference rival Tartan, a 6-1 setback against Eagan and a 1-1 tie with Mahtomedi. Tartan is among the conference favorites.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 8-8-2

Coach: Chris Anderson

Key players and their strengths:

- Reyer Swengel, senior defender. Never tires and is a great defender.
- Alejandro Villafan, senior defender. A smart player who directs traffic on defense.
- Sam Sevet, sophomore midfielder. Plays aggressively and is a team leader.
- Casey Hewes, junior goalie. Made 14 saves in a game against Burnsville.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Scots are young and enthusiastic, and they have solid goaltending and defense. However, the young athletes have not played together much and will need time to jell.

Outlook: Highland Park looks to finish strong after a 1-3 start. Despite its record, the young team has played surprisingly well thus far. With a few breaks, the Scots can compete with such top conference teams as Humboldt, Central and Como Park.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 7-9-2

Coach: Bassam Banat

Key players and their strengths:

- Quinn Nelson, senior sweeper. Very fast and aggressive.
- Christian Kibler, senior forward. Scored three goals in the team's first four games.
- Andrew McNamera, senior forward. Sprained his ankle in practice before the first game, but a good, all-around player who can fill in at multiple positions.
- Spencer Summers, sophomore forward/defender. A good playmaker who shuts opposing players down on defense and covers a lot of ground.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Redhawks have great defense and goaltending this year. "Teams are really going to have to work to score on us," Banat said. Minnehaha puts a lot of pressure on opposing defenses, but the team needs to get better at finishing its scoring chances.

Outlook: Blake, Breck and St. Paul Academy will provide tough sledding in the Tri-Metro Conference, but Banat likes his team's chances. "We can win the conference if things go our way," he said. The Redhawks started out 1-2-1 this fall.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City Conference

Last year's record: 9-8-2

Coach: Gordon Olsen

Key players and their strengths:

- Abshir Kodoh, junior midfielder. Speedy and has good ball-handling skills.
- Christian Tigre, junior midfielder. A nifty passer who handles the ball like a pro.
- Abshir Ahmed, senior defender. A steady player who anchors the Teddies' defense.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Roosevelt has good speed and players who know how to handle the ball. The Teddies could use more size, both up front and on defense.

Outlook: In its first four games, Roosevelt lost to Andover (3-1), Chisago Lakes (5-0) and Park Center (7-1), and defeated Robbinsdale Cooper (6-2). South and Southwest are the top picks in the league. The Teddies hope to finish among the top three.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 12-7

Coach: Christian Isquierdo

Key players and their strengths:

- Marco Pavoloni, senior forward. A dynamic player and team leader.
- Matt Pichert, senior defender. An anchor on defense and another team leader.
- Colin Wymore, senior forward. A three-year varsity player.
- Zach Brown, junior goalkeeper. A solid, returning goalkeeper who will be counted on to solidify a defense that includes three first-year players.
- Nick Forsgren, sophomore forward. Has a knack for putting the ball in the net.
- Joe Stanoch, senior forwards. Scored both goals in a season-opening win over Highland.

Team strengths/weaknesses: SPA has a lot of contributors on offense and promising talent. The team has only four seniors.

Outlook: This will be a rebuilding year for the Spartans, who beat Highland 2-1 in early-season action before losing 4-2 to Meadow Creek and 6-1 to Edina. SPA led Meadow Creek 2-0, but allowed four goals in the last 20 minutes. The team is bound to experience some growing pains, but the Spartans are excited about the season.

ST. THOMAS ACADEMY

League: Classic Suburban Conference

Last year's record: 8-9-2

Coach: Julius Tangwe

Key players and their strengths:

- Jacob Szymanski, senior midfielder. An all-conference player and good ball-handler.
- Andrew Housh, senior forward. A tough and combative player who hustles and has good potential as a scorer.
- Mike Fitzgerald, senior midfielder. Another all-conference selection who has good size and sees the field well.
- Carl D'Aquila, senior forward. The Cadets will look to him for an offensive spark.
- William Brady, senior forward. A good ball handler and very quick.
- Sam Johnson, senior defender. Intelligent with the ball.
- Ben Ruble, senior defender. Another solid player and a brick wall on defense.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Cadets will be solid at midfield and defense. St. Thomas is also deep and experienced, with 14 players back from 2007 and a good group of former junior varsity players. Scoring and goaltending were concerns last year, but the Cadets look to be improved in those areas.

Outlook: In a tough Classic Suburban Conference, STA looks to compete well with the likes of Simley, Henry Sibley, Hill-Murray and Mahtomedi. St. Thomas got off to a 2-0-1 start this fall by beating Richfield 9-2 and North 2-1 and tying Simley 2-2.

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Girls' soccer preview

Local teams put best foot forward

BY BILL WAGNER

Coaches all give different answers when asked what they consider to be the best formula for building a winning high school girls' soccer program. But there's plenty of common ground, too.

Longtime Minnehaha Academy coach Mark Anderson thinks that a team must have a certain level of talent to do well and players who buy into a team concept. Then it comes down to an emphasis on defense and superb physical conditioning. "It all starts with defense," he said. "By and large the successful teams have a defensive focus."

Roosevelt coach Joe Rosenfield, who resurrected a moribund Teddies program over the past five years, said that for a coach to rebuild a program, one vital thing has to happen. "You need the kids to have fun when they come out," he said. "If they have fun, they come back."

Once his team takes the field, Rosenfield said the most important positions are in front of the net and at midfield. "You need to start in goal and work out from there," he said. "But you really need to have good midfielders. They carry the ball the most and a good center midfielder can make your offense."

Henry Sibley coach Jay Miller looks for his players to play summer soccer. "Across the board, you need kids who (have experience)," he said. "Off the field, you need kids who have a willingness to work hard, whether it's with weights or running or whatever. You need to kids who make a commitment."

Here's how the eight local girls' soccer teams stack up this fall:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 12-11

Coach: Peter Beck

Key players and their strengths:

- Sarah Ludwig, senior goalie. A returning player who gives Central a chance to be competitive in most games.
- Erin Chambers, senior midfielder/forward. One of the league's best players. Shoots and passes well.
- Kristen Moen, senior forward. Provides leadership and scoring savvy.
- Rita Baldwin, senior forward/midfielder. Productive on offensive playing both positions.
- Emily Johnson, senior forward. Should provide added scoring punch.
- Brittany Berres, senior defender/midfielder. Another player who could see action at two positions.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Central has good team quickness and depth and should be able to score goals. However, the defense is young and will be tested early.

Outlook: Central should contend with Highland Park, last year's league champ, and possibly Como Park for the conference title.

"We'd also like to do well in our nonconference games so that we get a decent seed," Beck said.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East Conference

Last year's record: 6-13

Coach: Stephanie Aumann

Key players and their strengths:

- Nina Behrenbrinker, junior goalie. A consistent player who stepped up to earn the regular spot last year.
- Olivia Clarkin, sophomore forward. Has promising finesse around the net.
- Maria McLeod, junior defender/midfielder. Should bolster the Raiders' defense after playing a summer stint at midfield.
- Margie Jancik, senior midfielder. A good ball-handler who reads the field well.
- Alex Gergen, junior midfielder. Has shown promise early this fall.
- Michelle Fischer, junior midfielder. Will add strength to the transition game.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Raiders should play well as a team play as they buy into Aumann's possession-oriented system. However, the team is small and has only average speed.

Outlook: It could be a tough row to hoe for CDH in a league that includes four of the state's top 10 teams. Aumann said a better than .500 finish may be a reachable objective. "We could surprise some people this year," she said. She picks Woodbury as the top team in the conference.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: Classic Suburban Conference

Last year's record: 8-8-1

Coach: Jay Miller

Key players and their strengths:

- Carly Reimer, senior defender. Fast and strong. Sibley's best player.
- Lauren Ahern, freshman midfielder. Has a good touch with the ball and good offensive skills.
- Chelsea Miller, junior midfielder. Has a good work ethic and team orientation.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sibley plays an aggressive style of soccer and has decent team speed. However, the Warriors' offensive game is below par this year.

Outlook: Sibley returns nine players, five of whom start. "We're going to struggle, I'll be honest with you," Miller said. "The kids we lost were irreplaceable." He likes Mahtomedi in the conference, and says that reaching .500 would be a "realistic goal."

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 13-4-3

Coach: John Knowles

Key players and their strengths:

- Ali Miller, junior sweeper/stopper. An outstanding defensive player.
- Misha Evertz, senior midfielder/defender.



Highland Park's Misha Evertz, left, and Visitation's Olivia Beinlich battle for the ball on August 26. The game ended as a tie. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

A great passer and unselfish player.

- McKenzie Chase, junior midfielder/forward. Has great athleticism. She can score and pass and sees the field well.
- Rachel Glad, senior defender/midfielder. Can create plays from the back.
- Kate Stone, senior defender. A good team player and leader.
- Veronica Dasovich, senior midfielder. A solid, mobile defender.
- Drew Neaven, senior midfielder. A high-energy player who revs up the team.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Stout defense and goaltending should have the Scots in almost every game, but more scoring punch is needed and team depth is untested.

Outlook: Highland has six starters back from last year's conference championship squad, but has had to replace 10 seniors. Knowles thinks his squad should be among the top three teams in the league, along with Central and Como. "I think Central is the team to beat," he said. "We'll be OK, but we have to keep our core group healthy."

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 16-2-1

Coach: Mark Anderson

Key players and their strengths:

- Karen Kelley, senior goalie. One of the top goalies in the state.
- Anna Krieger, junior sweeper. A fast and solid player.
- Sarah Schell, junior stopper. A physical, athletic and smart player who shadows the opponent's top scoring threat.
- Emma Dolphin, sophomore forward. Fleet of foot and can shoot.
- Rachel Hansen, junior midfielder. A key cog on the team who is coming back from an injury.
- Nicole Roth, sophomore forward. Another forward who moves the ball well.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Redhawks are strong as usual at defender and in goal. Team speed is also good. The midfield is a

question mark, but Minnehaha should be able to survive with some position switches.

Outlook: Anderson foresees a possible five-horse race in the Tri-Metro involving his team, Breck, Visitation, Blake and St. Paul Academy. "We'll be good," he said, "but everybody knows what a tough conference we have here." Much of the Hawks' hopes for success are tied to Hansen, a gifted player who badly hurt her knee in basketball last year and, following reconstructive surgery, is just now ready to resume playing sports.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City Conference

Last year's record: 12-5

Coach: Joe Rosenfield

Key players and their strengths:

- Corrin Cook, junior goalie. An athletic player who has started since 7th grade.
- Jessica Patino, senior defender. An experienced backliner who should help the younger players adjust.
- Allison Fautsch, sophomore striker/defender. The Teddies' leading scorer last year.
- Brittaney Finley, senior midfielder. The team's second leading scorer last year.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Goal keeping is very good and offense is decent for Roosevelt this fall. However, the Teddies lack experience, have only an average defense and are unproven off the bench.

Outlook: Roosevelt has nine starters back, but not necessarily seasoned ones. "We'll be very young," said Rosenfield, who sees South and Southwest as the league's top guns. "We'd like to be in the top three."

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 14-6-1

Coach: Ben Danielson

Key players and their strengths:

- Cecilia DiCaprio, junior goalie. Emerged as a starter after taking over for Kristin O'Brien,

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Volleyball preview

Realignment brings parity to the classes

BY BILL WAGNER

Last year's section realignments brought about mixed results for area volleyball teams. For Visitation, the move from 3AAA to 4AA resulted in the Blazers making it to state for the first time in school history. For other teams, realignment produced little change in fortune.

Coach Rick Kuehlwein's Cretin-Derham Hall team went from 3AAA to 4AAA last year and found success. "Both sections were difficult," he said, "but we made it to the section finals both years."

Highland Park, though still a consistent power in the St. Paul City Conference, had to contend with schools like Mahtomedi, Tartan and Cretin-Derham Hall when it moved to 4AAA last year. "It's tougher playing the bigger schools, but we do our best," said coach Kathleen Kramer.

Roosevelt co-coach Donna Sisler said her team's placement in Section 4AA suited her just fine. "That's more our level," she said. "We don't get that many kids out."

One thing that has become apparent is that there is better overall parity in the sport. "You don't find a lot of freebies in the first round (of section play) anymore," said Central coach Connie Kiedrowski.

Central starts this season dealing with an even more challenging situation. The Minute-men will play without a home court this fall, since their home floor is being remodeled. Central will use the nearby Oxford Community Center for practice, and will play its games at other high schools.

"We'll be on the road for all our games," Kiedrowski said, "but you have to put a bright spot on it."

Here's how the *Villager* area volleyball teams shape up this fall:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 18-10

Coach: Connie Kiedrowski

Key players: 6-0 junior middle hitter Ellen Senf, senior libero Yadi Seville.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Experienced players and good depth make Central a threat to extend its record of 53 straight City Conference wins even further. The absence of a home court is the biggest question mark.

Outlook: Kiedrowski likes her team and believes Highland Park is its top threat in the league. "We have some players who have improved a lot through the summer program," she said.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East Conference

Last year's record: 18-12

Coach: Rick Kuehlwein

Key players: senior outside hitters Annie Sutliff and Danielle Gibbemeyer, senior middle hitter Julia Bedford, senior setter Lizzy Henry, 6-foot-2 senior middle hitter Sarah Hendricks, senior setter Stefanie Bugasch, senior libero Emily Sherwood.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Raiders have good team chemistry, offense, defense and depth. If there's a weakness, it's not obvious.

Outlook: CDH has skill, savvy and youth. "Half of the team will be underclassmen this



Minnehaha Academy senior defensive specialist Sarah Lucht sharpens her digging skills. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

year," Kuehlwein said "but we're as good as anyone." He likes Woodbury, Stillwater and Forest Lake in the conference.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: Classic Suburban Conference

Last year's record: 2-12

Coach: Katie Naughton

Key players: senior setter Mariah Beaman, junior outside hitter Elyssa DeTorre, senior setter Katie Ahlstrom, 6-foot senior middle hitter Sarah Lopez.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sibley has good height and improved depth. The Warriors still need to work on passing and learning how to win.

Outlook: Sibley returns five starters whose play improved toward the end of last season and Naughton hopes to see further improvement. "Last year, we weren't as good as we thought we were going to be," she said, "but this year we should be in the top half of the league." Naughton picks Hill-Murray as the conference favorite.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City Conference

Last year's record: 14-10-3

Coach: Kathleen Kramer

Key players: senior outside hitter Kara Laird, junior setter Ellie Erickson, junior middle hitter Kody Johnson, junior defensive specialist Melanie Dubay, senior defensive specialist Ashley Thompson.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Highland has good serving, defense and quickness. However, the Scots will have to work hard for points and the team lacks height.

Outlook: Kramer, who has three starters back, believes her club and Central will be the top two teams in the league and thinks the Scots can give Central a run for the money. "We have some depth," Kramer said, "but we need to keep everybody healthy."

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 18-8

Coach: Tom Kivel

Key players: senior libero Sarah Lucht, senior outside hitter Allison Yaeger, sophomore outside hitter Sarah Winter, 6-foot-3 sophomore middle hitter Katelyn Adams.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Minnehaha has good setting skills and defense, and bet-



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38◀ WRIGHT CALL

The question of the stadium's availability came up because St. Paul employees Bob Klepperich and Connie Rudolph and the rest of the Midway groundskeeping gang needed to be on hand in case the city required extra help during the Republican National Convention. Given the extra time due to the Saints missing the playoffs, the field was ready for football before the convention and Streitz avoided a major scheduling headache.

Crazy '08

The Chicago Cubs have a chance to go to the World Series if they can get by a longtime rival. If they succeed, they may see the Chicago White Sox waiting for them. Meanwhile, an umpiring controversy, as well as the off-field actions of some of the game's most well-known players, are threatening to overshadow the '08 pennant race.

But I'm not talking about 2008. It's the 1908 season I'm referring to. The above and more are included in *Crazy '08* (Collins, 2008), a 400-page retrospective of one of the most interesting seasons in the game's long history.

Author Cait Murphy's full-time gig is assistant managing editor at *Fortune*

Magazine, but she slides headlong into baseball history here and comes out a winner. Murphy goes into great detail telling the story of a three-team battle in the National League. It ends up in a tie, in part because the Giants' Fred Merkle forgot to run to second base in a game against the Cubs and because Philadelphia pitcher Harry Coveleski dealt the Giants several defeats.

The Cubs end up winning the title in a wild playoff game in New York. Meanwhile, the White Sox, who looked like they would roll to an American League title, get passed by Detroit at the last second. The Cubs smoke the Tigers in the World Series, but it's almost an afterthought. If you're sick of reading and hearing about players who are overly impressed with themselves, Rube Marquard, Honus Wagner, Christy Matthewson, Frank Chance and Ty Cobb come off as slightly edgy, but otherwise delightful characters.

It's not a perfect book. I would have liked to read more about the AL race and less about how bad the Cardinals were that year. But when all is said and done, Murphy clearly cares about her characters and gives us a good sense of what that tumultuous season was like.

(Dave Wright is at dwright53@msn.com.)

41◀ VOLLEYBALL

ter overall athleticism than last year, though a lack of height could pose a problem.

Outlook: The Redhawks will go up against Concordia and Visitation in the conference, but Kivel likes the potential of his squad, which returns four players. "I have some good young players and I won't hesitate to use them," he said.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City Conference

Last year's record: 2-9

Coaches: Donna Sisler and Wendy Vang

Key players: junior middle hitter Jennifer Swanberg, left side hitter Ashley Starr, senior setter Cassie Nelson.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Roosevelt is setting and passing better, but the Teddies need improved hitting and footwork.

Outlook: Roosevelt has only 21 players out for its three teams this season, so improvement will have to be measured in small steps. "We have to work on the numbers," Sisler said. "Our goal for the year is for the girls to learn the game better and to show improvement." Sisler said South and Southwest clearly separate themselves from the rest of the league.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 1-12

Coach: Leah Skoy

40◀ GIRLS' SOCCER

who was sidelined with a knee injury.

- Brie Rick, junior defender. Is coming off an all-state year for the Spartans.

- Maren Flom-Staab, junior midfielder. A team mainstay who controls the game.

- Niambi Mitchell, senior forward. Has good offensive skills and was the team's leading scorer last year.

- Katie Long, senior forward. Another player who can find the net.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Nine starters return for SPA. The Spartans are a good defensive and passing team, with a good grasp on playing as a unit. The only weakness is the lack of a single go-to scorer. This year's squad will have to score by committee.

Outlook: Blake is the team to beat in the conference, though Visitation, Minnehaha Academy and Breck also will be strong. "I think we'll have a good year," Danielson said. "We look to be as competitive as we can and have fun doing it."

Key players: senior middle hitter Grace Ferrara, junior setter Kendra Rosario, senior left-side hitter Curry Berg.

Team strengths/weaknesses: SPA is hitting well and positional play is much improved over last year. A lack of size and blocking power are the biggest drawbacks.

Outlook: The Spartans have only one senior, but five juniors bolster the strength of the team. Skoy thinks that DeLaSalle, Visitation and Concordia will be the class of the Tri-Metro Conference. "We think we should be able to finish in the middle of the conference," she said.

VISITATION

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 24-5-2

Coach: Sarah Leach

Key players: 6-0 senior middle blocker Catherine Hermann, senior hitter Erin Byom, senior back-row player Katie Lamberton.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Visitation's serving and defense are solid, but its size and point-scoring power are suspect.

Outlook: The Blazers have six players back from last year's state tourney team and they're hoping to build on what was their best season in school history. Leach likes her team's chances, along with those of Minnehaha Academy, Concordia Academy and perhaps St. Croix Lutheran. "But we're probably the favorites," she said.

VISITATION

League: Tri-Metro Conference

Last year's record: 12-7-1

Coach: Carle Cheesebrough

Key players and their strengths:

- Kelsey Crocker, senior midfielder. Dominates a game from midfield.

- Emma Russ, senior midfielder. Has good speed and knows what to do with it.

- Rachel Lochner, senior defender. The backbone of the Blazers' back line.

- A.J. Montanez, senior forward. Has good offensive skills.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Visitation has good all-around balance, offensively and defensively, as well as good speed, strength and chemistry. Only injuries can keep the Blazers from enjoying a good season.

Outlook: Visitation has Blake and Breck to contend with in a rugged circuit, but has the tools with 11 starters returning. "We certainly can contend for the conference title," Cheesebrough said.

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