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Ward 4 hopefuls seek DFL's nod at Apr. 28 convention

Mayor plies his influence with Nelson endorsement

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Three candidates have thus far announced their intention to seek the Ward 4 seat on the St. Paul City Council in a special election in August to serve the last 16½ months of Russ Stark's term. Shirley Erstad, Amy Ireland and Mitra Jalali Nelson are all DFLers, and all three will be seeking the party's endorsement at a special convention on April 28 at Murray Middle School.

Tipping the convention in Nelson's favor is the endorsement of St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter. He made the endorsement several weeks ago after the St. Paul DFL decided to reconvene the delegates from the Ward 4 convention in 2017 rather than caucus for new delegates. Last year's Ward 4 convention voted overwhelmingly to support Carter in the mayor's race.

WARD 4 RACE ▶3



Just monkeying around. Jayne Nadeau Soltermann (right) and her Swiss friend Eveline Haesli got into the spirit while showing off the gorilla they sculpted in front of Soltermann's Summit-University home following April's record-setting snowfall. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Merriam Park development moratorium nixed

Survey of historic homes will proceed without protection

BY JANE MCCLURE

Just prior to an April 11 vote on the matter, St. Paul City Council member Samantha Henningson withdrew a proposed nine-month moratorium on building demolitions and lot splits on more than 40 potentially historic prop-

erties in Merriam Park.

The moratorium was being considered as a way to protect the properties while the city studied them for historic preservation status. However, an elderly couple's desire to sell their two Iglehart Avenue houses for redevelopment got caught up in the debate, and Henningson said she preferred to "put people before buildings."

Her decision was a disappointment for Merriam Park residents who have waited for years for a historic designation study and others who

are concerned about losing more single-family homes to multifamily developments.

Merriam Park is one of the oldest neighborhoods in St. Paul. It was developed as an exurban enclave halfway between Minneapolis and St. Paul following the completion of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad's Short Line in 1880 and the opening of a railroad depot near Cleveland and St. Anthony avenues.

HISTORIC MERRIAM PARK ▶4

Central Baptist marks 125 years of faithful service

Former Swedish church continues to adapt to meet area's ever-changing needs

BY ROGER BARR

Central Baptist Church will mark its quasicentennial during the weekend of April 27-29 with events that celebrate its history and look forward to what lies ahead. "We're celebrating 125 years of God's faithfulness

to the church," said senior pastor the Reverend Joel Lawrence.

The anniversary observance begins on Friday with prayer from 7-8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church, 420 N. Roy St. From 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, church members will celebrate with a dinner and a program focusing on a vision for the church's future. On Sunday, members will gather at 9:00 a.m. for a continental breakfast and fellowship, followed by worship services at 10:30.

Congregation member Barbara Erickson admitted that it was hard to decide where to start

when trying to articulate her deep emotional and spiritual connection to the church. "The philosophy, the mission and the vision of this church touches my heart and makes me want to remain a part of it," she said.

Erickson and her husband, Rodney, who has served as the church organist for 60 years, were married at Central Baptist in 1959. Though the couple moved to Roseville years ago, there was no question that they would continue to attend

CENTRAL BAPTIST ▶2



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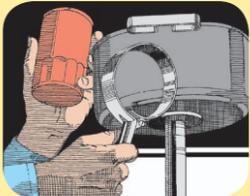
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Pictured clockwise from right: Central Baptist senior pastor Joel Lawrence stands outside the church's 1913 building in preparation for celebrating the congregation's 125th anniversary; 3rd-grader Jamaya Stephens gets help with her homework from Elizabeth Grodahl during a twice-weekly tutoring program; Central Baptist's sanctuary, which was built in 1975.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



1 ◀ CENTRAL BAPTIST

the church each Sunday.

The congregation was established as the Second Swedish Baptist Church in 1893 at the corner of Front Avenue and Albemarle Streets near downtown St. Paul. In 1911, church members decided to purchase the lots at its current home just southwest of Snelling and University avenues. The congregation began holding services in the new church in 1913. An addition was constructed in 1948, followed by an education wing in 1962 and a new sanctuary, lobby and offices in 1975.

"Our church sits at the crossroads of the Twin Cities," Lawrence said. "If you draw a circle around the Twin Cities and you throw a dart and hit the bull's-eye, you hit us. It's a dynamic time in the Midway area."

He pointed at the site of the new Major League Soccer stadium now being constructed across Snelling from the church. "We're in the midst of all that," he said. "We want to leverage this strategic location for the sake of the mission of the church."

That leverage includes a continued focus on the evangelical mission that has sustained Central Baptist for more than a century. "We are a gospel-centered church," Lawrence said. "We proclaim the gospel of Christ's death and resurrection for the salvation of the world."

Part of how the church's members spread the gospel is by serving the community. "This church believes in reaching out to the community and seeing how we can minister to people from their vantage point," said the Reverend Chuck Sorlie, the church's minister of youth and families. A Chicago-area native, Sorlie has lived in the Midway for

most of the 33 years he has worked at the church.

"I believe in community ministry," he said. "The kids and families we serve—they're my neighbors."

For nearly 20 years, the church has operated Central Community Services, a nonprofit organization that offers free tutoring to local elementary and junior high school students. About 20 kids gather at the church on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for tutoring.

Every Wednesday night the church sponsors Super Supper, a kid-friendly meal organized by volunteers. Originally a prelude to Wednesday night church activities, the supper has evolved into a ministry that attracts both neighbors and homeless people.

The church also offers a ministry to felons, mostly women, who are transitioning from prison. Women in transition are invited to visit Grace Boutique, where they can get clothes for job interviews.

Sorlie estimated that these and other ministries attract an additional 80-100 people to the church each week, beyond the 300 members who attend traditional Sunday services.

While maintaining these ministries, Central Baptist's leadership is keenly aware that times are changing and new ministries may be needed to insure the church's future "We feel the challenges of urban churches," Lawrence said, noting that across the country fewer people attend church regularly than in past decades.

Over the years, Central Baptist has adapted to meet the area's ever-changing demographics. Historically, its membership has been largely Caucasian. Sermons were delivered in Swedish until 1923, when English started being used

every other Sunday evening. Soon all Sunday evening services were in English and in 1929 the sign in front of the church was changed from Central Swedish Baptist.

To reach out to the area's increasingly diverse population, the church recently hired Troy Wilson, an African-American pastor, to do outreach. The church has also hosted Ethiopian and Eritrean congregations until each could acquire its own building.

"We've been seeing good things happening," Lawrence said of the congregation's efforts to reach out and grow. "We've had more baptisms the past couple of years than in prior years. We've had some ministry partnerships that have come into place with people in transitional homes. On Easter, we had 30 former felons in our congregation. We baptized a number of them as well. Those are all signs of life here at Central."

Lawrence is well-aware that in recent years evangelism has come under criticism for mixing politics with faith, but it is something he is glad to address head-on.

"The evangelical tradition is very broad," he said. "It's not just the television evangelists and supporters of Donald Trump. The world 'evangelical' has been hijacked by the moral majority. We're more focused on theological concerns than political positions. We have people all over the theological and political spectrum. We have folks here from very blue to very red. It's one of the important features of our church."

"The thing most people comment on when they come here is what a warm and friendly place this is," he continued. "We're a congregation that has learned how to live with differences, united by our faith in Christ."

1 ◀ WARD 4 RACE

Though not unprecedented, the mayor's endorsement of a candidate in the City Council race could prove to be controversial. Tradition holds that such endorsements are made only after the convention.

"There might be a backlash against Carter's endorsement," said former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer, a resident of Ward 4. "My experience is, people in St. Paul don't like being told for whom to vote. For years now, I've been dubious of the caucus system because it doesn't give enough people a voice in who gets endorsed. And this time around, using delegates who gave the mayor a majority in 2017, cuts even more people out of the process, especially when there are three such strong candidates."

"It's troubling that a small committee of DFL party officials determined that delegates to this year's special endorsing convention should come from last year's Ward 4 convention rather than the precinct caucuses in February," said Tom Goldstein, a DFLer and former mayoral and City Council candidate from Ward 4. Goldstein also questioned the DFL's decision to hold the special election in conjunction with the August 14 primary election rather than the general election in November "when voter turnout and voter interest will be much higher."

"It's a fair assessment that using a delegate pool from a different caucus cycle is tainted," said DFL activist Roy Magnuson. He nevertheless believes that the mayor's endorsement will carry a lot of weight at the convention. "The question then



Shirley Erstad



Amy Ireland



Mitra Jalali Nelson

becomes, can Ireland and Erstad retain the support of enough delegates (to deny Nelson the endorsement)," Magnuson said.

"This endorsement is the first big political test for Carter," said Hamline University political science professor David Schultz. "It's about whether he can extend his electoral support into building a City Council that will support him in his efforts as mayor."

Stark stepped down from the City Council in February to become the mayor's environmental policy director. He has declined to endorse anyone in the race to succeed him.

To win the DFL endorsement, a candidate needs to receive the support of at least 60 percent of the delegates. Ireland and Nelson have said they will abide by the endorsement and not run if any of the other candidates is endorsed at the convention. Erstad said she will proceed to the election with or without the DFL endorsement.

"Every voter in Ward 4 should have a voice in this election," Erstad

said, "not just a few pre-selected delegates who were organized for the mayoral campaign a year ago."

A resident of Merriam Park, Erstad, 51, is married and the mother of three grown children. She serves as executive director of the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County. A graduate of South Dakota State University with a major in political science and a minor in economics, she is also a cofounder and steering committee member of the nonpartisan political advocacy group St. Paul STRONG.

Affordable housing is one of Erstad's top issues as a candidate. "I don't want to see any more tear-downs of affordable housing to make way for student housing" she said. She also favors a \$15 per hour minimum wage and greater fiscal responsibility by giving more priority to basic city services like street maintenance and public works over tax increment financing for large development projects.

Erstad has been endorsed by the DFL Veterans Caucus, Ward 7 City

Council member Jane Prince, former Ward 4 City Council member Jay Benanav, former Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune, District 66A Representative Alice Hausman and School Board members Mary Vanderwert and John Brodrick.

Nelson, 32, a resident of St. Anthony Park, is married and has no children. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in political science, she serves as director of public safety and immigration outreach for U.S. Representative Keith Ellison of Minneapolis' 5th District.

"A shortage of affordable housing, particularly for renters, is a big issue in Ward 4, which has one of the fastest growing renter populations in the city," Nelson said. "We also need to keep breaking down the barriers between people and government through more accountability and transparency. I want to work with the mayor and the police to ensure police accountability through new use-of-force guidelines."

In addition to Carter, Nelson is endorsed by Ward 1 City Council member Dai Thao, St. Paul School Board member Jon Schumacher, Take Action Minnesota and the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation.

Ireland, 44, lives in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood with her husband and three children. A graduate of Macalester College and the University of Minnesota School of Law, she worked for 10 years as an immigration attorney and served as staff attorney for the Advocates for Human Rights, representing immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers who could not afford legal representation.

Ward 4 is at a "crossroads for development," Ireland said, "particularly around the new Major League Soccer stadium. I want to ensure that the stadium and developments on Marshall and Como avenues and on 12 vacant lots on Snelling Avenue north of University Avenue benefit the community and the large and small businesses we have." Ireland said if elected, she will work for more police accountability and be an independent voice on the City Council, "one who keeps her word and works hard for the voters of Ward 4."

Ireland said she was still being screened by organizations for possible endorsement, but has "the support of regular, everyday folks who are not politically connected but do the day-in and day-out work in our neighborhoods."

The formal candidate filing period for the August 14 special election in Ward 4 will run from May 22 through June 5.

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An artist's rendering of the south side of Gaughan Companies' proposed 73-unit apartment building on the northeast corner of Snelling and Carroll avenues, with a morning sun casting a shadow on the second-floor courtyard at center.

Snelling-Carroll housing project get variance

By JANE McCLURE

A setback variance for a new five-story apartment building on the northeast corner of Snelling and Carroll avenues was recommended for approval on April 16 by the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Land Use Committee. Forest Lake-based developer Gaughan Companies is planning 73 market-rate apartments on the site ranging from two-bedroom to 428-square-foot micro units. The variance would allow apartment balconies to extend five feet out from the first floor of the building, which would be set back the required 10 feet from Snelling Avenue.

The half-acre property at 304-308 N. Snelling Ave. was rezoned from business to traditional neighborhoods 3 last year. No other variances or zoning changes are being sought, according to architect John Harriss. The site plan is still being reviewed by city staff and could change. The UPDC committee asked for more information on how the building would affect sunlight reaching adjacent properties and on the design of the building's first floor.

That corner of Snelling and Carroll was occupied for many years by two commercial buildings and a parking lot. The UPDC began reviewing proposed redevelopment of the site last year. At that time, a six-story building with 60 one-bedroom apartments was being

considered.

Gaughan has asked the UPDC's Transportation Committee to consider making Carroll Avenue between Snelling and Asbury Street a two-way street again. It was made one-way several years ago to prevent traffic from turning off of Snelling. Land Use Committee members said the change ought to be discussed first with local residents.

Gaughan's current plan is to construct a U-shaped building with the front door facing Carroll. The upper floors of the building would be stepped back from the property line with architectural details to break up the exterior walls and reduce the impact on homes to the east. According to Harriss, the intent is to maximize the use of the site while minimizing its impact on neighbors.

The building would have 30 micro units, three studio apartments, eight alcove-type apartments, 16 one-bedroom and 16 two-bedroom apartments. All tenants would share a second-floor courtyard open to Carroll and a rooftop deck overlooking Allianz Field, the Major League Soccer stadium now under construction directly across I-94. Both the courtyard and deck would have restricted hours to prevent late-night disturbances.

The building would range from 66 feet to 56 feet high. It would include a total of 88,000 square feet of floor space. Its exterior would be faced with brick,

metal panels and fiber board in dark brown, buff and gray color. The apartments would have large windows to provide as much natural light as possible.

The city requires a building of that size to have 61 off-street parking spaces, Harriss said. Gaughan is planning 72 off-street parking spaces, all of them enclosed within the building with some on the first floor but most underground. Vehicles would enter and exit the building from Carroll. The building would also have ample bike parking, Harriss said.

The first floor along Snelling would include a community room, fitness center, library and lobby. The first-floor of the building facing north would have a solid exterior. The east and south sides of the building would have decorative screening and landscaping.

A portion of the alley between Concordia and Carroll avenues was vacated several years ago, creating a dead end just east of the redevelopment site. The developers are not interested in alley access, Harriss said, so the cul-de-sac will remain.

UPDC committee members asked if any retail stores could be included in the development. According to Harriss, that had been considered but the developers decided the building did not have enough space for both retail and the amenities they wanted to provide to their tenants.

1◀ HISTORIC MERRIAM PARK

Marshall Avenue resident Dean Nelson and others have already researched the neighborhood's older homes and discovered that many were designed by regionally and even nationally prominent architects.

The proposed moratorium, Nelson said, "wasn't about banning development. It was about giving us some breathing room and taking a thoughtful look at everything that's happening in the neighborhood—which homes should be saved, where redevelopment should occur, and how we handle growing pressures for more density and more student housing. Samantha Henningson herself has compared the development pressures and property-by-property controversies to a game of whack-a-mole, and without the moratorium that's exactly what will happen now."

The potentially historic properties are all within the original plat for the Merriam Park neighborhood—an area bounded by Dewey Street, Marshall, Cleveland and St. Anthony avenues. Past historic surveys have described that area as having a wealth of homes with architectural styles that were popular from the mid-1880s to the 1930s. Those styles range from farmhouses to stately Queen Annes to the Pueblo Revivals of the ear-

ly 20th century.

Marshall Avenue has been the focus of two recent controversies over redevelopment. One was over the demolition of two century-old homes on the northeast corner of Marshall and Moore Street and their replacement with a five-story apartment building. The second involved the demolition of a rental house on the southwest corner of Marshall and Moore and its replacement with a five-story apartment building.

The city recently imposed a year-long moratorium on development on six blocks of Marshall between Wilder and Wheeler streets. While the moratorium blocked the project on the southwest corner, plans for the apartment building on the northeast corner were submitted to the city before the moratorium took effect and are moving forward.

The larger development moratorium that Henningson withdrew was the subject of a contentious public hearing earlier this month. A petition in support of the moratorium with the signatures of more than 150 Merriam Park residents was presented to the City Council. Opposed to the moratorium was the Tierney family, who pleaded with the City Council to allow them to sell their two houses at 1905 and 1911 Iglehart Ave. to help pay for their elderly parents' care.

The two Iglehart properties are the

focus of a proposal to build four new single-family homes. In hopes of saving the two homes, neighbors have tried to block the development through a lawsuit. However, the Tierneys prefer to sell the properties together, saying they have been unable to attract suitable buyers for the houses separately.

Citing the problems the moratorium would have caused the Tierneys, Henningson said she would work with city staff to see if there are other ways to protect other Merriam Park homes.

The historic preservation study in Merriam Park will proceed and should be completed by the end of the year. Whether there are enough homes in the area worthy of preservation to create a historic district is not known. A 1983 Ramsey County historic sites survey noted that while many homes in that area have retained their historic character, others have been altered over the years.

Henningson sent an email to Merriam Park residents after the moratorium was withdrawn praising the "incredible organizing" that took place around the preservation issue. She said her hope is that the groundswell of support for historic preservation meant that the owners of most of the historic properties "will not be tearing down their houses in the coming months."

St. Paul may drop off-street parking requirements on Snelling

By JANE McCLURE

Last year much of Snelling Avenue from I-94 to Ford Parkway was rezoned to traditional neighborhoods to encourage denser, mixed-use redevelopment. The city of St. Paul may now eliminate off-street parking requirements as another spur to development along that stretch of the street.

The Transportation Committee of the Union Park District Council (UPDC) got its first look at the city's proposal on April 9. The idea will also be reviewed this spring by committees of the Highland and Macalester-Groveland community councils.

The change, which would affect dozens of properties on Snelling, is one of three parking revisions being studied, according to city planner Tony Johnson.

The parking changes for Snelling are not expected to be ready for review by the Planning Commission and City Council for about a year. Three current projects planned on that stretch would not be affected unless they are

postponed. They include the TJJ development at Snelling and St. Clair, the O'Garas-Ryan Companies development at Snelling and Selby and the Gaughan Company development at Snelling and Carroll. The first two projects are mixed-use, and all three would have enclosed or underground parking or a combination of both.

The proposed change would affect future development on and within a quarter-mile of Snelling, Johnson said. It would eliminate parking requirements regardless of the property's use.

The A Line bus rapid transit service on Snelling is one factor spurring the elimination off-street parking requirements on Snelling, Johnson said. Similar changes are being looked at throughout St. Paul.

"Under the parking change, Snelling would have the same parking standards as University Avenue along the light-rail Green Line," Johnson said.

The City Council relaxed off-street parking requirements on sections of University in

2014. For that avenue's mixed-use districts, new developments that are within a quarter-mile of University can avoid off-street parking requirements.

One difference in the two streets is that Snelling does not have large redevelopment sites like University does, Johnson said. Developers have found site assembly along Snelling to be difficult in the past. One example is the southeast corner of Snelling and St. Clair avenues where a larger site envisioned as a multistory, mixed-use development is now being eyed for two smaller projects.

UPDC committee members had mixed responses to the proposed off-street parking changes on Snelling. Some said they like the idea of promoting density and cited the recent proposal to redevelop the former Dairy Queen property at Hague and Snelling avenues as an example. Plans to construct a single-story building there for Dunkin' Donuts and Red's Savoy Pizza have met objections from some local residents who wanted to see upper stories added for housing as well.

However, the developers said the cost of underground parking nixed that idea.

Others wondered whether eliminating the off-street parking requirement along Snelling would create more demand for resident-only permit parking on nearby streets.

Johnson said that developers could still opt to include off-street parking due to market demand.

Two other proposed changes reviewed on April 9 would affect bicycle parking and how it is paid for. For new developments, the number of bike parking spaces in racks or lockers is currently tied to the number of motor vehicle spaces at a development. Johnson said the city would "de-couple" bicycle parking from motor vehicle parking requirements. City staff would then develop a set of bicycle parking standards based on land use and density.

Another change would allow a portion of the city's parking fund to be allocated to shared bicycle racks and could benefit commercial nodes where little or no bicycle parking is currently available.

BZA OKs variance for modular home on old Mac-Grove farmhouse site

By JANE McCLURE

A century-old former farmhouse at 299 Warwick St. will be coming down to make way for a two-story modular home now that a variance has been approved by the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

On April 9, Minneapolis-based Metamorphosis Design and Build was granted a 1-foot variance from the minimum 4-foot side-yard setback. The variance was needed to allow for a sidewall articulation detail as required in residential design standards for the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood.

The vote for the setback variance was 4-1, with board member Luis Rangel-Morales opposed. A height variance was not required.

The two-story farmhouse was built between 1887-1900 and was moved to the northwest corner of Warwick and Stanford Avenue around 1955.

Samantha Strong of Metamorphosis Design said the house is in poor condition and at only 14.3 feet wide is comparable to "a long train car" on the 40-by-127-foot lot. The new house will be L-shaped.

Owners Joanna Willis and Michael Dawson originally wanted to renovate the house, but found it to be cost-prohibitive. They now

want to build on the current foundation and excavate for an addition to the north. The new home is being built by Dynamic Homes of Detroit Lakes.

BZA staff recommended approval of the variance. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee voted 4-2 last month to recommend approval.

There were some neighborhood concerns about the building's 21-foot height along Stanford. Similar concerns were raised by BZA members.

Warwick Street resident Peg Flanagan, who lives five houses away, objected to the massing

of the new house along Stanford. "You'll have a solid wall," she said.

She also raised concerns about protecting boulevard trees when the modular home's preformed sections are trucked in. "House moving can have significant impacts on a neighborhood," Flanagan said.

BZA members said they sympathized with the concern about trees. If any boulevard trees have to be removed or altered as part of the Warwick project, they asked that the city be contacted beforehand.

Strong said the home's sections will be moved carefully into place by a crane and that she will work to ensure no trees are damaged.

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Winter leaves a pothole in Public Works Dept. budget

Weather wreaked havoc with city water mains too

By JANE McCLURE

The long, hard winter of 2017-18 has taken its toll on St. Paul's streets and on the cars and bicycles that traverse them. The city declared six snow emergencies during the season, and the repeated freeze and thaw cycles raised havoc with the roads and the infrastructure beneath them. That has kept the city's Department of Public Works busy patching potholes. Meanwhile, the city's water utility has had to deal with 134 water main breaks—well above the average of 97.

"We've repaired more main breaks this winter than any winter in the previous decade,"

said Jodi Wallin, public information officer for St. Paul Regional Water Services.

Potholes have been a big problem, but may be not as big as people imagine. It seems every year people say the potholes are the worst they have ever seen, said Kathy Lantry, the city's director of Public Works. However, the numbers tell a different story. St. Paul spent more than \$627,000 filling potholes from January-February 2017 and only \$237,000 during that same period this year.

The winter of 2016-17 was mild with just one snow emergency, Lantry said, and when the potholes formed it was almost all at once. This winter the potholes formed over a longer period, and as many as 10 pothole-patching crews were out working at the same time.

One of the most treacherous thoroughfares in St. Paul this winter has been Ayd Mill Road.

The street has been so pitted with potholes that somebody jokingly set up a GoFundMe account to fill them.

The Public Works Department uses a detailed pavement condition index to evaluate when streets should be rebuilt or get a mill-and-overlay treatment, Lantry said. The streets are regularly reevaluated and can move forward or backward in the queue. As of now, Ayd Mill Road is penciled in for a \$3.5 million mill-and-overlay project in 2022.

The City Council on April 18 approved its list of streets projects for 2018. One of the largest in local neighborhoods is the \$5.4 million first phase of the Woodlawn-Jefferson street reconstruction project. That project in Macalester-Groveland will be completed in 2019 with a \$6 million second phase.

Victoria Street between Summit and St.

Clair avenues will get a mill and overlay from the city this year. Ramsey County will also carry out a mill and overlay on Lexington Parkway between James and University avenues.

Among the \$8.455 million in Municipal-State Aid projects in St. Paul in 2018 is \$1 million for redecking the Dale Street bridge over I-94 and \$800,000 for new lighting and railings on the High Bridge.

Also this year, state and federal grants will help pay for pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements along Grand Avenue (\$667,800) and new sidewalks in the Safe Routes to School area near Expo Elementary School (\$498,000).

All of the above projects are part of the city's five-year plan for street, bridge and sidewalk work that is reviewed annually.

With its building slated for demolition, Big Top Liquors plans move

By JANE McCLURE

Longtime Midway Center tenant Big Top Wine & Spirits must move due to the construction of the Allianz Field soccer stadium at Snelling and St. Anthony avenues and the planned redevelopment of the adjacent shopping center. According to managing partner Nancy Rosenberg, Big Top's lease at 1574 University Ave. expires on January 20, 2019. The store plans to relocate to the former Perkins restaurant at 1544 University Ave.

Big Top would likely occupy the former Perkins for just a few years while it searches for a permanent location, Rosenberg said. The liquor store could end up in a redeveloped Midway Center or elsewhere in the vicinity.

The Union Park District Council (UPDC) Land Use Committee voted on April 16 to

support the liquor store's move. That included a waiver of the 45-day waiting period on the address changes for liquor licenses and support of an amendment to a St. Paul city ordinance requiring a minimum distance between liquor stores.

In the 1980s the City Council set a minimum half-mile distance requirement between liquor stores. The concern was that neighborhoods with a higher concentration of liquor stores would have more problems with public consumption of alcohol, loitering and disruptive behavior.

The proposed ordinance amendment has not yet been released by the St. Paul City Attorney's Office. Whether the distance requirement is still needed is debatable. Having too many liquor stores in an area is still seen by some as blight, but others say that the distance

requirement is unnecessary, and that liquor stores do not cause that many problems.

The new Big Top on University would not meet the current distance standard. However, most UPDC committee members said they wanted to see the city address the distance issue. Several people said Big Top has been a responsible business and should be allowed to stay in the Midway area.

The relocated store would open at 9 a.m. Monday through Saturday instead of the current 8 a.m., Rosenberg said. The store would continue to close at 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Sunday hours would remain from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

The new Big Top would be about 6,000 square feet, down from 15,000 square feet in the current location. The relocated store

would also sell more packaged foods, Rosenberg said, including sandwiches, salads, meats and cheeses. "The look and feel of the store would be very different from what you see now," she said.

Following its move, the Big Top building will be torn down and replaced with an extension of Shields Avenue, new sidewalks and a temporary parking lot. The long-term plan is to replace the parking lot with a new building.

Big Top has been located in Midway Center since 1978. It was part of the late Sid Applebaum's retail empire that also included Applebaum's Food Markets, National Tea, Rainbow Foods and Holiday Food stores. Rosenberg, who is Applebaum's daughter, said the family has had a retail presence near the corner of Snelling and University avenues for more than 60 years.

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Shoreline enhancements are scheduled this fall along the northern and eastern ends of Lake Nokomis as part of the 2015 Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan.

Nokomis will undergo makeover to stabilize 4,800 feet of shoreline

BY BILL WAGNER

Lake Nokomis, which has long been an attractive spot for recreating in South Minneapolis, will undergo nearly \$450,000 in improvements this fall to stabilize its eroding shoreline and improve its water quality.

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) is planning to begin work in September on the shoreline enhancements, which are being paid for by the Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund. The project encompasses some 4,800 linear feet along the northern and eastern ends of the lake. The work will extend about 20 feet inland.

The improvements are part of the 2015 Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Master Plan. Proponents say the work is needed because of diminished natural lakeshore buffers, severe shortages of aquatic vegetation and poor water clarity due to the overabundance of nutrients.

"This is an important issue that has been brewing for a while," said MPRB project manager Jon Duesman. "We need a way to improve the water quality of Nokomis and the landscape around the lake."

The project will enhance the shoreline by creating a more gradual transition from land to water. Turf and trees currently grow right up to the shoreline.

"Trees are beautiful," Duesman said, "but when they grow right up to the water's edge they keep out light. We're looking at thinning out the trees or maybe trimming them out to let more light in."

Native plants will be used to create erosion-retardant buffers around the lake. Duesman said it has not yet been determined which

plants will be used.

Some property owners have said the fluctuation of water levels must be addressed before planting new vegetation. Duesman said the plan is resilient enough to allow for fluctuations in lake levels. "We feel we have a good long-term plan in place," he said.

Becky Timm, executive director of the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, said that no matter where people fall on the issue, they are involved. "The residents in general are doing a pretty good job of voicing their concerns," she said, "even though at times they may disagree."

The MPRB also hopes to begin removing invasive carp from Lake Nokomis this fall with separate funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The bottom-feeding carp stir up sediment on the lake floor to the point where no light can penetrate, which gives rise to algae.

"They're a pretty big problem," said Rachael Crabbe, water resources supervisor for the MPRB. "I wish fishermen liked them more."

Crabbe said the board will be collaborating with the DNR and a private commercial fishing company to net the carp. Some details still have to be worked out, she said. At this point, the carp would either be sold to markets for food or turned into fertilizer.

According to Crabbe, the 204-acre lake should have fewer than 100 pounds of carp per acre. However, she said there could be more than twice that number in the lake based on 2016 data.

The MPRB is looking for more comments regarding the Lake Nokomis shoreline enhancements in an online survey at surveymonkey.com/r/NokomisShoreline.



Shoreline erosion is occurring around Lake Nokomis due to shading, wave action, trampling and shallow-rooted vegetation.

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Viewpoint

City must consider full impact of Snelling-St. Clair project

BY KATHY MCGUIRE

In the April 11 issue of the *Villager*, I was misquoted in an article pertaining to the recent development proposal at Snelling and St. Clair avenues. The developer's presentation took place in a very crowded room, and it was difficult to see and hear who was speaking.

The concern that I voiced was not about design and materials, it was about the developer's plan to request a conditional use permit to increase building heights. I pointed out that members of the neighborhood worked for many months to reduce the zoning from Traditional Neighborhoods 3 to Traditional Neighborhoods 2, so that the building heights and levels of density would be more compatible with the single-story homes adjacent to the property and more compatible with the neighborhood in general.

More important than who said what, is the question of why these details are so important. Many details are discussed in land-use decisions, and all are important. Size, scale, height, setback requirements, design standards, materials, traffic and pedestrian safety to name just a few. At times, the minutia feels almost ridiculous, but it is

very important.

The details of the St. Paul Zoning Code are important because they are intended to make certain that land uses are compatible. They are intended to prevent overcrowding and undue congestion. Land uses that are compatible help to ensure safety and a level of respect and consideration for other properties and other people in the community.

The city of St. Paul has pulled out all the stops on zoning, with promises of broadening the tax base, providing affordable housing, reducing dependence on cars, improving multi-modal transportation and likely a myriad of other potential benefits. But the city needs to do its homework. It needs to study the impact that overdevelopment has on traffic, public safety, gentrification, displacement, the environment, commerce and property values. The city needs to realize that the most affordable housing is that which is already standing and that existing homes are opportunities for people to establish homeownership and build equity.

It is the responsibility of the city to encourage development that is responsible, compatible with neighborhoods, safe and sustainable. The one-plus-five



An artist's rendering of TJI Development's proposed six-, five- and four-story apartment building on the southeast corner of Snelling and St. Clair avenues.

formula currently in vogue for mixed-use development (one story of concrete construction topped by five stories of wood-frame construction) is very inexpensive to build; however, the longevity of these structures is debatable.

This type of development creates

considerable financial benefit for developers, but the cost to communities can be staggering.

The writer is a member of the Macalester Groveland Community Council's Housing and Use Committee.

Inbox

Keep the Choral Society singing

There is something special in our village for all of us. Whether it is Cecil's, the Tea Source, the river walk, the neighborhood's theaters or all of these, we know we are blessed. When Deb stops making cheese kolachkes at La Patisserie or the St. Clair Broiler serves its last cup of coffee, we can't do anything about it. However, there is a diamond in our neighborhood which we must fight to save.

The St. Catherine University Choral Society was founded in 1993 by Dr. Patricia Connors, chair of St. Kate's music department. The 75 singers are mostly adults from the area with a few St. Kate's students. The students get a college credit for singing. The rest of us enjoy the learning and performing opportunity of a lifetime.

This semester's concert is Sunday, April 29, at 3 p.m. in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium on campus. The performance will feature one of Handel's masterpieces, Dixit Dominus, and a musical tribute to Leonard Bernstein on his 100th birthday. Please come and join us as we celebrate the brilliance of these composers.

All of our higher educational institutions are tightening their budgets. St. Catherine University has decided to discontinue its music major. As sad as this is, it would be a greater loss if these public programs that unite us are eliminated. Next year, the St. Catherine Choral Society will only perform one semester and has been asked to self-fund its concert. We will be looking to you for support, and there will be more news about this next month. In the meantime, please realize that this singing group belongs to you, and know that all of us participating are looking forward to having you join us.

*Debby Baumgartner
Macalester-Groveland*

A mistake to drop moratorium

I am so frustrated and disappointed over St. Paul City Council member Samantha Henningson's decision to withdraw the proposed moratorium on demolitions and lot splits in Merriam Park, I can barely contain myself. Well over 100 people demonstrated their commitment to the historic nature of this neighborhood over the past several weeks, and council member Henningson's response is to subvert the democratic process and ignore our passion and commitment

in favor of a one-sided sob story by the Tierney family.

Not only did council member Henningson remove the issue from the democratic process, ensuring that her vote is the only one that counted, but withdrawing the moratorium ensures that the Tierneys and anyone who follows in their path will be rewarded for letting their property deteriorate over 50 years. In effect, she has let them know that they deserve to profit as much as possible from neglecting their houses. Meanwhile, the rest of us neighbors who have spent decades organizing block parties, planting boulevard gardens and circulating petitions and have spent thousands of dollars and hours maintaining our homes will suffer the consequences.

Those of us who collected petition signatures and who wrote to council member Henningson and spoke to her about how much we have invested in our houses and this neighborhood are people. We are not buildings. Council member Henningson has deserted us and abandoned a potential commitment to the historic importance of my house and our neighborhood.

*Catherine Spaeth
Merriam Park*

Good popcorn, threadbare seats

Having a neighborhood movie theater is rare in today's multiplex world. It's a real treat to be able to have dinner at one of the many restaurants in the Highland neighborhood and then saunter over to the Highland movie theaters.

However, it doesn't seem that the management of the theaters appreciates it as much as the moviegoers. It has kept the seating and the facilities in such ill repair, you wonder if some rodent might be nibbling on your popcorn, especially in the upper theater.

Why not create the ambience that the Riverview Theater has in South Minneapolis by remodeling the Highland theaters? The city offers many grants for businesses, and it would be a service to the neighborhood to keep the Highland theaters in good repair.

*Bettiana LaSorella
Highland Park*

Editor's note: The Highland I and II Theatre is expected to close for several weeks around the beginning of August for renovations, according to Michelle Mann, district manager for Mann Theatres, which owns the Highland. New seats, drapes and carpeting will be installed in both auditoriums, and the concession stand, marquee, canopy and lobby will

also see improvements. The company closed its Grandview I and II Theatre on Grand Avenue last week to make similar renovations, Mann said.

Sharing the park in Highland

Mr. Powell has done a disservice to St. Paul and the Twin Cities in his critique of the proposed expansion of the disc golf course in Highland Park (*Villager* Inbox, April 11). The Highland disc golf course has existed for many years. If it was deemed unsafe and litigation was involved, it would have been closed years ago. I have been an avid disc golfer for 20 years and have never seen anyone cut by a disc. And yes, Mr. Powell, the beveled-edge disc has been around that long.

In urban areas, single-use disc golf courses are very rare. This is due to land availability. Urbanites learn how to share space. This is the cornerstone of a great community. As to Mr. Powell's claim that erosion would increase, he is correct. However, this is not a new problem in disc golf. Erosion can be curbed with steps, retaining walls, wood chips, etc.

It seems as though Mr. Powell is trying to add fuel to the fire of those who are opposed to the expansion. A better disc golf course means more players who care about maintaining a space where anybody, newcomer to advanced, can enjoy the sport of disc golf.

*Will Murphy
Northeast Minneapolis*

Editors note: The writer lived in the Summit Hill neighborhood for 10 years, and Highland Park is where he learned to play disc golf.

Attracting seniors to golf

I have been hearing talk of expanding the disc golf course in Highland Park. If the city has extra cash lying around for such things, it needs to look at installing a decent bathroom on the main floor of the Highland National clubhouse. All it has is a pretty cruddy bathroom in the basement, down dark, steep stairs that can be dangerous.

Golf is a sport that can keep elderly people healthy by providing the movement they need, and it is played outdoors to boot. Even having a few outhouses next to the clubhouse would help seniors.

How many seniors or others do you know with knee or hip replacements? They often have trouble with stairs. We should

8◀ INBOX

be encouraging exercise for seniors, not discouraging them with unsafe bathroom facilities. Please put an accessible bathroom at the golf course rather than more disc golf.

*Nancy Hone
Merriam Park*

Dumbing-down America

I believe that government at all levels has come to the conclusion that it's in the best interests of elected officials to have a dumbed-down population. It makes people easier to control if they don't know how to think.

If schools don't teach cursive writing (hand-eye coordination) nor art and music (creativity) and fail to withhold addictive electronic devices in formative years—say, until the age of 5 or 6—then children do not fully develop their brains and their reasoning powers.

But what the heck, we can continue to import well-schooled students to fill our college classrooms, brain-draining third-world countries. They'll go on to head our techno-industries, medical centers and research labs. Then we can continue to fritter our time away with gizmos and let our brains rot.

*Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland*

A dangerous intersection

About 10 years ago, they moved the bus stop from in front of Bennett's Chop and Railhouse on West Seventh and Victoria streets. Since then, cars have been allowed to park within 15 feet of the corner, totally blocking the view for any driver trying to turn left on, turn right on or cross West Seventh. This has caused many accidents and near-accidents and just recently a very bad accident with a rollover.

I've contacted the city about this many times through the Ward 2 City Council office and the city traffic engineer's office. They get back sooner or later, saying they don't see a problem. Granted, it's not a bad problem at many times of the day. However, if they would just move the "no parking" sign back to where the old bus stop was or at least past Bennett's, then a driver could see. It would be a small inconvenience for a couple of cars, but there's always parking a few feet to the east.

If not having to pull into the intersection to see cars coming from the east saves just one life or somebody from very serious injury, it would be good. If you have some thoughts on this issue, please call your City Council representative or the city's Department of Public Works.

*D. W. Thiets
West End*

Work mandate penalizes the poor

State Senator Mark Johnson (R-East Grand Forks) has authored a bill that proposes work requirements for Medicaid recipients. This is an extension of the war on the poor and low-income Minnesotans and a further attack on the Affordable Care Act and the extensions it provides for those who ride the life train just above the poverty line.

The bill would require work or community service to receive health care through Medicaid. Though there are exceptions for people with disabilities and some mental illnesses, this mandate greatly affects the working poor and those working in the service industries. The

mandate requires monthly reporting of income and work hours. Minnesota has a horrid reputation in IT and customer service issues with both MnSURE and MnLARS. How can we trust that this proposed bureaucratic paper dance will be expedient and implement the services required? How many lives will be lost or greatly affected by a health event that isn't covered because a child was sick and there were missed days at work? How many people will not get life-saving medications because paperwork is lost somewhere in the belly of a state office building?

Instead of penalizing the poor by denying health care, isn't it time for our elected officials to start empowering their constituents with common-sense legislation that provides higher minimum wages, affordable housing and supportive services such as increased child care benefits and training and education for more sustainable employment that may provide an affordable employee health plan?

The politicians who support this mandate use language that tricks us into believing that health care is an entitlement. Health care for all is a right that allows everyone to live with the dignity to take care of themselves so they may live their best life possible.

*Jan Dahlberg
West End*

Extend the Midtown Greenway

The Midtown Greenway is a separated bike and walking path that cuts through the heart of South Minneapolis and offers safe and smooth passage for thousands of cyclists and pedestrians throughout the year. It was recognized by *USA Today* as the best urban bike path in the Nation, and it is a big part of why Minneapolis is known as a world-class city for biking.

The Midtown Greenway does have one glaring flaw, however: It stops at the Mississippi River instead of continuing on to St. Paul. Luckily, the Midtown Greenway Coalition has started a new initiative to extend the Greenway across the Short Line bridge and along railroad right-of-way into the Midway neighborhood. This would allow for safe bicycling connections to the light-rail Green Line, bike lanes on Pelham Boulevard and Cleveland Avenue, and the new Minnesota United soccer stadium, helping many more people to enjoy cycling in the city and reducing our dependence on expensive, carbon-polluting automobiles. The next step in the project is an engineering study of the existing railroad bridge to determine what it will take to make it safe for cyclists and pedestrians.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is running an online fundraiser through May 5, and it deserves our support. Visit youcaring.com to learn more about the project and how you can help build a new connection between our Twin Cities.

*Ryan Ricard
Macalester-Groveland*

Car culture degrades the planet

The Trump administration is moving to weaken fuel economy standards that were set up in past administrations to help further the development of fuel-efficient vehicles to help reduce the emissions from our car-dependent culture that is doing so much damage to the environment.

Auto manufacturers have lobbied the Trump administration to lower the standards. They argue that with low gas prices, consumers are buying larger vehicles, making the push for fuel-efficient electric vehicles and hybrids a costly burden. Lowering the fuel economy

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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Editors

Dale Mischke

John Wadell

news@myvillager.com

Letters to the Editor

letters@myvillager.com

Display Advertising Sales

Tim Carroll

Bob Stjern

displayads@myvillager.com

Classified Ads

Jennifer Gordon

wantads@myvillager.com

Graphic Designers

Craig Schuster

Jennifer Gordon

Administrative Assistant

Mary Helen Pates

mpates@myvillager.com

Publisher

Michael Mischke

mmischke@myvillager.com

Subscriptions

subscriptions@myvillager.com

CONTRIBUTORS: Roger Barr, Scott Beedy, Matthew Davis, Kevin Driscoll, Larry Englund, Bob Gilbert, Janet Lunder Hanafin, Anne Hauth, Lisa Heinrich, Brian Johnson, Frank Jossi, Kasey McKee, Jane McClure, James McKenzie, Lou Michaels, Steve Michaels, Dave Page, Melenie Soucheray, Morgan Smith, Brad Stauffer, Jennifer Stewart, Bill Wagner, Leslie Walters, Judy Woodward, Dave Wright.

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Readers weigh in on District 197's May 8 bond referendum

An investment in our community

I encourage School District 197 voters to vote "yes" on the bond proposal on May 8. Although there are many needed improvements in this bond, one aspect that often gets overlooked is the needed maintenance and repairs that this bond will pay for. Many of District 197's buildings are aging, and state funding has not kept pace and allowed schools to address all of the needs that arise. As a parent, I know that these funds are needed to keep buildings in great shape. Bonds such as this one are an investment in our community, one that is paid back by the many community events that District 197 is able to host every day.

*Matthew Schempp
West St. Paul*

Bond referendum is misguided

On May 8, Independent School District 197 will ask voters to approve a \$117 million bond referendum to pay for renovations and repairs at all eight schools in the district (*Villager*, March 28). The fundamental mission of these schools is to educate children. Has the district been successful with its mission? If not, could or should the bond funds be put to better use?

I evaluated the reading and math performance of 10th and 11th graders at Sibley High School for the years 2012-2017 based on Minnesota standardized test results. Across the six years, average reading scores varied by about 0.4 percent and average math scores varied by about 0.5 percent.

Perhaps these scores were maintained in the face of the growing enrollment of disadvantaged students. In fact, across the six years, no such enrollment trend was observed. The good news is that the reading and math performance of Sibley students has not gone down over the past six years. The bad news is that it has not improved.

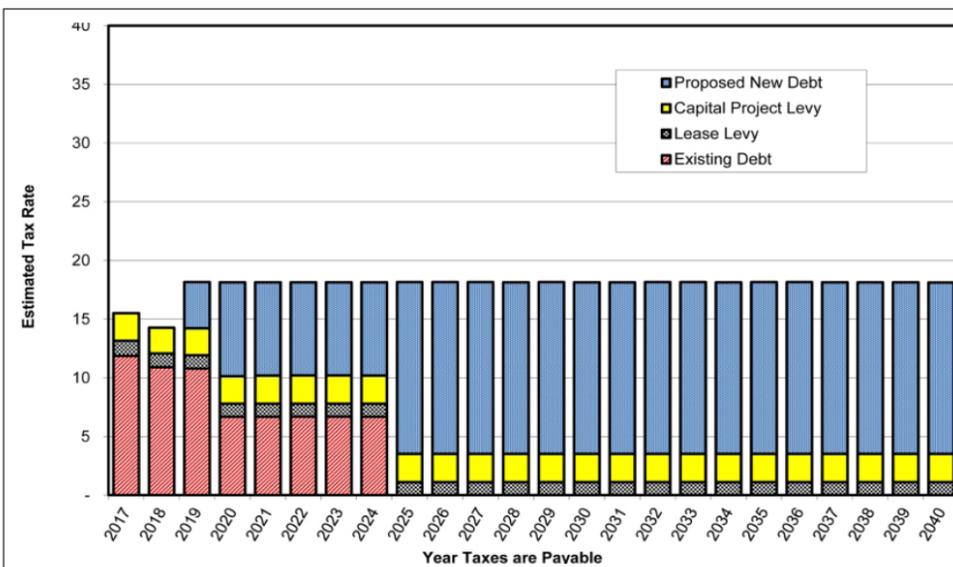
None of the bond funds that the district is asking for, such as the \$5 million for a football stadium and \$9.5 million for a swimming pool at Sibley, will influence this static educational performance by Sibley students. How can the district defend asking voters to approve over \$100 million for construction when zero will be allocated for educational improvement? Every resident of School District 197 should be asking this.

*Thomas Smith
Mendota Heights*

Saving three birds with one 'yes'

If you do nothing else for your community, home or kids this spring, vote "yes" in School District 197's building bond referendum. Packed schedules, crazy weather and heavy workloads lead me to not be as attentive to my kids, my home and my community as I wish I could be. If you're like me, you almost never have the time to understand the full story on the condition of the schools that our community sends its kids to over 165 days a year. It's not just the kids; these buildings are used by the entire community. Last year, Henry Sibley High School alone hosted more than 3,600 after-school, evening and weekend activities.

The good news is, a Facilities Task Force of parents, community members, teachers, school board members and administrators spent 18 months of study to better understand the condition of the district's facilities. The outcome: Over 40 percent of the proposed building bond is for backlogged repairs. The rest is for improvements for handicap accessibility and safety, outfitting of learning spaces, and improving the district's sporting and community spaces.



The chart at left shows the levels of School District 197's payments for various debts over time. The amount in red represents payments for past voter-approved levies. The amount in yellow represents debt payments on the Capital Projects technology levy. The amount in gray is debt payments on the lease levy. The amount in blue is the proposed new debt payments in the May 8 referendum.

Tax impact of District 197 referendum over time

According to the School District 197 website, the bonds proposed in the May 8 referendum would be structured so that the district would pay only the interest on the bonds from property taxes payable in 2019. Beginning with property taxes payable in 2020, the district would start paying off the principal, and the property tax

rate on these particular bonds would increase. However, the increase in payments on the proposed debt would be offset by reductions in payments on existing debt that will be paid off in 2020 and 2025. Structuring the debt in this way would protect property owners from large fluctuations in property tax rates from year to year.

Every school in the district requires some of the funds for facility improvements.

It's never easy paying more taxes, and the owner of a median home in the district will pay about \$7 a month more in property taxes to support this building bond. As a 25-year real estate professional, I can tell you that the perception of having a poor school district can affect your home's value by as much as 10 percent compared to a neighboring community. After proximity to work, schools are routinely the most important factor when homebuyers are choosing where to live.

We don't always have the ability to significantly influence the strength of our community. This is one thing we can do.

*Toby Schifsky
Mendota Heights*

restricted fund that has little focus on improving academics. Furthermore, the district will not let voters choose which projects to fund.

Vote "no" on this referendum to tell the district it has misguided priorities and must improve academic performance before it asks for millions of uncontrolled money for collateral desires.

*Joe Lawder
Mendota Heights*

Vote 'yes' in School District 197

I am writing to voice my support for the School District 197 referendum that will be voted on May 8. This is a very important step in the modernization of our school system that includes updating learning, sports and performing arts facilities. It is way past time to make these improvements.

As a senior at Henry Sibley High School, I see these issues firsthand every day. Our running track is in such poor condition that it is unsafe and we are not allowed to host a conference track meet. What is even worse, our athletes have to practice on this track. Last year, our girls' soccer team's home opening game had to be changed to the opposing team's field because our field conditions posed too great a safety risk. And these are just two examples.

Updating our fields and facilities will bring the quality of our district to the level of other local school districts. As a student athlete, I am passionate about sports and the benefits they provide, but this referendum is about so much more than sports. They have really put together a great plan to address the deficiencies in our school system.

This referendum will only cost an extra \$7 a month on a house that is worth \$237,000. Passing the referendum will have an impact on thousands of kids for years to come. Please vote "yes."

*Laura Friedmann, Senior
Henry Sibley High School*

A school district distracted

One question voters should consider when they decide how to vote for the \$117 million bond referendum that primarily supports extracurricular activities and remodeling: Has the district effectively spent our tax dollars to fulfill its primary mission of academic achievement?

The Minnesota state report card website shows that Henry Sibley High School's academic proficiency is still subpar. For 2017, math was at 51 percent, reading was at 62 percent and science was at 73 percent proficiency. All of those percentages are down from 2013.

District 197 voters value the academic success and safety of students, as was shown in 2014 when they approved money for technology and security. But the district cannot show improvement in its main purpose—educating students to acceptable levels of proficiency. Instead, the district is more concerned about new athletic stadiums, swimming pools and remodeling all of the schools so that it can please district families to approve an exorbitant and very loosely

when the person is standing on the curb. Many times it is someone waiting for the bus. In general, the action to stop unexpectedly in flowing traffic can actually cause the driver behind to swerve, not seeing or expecting a pedestrian. This places the pedestrian in jeopardy, and some outcomes have been tragic.

Simply put, this is bad law. No one knows what to do. The driver does not know if the pedestrian is crossing or just waiting. The pedestrian does not know if he has been seen or if the car will stop until it does, so he frequently remains on the curb. Heightened enforcement of this bad law will not remedy the confusion. If greater patience is not the time-tested solution, then neutral alerts such as flashing lights, a stoplight or stop sign should be added.

The only response government ever gives to its failed policies is to double down; we didn't spend enough money. In this case, the pedestrian must be more clearly assigned responsibility for his or her own safety. Failure in judgment precipitates pedestrian-vehicle crashes.

*Stephen Miller
Merriam Park*

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standards, they say, would give them more flexibility to meet consumer demands.

Seems like the real culprit here is us, as we see bigger SUVs and pickup trucks rolling by on our crumbling infrastructure. This is more than conspicuous consumption. It's indicative of a national malaise of not seeing beyond one's cell phone. How can we earn the respect of the rest of the world when we so blatantly flaunt the degradation of the planet?

*Tom Reasoner
West End*

Crosswalk law is not working

The Stop for Me campaign is not working (*Villager*, April 11). As the law is written, a driver is required to stop at an intersection if a pedestrian steps into the street to cross. As I drive along, I have about two or three seconds to see the pedestrian and decide if I am required to stop

A can-do candidate

With great enthusiasm, I support Shirley Erstad in the August 14 special election for the Ward 4 seat on the St. Paul City Council. Shirley is a remarkable advocate for the good government practices of full accountability, transparency and inclusion. She is a leader with enough related experience to be an effective voice on her first day in office.

There will be no long learning curve for Shirley. She has shown through several decades of community and neighborhood involvement and service that her campaign's motto, "Shirley Erstad gets stuff done," is much more than a catchy message. Not afraid to ask probing but necessary questions and dig for the answers, Shirley does her homework on whatever policy problem or issue is on the table, including neighborhood and city development and its abuses, affordable housing and the daunting challenges facing our city's most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Shirley is that rare combination of a gifted listener and a clear-headed problem-solver who knows how to implement.

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She respects the diversity of Ward 4 and the city of St. Paul and will be a strong “can do” spokesperson and leader. Shirley is exactly the right person to join the council as it faces a critical crossroads for the city and its neighborhoods.

*Richard Melton
Merriam Park*

In praise of rain barrels

With springtime and the specter of wet basements, consider adding a rain barrel to a downspout or two. Rain barrels provided a convenient and free source of unchlorinated water. They also allow homeowners to better manage where their roof water goes. Most rain barrels come with a hose attachment at the top. When the barrel is full, the excess water drains out to wherever you run the hose. That's a particularly nice option in situations where a downspout is poorly positioned, such as in the narrow sideyard between two houses. Rain barrels can help you water your lawn or garden, rather than your or your neighbor's basement.

*Craig Bowron
Macalester-Groveland*

Property taxes drive up rents

From 1983-92, I was a joint owner or landlord of non-homestead rental property in St. Paul. During those years, the property taxes on our rental property were always triple the property taxes on our homestead property. Of course, there was no choice but to increase the rent on our housing units. Out-of-control, skyrocketing, unaffordable property taxes in St. Paul are the source of skyrocketing rents, leading to unaffordable housing and homelessness.

Obviously, letter writer Frank Erickson has never been a landlord of non-homestead rental property in St. Paul (“Poverty and the minimum wage,” *Villager* Inbox, March 28). His remark, “low-wage workers are not being greedy, but landlords are,” is insulting. Increasing the minimum wage, in St. Paul won't likely help many low-wage workers out of poverty. If property taxes on non-homestead rental property in St. Paul are still triple the cost of homestead property taxes, then landlords are struggling to meet this expense. Until

property taxes in St. Paul come way down, workers, families and senior citizens with incomes well below \$36,000 per year will scarcely find affordable housing. Landlords will continue to raise rents and more people will become homeless.

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter and the City Council have the opportunity to greatly reduce property taxes payable in 2019. Please call Mayor Carter and your City Council member about this taxing issue.

*Sue Shetka
Macalester-Groveland*

We need to regulate guns

I attend Highland Catholic School and am in the 7th grade. One issue in the world right now is gun violence. I want to address the problem from the view of a 13-year-old.

Gun violence is an important subject because it's affecting people of all ages, from the kids in the building with the shooter, to the parents of kids, to kids like me who are scared to go to school and need to practice lockdown drills. I'm also mad because many in government are not doing anything—so many people who can do something aren't.

We need to regulate guns so that there can be a background check before someone buys a gun. We should not give more guns to people like teachers, who want to teach kids, not shoot them. More violence doesn't solve violence.

Please help by spreading the word to listen to us kids and protect us with safe gun laws.

*Jack Cheatham
Highland Park*

A blight on free speech?

Jeff Zaayer, who is listed as a supporter on the website Sustain Ward 3, said he was sad to see a dozen red signs posted high up in the trees along Mississippi River Boulevard near Hidden Falls Park's north entrance (*Villager* Inbox, April 11). The red “Stop the Ford Plan” signs are part of a campaign by neighbors protesting the high-density zoning plan for the Ford site passed by the City Council and endorsed by Sustain Ward 3. Mr. Zaayer goes on to say the signs “are a significant blight on what is otherwise one of the great stretches of natural beauty in our fair city.”

While I understand his concerns, I must refer Mr. Zaayer to the article “Sustain chair fined for stolen ‘Stop Ford’ signs” (*Villager*, March 14). The article states that Sustain Ward 3

chair Brandon Long was found guilty in Ramsey County Conciliation Court of removing 11 of the signs from my and seven of my neighbors' back lots on Mississippi River Boulevard. To protect our freedom of speech, we were forced to post our signs higher up in the trees.

I suggest that since they are both members of Sustain Ward 3, Mr. Zaayer talk to Mr. Long about why he absconded with our signs and about the impact his act has had on the neighborhood.

A blight on the neighborhood or a blight on free speech? I'll let the collective wisdom of readers decide.

*Jim Ginther
Highland Park*

A matter of freedom

Writer Ben Frank claims that opposition to organized city services is not about choice, it's about “wealthy, privileged individuals and groups doing everything they can to maintain every privilege they have” (*Villager* Inbox, April 11). In truth, opposition to organized city services is coming from many sides, including senior citizens on fixed incomes. I would suggest that Mr. Frank doesn't even know any of the people he is talking about, that he is just making assumptions that match his agenda.

“Privilege” has become one of the buzz words of the millennia. Apparently, in Mr. Frank's view, anyone who expresses a desire for a choice in services is privileged.

In a free market, if you don't like the service you're getting, you can change services. Once the city takes over trash hauling, where does a citizen go to complain? It's as simple as that, Mr. Frank.

*Mike Casey
Macalester-Groveland*

There's no draining the swamp

I voted for Trump. When he won I was shocked. He said he would drain the swamp. I was 100 percent in favor of that. It won't happen. The swamp is full of crocodiles—the big ones with big teeth. The swamp will still run the show long after Trump is dead and gone. It's actually too bad for the country.

*T. J. Sexton
Macalester-Groveland*

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News Briefs

UST steers students away from wine-soaked Tour de Franzia

The Tour de Franzia scheduled for Saturday, April 28, may be less raucous this year. The party that in past years has seen University of St. Thomas students wearing costumes and traveling from house party to house party to drink from boxes of wine is likely to be replaced with a lower-key event for graduating seniors.

A Facebook post about the party was removed in mid-April after St. Thomas dean of students Linda Baughman and vice president Karen Lange sent letters to students and parents about the party and the risky behavior it promoted. Student landlords were also notified by St. Thomas' neighborhood liaison Amy Gage.

The event was never sanctioned by the university. However, the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) for St. Thomas discussed it on April 10. At the time, students reported having 82 teams of four to five students each registered for the event. However, no student rental houses had offered to serve as hosts.

Past Tour de Franzias have roiled parts of the Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods and drew a large group of angry neighbors to a meeting last year with representatives of St. Thomas. The neighbors complained of noise, public intoxication and vandalism.

City OKs supportive housing for women on Roblyn Avenue

The St. Paul Planning Commission on April 6 approved a conditional use permit and variances for a new supportive housing facility for up to 10 women and a resident manager at 1947 Roblyn Ave. The Transitions Homes facility is currently used as women's sober housing and is licensed for up to 10 residents and one manager. The change to supportive housing was sought because of the decreased demand for women's sober housing.

The facility is in a former fourplex. Six residents are normally allowed under the zoning code. The city also requires supportive housing to be at least 1,320 feet from a similar facility, and it is 729 feet away from a Transitions Homes facility on the other side of I-94.

A few neighbors have raised questions or objections about the housing. However, the Union Park District Council voted earlier this



Motorists wait in line for their morning cup of joe in the drive-through lane at Starbucks Coffee at Marshall and Snelling avenues. PHOTO BY LOU MICHAELS

Starbucks drive-thru giving traffic the jitters

By JANE McCLURE

Bright orange bollards that are meant to prevent left turns into and out of the drive-through lane at the Starbucks Coffee shop at Marshall and Snelling Avenue are being tested this month by the St. Paul Department of Public Works. Local residents continue to complain about traffic backups on Marshall and Snelling associated with the drive-through and about Starbucks' customers blocking the Marshall bike lane as they wait to enter the drive-through.

Members of the Union Park District Council (UPDC) and its land-use and transportation committees raised red flags about the drive-through when it was first proposed in 2015. At that time, the UPDC split 7-7 in voting on whether to recommend the needed conditional use permit for

year to support Transitions Home's request for the permit and variances.

BZA clears way for new duplex on vacant Dayton Avenue lot

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) approved two variances on April 9 for a new duplex on a long-vacant lot at 1048 Dayton Ave. The city's zoning code requires a

the drive-through.

Last year the UPDC asked city officials to issue an ultimatum that would require Starbucks to prevent traffic backups or lose its conditional use permit for the drive-through. Avoiding "right-of-way obstructions" is one of the conditions the city attached to Starbucks' conditional use permit.

The bollards in this case are flexible, four-foot plastic posts. They have been installed on the center line of Marshall to prevent left turns into and out of the drive-through. However, several UPDC Transportation Committee members said they have seen motorists try to get around the bollards by doing illegal U-turns.

Starbucks did not return calls seeking comment. However, the company has hired an off-duty police officer at times to direct drive-through traffic between 7 and 9 a.m.

duplex to have a lot that is at least 50 feet wide and 6,000 square feet in area. The Dayton lot is 40 feet wide and 4,760 square feet.

Project architect Henry Elgersma and his family would own the duplex and live in one of the units. Their project had the support of Summit-University Planning Council and several neighbors, though one Summit-University resident sent a letter in opposition because of concerns about density.

The property has been vacant since 1995 when a dwelling was torn down. Plans call for a two-story building with a sloped roof, an upper-level deck in the back and two three-bedroom units. Three off-street parking spaces will be provided in the rear.

City staff recommended approval of the variances, noting that the property is in an area of single-family homes, duplexes and apartment buildings.

Variance granted for two large signs on new Grand Ave. hotel

A new Marriott Residence Inn at 200 Grand Ave. was granted a sign variance on April 9 from the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

Developer Hope Engine Company LLC has spent the past several months turning an old St. Paul fire station into a new wine bar. The five-story extended-stay hotel is being built on vacant property adjacent to the firehouse. The variance was needed to allow two projecting signs on the hotel.

The signs would say "Residence Inn." One would be on the building's northwest corner and the other on the southeast corner. Each sign would measure 87.5 square feet. The property's traditional neighborhoods zoning allows just 16 square feet of signs.

The building's large size was one reason city staff recommended approval of the sign variance. Another reason was the presence of other large signs in the area. The signs will be internally illuminated. However, they are being placed in a way that will not detract from the historic fire station.

City amends requirements for short-term rental hosts

The online platforms for such short-term rental services as Airbnb and VBRO will no longer be required to remove the listings of rental hosts in St. Paul who lose their city licenses. Under a change approved by the City Council on April 11 the hosts will be required to include their licensing information in any short-term rental advertisements.

According to Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert, the change is technical in nature, but it will give the city better information as to who is and is not licensed.

Earlier this year, the city established an an-

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Business Briefs

Creators Space, a new creativity center and co-op workspace at 218 E. Seventh St. in Lowertown, will celebrate its opening during the St. Paul Art Crawl on April 27-29. Melissa and Kevin Dessart, along with Andrea Gerrard Dow and Lana Gendlin Brooks, are teaming up to revitalize the more than 130-year-old, 34,000-square-foot building, which used to house an indoor parking garage. The center will provide classes and workshops along with tools, equipment and space where people can come to express their creativity. The tentative calendar during the Art Crawl includes aerial performances, caneworking and pottery demonstrations, yoga and music from 5-10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Visit CreatorsSpace.com.



The new Creators Space commons area and gallery. COURTESY OF DAN GLEESON ARCHITECTS

Seasoned, a new specialty food market, has opened at 1136 Grand Ave. The store helps food startups and expanding food producers in Minnesota bring their products directly to consumers. It offers ready-to-make meals, breads and grains, produce, meat and dairy as well as many other specialty products, with all sale proceeds going back to the makers. The store is open from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. Visit seasonedspecialtyfoods.com.

Mississippi Market is offering a three-part Eat More Plants series at its store at 740 E. Seventh St. The series includes "Taste Testing with Tempeh Tantrum" from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 25; "Meal Planning with The Herbivorous Butcher" from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 30; and "Easy Recipes with J. Selby's" from 5:3-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 20. Participants who attend all three events will receive a plant-based cookbook and co-op gift bag. A \$5 registration fee is required per event, which is reimbursed as a \$5 co-op voucher. Register in the store or at msmarket.coop/eat-more-plants.

Tom Whaley, executive vice president of business development for the St. Paul Saints, has been appointed chair of the board of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce for 2018. A minority owner in the baseball team, Whaley has been with the club since August 2002. Before that, he served for two seasons as the director of corporate sales for Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., was named the winner of the Women's National Book Association Pannell Award in the Children's Specialty Bookstore Category. The bookshop will be presented in June with

a prize of \$1,000 as well as original art from a children's book illustrator.

Hiway Federal Credit Union, which includes branch offices near Fort Snelling and the state Capitol, has launched an independent foundation that aims to increase support of families, service members, veterans, schools, disaster relief and other initiatives. Visit hiway.org/foundation.

The St. Paul City Council recently announced the winners of the second annual St. Paul Business Awards. They include Morelli's Market with the Traditions Award (active for at least 20 years), Caydence Records and Coffee with the New Kid on the Block Award (within last five years), Afro Deli with the Large Business Excellence Award (at least 50 employees), A Backyard Farm with the Small Business Excellence Award (fewer than 50 employees), Eyes All Over with the Alice O'Brien Award (woman-owned business), Hmong Elder Center with the Reflecting St. Paul Award (owned by person of color), Heritage Tea House Boutique with the People's Choice Award (chosen by city residents) and Wet Paint with the St. Paul Open for Business Award (for excellence across multiple categories). Visit stpaul.gov/bizawards.

Author and historian Larry Millett will talk about and sign copies of his book *Minnesota Modern* during a free event at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 28, in the Longfellow showroom of Castle Building & Remodeling, 4020 Minnehaha Ave. Minneapolis. Call 612-789-8509.

A free shredding event for local residents with personal documents too sensitive to throw out with the recycling will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at the offices of the Odd Couple Team of Keller Williams Integrity Realty, 1460 Grand Ave. Each family may bring up to five boxes of documents for shredding.

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annual licensing fee of \$40 for each unit rented by short-term rental hosts in St. Paul and an annual fee of \$10,000 for each online platform that advertises a short-term rental in St. Paul. At the same time, the city established rules for maximum occupancy and minimum off-street parking.

The new change was made at the behest of Airbnb, which opposed the way the previous requirement made the online platform liable for content posted by the hosts.

Also under the change, the penalty for a host or online platform that operates without a city license has been upgraded from a petty misdemeanor to a misdemeanor.

City OKs expansion of liquor, patio service at Grand eatery

The new Grand Catch restaurant, located in the former Grand Central space at 1672 Grand Ave., was granted licenses on April 18 for on-sale beer, wine, full liquor and patio service by the St. Paul City Council.

The business license request was sent to a

legislative hearing in March because of the objections of neighbors. One adjacent property owner was concerned about late-night patio hours and parking congestion. Macalester College asked the city to consider making the hours of all restaurant patios in the area consistent. The neighboring property owner and Macalester had also objected to an entertainment license for the establishment, but contrary to the city notice, Grand Catch was not seeking an entertainment license.

Grand Catch is owned by a new partnership that includes owners of the former Grand Central owners. Grand Central had been licensed for on-sale wine and beer, though its patio service had to end by 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. In addition to full liquor service, Grand Catch requested an extension of patio hours to 10 p.m. seven days per week.

The city's Department of Safety and Inspections had recommended approval of the license requests with several conditions, including a limit on patio seating and the 10 p.m. patio closing.

The News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.

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District Council News

Highland Park

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District 15 Plan—After extensive neighborhood outreach, the Highland District Council recently released a draft of the new District 15 Plan for review by the public. Visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/highland-park-district-15-plan to review the draft and take the latest survey on its priorities.

Committee members—At its May meetings, the HDC board will be looking for people to serve on its transportation, development and engagement committees. Committee members attend 10-12 meetings annually and participate in projects and events sponsored by the HDC. For more information, email info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org.

Tour de Highland—Registration is now open for the fifth annual Tour de Highland on Saturday, May 19. The event includes bike rides of 10 or 20 miles and a chance to sample food from neighborhood restaurants. A walking tour of Highland also is offered. Visit the website to register. Volunteers who are interested in helping out with one of the guided rides should contact Kathy Carruth at the HDC office.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 3; and Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 8. Both meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For other upcoming meetings, consult the calendar on the HDC website.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Macalester-Groveland mini-grants—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council intends to award two to four mini-grants this year to increase the number and diversity of people involved in activities that benefit the neighborhood. Applications are due by April 29. For information or to apply, visit macgrove.org/minigrants.

Alley Garden Awards—Judges are being sought for the community council's 2018 Alley Garden Awards. A 30-minute training session will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Volunteers will be asked to spend three-four hours walking through alleys during the June 21-28 judging period. A flag-making event to mark the anticipated 700 gardens will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, May 14, also at Edgumbe. For information on being a judge or helping make the flags, email britta@macgrove.org.

Macgrove Moves—A new season of MacGrove Moves has begun. People are being asked to walk, jog, bike or take public transit to their destinations at least 15 times between now and June 30. They may turn in up to three log sheets by the end of June (or a total of 45 trips) to be entered in a drawing to win prizes. Download log sheets at macgrove.org/mgm or pick them up at the Edgumbe or Groveland recreation centers.

Garden Fest—The community council will hold a Garden Fest from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center. The fest will feature the annual spring plant share, along with do-it-yourself container gardening for

children at 9:30 a.m. and adults at 10:30 a.m. A Master Gardener and Master Water Steward will be on hand to answer questions. A \$2 suggested donation per item is requested from those without plants to share. For information, visit macgrove.org/gardenfest.

Get involved—The community council has openings on its board for at-large faith, business and residential representatives. It also has four standing committees that meet once a month. Visit macgrove.org/who-we-are/board for details.

Upcoming meetings—Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, Groveland Recreation Center; and Community Building Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 14, Edgumbe Recreation Center.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Neighborhood garage sale—The Summit Hill Association will hold its annual neighborhood garage sale from 9 a.m. to mid-afternoon Saturday, May 5. At least 20 participants are needed to sign up by April 25 in order to hold the event. The cost is \$20, which helps pay for promoting the sale. Participants staff their own sales at their own garages and retain all of the proceeds. Flyers with the garage sale locations will be available at each site, at the Linwood Recreation Center and online on the SHA website.

A taste of Coco—The life of Coco Irvine will be celebrated at 7 p.m. Monday, May 21, at SPA's Lower School, 1150 Godrich Ave. Attendees will see scenes from the History Theatre play *Coco's Diary* and hear about Irvine's life growing up in what is now the Governor's Residence on Summit Avenue. On hand will be Anya Kremenetsky, artistic associate with the theater, and author Peg Meier, who discovered the 1927 diary of the 13-year-old Coco Irvine and wrote the book on which the play is based. The evening will include a book signing by Meier and Jazz Age refreshments. Tickets for the SHA fundraiser are \$35. For reservations, visit tinyurl.com/y83ydgus.

Progressive Supper—The SHA's Spring Progressive Supper will be held from 6-11 p.m. Saturday, May 5. The evening will consist of appetizers, soup or salad, and main course served in homes throughout the neighborhood. Those who are unable to host people in their home can sign up for the dessert course, for which everyone ends the night together in one location. Tickets are \$10 and the registration deadline is April 27. For information, visit the SHA website, call the office or email info@summithillassociation.org.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Micro-grant deadline—The Union Park District Council is inviting local residents to apply for grants of \$200-\$600 to complete improvement projects in the neighborhood. Last year, the grants were used to fund the paint-the-pavement, theater in the park and walking club projects. Applications for this year's round of grants are due by April 30. For informa-

tion, email julie@unionparkdc.org or visit unionparkdc.org/micro-grants.

Ward 4 candidate forum—The UPDC will join the League of Women Voters in hosting a forum for the open Ward 4 seat on the St. Paul City Council from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave. Even if the DFL endorses a candidate at its April 28 convention, the UPDC is anticipating at least two people will be on the ballot when a special election for the seat is held on August 14. For information, contact julie@unionparkdc.org.

Music and movement classes—The UPDC has teamed up with Playing With Music to offer music and movement classes at 10 a.m. on Saturdays at 161 N Snelling Ave. for children from birth through kindergarten and their caregivers. A Ukulele Club for children ages 5-8 is also being offered at 11 a.m. on Saturdays. To register, email marksorvari@gmail.com.

Historic building project—Those who own historic buildings in the Union Park neighborhood are invited to purchase an engraved plaque for their properties. The cost is \$95, which includes a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the UPDC. For information, visit unionparkdc.org/historichome.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 2; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 14; and Environment and Parks Committee, 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, Merriam Park Rec Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. All meetings will be held in Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes unless otherwise noted.

Stay in touch—The public is invited to "like" the UPDC on Facebook and subscribe to its e-newsletter, "Neighborhood Matters," by emailing julie@unionparkdc.org.

West 7th

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Annual meeting—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation held its annual meeting on April 11 at Summit Brewing Company. At the meeting, those in attendance elected board officers for 2018-2019 and passed two resolutions. One resolution related to the Ford rail spur and one to the Riverview Corridor process. The full text of the resolutions and the names of current board members can be found on the website. The next board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, May 14, at the federation office, 974 W. Seventh St.

Garden plots available—Approximately eight plots in the community garden located on Jefferson Avenue and Victoria Street are still available to West Seventh neighborhood residents. After April 30, any remaining plots will be open to gardeners citywide. For information, call the office or email director Emily Northey at Emily@fortroadfederation.org.

Housing survey—The Fort Road Federation encourages all residents, renters and owners to fill out a housing survey at z.umn.edu/West7survey. The results will be used in planning future housing opportunities in the neighborhood.

Stay in touch—West Seventh neighbors are invited to "like" the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation on Facebook and subscribe to its e-newsletter on the website.

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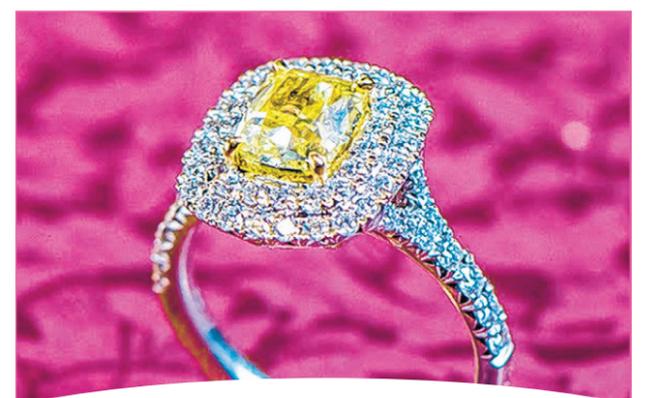
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Contested seats, bylaws change mark HDC annual meeting

By JANE MCCLURE

Overtones of last year's fight over redevelopment of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant reverberated at the Highland District Council (HDC) annual meeting on April 18.

Contested races for all but one of six open grid seats on the HDC's board of directors as well as eight people vying for two at-large seats meant a larger than usual slate of candidates. The group Sustain Ward 3, which supports a high-density, transit-friendly plan for the Ford site, had six of its members named to board seats. Kevin Gallatin (Grid 2) and Bob Whitehead (10) were re-elected and were joined by newly elected grid reps Kristina Mattson (4), Nate Hood (6) and Tyler Tegatz (8). Meanwhile, Amy Schwarz was elected to an at-large seat.

Neighbors for a Livable St. Paul, which advocates for smaller-scale development at Ford, also had a handful of candidates running for positions, but only Susan Duffy was elected to the other at-large seat.

A few other hopefuls also were competing for positions. Board members Peter Armstrong, Joe Kohler, Gary Fischbach, Amy Samela and Gary Thompson did not seek re-election.

The HDC has one representative for each of the 12 grids in the neighborhood.

The even-numbered grid seats were up for election his year, along with two of four at-large positions. People must live in a grid to vote for their representative, but all people who live or work in Highland Park can vote for at-large seats. The Highland and West End business associations also have representatives on the board.

District council elections in St. Paul usually have few if any contested seats, but both the Sustain Ward 3 and Neighbors for a Livable St. Paul spread the word about candidates and urged people to get out to vote. As a result, the HDC had races in all but Grid 12, with only one person showing up for that position. That seat will be filled by the board in May.

A bylaws change was also passed that evening on a split voice vote. The change means grid representatives elected on April 18 will serve only one year instead of two. The HDC is realigning its grids to make them more balanced by population and will use the new boundaries for elections at the 2019 annual meeting. Every grid seat will be up for election at that time.

One issue the council has struggled with is how to involve more renters. A couple of speakers at the annual meeting said they did not think renters should have a voice on the council. Others said changes

should be looked at to make the council more representative of all residents of the neighborhood.

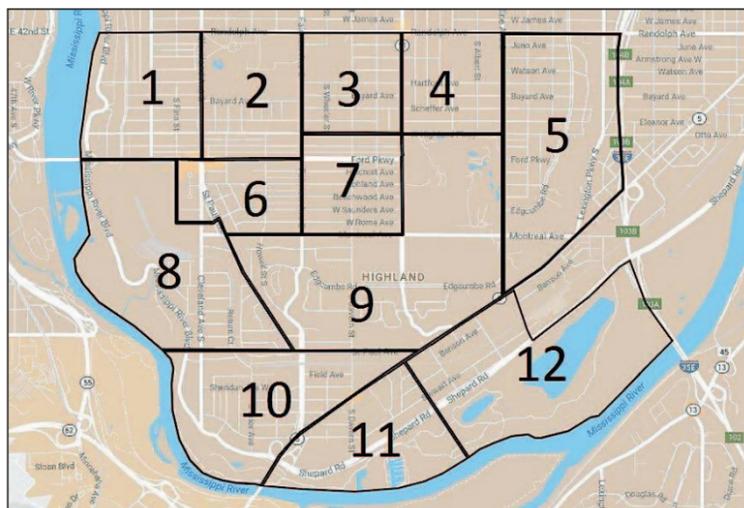
During the caucusing by grid, people asked about future steps in the Ford site's redevelopment. However, there were also questions about a wide range of city and neighborhood issues and programs, and a few pleas to get sidewalks shoveled in a more timely manner.

Board president Gallatin urged all those in attendance to consider joining a committee and attending neighborhood meetings on issues they are interested in.

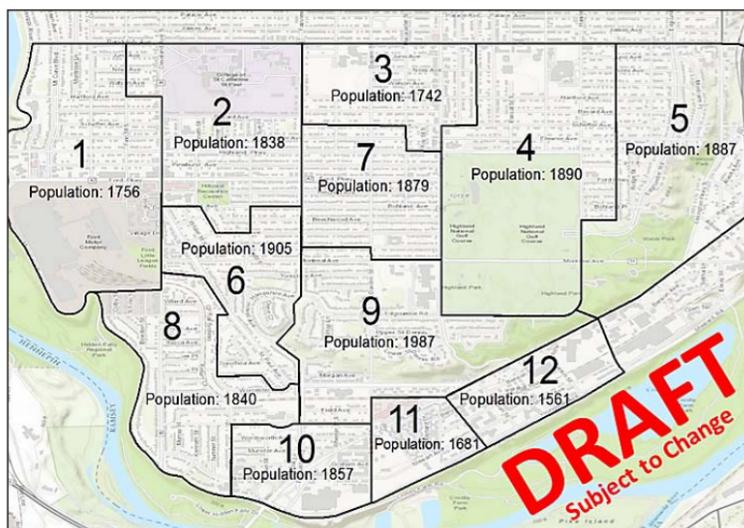
"We knew there was a lot of energy around this election, so people who wanted to be elected or re-elected had to work harder than they might otherwise have had to," Gallatin said.

Sustain Ward 3 president Brandon Long said members of that group ran as individuals and not as part of a slate per se. "People went out and engaged with the community and that's what made a difference tonight," he said.

Other members of the group said that with the Ford site, they are less concerned about who is on the HDC's board and more concerned about engaging with a future site developer. Ford has put the property on the market and is expected to announce a developer later this year.



The HDC is looking to realign its grids since they were last developed in 1984. Shown are the current grids (above) and proposed (below).



Religious Notes

St. Mark's Council of Catholic Women will hold a rummage sale on April 27-29. There will be furniture, books, bikes, housewares, plants, clothing, shoes and more. Hours are from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m.-noon Sunday at 1983 Dayton Ave.

A **concert** will be presented by classically trained pianist Don Irwin at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 700 Wesley Lane, Mendota Heights. Tickets are free, but registration is required at 651-452-5683 or info@stpaulsmn.org.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave., is offering the following: "Saints and Servants: Songs of Women" sung by the

Lumina ensemble at 7 p.m. Sunday April 29 (\$15); "A Journey to India" with the Reverend Norma Rae Hunt and Bob and Becky Galkiewicz from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, May 2 and 9. Call 651-224-5809 for information.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave., recently welcomed the Reverend Jen Rome as pastor for its next generation ministries. Rome attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul and was a presidential scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary. She served as pastor for children and families with Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Eagan for nearly 17 years. She lives in St. Paul with her husband and two school-age daughters.

Names in the News

Amy (Voytilla) Freeman, a 2000 Central High School graduate and Macalester-Groveland native, and her husband Dave Freeman plan to pedal 1,750 miles across nine states to mark the 40th anniversary of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act. The Freemans, who were named *National Geographic* magazine's Adventurers of the Year in 2014, will be raising awareness of efforts to protect the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining. They departed from Ely, Minnesota, on April 20 and plan to arrive in Washington, D.C., on June 18. Along the way they will be promoting their new book *A Year in the Wilderness: Bearing Witness in the Boundary Waters* (Milkweed Editions).

Dr. Joanna Ramirez Barrett of Macalester-Groveland and **Rhiana Yazzie** of Summit Hill have been named 2018 Bush Fellows. The Bush Fellowship provides fellows with up to \$100,000 over 12-24 months to pursue learning experiences that help them develop leadership skills. They can use the funding to pursue advanced education, networking opportunities, leadership resources, workshops and training. A total of 751 people applied for the 2018 Bush Fellowship. The Bush Foundation will accept applications for the 2019 fellowship beginning August 7. It is open to anyone age 24 and older who lives in Minnesota, North Dakota or South Dakota. Visit bush-foundation.org/fellowships/bush-fellowship.

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St. Thomas gets updated look at where some 2,156 students are renting space off-campus

By Jane McClure

The population of student renters in the Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods has climbed to 2,156 in recent years. That got the attention of members of the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC), who on April 10 reviewed maps of where exactly those student renters are living. It was part of a deeper look at data about St. Thomas and the surrounding neighborhoods, and the first comprehensive mapping update in several years.

"The number is higher than I thought it'd be," said Doug Hennes, the university's vice president for government relations and special projects. He had estimated it would be closer to around 1,600-1,700.

Others on the committee said they were not as surprised, but were still concerned that some blocks have high concentrations of student rental housing.

St. Thomas junior Katelyn Zelenka, who is majoring in geographic information systems and environmental studies, took on the latest mapping project. The 2,156 number includes rentals of single-family homes, duplexes and other properties within the student housing overlay district around St. Thomas. It also includes three apartment buildings at Grand Avenue and Finn Street that are owned by Cullen LLC and hold up to 168 renters, but does not include students

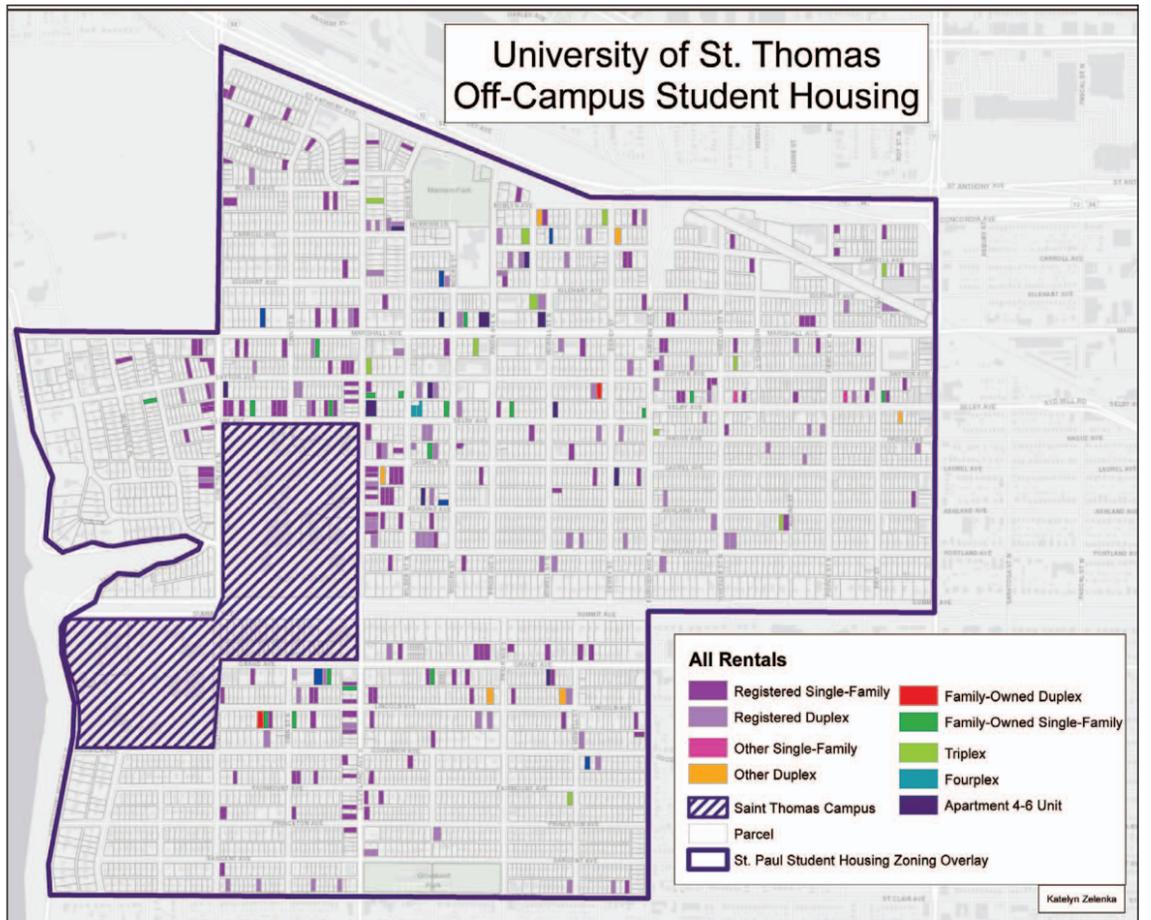
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who live in other large apartment buildings scattered throughout the neighborhood, so the real total is likely higher.

Nor does it include students who live just outside of the overlay district, which the St. Paul City Council created in 2012 to address the proliferation of student rental properties around the campus. The district extends from I-94 to St. Clair Avenue and from Mississippi River Boulevard to Snelling, with the exception of the Desnoyer Park neighborhood, and the area southeast of Summit and Fairview avenues.

Existing homes that could be documented as student rentals were grandfathered in when the overlay district was created. New rentals must now be at least 150 feet from existing ones.

In 2012, there were 242 registered dwellings and an unknown number of student tenants. This year, there were 263 registered rental properties with 1,424 student residents.



A map of all student rentals within St. Paul's student housing overlay district around the University of St. Thomas as of April 2018.

The greatest concentrations of student renters are on the Merriam Park blocks around the university's north campus.

WSNAC members said they assumed the majority of students in those rental properties attend St. Thomas, although they would like to know if some are attending other colleges.

The mapping and other data being collected are giving university officials and neighbors a better idea of housing trends and who is living where. The maps can also help track who owns a specific property as well as the condition of the property, which is derived from city rental inspection records.

Tracking where students live in the area is a condition of a 2004 conditional use permit that allowed St. Thomas to expand onto the two blocks bounded by Summit, Cre-

tin, Grand and Cleveland avenues. WSNAC member Marc Manderscheid, who was involved in negotiating the permit, said one focus then was that St. Thomas would know an actual address of every student living near the campus. "That was 14 years ago," he said.

Having that kind of information is not only helpful for residents who are concerned about a particular property, but can be used as parents and students look for off-campus housing. St. Thomas neighborhood liaison Amy Gage said parents want to know the condition of a property before a student signs a lease.

Another type of housing that Zelenka tracked is owner-occupied student homes. Some parents buy a house for their offspring to live in with friends and put the house in their son's or daughter's name. There are 22 such houses, mostly

in Merriam Park, with an estimated total occupancy of 96 students. Gage said the trend is for parents to buy a house for their student now and retain it as a student rental later.

The mapping also was used to track other student rentals in smaller buildings. That process found about 26 properties and 468 occupants. Zelenka has mapped how area housing has changed in the past five years. The maps note that some homes have been converted from rental to owner-occupied, mostly through a WSNAC housing buyback program.

The mapping will tie into a "Neighborhood Livability Index" that WSNAC members and other neighbors have been working on. The group is focusing on how all types of data can be used to address concerns regarding university-neighborhood relations.

Meet local fashion star Samantha Rei. She's been featured in Glamour and Vogue, named "Best Local Fashion Designer" by City Pages readers, authored and illustrated a book on fashion subculture, and been a star contestant on the TV show Project Runway. It should be no surprise that she's also our customer.

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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—An attempted break-in of an occupied home was reported at 2:30 a.m. Sunday, April 8, on the 1500 block of Hartford Avenue.

—An attempted home break-in occurred on the 600 block of Mount Curve Boulevard during the evening of April 13-14.

Theft—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave., at 4:23 p.m. Tuesday, April 3.

—Seven males in dark clothing tried to steal several vehicles from Hertz Rent-a-Car, 1420 Davern St., at 12:35 a.m. Thursday, April 5. They tried to ram the exit gate with one of the cars, but gave up and ran away. A vehicle also was reported stolen at Hertz on April 9.

—A package was reported stolen from a residence on the 1900 block of Beechwood Avenue at 2:27 p.m. Thursday, April 5.

—A Sony car stereo was stolen from a vehicle on the 1600 block of Niles Avenue during the evening of April 7-8.

—A diamond ring was stolen on the 1000 block of South Prior Avenue on Monday, April 9.

—More than \$1,000 in merchandise was stolen at Target, 2080 Ford Pkwy., between noon-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 10.

—A display phone was stolen at Verizon Wireless, 2034 Ford Pkwy., around 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 11.

—Eyeglasses valued at more than \$500 were stolen at the Highland Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy., between 1:30-2:50 p.m. Friday, April 13.

Weapons—Police were called to recover a pocket knife that a student brought to River East School, 1845 Sheridan Ave., at 10:11 a.m. Thursday, April 12.

Miscellaneous—An 18-year-old man was cited for possession of marijuana at RiverEast School at 9:06 p.m. Friday, March 23.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—A robbery with a dangerous weapon was reported on Hamline and Marshall avenues at 5:34 p.m. Friday, April 13.

Burglary—An apartment was broken into on North Griggs Street and Ashland Avenue between 2:14-3:48 a.m. Sunday, April 8.

—An occupied apartment was burglarized between 5:48-6:18 a.m. Tuesday, April 10, on the 300 block of North Lexington Parkway.

Theft—A backpack was stolen from a vehicle on the 1300 block of University Avenue between 2:45-9 p.m. Thursday, April 5. The loss was valued at more than \$1,000.

—A male left his vehicle running while he went inside and returned to find it stolen on the 1100 block of Central Avenue at 11:05 a.m. Friday, April 6.

—A man's cash and pants were stolen at LA Fitness, 1370 University Ave., between April 9-10.

—A cellphone was stolen from a vehicle at the Midway Target at 9:10 p.m. Thursday, April 12.

—A 26-year-old woman was arrested for trying to shoplift more than \$1,000 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 4:08 p.m. Friday, April 13.

Macalester-Groveland

Theft—A camera was stolen from a locked teacher's office at Macalester College during the evening of April 3-4.

—Several items were stolen from a vehicle on Hamline and Lincoln avenues between 8-9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5.

—A male stole several packages of cigarettes from behind the counter at Walgreens,

1585 Randolph Ave., at 6:05 a.m. Sunday, April 8.

—A package was stolen from a house on the 1100 block of Palace Avenue around 3:00 p.m. Sunday, April 8.

—A purse, credit cards, \$200 in cash and an Apple MacBook computer were stolen from a vehicle on the 300 block of South Hamline Avenue around 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 9.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 100 block of South Wheeler Street during the evening of April 15-16.

Mendota Heights

Theft—A purse and cellphone were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1300 block of Dodd Road at 5:51 p.m. Wednesday, April 4.

—Police stopped a female for stealing gas from a business on the 2000 block of Dodd Road and learned she was driving a stolen vehicle at 5:11 p.m. Thursday, April 5.

—Multiple people entered a store and stole several items at 7:18 p.m. Monday, April 9, on the 900 block of Highway 13.

—Hand tools were reported stolen from a locked trailer on the 2000 block of Waters Drive at 2:01 p.m. Wednesday, April 11.

—A computer and cellphone were reported stolen from a vehicle at 3:08 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, on the 1000 block of Lilydale Road.

—Several items were stolen from two vehicles on the 1000 block of Victoria Court during the evening of April 11-12.

—A radar detector was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 900 block of Highway 13 at 6:18 p.m. Thursday, April 12.

—A bicycle was reported stolen from a vehicle on Highway 13 and D Street at 7:19 p.m. Thursday, April 12.

Miscellaneous—Police were called to an apartment on the 2300 block of Lexington Avenue regarding a disturbance at 8:16 p.m. Tuesday, April 3. The argument was over ironing shirts for school. The individuals were advised to quiet down.

—A snowplow was found abandoned on the 900 block of Mendota Heights Road at 2:54 p.m. Wednesday, April 4.

—Employees reported damage was done to their vehicles on the 1000 block of Mendota Heights Road at 7:46 a.m. Tuesday, April 10.

Merriam Park

Burglary—An apartment burglary was reported on the 400 block of West Lynnhurst Avenue at 7:54 p.m. Sunday, April 8.

—An apartment was broken into on the 400 block of West Lynnhurst Avenue between April 8-10.

Theft—A Northface backpack, Lenova laptop computer and paperwork were stolen from a vehicle on the 1900 block of Iglehart Avenue at 8:50 a.m. Friday, April 6.

—Tools, cash and glasses were stolen from a vehicle on the 1900 block of University Avenue between 4:28-5:06 p.m. Friday, April 6.

—Two wheels were stolen from a vehicle on the 1600 block of Marshall Avenue during the evening of April 11-12.

—Stolen vehicles were reported on the 1800 block of Dayton Avenue during the evening of April 11-12 and on the 1700 block of Selby Avenue on April 15.

Assault—Police received a report at 9:28 a.m. Thursday, April 5, of a female being assaulted at the Days Inn, 1964 University Ave.

Weapons—Multiple callers reported gunfire on Fairview and University avenues at 2:40 p.m. Monday, April 9.

Miscellaneous—Police cited several individuals for underage drinking or having open containers of alcohol near the University of St. Thomas, including on April 8 on Finn Street and Selby Avenue, on April 14 on the 2100 block of Selby Avenue, on April 14 on Marshall Avenue and Moore Street, and on April 14 on Cleveland and Selby avenues.

—A 32-year-old man was arrested for felony violation of a no-contact order after police responded to the Days Inn, 1964 University Ave., regarding a man who refused to leave or pay his bill at 8:44 p.m. Sunday, April 15.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A robbery was reported on the 1300 block of University Avenue at 5:23 p.m. Monday, April 9.

Burglary—Tools were stolen from a residence on the 1500 block of Selby Avenue at 10:40 a.m. Friday, April 6.

Theft—A stolen vehicle was reported at the Midway Walmart at noon Friday, April 6.

—A cellphone was stolen from Sally Beauty Supply, 1526 University Ave., at 3:08 p.m. Monday, April 9.

—Work tools were stolen on the 400 block of North Pascal Street between 7:28-8:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 11.

—A backpack was reported stolen from a vehicle at Buffalo Wild Wings, 80 N. Snelling Ave., at 9:20 p.m. Monday, April 16.

Miscellaneous—Two individuals involved in a road rage incident caused a disturbance at the Midway Cub Foods at 9:23 a.m. Sunday, April 1.

—A 35-year-old man was arrested for disorderly conduct and trespassing at the Midway Walmart at 11:22 p.m. Friday, April 6.

Summit Hill

Burglary—A home was broken into on the 1200 block of Summit Avenue between April 8-16.

Theft—Money was stolen from the Balloon Bunch, 1193 Grand Ave., between March 26-April 5.

—A package was stolen on the 800 block of Lincoln Avenue between 2:30-3 p.m. Friday, April 6.

—A backpack and gun were stolen from a vehicle at the Loft store, 791 Grand Ave., around 1:40 p.m. Tuesday, April 10.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 400 block of Grand Avenue between April 14-15.

Weapons—Gunfire was reported on Grand Avenue and St. Albans Street at 10:31 p.m. Saturday, April 14.

Summit-University

Robbery—A robbery at gunpoint occurred on the 700 block of Carroll Avenue at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12.

Burglary—An occupied residence was broken into at 2:30 a.m. Thursday, April 5, on the 700 block of Concordia Avenue. The suspect was described as a black male, around 5-foot-8, 150 pounds, with shoulder-length dreadlocks and wearing a tan work jacket.

—An attempted break-in of a residence occurred on the 1000 block of Concordia Avenue between 6:40-7:09 p.m. Saturday, April 7.

—A home was burglarized on the 600 block of Holly Avenue between 9:51-11:57 p.m. Monday, April 16.

Theft—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle in the parking lot of St. Paul College, 235 Marshall Ave., at 12:55 p.m. Tuesday, April 3.

—A work bag and its contents were stolen from a vehicle on Selby Avenue and Dale Street between 6:34-9 p.m. Monday, April 9. The loss was estimated at more than \$1,000.

—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on North Lexington Parkway and Summit Avenue between 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11.

—A backpack, MacBook, iPad and other personal items and electronics were stolen from a vehicle on the 300 block of Selby Avenue between 5:30-7 p.m. Saturday, April 14.

Assault—A male was assaulted in the alley of his home on the 1000 block of Marshall Avenue at 1:56 a.m. Friday, April 6.

Weapons—Gunfire was reported on the

600 block of Iglehart Avenue at 1:43 a.m. Sunday, April 8.

—Bullet casings were recovered and a victim showed up at Regions Hospital after gunfire was reported on the 600 block of Iglehart Avenue at 1:26 p.m. Tuesday, April 10.

West End

Kidnapping—Police responded to the 300 block of Randolph Avenue at 1:24 a.m. Tuesday, April 17, regarding a potential kidnapping. They reportedly found a man with duct tape over his mouth and his hands tied together. Media reports stated that the case was referred to the local FBI office.

Robbery—Three juvenile suspects were arrested in connection with an aggravated robbery at Dannecker's, 793 Randolph Ave., at 12:54 p.m. Monday, April 16.

Burglary—Several garage units were broken into at the Victoria Park II Apartments, 750 Otto Ave., between 1:40-2:40 a.m. Tuesday, April 3. Multiple mechanical rooms along with two storage lockers also were entered there between 7:30-9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 5.

Theft—A purse was stolen from a vehicle on Chestnut and Spring streets around 9:15 a.m. Saturday, April 7.

—Packages were reported stolen on the 400 block of Goodhue Street on April 7 and on the 200 block of Forbes Avenue on April 9.

—A cellphone, binoculars, sunglasses and other items were stolen from a vehicle at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 200 W. Seventh St., during the evening of April 7-8.

—The tailgate was stolen from a vehicle on the 900 block of Palace Avenue between 8-8:35 a.m. Sunday, April 8.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 200 block of Goodhue Street between April 8-15.

—A 36-year-old man was cited at 4:27 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, for the theft of a package at Chicago's Taste Authority, 603 W. Seventh St.

—All four wheels were stolen off a company's vehicle on the 800 block of Jefferson Avenue between April 13-16.

Assault—A 40-year-old man was arrested for making felony terroristic threats on the 1000 block of West Seventh Street at 8:13 p.m. Thursday, April 12.

Weapons—Gunfire was reported in the area of the Victoria Park II Apartments, 750 Otto Ave., at 1:36 a.m. Sunday, April 8.

Miscellaneous—A hit-and-run driver heavily damaged the exterior of a building on the 1000 block of West Seventh Street between 12:01-2:05 a.m. Tuesday, April 3.

—Two incidents of criminal damage to property were reported on Eleanor Avenue and Palmer Place between 8:45 a.m.-5:25 p.m. Wednesday, April 4.

—Police responded to a 911 hang-up call and arrested a 25-year-old man for felony possession of cocaine at 4:53 a.m. Friday, April 6, on the 200 block of West Seventh Street.

Fire Calls

The following local calls were gathered from recent reports by the St. Paul Fire Department and other sources.

Lexington-Hamline—A male pedestrian was injured after being struck by a vehicle on Concordia Avenue and Lexington Parkway at 11:25 p.m. Monday, April 2. He was taken to the hospital.

Merriam Park—A vehicle struck a pedestrian on Cretin and Marshall avenues around 7:37 a.m. Monday, April 9.

West End—A pedestrian suffered injuries after being struck by a vehicle on Chestnut and Exchange streets at 3:22 p.m. Friday, March 9.



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The Kiosk

Wednesday/April 25

MORE THAN A SINGLE STORY, a conversation with local writers, artists and activists about masculinity and the dangers of stereotypes, will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. David Mura, Art Coulson, Ezekiel Joubert, Sinaah Thao, Anthony Ceballos and Michael Torres will discuss how society can discard toxic models of masculinity and provide the men of tomorrow with new ways of seeing themselves as men. Admission is free.

Thursday/April 26

RABBI STEVEN LEDER of Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles will discuss "Threats and Opportunities in the Jewish Community" at a Jewish Federation of Greater St. Paul fundraiser at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave. The affair will open at 6 p.m. with wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$36, \$24 for those age 30 and under. For more information or reservations, visit jewishstpaul.org.

"THE RISE AND FALL of the Twin City Rapid Transit Company" will be addressed by author and historian John Diers in a free program at 7 p.m. at the Ramsey County Library, 2180 N. Hamline Ave. in Roseville. At its height in 1920, the streetcar company carried 238 million riders on 500 miles of track that stretched from Lake Minnetonka to the St. Croix River. Thirty-four years later, it was history. For information, call 651-222-0701 or visit rchs.com.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO host Krista Tippett will speak on civility and social division during the annual Goodman Lecture from 7-8:30 p.m. in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. Admission is free, but tickets are required. Visit oshag.stkate.edu/event.

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT SHADLEY will speak about the prevalence of sexual assault in the U.S. military from 7-9 p.m. in the Kelley Board Room at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 875 Summit Ave. Shadley investigated one of the Army's worst sexual harassment scandals. Admission to his talk is free. Call 651-695-7621.

Friday/April 27

BARGAINS WILL BE YOURS to behold this weekend when St. Mark's Council of Catholic Women present their twice-yearly rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and April 28 and from 9 a.m. to noon on April 29 in the parish hall at 1983 Dayton Ave. Four rooms will be filled with good used furniture, housewares, clothing and accessories, bicycles, sporting goods, books, games, toys, plants, DVDs, CDs and more.

Saturday/April 28

THE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL Task Group of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates will host a three-hour program on "Health Care and Justice at the Crossroads" beginning at 9 a.m. at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. Former Minnesota health commissioner Dr. Ed Ehlinger will help lead the discussion of inequities and injustices in health care and health policies in Minnesota.

POLITICAL THEORIST Hannah Arendt and her essay, "The Revolutionary Tradition



Getting a tune up.

Ukelele Club members Axel Aamodt, 5, Liam Byrne, 9 and, Stella Aamodt, 9, jumped for the joy of music while strumming along with teacher Mark Sorvari on April 14. A collaboration between the Union Park District Council and Playing With Music, the club meets on Saturday mornings in a classroom at Snelling and Selby avenues.

PHOTO BY
BRAD STAUFFER

and Its Lost Treasure," will be discussed by Molly Wilbur-Cohen from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in the Teen Room on the first floor of the Highland Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The free program is sponsored by Or Emet, a Congregation for Humanistic Judaism. Visit oremnet.org.

A WALKING TOUR of the University of St. Thomas' south campus will step out at 1 p.m. from 3M Auditorium in Owens Science Hall on the southwest corner of Cretin and Summit avenues. Held rain or shine, the 90-minute excursion will take in various sculptures, the research-focused greenhouse and the Stewardship Garden, among other attractions. The Exercise for the Body & the Mind program is free of charge, but registration is required. Visit stthomas.edu/selimcenter.

ST. HELENA Catholic School, 3204 E. 43rd St. in Minneapolis, will present its Spring Extravaganza, four hours of camaraderie, good food, and a silent and live auction beginning at 6 p.m. For information, visit sainthelenaschool.us.

Monday/April 30

DATA THERAPY, a workshop on how to interpret information and recognize bias, will be offered from 5-7 p.m. at Latimer Library, 90 W. Fourth St. A collaboration with MIT's Center for Civic Media, the free workshop involves three activities: Building Data Sculptures to explore various ways to communicate the same data, Sketch a Story using a Databasic.io tool to find patterns in text, and Convince Me with instruction in how to make data-driven arguments. Additional workshops will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on May 21 and June 11 at Latimer Library. Rahul Bhargava of MIT will co-facilitate the workshop on May 21.

Tuesday/May 1

RETHINKING THE AMERICAN Labor Movement author Elizabeth Faue will discuss the various strains of the labor movement and how it has shaped society in a free program at 7 p.m. at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Visit thefriends.org/untoldstories.

Thursday/May 3

A MOBILE PHOTOGRAPHY walking tour of St. Paul's Irvine Park area will step

out at 5:30 p.m. from the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Sponsored by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, the tour will teach participants how to capture beautiful photos of the built environment using just a phone. Photographer Eric Mueller and Augsburg College Professor Kristin Anderson will lead the two-hour program. The cost is \$20, \$10 for students. To register, visit mnpreservation.org.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNIONS, the dignity of labor and the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. will be addressed by Professor William P. Jones in a free program at 6:30 p.m. at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. Visit thefriends.org/untoldstories.

Friday/May 4

FARE FOR ALL'S monthly distribution of fresh produce and frozen meat will take place from 10 a.m.-noon at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. A variety of food will be available in packages priced from \$10-\$25. Cash, credit or debit cards are accepted. Volunteers are needed to help load boxes into customers' cars. Call 651-298-5493.

PUBLIC ART ST. PAUL will hold its annual gala from 6:30-10 p.m. at Custom House, 180 E. Kellogg Blvd. The "Deco Dreams" event will feature a silent auction, heavy appetizers, wine, beer, dessert, coffee and live jazz by Chris Bates and Zacc Harris. Tickets are \$125. Visit publicartstpaul.org or call 651-290-0921.

Saturday/May 5

LEARN TO IDENTIFY and forage for edible mushrooms and prepare and sample the ones you find from noon-3 p.m. at Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. in West St. Paul. The cost is \$20 per adult. Call 651-455-4531.

MENDOTA HEIGHTS will hold its spring cleanup from 8 a.m.-noon at Mendakota Park, 2171 Dodd Road. City residents with I.D. may dispose of scrap metal, bicycles, small appliances, VCRs/DVDs and corded telephones free of charge. The cost for miscellaneous junk is \$10 per car load, \$20 for an SUV, \$25 for a pickup and \$35 for a small trailer. An additional charge will be added for mattresses, box springs, large appliances, tires and some electronics. Yard waste, recyclable material, household

hazardous waste and construction debris will not be accepted. Contact Cassandra Schueller at 651-552-4118 or cschueller@wspmn.gov.

Sunday/May 6

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE of St. Paul will hold its second annual Celebration of Service fundraiser from 9:30 a.m.-noon at Beth Jacob Congregation, 1179 Victoria Curve in Mendota Heights. A champagne brunch will be served with live music by the John Guari Jazz Combo. KARE 11 news anchor Jana Shortal will emcee the program. Past JFS board presidents Judy Brier and Leslie Hahn will be honored. For tickets, priced at \$36, \$25 for those under age 40, visit jfsp.org.

HELP PLANT a large pollinator garden from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the east side of the parking lot at Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. The new River of Grass Garden has been designed to attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds and to provide food for the bald eagles that have been nesting just south of the lot since 2015. It will feature native prairie grasses, wildflowers and other perennials that are rich in nectar and pollen. To volunteer, email Mary Maguire Lerman at magui011@umn.edu or call Susie at 651-252-6401.

Monday/May 7

RAZA SÍ, MIGRA NO author Jimmy Patiño will discuss his new book on the struggle for human rights among Mexican immigrants to the U.S. during the 1970s and '80s in a free program at 7 p.m. at the East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St. Visit thefriends.org/untoldstories.

Tuesday/May 8

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather for a three-mile hike stepping out at 7:30 p.m. from the big parking lot at Crosby Farm Regional Park (off Shepard Road just west of Davern Street). New members are welcome. Call Charlotte at 651-455-0052.

THE ADVANTAGES of breastfeeding for mother and child will be discussed from 7-8:45 p.m. by the Como-Midway group of La Leche League. Pregnant women, mothers and their children are invited. For more information, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

On the Town

A gallery is born

West Hampden Collective opens new exhibit space with reception April 27-29

BY LARRY ENGLUND

The six members of the West Hampden Artists Collective have opened a new gallery adjacent to their studios at 2281 Hampden Ave. Their 2281 Gallery will open its first show—17 paintings by guest artist and abstract expressionist Bret Anderson—with a public reception on April 27-29. The reception will run from 4-8 p.m. Friday, noon-8 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday in the gallery.

The works of the West Hampden Artists Collective will be on view at the same time in the artists' studios. Art lovers will be able to meet the artists and enter a drawing for a large painting by West End artist Lanny Ross.

An abstract painter, Ross founded the collective in 2004 with expressionist painter and poet Richard Dillon. They had been looking for cheap studio space for developing artists and were drawn to the former Minnesota Chemical Building on Hampden. "What we liked about it was the paint all over the floor," Dillon said. "We didn't have to be neat."

The collective's aim with 2281 Gallery is to give unrecognized artists a chance to introduce themselves to the public. "We're setting up a process for people to submit proposals for future shows," Vieno said.

"We've had about a dozen artists in and out of here over the last 10 to 12 years," Dillon said. Currently, the collective also includes portrait and plein aire painter Philip Carlton, postmodern and abstract painter and sculptor John Vieno, graphic designer and abstract painter Jas McCroskey, and writer and illustrator Brooke Dierkhising.

Vieno is serving as the first curator of the 2281 Gallery. When he joined the collective, the space was being used as storage. "We realized that if we could just clear the junk out of there, we could hang works and start a gallery," he

said. "We were already paying for the space anyway."

The industrial area around the new gallery has greatly changed over the past 14 years with new residents and retail establishments. "People are marching towards us," Dillon said. "There's new construction and new apartments, and the Urban Growler (brew pub) just around the corner has been a big success. We felt that impetus and thought maybe it was time to open an art gallery."

"We had a soft opening with a group show during the St. Paul Art Crawl last fall," Vieno said. "But this is the first time we're having a featured artist."

Anderson attended the Minneapolis College of Art and Design with Vieno in the 1980s. "John and I got to know each other pretty well there," Anderson said. "And then we reconnected about nine or 10 years ago. When John moved into this space, I got to know these guys. They asked me if I wanted to be the first victim."

Anderson is a full-time artist working mostly in oils. "I've worked in both oils and acrylics in mixed-media on canvas," he said.



Bret Anderson will be showing his mixed-media art in 2281 Gallery's inaugural exhibit opening April 27-29. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

"With today's water-based oils, you can wash your hands in water and the oils aren't as toxic as they were years ago. It's not hard on the lungs."

The sunny gallery is about 350 square feet, according to Vieno.

"You can get a large body of work in there," he said.

Several of Anderson's pieces have small three-dimensional projections. "I use paint and mostly

WEST HAMPDEN ARTISTS ►21

Dressing the part

Costume designer Conley tailors drama to fit the playwright's vision

BY FRANK JOSSI

It isn't often that a costume designer gets the chance to play a starring role in a play, but Lisa Conley does just that with the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's current production of *Natasha and the Coat*. Playwright Deborah Stein's new drama explores fashion, faith and mysticism through the lives of two young adults—one a fashion intern at a Brooklyn atelier and the other an Hasidic Jew who works at a dry cleaners.

"It's a fun play for me," said Conley, a resident of West St. Paul. "What a costume designer does is think about what the characters would wear and how they would want to present themselves."

And the characters in *Natasha and the Coat* do plenty of thinking about clothes. The play not only depicts attitudes in one of the fashion capitals of the world, Conley said, it also showcases the less vibrant clothing choices of the Jewish sect.

"Every play is costume-intensive," she said, "but some are more obvious about it. The goal of the costume designer is to be as invisible as possible—to make the characters so comfortable in their costumes, the audience doesn't even notice the clothing. But in this show they're talking about clothes all the time."



Costume designer Lisa Conley discusses a dress she chose for actress Miriam Schwartz in her role as Natasha in Minnesota Jewish Theatre's production of *Natasha and the Coat*.

The play is set in the dry-cleaning shop and the atelier, making clothing a central feature if not a character in the drama, according to director Miriam Monasch.

Conley is well-suited to the challenge.

"I've worked with her before," Monasch said. "She costumed *Our Class* for me. I just loving working with her because she's so imaginative."

Coffee stains and their removal provide

"The goal of the costume designer is to be as invisible as possible—to make the characters so comfortable in their costumes, the audience doesn't even notice the clothing."

pivotal moments in the drama. In one of the first scenes, Natasha (played by Miriam Schwartz) spills coffee on a client's expensive fur coat and takes it to a dry cleaners run by Yossi (Avi Aharoni). On stage, the coffee is really water and the fur coat requires no special preparation, Conley said. But in another scene, coffee is spilled on a yellow dress that will appear later on without the stain, requiring a bit of trickery on Conley's part. She gave the yellow dress a thin lining that turns dark brown when water is spilled on it.

Gathering all the clothing for *Natasha and the Coat* turned out to be less work than Conley expected. She and the director first considered looking for 1930s garb, but decided instead to focus on vintage mid-century clothing, which had been popular in 2005, the year in which the play is set.

'NATASHA AND THE COAT' ►21

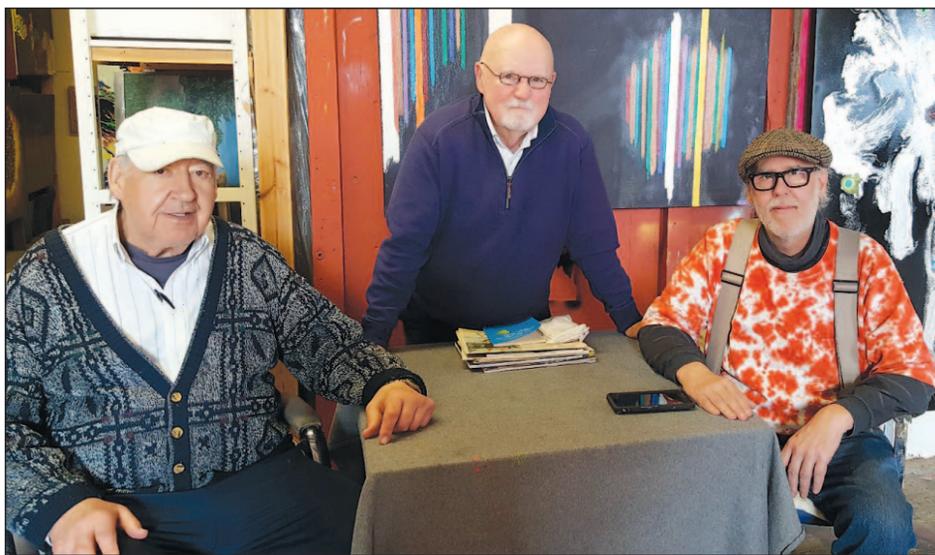
20 ◀ WEST HAMPDEN ARTISTS

paper," he said. "I chop up pieces of junk-mail postcards and receipts. The last few years I've been working mostly with a palette knife or my fingers."

Throughout the run of Anderson's exhibit, visitors will be able to stroll into the studios and see the works of the collective. Ross' paintings draw their inspiration from his memories of the Orient when he worked for Northwest Airlines and operated his own travel business. "You have total freedom to experiment if you're an artist," he said. "I'm way out there sometimes. I'll get in my zone, as I call it, and see what transpires. Sometimes it's successful, and sometimes it's not."

Dillon's art is colorful and impressionistic, featuring sailboats, Irish themes and portraits. "I have a large painting I'm working on now that's a metamorphosis thing, with animals that have spots on their backs and people with spots on them," he said. "It's a combination of collage and paint. It's fun, and I don't care if I sell any of it, although I've sold quite a few."

Vieno's abstract art is colorful and bright. "There are a lot of fluorescent colors, really bright, colorful stuff," he said. "I'm pretty influenced by Picasso." One piece is a tall,



West Hampden artists Lanny Ross, Richard Dillon and John Vieno pose in one of their studios in the former Minnesota Chemical Building at 2281 Hampden Ave. Their collective has turned a former storage space into a new art gallery. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

slender sculpture. "It's the only sculpture I've done in the last two years," he said. "The rest are in storage and with collectors."

The gallery's opening on April 27-29 is taking place at the same time as the St. Paul Art Collective's Art Crawl, though it is not an official stop on the Crawl.

Dierkhising, who joined the collective in

January, will not be taking part in the show. "I'm very much the newbie around here and just want to give myself some time to smooth myself in," she said.

A teacher by day, Dierkhising said she joined the collective out of a desire to explore art in a space away from home. "I have a 13-year-old at home and we have pets," she

said. "This space has no distractions, and it's a beautiful space. It's super simple. I love that. The light is great, and the people are great."

"We all get along well," Vieno said. "If we didn't, it wouldn't work because our spaces are open without a single door. We're constantly coming and going, so it's unusual that we're all here at one time, which still allows for some solitude."

The collective's aim with 2281 Gallery is to give unrecognized artists a chance to introduce themselves to the public. "We're setting up a process for people to submit proposals for future shows in the gallery space," Vieno said. "All media are welcome. This could easily be a performance space, too."

"We hope to grow the gallery," Vieno said, "and to have events on a regular basis, certainly around art crawls, showing the work of six to 12 artists per year."

"This is a considerable departure from our operation of years past," Ross said. "But we're all excited about it. We're gung ho and think it'll be a considerable success."

Following the opening receptions, Anderson's art will remain on view every weekend from 5-8 p.m. Friday, 2-8 p.m. Saturday and 2-6 p.m. Sunday. For more information on the gallery, call Vieno at 651-245-4191.

20 ◀ 'NATASHA AND THE COAT'

When working on a play, Conley will visit vintage clothing and thrift shops across the Twin Cities. Among the best shops, she said, is Lula Vintage Wear, 1587 Selby Ave., which had a mother lode of material for *Natasha and the Coat*. Conley also drew on the costume shops of other theaters and her own wardrobe for material. For some shows, she will even sew her own costumes.

Live theater presents plenty of creative opportunities for costume designers because many playwrights leave those decisions to the directors, designers and cast. Color theory comes into play, Conley noted with a laugh, as no character an audience should like should ever wear green.

Clothing also helps actors inhabit a role. "Actors tend to be thoughtful about how they present themselves anyway," Conley said. "When they walk into an audition, they have to be immediately appealing to directors. Their costumes can help pull that back."

Conley majored in English and religion at Hamline University, and began designing costumes for student productions there. When she told a professor she was "bummed" about graduating because she would no

longer have a theater outlet, he suggested she take up costume designing as a career. She went on to earn a master of fine arts degree at the University of Georgia and returned to the Twin Cities in 2009.

After freelancing for several years as a costume designer for several local theaters, Conley landed a full-time job developing props at the Children's Museum of Minnesota. According to her, the downtown St. Paul institution is the largest producer of traveling children's shows in the country, among them *Garfield*, *Thomas & Friends*, *Curious George* and the upcoming *Wild Cats*.

Natasha and the Coat is receiving its world premiere at the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company. Stein, a former Twin Cities playwright, now resides in Los Angeles. In addition to Schwartz and Aharoni, the cast includes Muriel Bonertz, Charles Numrich and Kim Kivens.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Saturdays and 1 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays through May 13 in the auditorium of the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Tickets are \$23-\$38 with discounts for those in their 20s and 30s and during the student rush. For reservations, call 651-647-4315 or visit mnjewishtheatre.org.



Costume designer Lisa Conley stitches a dress that will be worn in the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's production of *Natasha and the Coat*.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

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On the Town Briefly

Dance

Contemporary choreography by black women from across the U.S. will be featured in "The Requisite Movers" on April 27-29 at the Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis. The program will feature Brownbody artistic director Deneane Richburg's "Her Song." Set to a lullaby by Twin Cities singer Thomasina Petrus, the solo tells of a black girl in the predominantly white world of competitive figure skating. Philadelphia's FlyGround ensemble will present "Native Portals," a reflection on the invisibility of lynching in history and the current killings of black people. Leslie Parker Dance Project rounds out the show with "Bone Womyn Traces in Black." Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$24 at the door, \$20 online at southerntheater.org, \$12 for students and seniors.

Rhythmic Circus will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a return engagement of "Feet Don't Fail Me Now!" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 4, in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. The cavalcade of genre-hopping music, hard-hitting dance, funky costumes and a big brass band features dancers Nick Bowman, Drew Geck, Galen Higgins and Ricci Milan, guitarist Alex Rossi, beatboxer Aaron Heaton, keyboardist Cornell Blanchard, drummer Patrick Nelson, bassist Dan Ristrom, saxophonist Peter Vircks and trumpeter Aaron Wiener. Tickets are \$18-\$38 with discounts for students, seniors and military personnel. Visit oshag.stkate.edu or call 651-690-6700.

Music

The Midtown Men, four stars from the original Broadway cast of *Jersey Boys* now on their seventh national tour, will celebrate the music that defined the 1960s in concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 27, at the Ordway Concert Hall. Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and J. Robert Spencer will deliver their favorite hits from the Beatles, Rascals, Turtles, Four Seasons and Motown. Tickets start at \$48. Call 651-224-4222 or visit ordway.org.

Classic Albums Live will recreate the sound of the LP "Led Zeppelin II," from the first



'Shadowland' Pilobolus will combine its trademark take on modern dance with innovative media in concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 5, at the Ordway Music Theater. The groundbreaking performance was conceived in collaboration with Steven Banks of the animated series "SpongeBob SquarePants" and set to the music of David Poe. Tickets start at \$29. Visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

note of "Whole Lotta Love" to the last lick of "Bring It on Home," in concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at the Ordway Concert Hall. Tickets start at \$31. Call 651-224-4222 or visit ordway.org.

BandWidth, the seventh annual showcase of community bands from the Twin Cities area, will return from noon-5:45 p.m. on Sunday, April 29, at Landmark Center. Marches, concert band classics, pop, Broadway and jazz tunes will be performed by the following in their order of appearance: Capital City Wind Ensemble, Seward Concert Band, Brio Brass, South Washington County Community Band, Richfield Symphonic Band and Lex-Ham Community Band.

The St. Catherine Choral Society, under the direction of Patricia Connors, will perform the music of Handel and Bernstein in concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 29, in the

O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. The program will feature the Baroque composer's Dixit Dominus and a variety of compositions by Bernstein in celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth, including a medley from *West Side Story*, "Make our Garden Grow" from *Candide*, and several movements of *Mass*. The 80-voice choir will be joined by an orchestra of professional musicians and soloists Kristie Tigges, KrisAnne Weiss, Richard Joseph and Mark Billy.

Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St., Suite 200, will play host to the following: Inn-fest, a smorgasbord of local and national artists from the Innova label, 6-10 p.m. April 27 and noon-8 p.m. April 28 (admission is free); a performance and discussion with the Seen/Heard Trio, 6 p.m. April 30 (\$10); the Seen/Heard Trio performs music by the Spitting Image Collective, 7:30 p.m. May 1 (\$15 and

\$10); Zeitgeist's 40th anniversary concert, 7:30 p.m. May 4, 5 and 6 (\$15 and \$10). Call 651-755-1600.

The Minnesota Renaissance Choir will perform the music of Orlando de Lassus, Carlo Gesualdo, John Bartlet, Peter Warlock, Morten Lauridsen and Josquin de Prez in its spring concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. Tickets are available in advance for \$20 at brownpapertickets.com. Tickets at the door are \$25, \$20 for seniors, \$5 for students.

ANCIAX Saxophone Quartet will present two free concerts on Saturday, May 5, delivering a multicultural program with "Ulla in Africa" by Heiner Wiberny, "Dervish" by Chris Rutkowski, "Tango Virtuoso" by Thierry Escaich, "Three Short Tales of the Sea" by Rika Ishige, "New York Suite" by Paquito D'Rivera, and "Mexican Folk Song Suite" and "Klezmer Wedding" by Mike Curtis. The hour-long shows will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Nokomis Library, 5100 34th Ave. S. in Minneapolis, and at 2 p.m. at the Latimer Library, 90 W. Fourth St.

Lyra Baroque Orchestra will close its season with an Italian Concerto Collage at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 5, in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The concert will include works by Corelli, Vivaldi, Alessandro Stradella, Giuseppe Sammartini, Pietro Locatelli and Francesco Geminiani. A preview of the music will be offered 45 minutes before the show. Tickets are \$5-\$25. Visit lyrabaroque.org.

Johannes Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem is 150 years old. The South Metro Chorale will celebrate the anniversary by performing the iconic work at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 5, at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Tickets are \$12, free for students. For reservations, call 612-386-4636.

Director Axel Theimer and his cappella ensemble Kantorei will conclude their 30th anniversary season with a concert of "Memories" at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 6, in the Chapel of St. Mary at the St. Paul Seminary, 2260 Summit Ave. The program includes compositions by Bruckner, Debussy, Gerald Finzi, Frank Ferko, Josef Rheinberger, Carol Barnett, Michael Joncas, Joshua G. Nice and David Evan Thomas' "Hear my Prayer, O Lord," a setting of Psalm 102. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors and \$15 for students. Visit

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Mississippi Valley Orchestra will pay tribute to the warmth and wonder of nature at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 6, at Augustana Lutheran Church, 1400 S. Robert St. in West St Paul. The concert program will feature Debussy's Nocturnes with Chorus Polaris, Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 with St. Paul Piano Teachers Association Concerto Competition winner Aurora Wang, and Brahms' Symphony No. 2. Admission is free, though donations are welcome.

The Hill House Chamber Players will explore the music, poetry and stories of World War I along with compositions for piano and strings by Beethoven and Brahms in concert at 7:30 p.m. Mondays, May 7 and 14, in the art gallery at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Tickets are \$23, \$13 for students, and that includes a preconcert conversation at 6:45 p.m., refreshments and a post-performance tour of the Hill House. Visit brownpapertickets.com.

Film

Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis, will screen the following: *The Shooting* (1966) starring Millie Perkins and Jack Nicholson, 7 p.m. April 27, 8:45 p.m. April 28 and 5:30 p.m. April 29; *Ride in the Whirlwind* (1966) starring Warren Oates, Cameron Mitchell and Jack Nicholson, 8:45 p.m. April 27, 7 p.m. April 28 and 7:15 p.m. April 29; *Pandora and the Flying Dutchman* (1951) starring Ava Gardner and James Mason, 3 p.m. April 29, and 7 and 9:30 p.m. April 30 and May 1; *Some Like It Hot* (1959) starring Jack Lemmon, Marilyn Monroe and Tony Curtis, 7 and 9:30 p.m. May 4 and 5, and 6 and 8:30 p.m. May 6; *Irma La Douce* (1963) starring Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine, 3 p.m. May 6, and 7 and 9:45 p.m. May 7 and 8. Tickets are \$8. Call 612-424-5468.

Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution, a documentary about the Black Panther Party of the 1960s and its significance for black people and American society as a whole, will be screened at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is free.

Hearts Beat Loud, the 2018 Sundance Festival film starring Nick Offerman and Kiersey Clemons as a father and daughter who form an unlikely songwriting duo in the summer before she leaves for college, will be screened by Sound Unseen on Wednesday, May 9. The film will roll at 7 p.m. at the Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance at soundunseen.com.

Books

"In the Spirit of Our Mothers," a reading by Amoké Kubat, Fayise Abraham and Jasmine Boudah, will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, at Black Dog Cafe, 308 E. Prince St. The program will feature excerpts from Kubat's memoir, *Missing Mama: My Story of Loss, Sorrow and Healing*; Boudah's *Mothering Through Pain and Suffering in Silence: A Collection of Stories From Survivors*; and Abraham's retracing of her mother's journey from the northern mountains of Ethiopia to Sudan and the rural Midwest. Admission is free.

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to free readings and discussions with authors Mary Kay Rummel and her poetry collection, *Cypher Garden*, at 7 p.m. April 25; Jules Nyquist and her poetry collection, *Homesick, then*, 7 p.m. May 5; and Bonnie Kristian and her new book, *A Flexible Faith*, 7 p.m. May 15. Call 651-493-2791 or visit subtextbooks.com.

Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will play host to free readings and discussions

with authors Robert B. Mitchell and his history, *Congress and the King of Frauds: Corruption and the Credit Mobilier Scandal at the Dawn of the Gilded Age*, at 7 p.m. April 27; Cary Griffith and his history of the Ham Lake fire of 2007, *Gunflint Burning: Fire in the Boundary Waters*, 7 p.m. May 8; and Adrian Todd Zuniga and his novel, *Collision Theory*, 7 p.m. May 15. Call 651-225-8989 or visit commongoodbooks.com.

An open lab for writers to discuss their current projects with other writers or just work on their own is offered from 10:30 a.m.-noon every Thursday at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Call 651-642-0385.

Poet Tony Curtis of Dublin will read from his verse at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 27, in the auditorium of the John R. Roach Center at the University of St. Thomas. The author of eight poetry collections, Curtis, 62, is the recipient of the 22nd annual Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry given by St. Thomas' Center for Irish Studies. Admission to the reading is free and open to all.

Devoney Looser, author of *The Making of Jane Austen* and a professor of English at Arizona State University, will describe Austen's long road to becoming a celebrity and the inspiration for generations of loyal readers in a free program at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 3, in O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library at the University of St. Thomas.

The Great Books Discussions Group will gather on Wednesday, May 9, to examine Lawrence Sargent Hall's short story, "The Ledge." Hall, who saw active duty in the U.S. Naval Reserve in World War II, operated a boat yard on the Maine coast. In his nautical yarn, a hardboiled fisherman confronts chance and the elements. The meeting, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 5 p.m. at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Call 651-285-7550.

Exhibits

"Dissonance and Repair," new paintings by Barbara Krefl and Kimberly Benson, and "Dismantling Mindset," the art of senior studio art majors Ashley Tyler Alex, Sarah Borgen, Breanna D. Goudeau, Hannah Haughey and Teresa R. Widiger, are on view through May 20 in the Catherine G. Murphy Galleries at St. Catherine University. Artists Krefl and Benson will be featured in a gallery talk at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 3. Admission is free. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

The St. Paul Art Collective will present its spring Art Crawl on April 27-29 at three dozen locations in the downtown, East Side, West End, North End, Midway and University-Raymond neighborhoods. More than 300 artists will take part in the show and sale, opening their studios and galleries to the public free of charge. The event will run from 6-10 p.m. Friday, noon-8 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. For information, visit saintpaulartcrawl.org.

"Hold Fast," a three-week exhibit by four artists from St. Olaf College in Northfield, will open with a public reception from 7-9 p.m. Friday, April 27, at Truckstop Gallery, 20 Grove St. #72 on Nicollet Island in Minneapolis. Featured are works by Cailan Carpenter, a ceramicist who blurs the line between functional and sculptural; Josh Torkelson, who explores permanence and ephemera in two and three dimensions; Holland Hardie, whose layered prints focus on natural and man-made patterns; and painter Evan Weselmann. Visit truckstop.gallery.

Twin Cities artist Tamina Muhammad will open an exhibit of her works in watercolor, acrylic, marker, colored pencil and ink with a reception from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 3, in the gallery of the East Side Arts Council,



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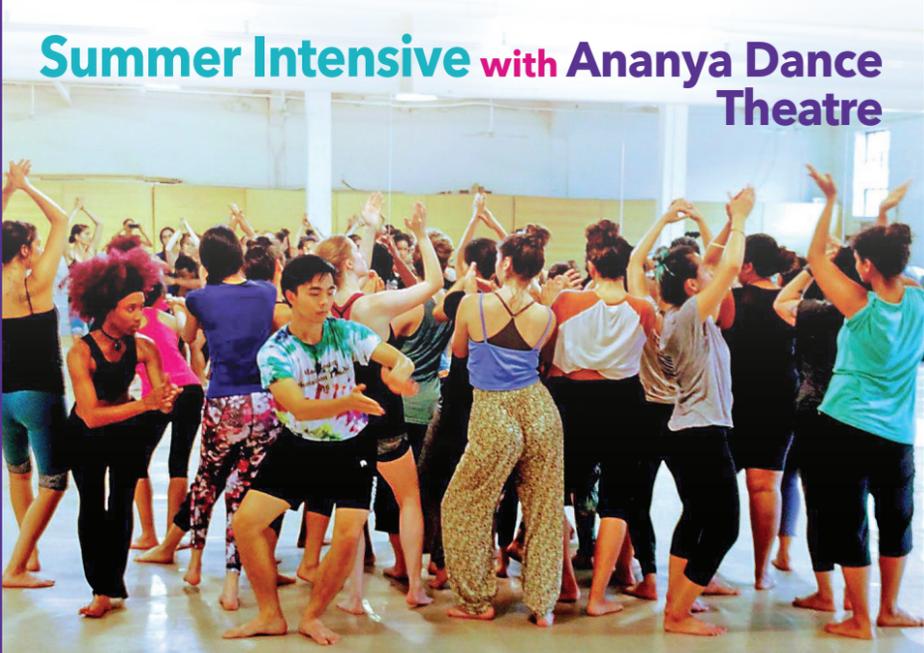
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"St. Paul 1978," an exhibit of street photography by Jerry Mathiason, will open with a public reception from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 3, in the North Gallery at Landmark Center. Cosponsored by Historic St. Paul, the show is open to the public free of charge through May 26. Call 651-292-3225.

Summit Avenue Walking Tours highlighting the Gilded Age mansions that line the street and the people who built them and owned them, will be offered by the Minnesota Historical Society on weekends from May 5 through September. The 90-minute tours step out at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and noon and 2 p.m. Sundays from the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The cost is \$14, \$12 for seniors and college students, \$10 for children ages 5-17. Visit mnhs.org/calendar.

Theater

The Diary of Anne Frank will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, April 26 and 28, at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. The drama tells about a young Jewish girl who in the midst of the Holocaust of World War II wrote that "in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart." For tickets, call 651-291-7005 or visit parksquaretheatre.org.

Diddy Kong Racing, a musical parody of the Nintendo video game with compositions lovingly ripped from the works of Andrew Lloyd Weber, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, at the Cabaret at Camp, 490 N. Robert St. Travel back in time to the basement of your childhood where Diddy Kong and his cohorts competed on the screens of those boxy old televisions. Each ticket comes with a package of fruit rollups, gushers or fruit by the foot. Tickets are \$25 and \$35. Visit brownpapertickets.com or call 800-838-3006.

A haunting reminder of the strength it takes to love out loud, playwright Harrison David Rivers' *This Bitter Earth* will open at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Directed by Talvin Wilks, the drama tells of the relationship between a wealthy white man who is a passionate advocate for civil rights and an introspective black playwright coming to terms with his own activism in a society wracked by rising racial tension. Following previews at 7:30 p.m. April 24 and 25, the play will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through May 20. Tickets are \$15-\$40. Call 651-224-3180.

A double-feature staging of *Frankenstein* and *Antigone* will be presented by the Hamline University Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, April 25-28, in Anne Simley Theater at Hamline, 1536 Hewitt Ave. *Frankenstein* has been adapted by Grace Barnstead with a movement-based score. *Antigone*, written by Sophocles and adapted by Bertolt Brecht, is directed by Joe Hendren. Tickets are \$2-\$8. Call 651-523-2905, email tickets@hamline.edu or visit hamline.edu/cla/theatre-arts.

The Opera Theatre of the University of Minnesota will perform Jacques Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* on April 26-29 at Ted Mann Concert



From China with love. *The Princess' Nightingale*, a new adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen story about the lure of glitter and fantasy and the virtue of compassion, will open on May 2 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. Set in 18th-century China, the collaboration with Theater Mu will be presented Tuesdays through Sundays, mornings, afternoons and evenings, through May 19. Visit muperformingarts.org or call 651-789-1012.

Hall, 2128 4th St. S. in Minneapolis. The operetta, a parody of the Orpheus legend from Greek mythology, pokes fun at 19th-century French politics and is sung in French. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 the week of performance, \$5 for students. Call 612-624-2345.

The Metromaniacs, David Ives' retelling of the French farce of 1738, *La Metromanie*, will open on April 27 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. In the aristocratic Paris of that day, poets were rock stars and young people were crazy about poetry. Through plot twists, mistaken identities and other complications—all played out in rhymed verse—a happy ending is achieved. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through May 20. Tickets are \$22 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010 or visit theatreintheround.org.

Under This Roof, playwright and veteran actress Barbara Kingsley's new drama about family, disability and race, will be performed from May 4-20 by the Full Circle Theater. Set in the late 1940s in a segregated black neighborhood of Cleveland, it tells of a middle-aged couple who face surprises and new challenges after hiring a down-on-her-luck woman to help with the housework. James A. Williams directs a cast that includes Yolande Bruce, Brian A. Grandison, Laura Esping, and Nathan R. Stenberg. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, 7 p.m. Sundays and 1 p.m. May 19 and 20 at the Guthrie Theater, 818 S. Second St., Minneapolis. For tickets, call 612-377-2224.

Family

Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. and 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul, will offer Girl Scout Farm Fun Day from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 28 (the cost is \$7 per Scout); and Meet the Milk Makers, a close-up look at barn animals and a taste of the butter they help produce, intended for children ages 3-8 accompanied by a parent, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 10 (\$7 per child). Call 651-455-4531.

Revisit the year 1868 and learn why it was so memorable for Minnesotans and the Ramsey family of St. Paul in an hour-long family program beginning at noon, 12:30 and 1 p.m. on Saturday,

May 5, at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Children and parents can use a timeline map to explore the historic mansion, collect tokens and sample a popular food of 150 years ago. The cost is \$10, \$9 for seniors and college students, \$7 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-296-8760 or visit mnhs.org/calendar.

Et cetera

Unleash your inner sculptor and create your own work of art in a free Make It and Take It sculpture workshop from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 28, at Landmark Center. Local artists Cecilia Schiller and Judd Nelson will lead the session. A tour of Landmark Center's permanent art collection will follow.

Explore the cultures of people the world over through colorful exhibits, vibrant music and dance and culinary treats at the Festival of Nations on May 4-6 at St. Paul's RiverCentre. The historical and contemporary traditions of nearly 100 ethnic groups will be represented. The festival will run from 4:30-10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$13.50 for adults and \$8 for students at the door, \$11 and \$8 in advance, free for children age 5 and under with adult. Visit festivalofnations.com or call 651-647-0191 ext. 300.

The history and future of transit will be on display on Train Day from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 5, at St. Paul's historic Union Depot, 214 E. Fourth St. See historic rail cars, a vintage Greyhound double-decker bus and a new A Line rapid-transit bus. Test ride the latest designs in bicycles. Learn about freight railroads in the region and what to look for when purchasing a new or used bicycle. Watch the model trains of the Granite City O-Gaugers chug. Refreshments will be available from Crave Catering. For more information, to register for a free tour of Metro Transit's light-rail operations and maintenance facility in Lowertown, or to download free Metro Transit ride passes for that day, visit uniondepot.org/traindays.

The Katwalk, a fashion show featuring the eco-friendly designs of eight senior and 10 junior students at St. Catherine University, will be presented at 4 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 5, in Frey Theater on campus. Fans of fashion are invited to meet the designers at a postshow soiree in the ballroom of the university's Coeur de Catherine.

Sports



The Wright Call By Dave Wright

Whalen decision an interesting pick

The hiring of Lou Holtz as the University of Minnesota new football coach three decades ago may have been the last time people applauded a coach's hiring to this extent. Oh, there were a lot of smiles when Bob Motzko was announced as the new men's hockey coach for the Gophers last month. However, that response paled in comparison to the reception when Lindsay Whalen was recently introduced as the new boss of the U's women's basketball team.

Whalen, who will be 36 years old next month, has been the face of Minnesota female basketball for nearly two decades. First she led the Gophers to heights never reached before—or since. Then she came back to help lead the Minnesota Lynx to several WNBA championships, including last September's dramatic run.

Even though she's still going to play for the Lynx, Whalen has taken on the task of running a team in one of the most competitive college basketball conferences. She'll have the total support of the local sports community, and that's a good head start. However, it's only the beginning.

Ted Rivero is a fellow who knows better than most what challenges lie ahead for Whalen. Rivero just finished his second season as the head women's hoops coach at Augsburg College. Prior to that, he spent eight years on the bench as an assistant to coach Pam Borton at the U of M. Whalen had already graduated, but the Gophers were still solid during that era, winning 141 games and going to the postseason five times.

Two decades before that, Rivero started the groundswell that eventually became the powerhouse women's basketball program at the University of St. Thomas. The Tommies won the NCAA Division III championship in 1991 and went to the Final Four on two other occasions. There was a brief lull after Rivero moved on from coaching there, but St. Thomas righted itself under current coach Ruth Sinn and now regularly runs roughshod over its MIAC opponents.

Thus, Rivero was well-qualified to offer his observations on what Whalen may and may not be able to do with the Gopher women's basketball program.

Before the first practice is held in mid-October, there are a lot of potential roadblocks for Whalen that could make this one of the most interesting sports stories for the next couple of years.

Nobody doubts Whalen's basketball expertise. Her college and pro coaches often likened her to being an additional coach on the court. But knowing the game is one thing. Getting others to execute it at a high level is something else.

Whalen has never coached at any level. "The first thing you do is get a good assistant," Rivero advised. "You want somebody who knows what Division I basketball is all about."

Kelly Roysland, who was a teammate of Whalen's with the Gophers, is expected to be hired as her first assistant coach. After a couple of years at North Dakota State, Roysland returned to Minnesota as an assistant under Borton and has been the head women's coach at Macalester College for the past four seasons.

Assistant coaches can handle scouting to find the best prospects, but it will require Whalen to seal the deal. "If you do things the right way at Minnesota, you'll get in the door," Rivero said. "Then you have to get the player and her family to be comfortable with you."

But that's just the first step. Rivero said the process has changed quite a bit from how the initial meeting used to be. "It's more transactional now," he said. "People expect to get something back for their investment."

If they don't, players move on. Roughly 1,000 male Division I basketball players will either transfer schools or declare themselves for the NBA draft before graduation

WRIGHT CALL ▶ 27

Playing in the big leagues

CDH grad Townley relishes role as MN Twins exec

BY BILL WAGNER

For Kate Townley, the old saying that "the job isn't finished until the paperwork is done" couldn't be more to the point. That's because if she doesn't do the paperwork, it could mean the loss of millions of dollars to her employer.

Local high school sports fans may remember Townley as an all-state point guard who led Cretin-Derham Hall to its first-ever state girls' championship in 1999. These days, she is the senior manager of baseball administration for the Minnesota Twins, one of the few women to hold a job in the operations department of any professional sports team.

But if you've never heard or read about Townley on talk radio or in a sports column, you may be forgiven. Not many people have. But that's a good thing because usually the only time you hear or read about people in a position like hers is when they screw up.

Everybody knows about it after the Twins sign a player to a new contract or redo an existing one. The player, the general manager, the player's agent and legal counsel are the main characters, but Townley brings it all together to make sure the end product is done correctly.

"My job is to examine the contract language," said Townley, a St. Paul resident. "My job is to make sure that it's done right."

After playing Division I basketball and graduating with a human development degree from Binghamton University in New Jersey, Townley joined the Twins as an intern 13 years ago. She was senior manager for minor league administration until recently getting promoted to her current position. She was busy training in her successor, Brian Maloney, while in Florida with the Twins during spring training.

Townley, who reports to Twins chief baseball officer Derek Falvey, said her stint as a minor league administrator for the Twins was a great proving ground. While in that position, she was responsible for all facets of operations for all teams in the Twins minor league system, including payroll, contract preparation, travel management, budgeting, immigration processes, purchasing and depositions. When a player got placed on a disabled list or moved from one team to another, Townley handled all the necessary paperwork.

Now she deals with major league personnel who are currently on the Twins' active roster or have the potential to be. "I deal with about 60 guys on the major league level," she said.

Much of what Townley does sounds like the work of an attorney, but she can do her job quite well without a law degree. "I'm not smart enough to be an attorney," she quipped. "I have no desire to go to law school."

What she does is crucial for a team. If all the i's aren't dotted and all the t's aren't crossed, a player's contract can be voided and the last thing a major league team needs is to lose a player because of



Kate Townley is shown with former Twins general manager Terry Ryan during spring training in 2016. PHOTO BY BRACE HEMMELGARN

Townley said being a woman in a male-dominated profession can sometimes be a little intimidating. Part of her new job has been to attend MLB's winter meetings, where fewer than 10 women are surrounded by around 150 men.

a paperwork snafu.

As her boss, she said Falvey is top-notch. He and general manager Thad Levine came on board following the 2014 season. They succeeded former GM Terry Ryan, who lost his job after the Twins suffered four last-place finishes in a row in their division.

"Usually, there are going to be changes after a team hasn't been doing well on the field," Townley said, "but when Derek and Thad came in, they made it a priority to spend a lot of time talking

to the people who were working here. They had some ideas of their own, of course, but they also genuinely wanted to hear what other people here thought."

To be sure, Falvey and Levine did make changes. According to Townley, there were 39 new people hired in the Twins operations department within six months after the two grabbed the reins.

Townley had worked many years with Ryan and she said she misses his class and gentle presence. According to her, Ryan, now a scout for the Philadelphia Phillies, had a different managerial style than the new regime. "Terry was more old school," she said.

Townley said being a woman in a male-dominated profession can sometimes be a little intimidating. Part of her new job has been to attend MLB's winter meetings, where fewer than 10 women are surrounded by around 150 men. But she credits the league with trying to make more opportunities available to women.

"It's good that MLB recognized the need," Townley said, "but I don't think

TWINS' TOWNLEY ▶ 27

Up to the challenge

Despite low numbers, motivation remains high for Nova baseballers

BY BILL WAGNER

The Nova Classical Academy baseball team, which also draws players from Great River School and Twin Cities Academy, has only 12 varsity players this spring. That might appear to be a problem, but to head coach Scott Lindholm it's no big deal.

"We have depth that we've never had before," he said. That's because Lindholm has some ready reinforcements on the junior varsity who can be called up when and if needed. The varsity and JV have a total of 25 players.

"There are four or five guys who'll start the season on JV, but we've got such a rich pool (of players)," he said. "We have a good, sustainable program."

The Knights compiled a 14-6 overall record last year and went undefeated in the Twin Cities Athletic Conference. This year might prove to be more of a challenge, with the loss of some key players to graduation and to transfers. Still, Lindholm said he is comfortable with things as they are and is waiting for the fields to dry up so his current crew can get some games under their belt.

"We have some pitching depth, and we play aggressively," he said. "We'll be a competitive team every game."

Lindholm, who teaches at Twin Cities Academy, said his squad has leaders who reach out to the players attending different schools. "I love how the schools come together," he said.

Still, Lindholm admitted that this year's squad lacks some prep baseball experience. And like so many other teams this spring, the Knights have been frustrated by the weather that has kept them from playing any games through mid-April.

But he believes that his team, which features three sets of brothers, can make some noise this season, and that those who haven't logged many varsity games will learn their craft quickly.

Junior pitcher/second baseman Bill Scheil, who has been a starter since 7th grade, is one of the Knights' top assets. He's the team's "most feared pitcher," Lindholm said, and has



Junior third baseman John Hingsberger tosses the ball during indoor practice.

been an all-conference performer three years in a row. Scheil throws hard, has a good curve, "and he's still learning how to pitch," Lindholm said.

His brother Dave is a left-hander freshman pitcher who plays left field when he's not on the mound.

Versatile junior John Hingsberger started in right field as a freshman, played center last year and has broadened his resume this year to include third base and catcher. "He's looked great in practice," Lindholm said.

His brother Sam is a freshman shortstop and a real play-maker.

Sophomore Kevin Tuma is the regular at second base, but he can also play other infield positions and pitch. His brother Ian is a senior and good 10th man who can play the outfield and pitch in relief.

Senior first baseman Theo Debes is a four-year starter whose big bat should make him



Senior catcher John Arco eyes the ball inside a batting cage in the gym at Nova Classical Academy while waiting for field conditions to improve. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

a fearsome weapon in the meat of the order.

Sophomore center fielder Sam Sheridan can cover a lot of ground quickly. He might not have the strongest arm, but he compensates with good baseball smarts. His speed also makes him an ideal leadoff hitter.

Senior right fielder Noah Olson also swings an aggressive bat and can hit anywhere from the fourth through the sixth spots in the order.

Senior catcher/pitcher John Arco, who is coming off consecutive all-conference seasons, is a rock behind the plate and also plays third base. Lindholm called him "probably our best defensive player." When he's pitching, the durable Arco consumes innings and

"throws strikes about 85 percent of the time."

Lindholm said his team's top strengths are pitching, hitting and baserunning. He's a little less certain about the team's defense. How that facet of the game develops "will dictate how far we go this year," he said.

Lindholm admitted that the cold and snowy spring has disappointed his players, but he saluted them for maintaining a good attitude despite of it.

"The kids have been so engaged," he said. "I love the fact that they enjoy practice. Yesterday, we actually went outside."

Just a few days after that though, Mother Nature dumped around a foot and a half of snow on the field.

Sports Shorts

Highland Gymnastics will hold a fundraiser from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 5, at Highland Park High School, 1015 S. Snelling Ave., to benefit the Sawyer Woods Scholarship Foundation. The second annual event is being held in memory of Woods, a gymnastics club member who had just started her freshman year at Central High School in the fall of 2016 when she suffered a brain aneurysm and died. The fundraiser will feature local vendors and crafters, a silent auction and a raffle. Proceeds will help pay the cost for gymnasts who cannot afford the program. For more information, email Lindsey Machtemes at lindsey mac02@gmail.com.



Sawyer Woods

The Officer Scott Patrick Memorial 5K Run/Walk to benefit Special Olympics Minnesota will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 2, at the Village of Mendota Heights. Awards will be given to the top three male and female finishers in the following age categories: 19 and younger, 20-49 (open division), and 50 and older (master division). The awards ceremony and prize drawings will take place after the race. The cost is \$25. Register at mendotaheights.revtrak.net.

The St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its 31st annual Golf Classic on Monday, June 11, at the North Oaks

Golf Club. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at noon and reception with silent auction and awards banquet at 6 p.m. Early bird pricing is \$200 by May 28 and includes greens fees, cart, lunch, dinner, beverages, special events and tournament giveaways. For more information, visit saintpaulchamber.com or call 651-223-5000.

Song Thao has been named the new executive director of St. Paul Urban Tennis, a 26-year-old nonprofit organization that teaches tennis and life skills to children ages 5-16 on high school and recreation center courts each summer. Thao was previously with InnerCity Tennis in Minneapolis and most recently served as a training manager for the Hmong American Partnership. He played tennis for Gustavus Adolphus College and has a master's degree from Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He succeeds Becky Cantellano, who after six years with St. Paul Urban Tennis has been named executive director of the U.S. Tennis Association's Northern Division. For information, visit stpaulurbantennis.org or call 651-222-2879.

Girls on the Run Twin Cities is hosting its third annual Limitless Potential Luncheon from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, at the Aria Event Center in downtown Minneapolis. The keynote speaker will be Jen Welter, the first woman to coach in the National Football League and author of the recent release *Play Big: Lessons on Being Limitless*. Olympic runner Carrie Tollefson of Macalester-Groveland will emcee the event and Caring Bridge CEO Liwanag Ojala will give opening remarks. Funds raised at the luncheon will provide financial aid to girls

interested in joining Girls on the Run. For tickets, visit www.gotrincities.org/limitless-potential-luncheon.

The Women's Tuesday Morning Golf League will tee it up for a new season beginning Tuesday, May 8, at the Highland Park 9-Hole Golf Course. The season will run for 19 weeks and feature weekly events and monthly luncheons. New members are welcome. Call Louise O'Hara at 612-518-6492.

The Highland National Women's Golf Club is accepting new members for both 18-hole and 9-hole league options. Flexible league play is offered, with preferred tee times reserved on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings. Call the clubhouse at 651-695-3719 or Renae Wantock at 612-385-3185.

Atticus Kelly, a Lexington-Hamline resident and senior goalie for the St. Thomas Academy hockey team, has been picked up by the Des Moines Buccaneers, a Tier I junior team in the U.S. Hockey League. He is an undrafted emergency player for the rest of this season, eligible to play if there is an injury. To remain with Des Moines, he would have to be taken by them in the 2018 draft.

Nelson Carlson has been named head coach of the St. Thomas Academy downhill ski program after previously serving as lead assistant coach. Carlson is an eight-time Junior Olympic qualifier and three-time U.S. National participant. He is a 2003 graduate of STA, where he won three state individual titles and was a member of two state high school championship teams. He was inducted into the STA Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015.

Whether hurling or hitting, Gubbrud is imposing force for Central softball

BY BILL WAGNER

Central High School senior Ellie Gubbrud is looking forward to showing again why she is considered to be one of the best local prep softball players. Last year, she pitched 90 innings, including 11 complete games, and struck out 71 batters. She also batted .422, with 27 hits and 16 runs batted in.

Those impressive numbers were even more reason why she was waiting anxiously to take the field this spring. “(The weather) is frustrating,” said Gubbrud, who had yet to take the mound for the Minutemen last week due to unseasonably late snowfalls. “But what can you do?”

Central softball coach Fiona Lodge thinks Gubbrud is one of the best pitchers in the state. “She has speed and her ball moves, but she mixes up the locations as well,” Lodge said. “She keeps the ball out of the middle of the plate.”

Lodge also likes Gubbrud’s offense and will likely have her batting third in the lineup this year. “She’s a versatile player. She can hit a triple or beat out a bunt,” Lodge said.

Gubbrud has received all-conference or honorable mention honors

“She has speed and her ball moves, but she mixes up the locations as well,” Lodge said. “She keeps the ball out of the middle of the plate.”

every year since she became a starter for Central as a freshman. Still, she said she is more interested in team accolades than individual ones.

“Wherever you go in Minnesota, there are teams that are going to have pretty good pitchers,” she said. “I like to do what’s best for the team.”

“I really like both pitching and hitting,” she said. “I can’t really say what’s my favorite. I guess it’s whatever I’m doing better on a particular day.”

Gubbrud is carrying on a family tradition in excellence at Central, both on and off the field. Her brothers Sam and John were outstanding athletes there, graduating in 2016. Her father Dave played on

very good football and basketball teams for the Minutemen in the mid-1980s. He went on to play at Augustana University and is now a prominent St. Paul emergency room physician. Her mother Jodi also played sports at Augustana, worked as a physical therapist and is now a YWCA instructor.

Her brothers were triplets. The third brother, Joe, died two years ago following a stroke, but Gubbrud said he is never far away for her.

“I think about him all the time,” she said. “He was always a really positive and happy guy. His memory gives me the confidence that I can make the best of everything that I get into.”

Gubbrud also is an all-conference basketball player for Central and is heavily into weightlifting. “I lift weights a lot during the summer,” she said, “but there isn’t as much time during the school year.”

Gubbrud, who is an honor student and full international baccalaureate diploma candidate, is still considering where she wants to go to college. She hopes to major in biology and is leaning toward the career path followed by her father and now her brothers—medicine.



Central senior pitcher Ellie Gubbrud, like many spring sports players, was busy training indoors last week. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

25◀ WRIGHT CALL

in any given year. “The women won’t be far behind in that process,” Riverso said.

Whalen will also have to pass the NCAA rules test. She’ll have to learn about compliance, how to schedule nonconference games and how to handle traveling issues. There’s also the task of dealing with donors to the program.

“There’s so much that people don’t see that she’ll need to learn quickly,” Riverso said. “She’ll get a lot of help, but she’ll have to learn how to delegate to her assistants.”

All of this will occur while Whalen is still playing for the Lynx. Olympic gold medalist Dawn Staley did it, taking Temple to the NCAA tournament while still playing in the WNBA, but it’s a difficult task.

The Gophers were 24-9 last year and 11-5 in the Big Ten. Those are credible numbers, but you can fall off the radar quickly. Three of those players have finished their college careers, including star guard Carlie Wagner, who scored 2,215 points during her time at the U—the third most in the university’s history. The cupboard isn’t bare, but there are holes that need to be filled.

All that adds up to a hectic time for Whalen. Riverso, for one, thinks all will end well. “She’s gotten better at everything she’s ever done,” he said.

Even though she’s still going to play for the Lynx, Whalen has taken on the task of running a team in one of the most competitive college basketball conferences. She’ll have the total support of the local sports community, and that’s a good head start. However, it’s only the beginning.

Wild’s best laid plans fall apart

If it was easy, everybody would have a shot at winning the Stanley Cup. As this was being written, the Minnesota Wild’s chances, once considered good, were slim. The Wild trailed a tough Winnipeg team 3-1 going into Game 5 on April 20 in Canada.

Theories differ as to why this was so. There was the usual moaning about injuries to key players, referees missing penalties at key moments, and some bad breaks when pucks bounced off goalposts with the opposing goalie out of the play.

The bottom line, however, is simple: Games are won by the

team that plays the toughest when things go wrong.

Winnipeg provided a perfect example of that on April 17 in its 2-0 win in Game 4 at Xcel Energy Center. The Jets had looked solid in winning the first two games at home. When they tried to fly to the Twin Cities for Game 3, they were stymied by the Saturday blizzard. The team got as far as Duluth and eventually had to go back. They flew in the morning of Game 3, something that rarely happens. The Jets grabbed a 1-0 lead, but the Wild fought back, took control of the game and rolled to a 6-2 win. There was no grumbling from Winnipeg about the difficulty getting to town. The Jets accepted their fate and vowed to do better the next game.

That’s what championship teams do. Injuries happen. It’s unfortunate when it happens to your best forward and best defenseman, but both Zach Parise and Ryan Suter are at the age (33) when players start to get injured more often. Referees have been missing calls since the first hockey game was played. Teams forget about the shots that go in the net off opponents or the goalposts. Luck is just part of the game.

In the end, you either find a way to win or you find a new job. The offseason may not be very pleasant for this franchise. That’s the risk you take when you build up expectations. But it beats the alternative by a long shot.

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



Kate Townley stands next to catcher Ben Rortvedt while he signs a contract following the 2016 draft, where he was chosen by the Twins in the second round. PHOTO BY BRACE HEMMELGARN

25◀ TWINS’ TOWNLEY

it’s that progressive of a move. I believe there are a lot of qualified women.”

One early clue that Townley would thrive in an environment that is dominated by males is the fact that she had played Little League baseball in Highland with and against boys. “Being around guys has helped me,” she said. “It taught me about the competitive aspect of (life in general).”

Asked if she could foresee a major league team hiring a female general manager, Townley said: “I’m 100 percent sure that it’ll happen in my lifetime.”

However, she doesn’t believe she is a candidate for such a post. “I actually don’t want to be a GM,” she said. “I get fulfillment from helping the ship run—not driving it. I’ve been at this game for 13 years, and I don’t mind not being in the limelight. You can lead without being at the top.”

Townley joins CDH Hall

Kate Townley, class of 2000, is among the honorees who have been chosen for induction into the inaugural Cretin-Derham Hall Athletic Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Thursday, May 17, in the Anderson Student Center at the University of St. Thomas.

Other inductees include Bill Walsh (’57), the late Erin Sobaski (’81), Chris Weinke (’90), the late Jenny Haigh (’91), Matt Birk (’94), Joe Mauer (’01), Alyssa Karel Ylinen (’07), Honorary Raider Award to Bob “Sweets” Sweeney (’77), the CDH baseball teams of 1989 and 1990, and the CDH girls’ basketball team of 1999.

A reception will be at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$65. The ceremony will be hosted by sports anchor Mike Max of WCCO-TV. Reservations are due by May 10. Visit tinyurl.com/ydb2h7qn or call Peggy Gartland Schafer at 651-696-3318.

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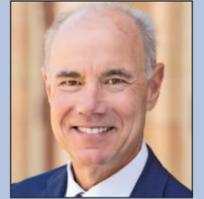
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